

K177 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 30/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 30/01/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 20mm (L) plate 13mm (H) flange 3.5mm (Diam) boss incl collar 7mm (Th) shank 1mm (Th) sheet of plat <0.5mm

Weight before: 1.11g

Weight after: 0.93g

Catalogue number: 275

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 and after.

X-ray: L46

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

Partial gold hilt plate with domed/convex gold boss surrounded by a single beaded wire. There is a pin going through the boss that has a hammered/faceted shaft and a blunt, flattened tip.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The object is broken and bent. The front has ~50% soil coverage, particularly at the base of the boss. Visible gold on the front has light orange tarnish and several scratches. The pin is bent and has light orange tarnish and at least one dent.

The back is concave and filled with soil. The pin is mobile in the hole and rotates. The beaded wire around the boss is broken and one end of it is splayed upward off the surface.

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, 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.

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 pin has a distinctly faceted shaft with two distinct, old-looking dents. Both ends of the pin are slightly flattened. Because of this the pin cannot escape the hole through the boss and does not appear to be in any danger of falling out. Despite this the object is fragile and should be handled with care.

Hammering marks can be seen on the boss. There is light to moderate orange and grey tarnish on the pin, the boss and the plate.

No residues or unusual features were found on the back of the object.

Key Features:

- Partial hilt plate
- Domed boss with ring of beaded wire around it
- Pin with hammered/faceted shaft and blunt, flattened tip

Samples:

1. soil