Conservation Report

Object Number: 44.138.4 Collection: AA
Artist/Maker:
Title, Date: Cruet, 1600-1644
Media: Ceramic
Signature/Markings: Accession number is painted on the underside with a barrier layer of Paraloid B-72.
Dimensions: overall: 6 1/4 × 5 × 6 1/2 in. (15.9 × 12.7 × 16.5 cm)

Examination & Treatment

Survey Date: **07-Apr-2016** Examiner(s): **Kasey Hamilton**

Project: Asian and Islamic Reinstallation

Overall Condition: Good

Overall Condition Analysis:

Description:
This wheel thrown, porcelain cruet has short, round body with an enlarged spout that tapers to a tiny opening. It has a tall, narrow neck that widens and flares out at the top but has a narrow mouth. The body has been shaped into an octagonal form and sits atop a raised foot. The vessel has cobalt blue underglaze decoration with a clear, pale blue glaze throughout. The main body is patterned with blue chrysanthemum(?) flowers, followed by registers of squiggly lines, leaf designs on the neck, and geometric designs on the spout.

Object History:
No previous treatment documentation was found. There is a collections survey from 1999 that includes brief condition notes. These notes do not differ from the object's present condition.

Condition:
The object is in good condition overall. For the purposes of this report, consider the spout to be 12:00.

There are small losses around the lip (chips between 10:00 and 2:00), as well as around the larger flared rim of the neck (small chips and abrasions around 9:00 to 12:00). A small crack exists on the interior of the neck. There is some wear around the edge of the spout. A small, rectangular gouged area is visible at the back of the neck, at 6:00.

There are minor scratches to the glazed surface, as well as several glazing defects visible throughout. Most notably, there are dark brown particulate inclusions that can be seen in both the white and blue glazes. Pitting and bubbling of the glaze can be seen in various areas throughout, with yellowing occurring around some holes in the glaze. There is a small area at 6:30, on the body in the central flower motif, where the glaze layer is missing, and the clay body and under drawing can be seen. There is a small, hardened accretion on the surface of the ceramic at 2:00, which may have been bound to the surface during the firing process. A small amount of yellowed material is present on the top face of the spout. A yellowed, glossy material is present on the edge of the flared rim.

There are some dark accretions on the interior of the ceramic at the bottom of the vessel. There is a dark material visible on the bottom of the base.

The surface is dusty and grimy throughout.

The accession number is painted in red on the base with a thick, yellowed barrier layer.

Documentation/Testing:

UV:
Ultraviolet light examination was carried out with a Blak-Ray Longwave UV Lamp Model B 100 AP, 115v 60Hz, and 2.5 A. Examination under ultraviolet light revealed

two small areas that fluoresced green – these areas correspond to the yellowed materials noted on the surface of the glaze and are likely adhesive drips.

Brief Description: Cleaning and Loss Compensation

Proposed Treatment:
1. Surface clean.
2. Loss compensation at rim.
3. Remove and reapply accession number using reversible materials.

Treatment:

1. The ceramic was surface cleaned with water, acetone, and ethanol.

2. The edges of the losses along the rim were sized with a 5% solution of Paraloid B-72 in acetone (an acrylic resin composed of ethyl methacrylate (70%) and methyl acrylate (30%) copolymer).

The losses along the rim were filled using Flugger, an acrylic spackle, and shaped using water, color shapers, and a spatula. The fills were reshaped as needed using sandpaper and micromesh.

Golden acrylic paints were used to inpaint the fills. Golden Porcelain Restoration glaze was used to match the gloss of the original glaze.

3. The previous accession number and barrier layers were found to be largely insoluble in acetone. ZipStip Paint and Varnish Stripper (a solvent mixture of methylene chloride, mineral spirits, methanol and ethanol dispersed in a hydroxypropyl cellulose gel) was applied over the surface and left to sit for 5-10 minutes. A cotton swab dampened with water was used to remove the ZipStrip. This method allowed for complete removal of both the accession number and yellowed barrier layers.

A new accession number was applied, using red acrylic paint and 10% B72 in ethanol barrier layers.

Photo Documentation: Digital photography of 8 views before treatment.
Digital photography of 11 views after treatment.

Examination & Treatment

Overall Condition: See Conservation Report on File

Examination & Treatment

Overall Condition: Scanned Archival Record
