

## K172 Condition Report

**FRAGILE; handle by boss rather than by pin**

**Conservation Started:** 05/04/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 08/04/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 1.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 17mm (Diam) boss 8.5mm; (H) boss 2.5mm (Th) shank 1mm

**Weight before:** 0.70g

**Weight after:** 0.50g

**Catalogue number:** 624

### **Digital photography:**

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification. Taken before and after.

**Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:** None

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

Gently domed gold boss with single beaded filigree wire around the base of the dome and a blunt-tipped, straight gold pin soldered to the interior of the dome.

**Associated Objects:** TBC

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

The gold has light, bluish tarnish (probably formed post-excavation) and general surface abrasion. There is no hole in the dome of the boss.

The interior of the boss is completely filled with soil that extends down the upper third of the pin. A few specks of green material (possible copper corrosion) can be seen in the soil; otherwise it is unremarkable. Soil covers about half of the dome of the boss.

The pin is very slightly bent but has a straight (ie, not tapered) shaft and a blunt tip. The pin appears to be hammered; slight facets can be seen on the shaft.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Study

**Aim:** Total cleaning

**Materials:** Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, 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.

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.

#### **Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

The ends of the beaded wire around the base of the dome do not quite meet. The wire is also separated from the boss in a few places. It looks as if this is not damage but has been this way since the point of manufacture.

Soil removal revealed that the end of the pin is a round, flat disc that is soldered to the interior of the dome. This disc is half detached from the boss and is cracked. **The pin is secure, but the object is fragile and should be handled with care. Handle by the boss rather than the pin whenever possible.**

Several specks of green material (copper corrosion?) were found in the soil inside the boss. There is patchy dark tarnish (likely formed during burial) inside the boss. Almost all of the tarnish on the exterior of the boss was removed with IMS during conservation.

#### **Key Features:**

- Gently domed gold boss with straight, hammered gold pin with blunt tip
- Solid dome; no hole in it
- Green material (copper corrosion?) found in soil inside boss

#### **Samples:**

1. soil