

CAT 602- Silver gilt panel with animal decoration

K4, K185, K542, K760, K1023, K1340, K1416, K1493, K1495, K1664, K5020, K5052, K5054, K5079

Condition Report

Conservation Started: April 2016

Conservation Finished: April 2016

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: 24 mm (L of largest), <0.5mm (Th)

Weight before: 1.91g

Weight after: n/a

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.

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

FRAGMENTS FROM A SHEET PANEL IN SILVER-GILT WITH ANIMAL DECORATION. Nineteen fragments total, possibly more than one panel. The pattern was impressed on the reverse of thin sheet with a die(s). The pattern has a beaded border with a margin of sheet left beyond the pattern. Two joined fragments [K1493, K1495] taper to a narrow end with a fixing-hole. *Style II*: the fragments include zoomorphic body, leg and foot elements but no heads. Stafford knots occur on two fragments. One fragment has an angled straight edge that may be cut. (CF)

Label information

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

The silver has embrittled and therefore the panel is highly fragmented into pieces. There is gilding on one side which is slightly worn down. Fragments are associated but most do not have a direct join with others.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Cleaning/ Reassembly

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

Treatment at British Museum Prior to treatment at Birmingham Museums Trust

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. 50:50 IMS/water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

The corrosion products were 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.

Joins made at the British Museum

K542+K1340 (0.08g) L 12mm

K1493 + K1495 (0.19g) L 24 mm

Appropriate packing in Plastazote cut outs and crystals boxes.

Further treatment at Birmingham Museum).

Fragments attached previously at the British Museum were re-adhered as they detached.

Further fragments were associated with the panel. All K numbers are below.

K4 (0.16g), K185 (0.27g), K542, K760 (0.05g), K1023 (0.05g), K1340, K1416 (0.09g), K1493, K1495, K1664 (0.05g), K5020 (0.36g), K5052 (0.05g), K5054 (0.04g), K5079 (0.29g)

K4 = 14mm (L) x 10mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K185= 16mm(L) x 12mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K760= 7mm (L) x 5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1023 = 10mm (L) x 8mm(W) x <1mm (Th); 10mm (L) x 7.5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1340, K542 = 12mm (L) x 7mm (W) x <1mm (Th); 6mm (L) x 6mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1416= 8mm (L) x 7.5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K5079= 13mm (L) x 16mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1493+K1495 (Joined) = 14mm (L) x 9.5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1664 = 7mm (L) x 5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K5020 (2 frags joined) = 14mm(L)x 25mm(W) x <1mm (Th)

K5052= 6mm (L) x 8mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K5054 = 7mm (L) x 6mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

Each of the die impressed sheet fragments were appropriately packed in an individual crystal box with inserts cut out of the plastazote lining in the suspected position of the original die pattern. Small fragments were placed into gelatine capsules or sample vials. The box was fitted tightly to prevent movement and further breakage. This also aided in correct final photography of the main die impressed sheet panels.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Key features:

- Animal art

- Silver gilt panel of die impressed sheet
- Stafford Knots

Samples:

None – insufficient soil.

References:

E.S. Blakelock, XRF analysis of silver foils from the Staffordshire Hoard. British Museum Science Report PR0744-14, British Museum Research Report, (2014) unpublished

Shearman, F., 2014 'Silver gilt sheet/12+ New Friezes Condition Report' British Museum reports

Shearman, F., Camurcuoglu, D., Hockey, M., and McArthur, G. 2014 *Department Of Conservation And Scientific Research: Staffordshire Hoard Die-Impressed Sheeting Conservation Report*. Unpublished report for the British Museum