

CAT 603- Silver gilt panel with animal decoration
K216, K1332, K1353, K1690, K5055
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: 38.5mm (L), <0.5mm (Th)

Weight before: 0.70g

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 with animal decoration. Nine fragments total, all but one join. The pattern was impressed on the reverse of thin sheet with a die. Two straight edges survive, with parts of a plain frame, top and bottom. Style II: enough survives to indicate one zoomorph with a head with U-shaped jaws that bite the creature's own body, which bifurcates at the point of the bite and is interwoven with the jaws. (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. One piece K5055 does not directly join to the panel

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 were all made at the British Museum between K216, K1332, K1353, K1690.

Appropriate packing in Plastazote cut outs and crystals boxes.

Further treatment at Birmingham Museum

An additional fragment (K5055) was associated with the panel (06/04/2016).

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

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.

Final frieze is constructed from

K216, K1332, K1353, K1690 (0.59g)

39mm (L) x 21mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

+ K5055 (0.11g)

8.5mm (L) x 7mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Key features:

- Animal art
- Silver gilt panel of die impressed sheet

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 Sheet Conservation Report*. Unpublished report for the British Museum