

**CAT 598 – Silver-gilt band showing moustached heads
K795, K1146, K1621, K1701, K1769, K1775, K2138, K2152
Condition Report**

Conservation Started: April 2016

Conservation Finished: April 2016

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller, Giovanna Fregni

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: 25 mm (L of largest), <0.5mm (Th)

Weight before: 1.07g

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 band in silver-gilt showing moustached heads. Nine fragments incomplete. At least six heads were depicted originally, though the band might have been considerably longer, as two head fragments do not join. The band was contained by beaded borders. The heads are linked by their moustaches and they are also shown helmeted. There are very slight differences between some of the heads and probably more than four heads were depicted on the original die. The pattern was impressed on the sheet from the reverse. The sheet edge extends beyond the beaded borders on both the top and bottom edges. There is no border to the surviving short edge, but this was cut. A fixing-hole penetrates the cheek of one head on the same large fragment. (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 fragmented into pieces. There is also some warping in the shape of it. There is gilding on one side which is slightly worn down with areas of corrosion showing through. Several fragments do 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.

Joined across K numbers: (4 frags) K1775+K795x2+K1701.

Other possible fragments: K1621, K1679.

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.

No further joins were made but fragments were associated to form the final band.

K795, K1146, K1621, K1701, K1769, K1775, K2138, K2152

Sequence and joins as follows (Left to Right)

K1146 = 0.04g (6mm(L) x 5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1621 = 0.6g (8mm(L) x 8mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K2138 = 0.05g Largest of 3 frags (5.5mm(L) x 4mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K1769 = 0.12g (11.5mm(L) x 11mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K2152 = 0.03g (6.5mm(L) x 3.5mm (W) x <1mm (Th)

K795 (2 frags), K1701, K1775 = 0.77g (25mm(L) x 16mm (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 band.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Key features:

- Dancing warriors
- Silver sheet panel

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/Frieze 11 Moustached Heads 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 Metal Conservation Report*. Unpublished report for the British Museum