


Object Number	K455	Description	Pommel in gold, of cocked-hat form, with filigree decoration. Catalogue no. 4.
		Sample Description and location. Contents of pommel K455 were dislodged during handling for conservation.	



Figure 1. Sample K455-1 collected from dark coloured material inside pommel.



Figure 2. Detail of sample K455-1.

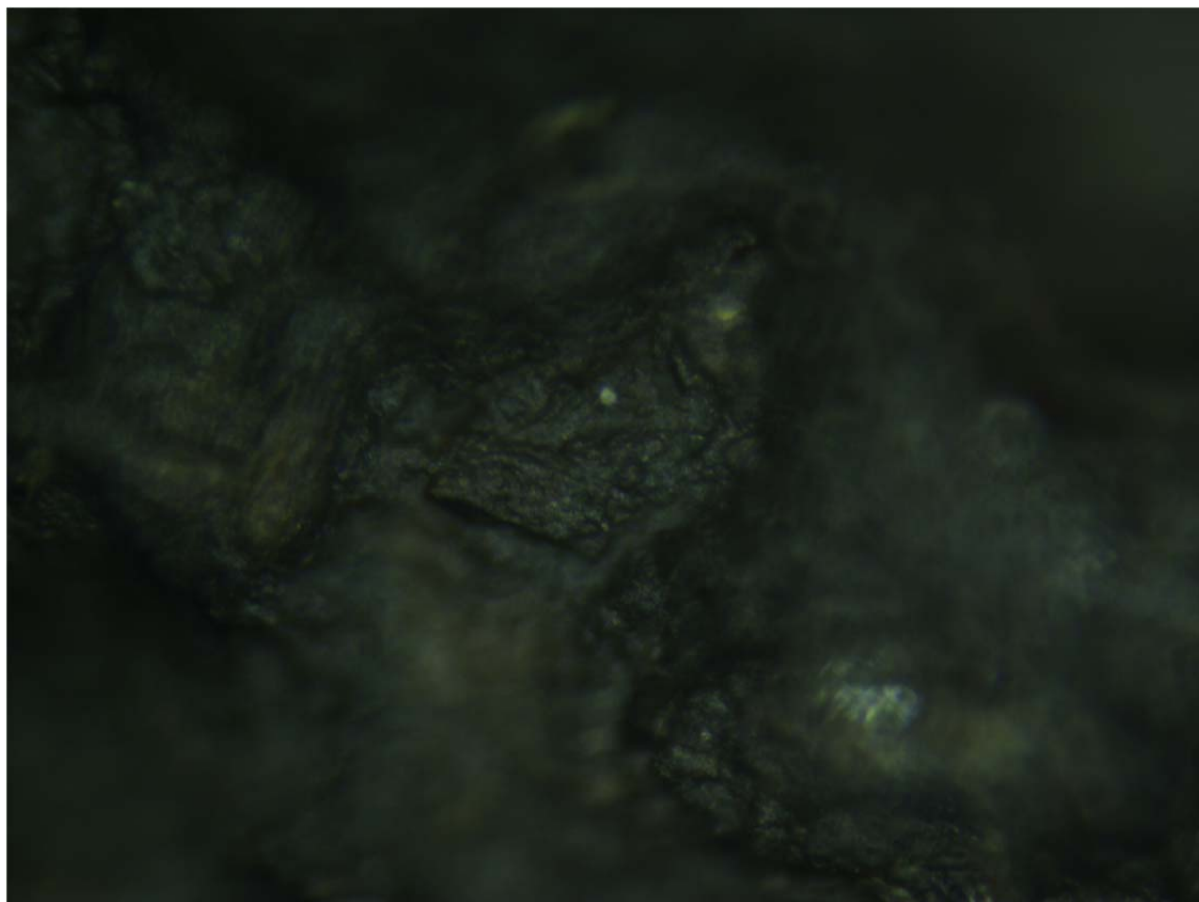


Figure 3. Detail of sub- sample K455-1-4.

FTIR Analysis

Comments: Spectrum K455-1-4 (red) appears to be a mixture of a keratin based animal glue such as hoof glue and beeswax. The FTIR spectra for keratinous materials exhibit characteristic bands for amide I (C=O stretching) between 1700 and 1600 cm^{-1} , and amide II (CN stretching and NH bending) between 1560 and 1500 cm^{-1} , and a broad band centred at around 3300 cm^{-1} related to N-H stretching. A doublet between 3000 and 2800 cm^{-1} relating to C-H stretching of methylene groups are characteristic of keratinous proteinaceous materials. (Welsch et al. 2012, Kennedy et al. 2013, Mansilla et al. 2011, Derrick et al. 1999). In oxidised keratinous materials such as the oxidised horse hair spectrum shown in Fig.4, an intense peak at about 1030 cm^{-1} is attributable to S=O bonding in cysteic acid. (Welsch et al. 2012, Kennedy et al 2013, Mansilla et al. 2011). This peak should be interpreted with some caution in this sample however as silicate based material such as is found in earth minerals also exhibit a sharp band at approximately 1000 cm^{-1} which relates to Si-O bonding. The peak at 1030 cm^{-1} may derive from cysteic acid in oxidised keratinous tissue, silicate based earth minerals deliberately added to the paste or from the burial environment, or a combination of both.

The FTIR spectrum for beeswax is characterized by dominant absorption bands around 2950 cm^{-1} and 2850 cm^{-1} that relate to C-H stretching of the methylene (CH_2) groups, a band at 1740 cm^{-1} that relates to C=O bonding characteristic of the ester groups, a band around 1460 cm^{-1} relates to C-H bending, and a doublet between 720 and 730 cm^{-1} relating to non planar skeletal deformation vibrations of long chain hydrocarbons (Derrick *et al* 1999, Birshtein and Tul'chinskii 1977). The bands in the region 1350 - 1180 cm^{-1} may be assigned to a phenomenon known as a 'band progression' present in fatty acids and fatty acid esters which result in a series of evenly spaced bands in this region. These are due to wagging and twisting vibrations of successive carboxyl coupled methylene groups (Baeten et al. 2010) shown in Fig.5.

Representative Spectrum

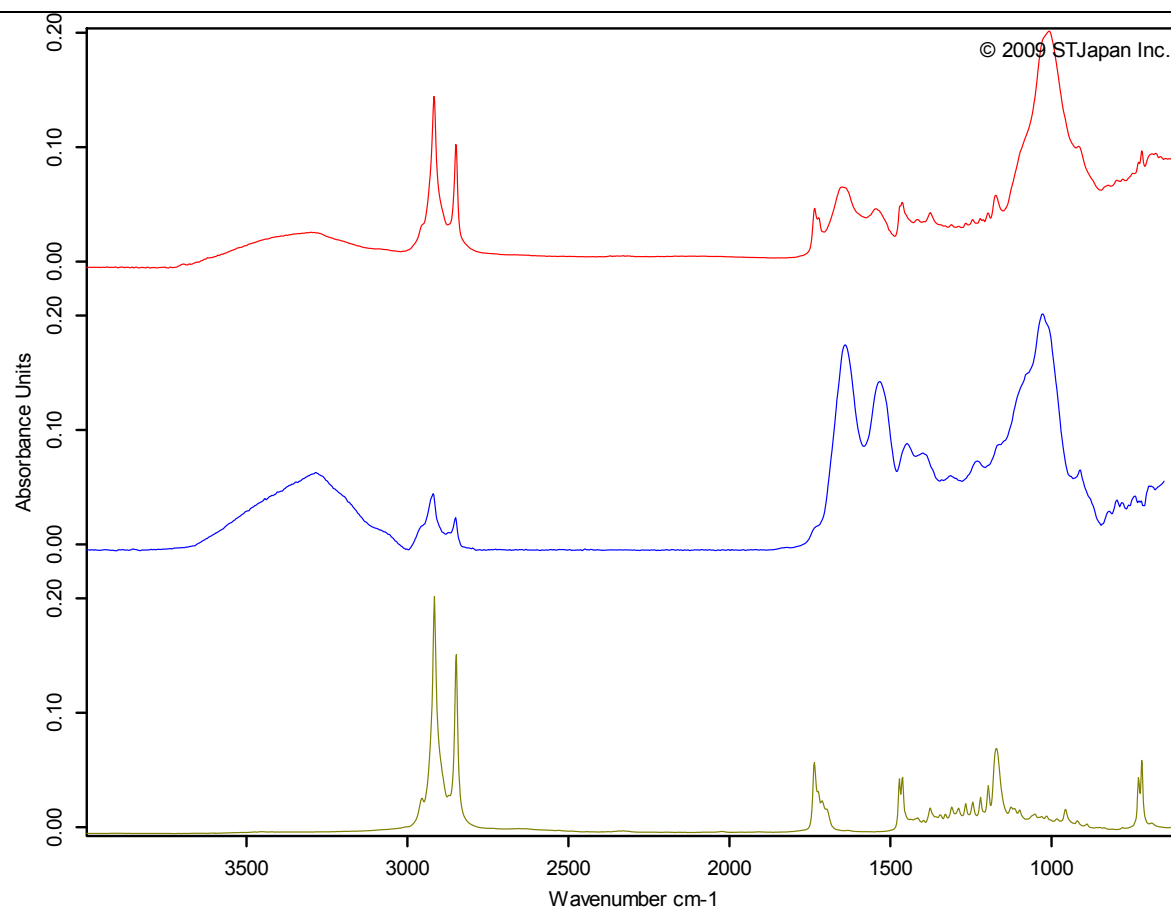


Figure 4: Top (red) K455-1-4. Middle (blue) Oxidised Horse Hair reference spectrum, ST Japan 2009. Bottom (green) Beeswax reference spectrum, ST Japan 2009.

Representative Spectrum

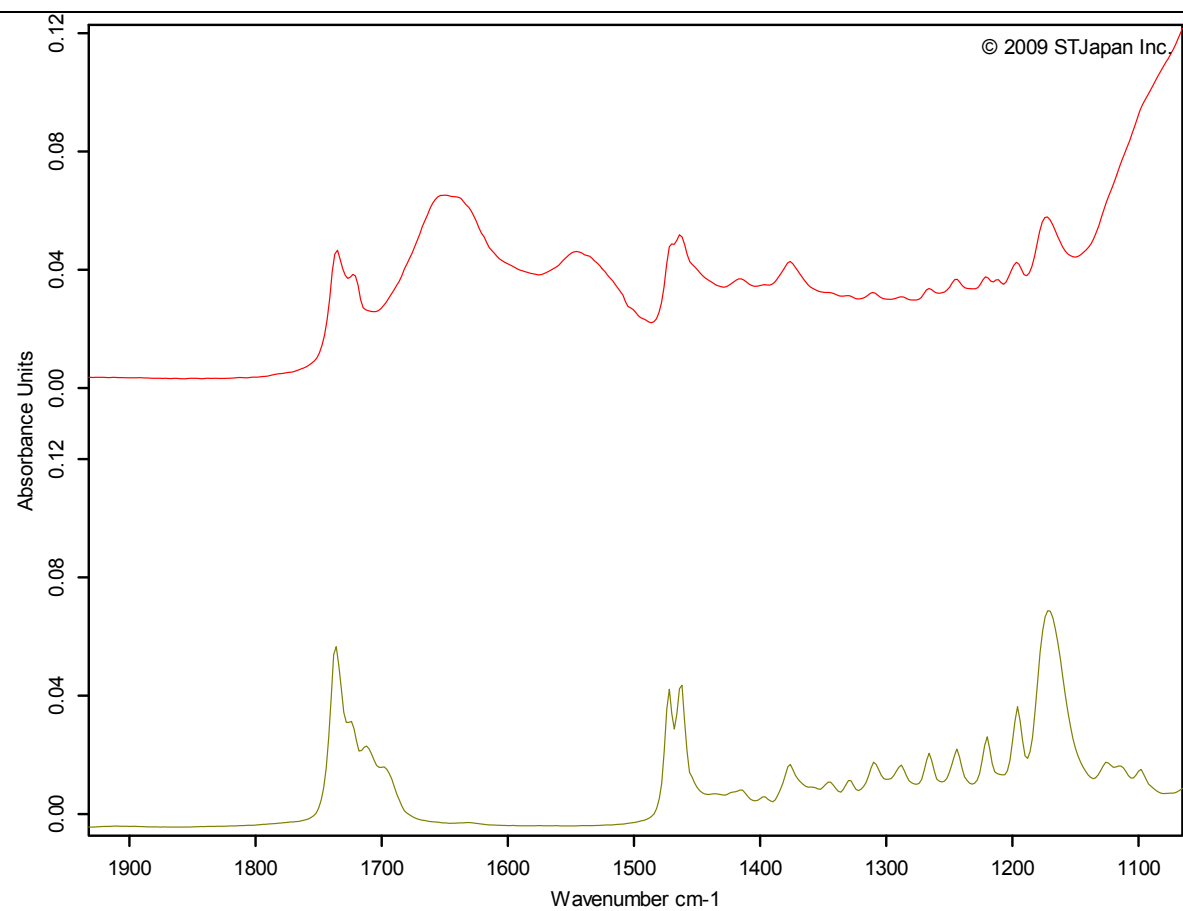


Figure 5: Detail showing spectral match in region between 1100 and 1900 cm-1 between Top (red) K455-1-4, and bottom (green) Beeswax reference spectrum, ST Japan 2009.

SEM Analysis

K455-1 was analysed using SEM EDS to characterize the particulate distributed across the surface of the sample. Site of Interest 3 was analysed using EDS to characterise the bright particulate distributed in the region. The EDS maps below show that silver chlorides are distributed across the sample in this area. Localized silicon and oxygen mapped in this area likely relate to silicates from earth minerals associated with the burial environment.

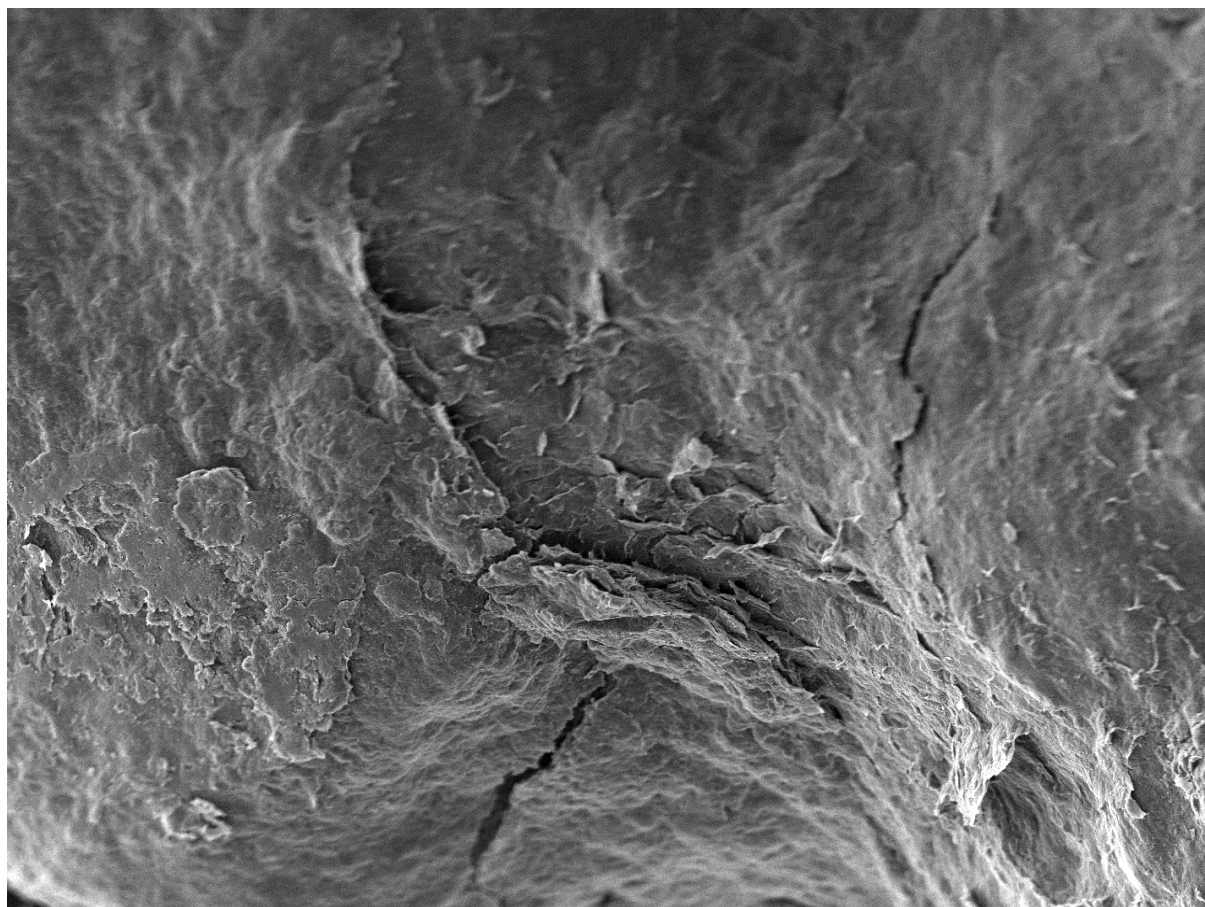


Figure 6. Detail of sample K455-1 showing amorphous waxy surface.

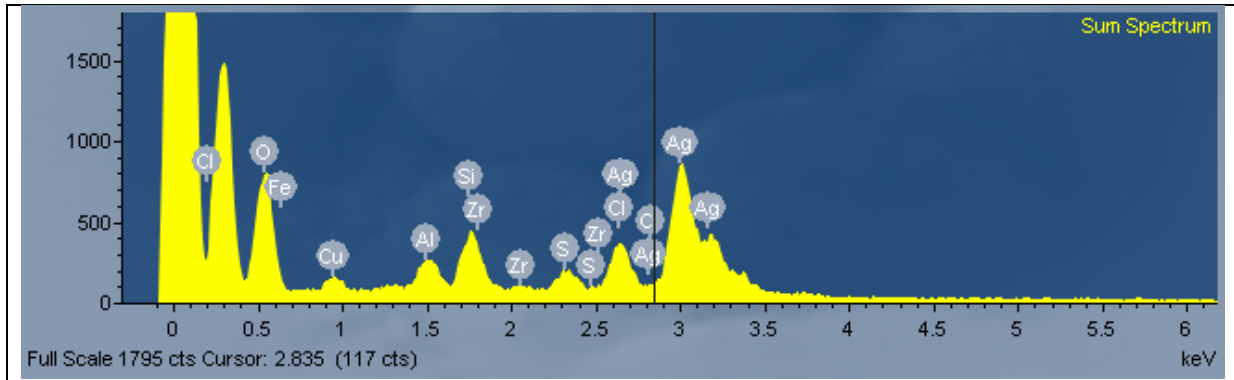
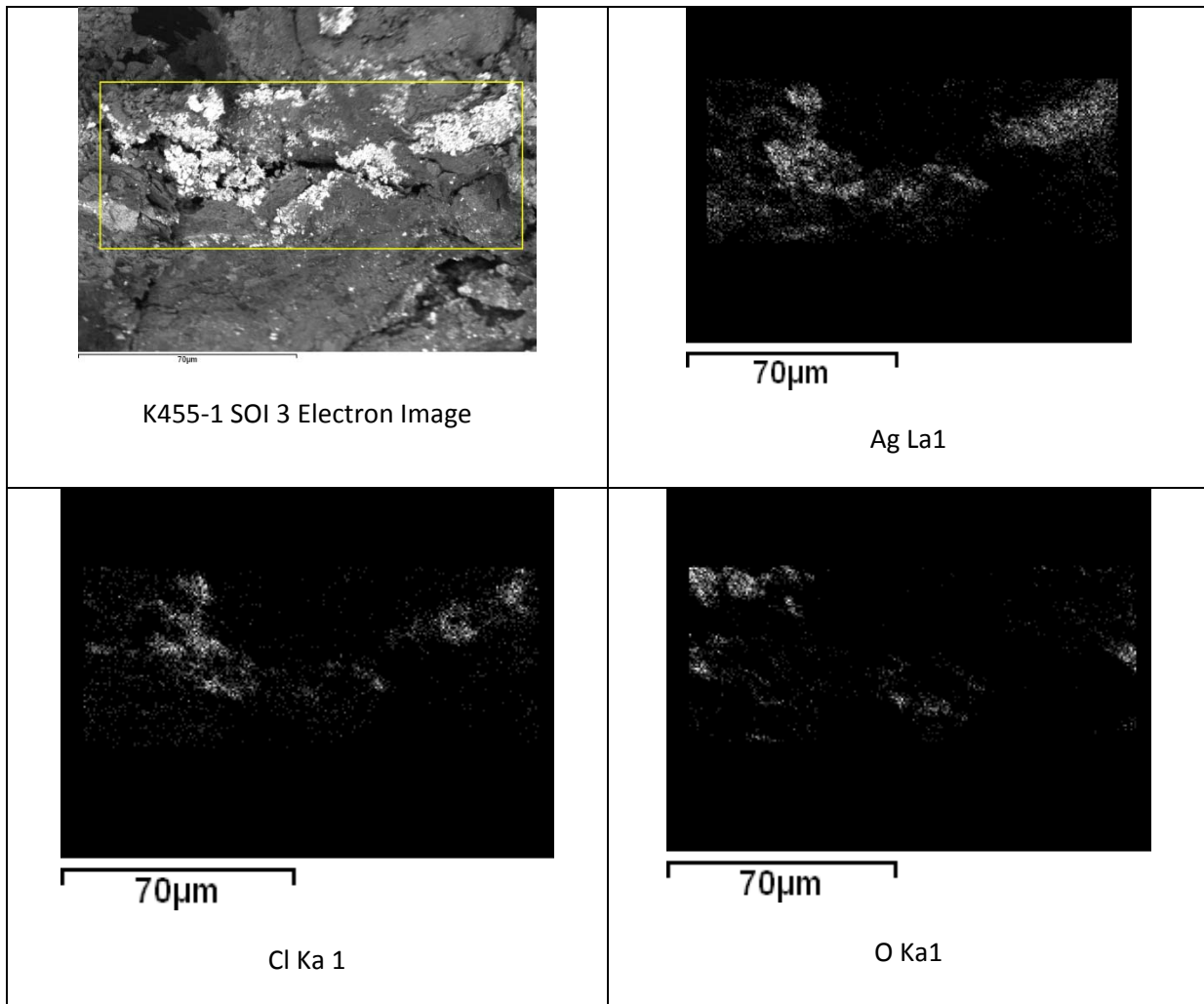
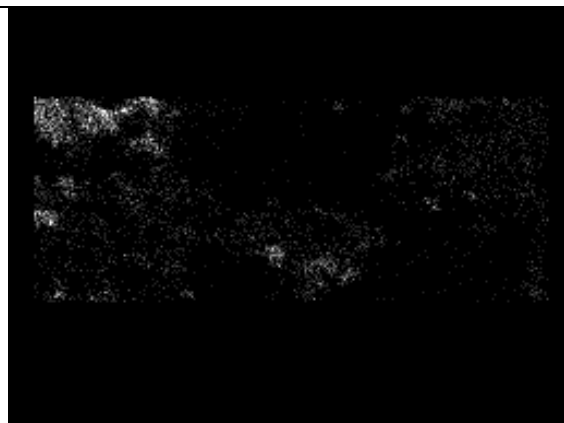


Figure 7. Sum spectrum for K455-1 SI 3





70µm

Si Ka 1