K16 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 17/02/2011
Conservation Finished: 17/02/2011
Conservator: MCG
Time Taken: 6 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 22mm (L) pin-rivet 8.5mm (W) 9.5mm (Th) 2 mm
Weight before: 2.44g
Weight after: 2.31g
Number of Garnet cells: 19
Number of extant garnets: 15
Number of non garnet (glass?) cells: 1
Catalogue number: 511

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

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

A gold with Garnet settings mount in the form of an Eagle. The front surface uses the Garnet settings along with areas of solid plain gold to form the decoration. The lower edge is undecorated and only consists of a projection of the back plate. The mount is three dimensional in that a c2 mm thick wall following the mounts outline has been built up from the back plate. The join lines in this build-up can be seen. A bent piece of gold pin is sticking out of the back of the mount for use as a fixing. This appears to have been originally at right angles to the mount.

Associated objects:

K 370 K449 Re use of glass for eye cells

Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75xmag

The mount is distorted along its length with the head? area being twisted upwards. There is a very slight twist along the length of the body if viewed from the edge.

The back of the mount has areas of tarnish and a small area of copper corrosion around the fixing pin. It is generally scratched towards the bottom area.

There appears to be some selection in the choice of garnets used to form the decoration, in that the lower part of the mount consists of garnets which have an orangey tone whilst the upper part consists of a more normal red hue. Also the large cell making up the breast wings? is distinctly different having a

very pink tone. The eye is not made of garnet being spherical with a slightly porous looking surface and is probably made from glass as has been the case on several other mounts from the hoard. (See K 370, K449)

The mount consists of 19 garnet cells and 1 cell making up the Eagles eye which is probably glass. Of the 19 garnet cells 15 still contain garnets, the others being empty, of these 1 still has the gold backing foil extant whilst the others have lost this foil and are filled with a soil mixture containing an admixture of copper corrosion product and a black paste which is likely to be the remnants of the fixing paste. This admixture was left in situ. It is also extant in the cell containing the eye. Not all of the extant garnet cells have visible backing foils. Of those cells containing garnets 5 have been damaged, one has half of the garnet missing, 2 are heavily fractured/broken, 1 is split and the other has a concoidal fracture present (see loan out condition report for details)

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope
Purpose: Display/ Analysis/ Storage/ Study/Other-specify
Aim: Partial cleaning/Total cleaning/ Stabilisation/ Other- specify
Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water on garnets, water/IMS on metals, other – specify

The granular soil on the exterior/interior surface 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.

An area of loose backing foil on the empty cell required consolidation, 10% Paraloid B72 in acetone was applied.

Samples:

1. Soil from exterior

References: if applicable