

K1002 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 28/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 28/02/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 9mm (W) 9mm (D) 1.5mm

Weight before: 0.76g

Weight after: 0.71g

Catalogue number: 571

Digital photography:

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope. Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Four-sided piece of silver with linear niello inlay.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Silver is heavily tarnished on the front. The back and edges are completely covered with a thick layer of soil. All edges of the fragment are break edges. There is general surface abrasion.

There is a small amount of soil on the front in the empty niello channels. About half of the niello is missing. The niello that is in situ appears to be stable.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Stabilisation / Analysis / Study

Aim: Partial cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water/IMS on metals

The granular soil on the exterior surface was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

The loose strip of niello required consolidation to prevent it from detaching; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone was applied.

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.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house the object. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

A section of niello protruding off the break edge was in danger of being knocked off with handling. The decision was taken to consolidate the niello to prevent this from happening. The niello is now stable and not in danger of detaching.

The niello channels appear to be different shapes and sizes.

The silver on the back has light-coloured deposits that may be silver chloride corrosion. There is one distinct, old-looking scratch on the back of the object.

Key Features:

- Four-sided piece of silver with niello inlay

Samples:

1. soil
2. niello fragment