

K169 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 01/03/2013

Conservation Finished: 01/03/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 3.5 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L). 18mm; (W). 7mm; (TH). 1mm

Weight before: 1.05g

Weight after: 0.99g

Catalogue number: 558

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, under daylight or bulbs and Meiji Techno RZ Stereo microscope with an Infinity 1 camera (with analyses capture software) and fibre optic lights, 7-75x magnification. Taken before, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: K169, 24/7/09, (Unstrat), X-RAY Plate: L76.

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Rectangle gold sheet-metal panel with zoomorphic filigree decoration, in the form of a snake.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

The object is a small flat rectangular sheet/panel of gold with a filigree upper surface and unadorned reverse surface with two possible 'X' incisions side by side. The object is covered in a heavy layer of loose and compact soil, obscuring the majority of the surface from view. One corner of the panel is warped, bent up-wards in a nearly 90°.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

The granular soil on the front/back was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

Corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

The paper K number was adhered to the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The object is a small flat rectangular sheet/panel of gold with a filigree upper surface and unadorned reverse surface with two possible 'X' incisions side by side. The object has for defined edges with filigree borders along this edge. The front surface of the object has a zoomorphic filigree pattern in the shape of a snake. The inner filigree pattern is made up of a three filigree design, one large beaded filigree wire surrounded on either side by two lengths of smaller beaded filigree wire, with a large thick strip of gold wire in the shape of a snake. The reverse surface of the panel has two 'X's incised on the surface, possible manufacturing marks. One corner of the object is extremely warped, with nearly 90°. Bend upwards away from the surface of the object and the opposite corner has been bent back slightly. The filigree shows some evidence of general wear and tear damage.

The surface of the object is covered in an un-uniformed layer of tarnish and some corrosion products. The gold is orange/red with blackened areas in appearance in places as well as having nicks and scratches visible on the surfaces. The corrosion products and tarnish were left insitu as they do not obscure any decorative or informative surfaces and removal may result in further damage to the surface.

Key Features:

- Rectangular gold plate with a zoomorphic filigree decorated surface.
- Two 'X' Incisions visible on reverse surface.
- Warping damage to object, with a 90° bend upwards visible in one corner.

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'XXXX XRF Report'.

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil from the surface of the object.

References: