

Gold enrichment in Staffordshire Hoard K653: results of SEM-EDX analysis

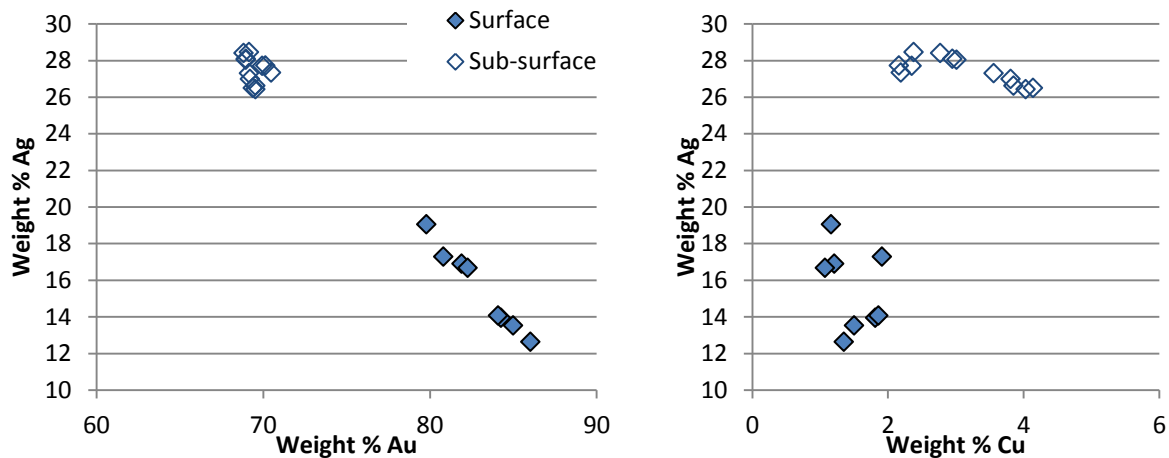
Object Type Mount
 Date 625-650
 Decoration Filigree Glass
 Garnet Other



SEM-EDX analysis was undertaken on the base sheet on the front of the mount.

Area analysed	No of analyses		Wt% Au	Wt% Ag	Wt% Cu
Surface	8	Average	83.0	15.5	1.5
		Standard Deviation	2.16	2.26	0.34
Sub-surface	12	Average	69.4	27.5	3.1
		Standard Deviation	0.51	0.72	0.75

SEM-EDX surface and sub-surface compositions (the results are normalised). This analysis was carried out as part of the gold enrichment study. For full details of methodology and associated results see report PR07444-10 and PR07444-15



Plots of gold vs silver and copper vs silver contents, based on SEM-EDX analysis, showing the differences between the sub-surface and surface analyses.

SEM-EDX analysis of the sub-surface indicated a composition of approximately 69-70 wt% gold, 27-28 wt% silver, the rest being copper. The analysis revealed a c.12.6 wt% loss of silver from the surface (a difference of c.44% from surface to core), which is indicative of treatment to deliberately enrich the gold colour of the metal. Only copper and small amounts of silver are normally lost from the surface during burial.

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 Analysed October 2013

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