

CAT 604 - Silver sheet with Herringbone pattern border
K15, K170, K212, K218, K790, K795, K1186, K1574, K1779
Condition Report

Conservation Started: April 2016

Conservation Finished: April 2016

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: 34 mm (L of largest), <0.5mm (Th)

Weight before: 2.46g

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 of silver sheet with herringbone pattern border. Nine fragments. Ungilded. The largest piece, formed of two joined fragments [K795, K1186], indicates a return edge to the band and has five fixing-holes. Two other fragments have single fixing-holes, one with the head of a silver nail/rievet in situ, its shank cut; the other shows the border coming together at a point. The fragment of iron corroded to the largest part is possible not original, and could be intrusive to the deposit. The herringbone pattern (W. band 6mm) was die-impressed on the reverse of the thin silver sheet; probably it formed a border to a larger design. (CF)

Label information

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

The silver has embrittled greatly and therefore the border fragments are heavily corroded with the edges folded over and damaged. One section has torn pin holes and there is some iron corrosion concretions on a section.

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.

Appropriate packing in Plastazote cut outs and crystals boxes.

K795+ K1186 joined with HMG Paraloid B72

Further treatment at Birmingham Museum).

Fragments were associated together as follows.

K15 (0.24g) , K170 (0.38g), K212(0.16g), K218 (0.12g), K790 (0.15g), K795+ K1186 (1.02g), K1574 (0.14g), K1779 (0.10g)

K15= 15mm (L) x 5mm (W) x1mm (Th)

K212= 12.5mm (L) x 6.5mm (W) x1mm (Th)

K218 = 10mm (L) x 7mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K790= 12mm (L) x 12.5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K796+K1186 = 35mm (L) x 13mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K170 = 17mm (L) x 10mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1574= 10mm (L) x 9mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1779 = 8mm(L) x 7mm(W) x <1mm (Th)

Each of the die impressed border 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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Key features:

- Silver Herringbone pattern border

Samples:

None – insufficient soil.

References:

Shearman, F., 2014 'Silver sheet/Frieze 10 Zoomorphic Interlaced Condition Report' British Museum reports