

K999 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 15/03/2013

Conservation Finished: 15/03/2013

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 3hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 16mm (W) 19mm & 9mm

Weight before: 1.34g

Weight after: 1.22g

Catalogue number: 581

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: n/a

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

Four sided (bottom long length tapering up to a shorter top length) rhombus shaped gold panel with possible filigree decoration. In the centre sits three tear drop shaped garnets, their tips pointing inwards forming a triangular shape. The garnets are bezel set and gold foil backed. There are three rivets, two on the lower corners, one at the top straight edge centre. The reverse is plain. Soil obscures most detail.

Associated Objects: (possibly) K676

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

Seems to be in good stable condition. Slight bend and warping throughout the sheet. Soil obscures detail.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning (as far as possible) and Stabilisation

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

The granular soil on the front and 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 top rivet is sitting through the rivet hole sideways and when soil was removed to gain a better look it was apparent that it would become loose and may be lost. A small amount of Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 10% w/v in acetone was applied to the reverse of the piece at the point where the rivet is touching the rivet hole. This was done to secure the piece in its original position and to avoid loss of the rivet.

Corrosion products were found in small amounts surrounding the reverse sides of the two rivets at the lower corners. This corrosion was 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 central design of three tear drop shaped garnets with their points facing inwards. These are bezel set and surrounded by a border of single beaded wire.

In between each gap created by the tear drops, there sits a raised spiral decoration of beaded wire. The pommel is decorated with elongated 'S' scroll pairs facing alternate directions.

Two rivets sit in the bottom longer edge corners. One rivet sits in the centre of the upper shorter edge. All are surrounded by a single row of beaded wire.

The top rivet is sitting sideways in the rivet hole. A small amount of HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube was applied to the reverse side of the rivet where it touches the rivet hole. This was done to ensure the rivet would not dislodge and to ensure it remained in its original position.

The lower right hand side rivet is loose but secure. The lower left hand side rivet is secure and on the reverse green copper alloy corrosion product sits on the surface and within the hole. The rivets appear to be a silver alloy and in places silver nodular corrosion product can be seen.

On the reverse there are three small holes (less than 1mm) in the plate which are in alignment with the garnets set on the front. These are soil filled.

The gold foils beneath the garnets appear to be a squared pressed design.

Key Features:

- Three bezel set tear drop shaped garnets; foil backed with a pressed squared design.
- Three gold beaded wire raised spirals sit in between the garnets.
- An 'S' scroll filigree design covering the front.
- Three rivets which appear to be silver alloy.
- Three small holes on the reverse of the piece, in line with the garnets on the front.

Samples:

1. Soil – All over