

CAT 601- Silver gilt panel with animal decoration
K858, K905
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), 14mm (W), <0.5mm (Th)

Weight before: 0.52g

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 art. Found in four fragments, missing parts of ends and sides. The decoration was die-impressed on the reverse of the thin sheet, probably using a single die, but the surviving leaf-shaped form was cut out of a larger pattern, as the creatures at the edges have all been truncated. The display side was heavily gilded. Style II: remains of four creatures that bite their own bodies, none is complete, each with a single hind leg and looped 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 fragmented. There is gilding on one side which is worn down and brown surface silver corrosion products can be seen. There is also a slight tarnish on 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.

Joins made at the British Museum
K858 +K905 = 0.52g

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.

The joined fragment of die impressed sheet was packed in a crystal box with an insert cut out of the plastazote lining in the suspected position of the original die pattern. The box was fitted tightly to prevent movement and further breakage. This also aided in correct final photography of the main die impressed sheet panel.

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