

**CAT 595: Horseman Panel**

**K156, K166, K1218, K1333, K2143=K1363, K1373, K1392, K1397, K1400, K1409, K2139=K1437,  
K2140=K1615, K2141=K1621, K1624, K2011**

**Condition Report**

**Conservation Started: June 2015**

**Conservation Finished: November 2015**

**Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller, Giovanna Fregni**

**Time Taken:** Approx. 5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** 52mm (L) Th <0.5mm

Die measuring c. W. 60mm; H. 55mm

**Weight before:** Wt 3.19g (Incl. support and adhesive)

**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.

Sheet panel in silver-gilt showing a mounted warrior. Assembled from twenty-two fragments.

Assembled from twenty-two fragments. Originally rectangular, though possibly tapered and narrower at the top; a die measuring c. W. 60mm; H. 55mm was used to impress the design from the reverse. The horse is shown at the gallop in harness, but the head of the animal is missing. Much of the rider is lost also, but enough survives to establish the warrior was depicted helmeted, in a tunic and with a shield on one side. He wields a spear overarm. Two other figures survive of the original tableau: a naked adversary at the front of the horse holds one of the creature's front legs, and stabs a knife with his other hand at its flank. The association of the fragment bearing the other figure is less certain. The figure is likewise nearly naked, except for a belt, is smaller, and appears to have outstretched arms. Possibly this character was a supporter, at the back of the horse. A last detail is the 'sun' disc, filled in with a ring of dots, placed between the helmeted head of the warrior and the back of the horse's head. (CF)

**Label information** – X-Ray L94

**Associated Objects**

Part of Helmet

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

The silver decorated sheet is fragmented and has a slightly distorted and weakened structure due to the embrittlement of the silver sheet over time. One surface is gilded with only slight abrasion and tarnishing to the surface.

**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.

*Joined across K numbers:*

(11 frags) K1400x3+K1615x2+K1624+K156+K1621+K1437+K1409+K1397.

*Other possible fragments:* K1373, K1397, K1405, K1597.

### **Further treatment at Birmingham Museum**

Additional fragment associations were made and adhered to the frieze with 35%W/V Paraloid B72 in Acetone. An additional support of unwoven polyester netting was added by way of a reverse facing to the back of the larger section using 10% W/V Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

*Additional fragments added*

K1363 and K1373 were joined and added to the main horseman section, K1400 et al.

Two fragments of K166 were also joined and then added to the main horseman section, K1400 et al.

Joins and weights as follows

K2011 (0.12g)

K1218 (0.11g)

K1392 (0.08g)

K542 (0.02g) +K166 (4 frags-0.18g)

K1373 (0.09g), K1363 (0.07g) + [K156, K1624, K1615 (2 frags) + K1621, K1400 (3 frags), K1409, K1437, K1397 (2.39g)]

Each of the die impressed sheet fragments were appropriately packed in the suspected position of the original die pattern, in an individual crystal box with inserts cut out of the plastazote lining.

Fragments or sections likely to become loose then had a piece of surgical steel adhered to the back (with

an interleaf of unwoven polyester netting) using 20% W/V Paraloid B72 in Acetone. This then meant that the fragments could be tied onto the plastazote lining. This prevents fragments becoming further broken or disassociated with the frieze through transit and other activities. This also aided in correct final photography of the main die impressed sheet panels.

**Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

Several potential fragments were not associated with the final panel as it was not conclusive enough an addition.

**Key features:**

- Die impressed panel depicting Horse and Warrior

**Samples:**

None – insufficient soil.

**Analysis:**

Fragments were analysed by Dr Eleanor Blakelock, who recognised that fragments of this panel and the Moustached Heads had trace amounts of zinc. Although this is tenuous, the analyses were used to determine if additional foils could possibly be part of this panel.

Please see full Birmingham Museums Metals Science report for further information.

**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/Frieze 8 Horseman 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 Sheet Conservation Report*. Unpublished report for the British Museum