

## K1041 Condition Report

**Conservation Started: 26/6/13**

**Conservation Finished: 26/6/13**

**Conservator: Deborah Magnoler**

**Time Taken: 1 hr**

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 9mm (W) 11mm (Th.) <0.5mm

**Weight before:** 0.47g

**Weight after:** 0.40g

**Catalogue number:** 688

### **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.

Fragment of a silver gilt **stamped foil**. The gilding is unusually brilliant and unaffected by discolouration or corrosion. The surviving decoration comprises a vertical central groove and a curved band at one end, formed by two parallel lines in relief, containing a line of regularly distant dots.

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

There is a thick deposit of soil at the front and back, containing a rootlet and possibly other plant material which is not obviously associated with the object. See post-conservation report for more detail.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Study

**Aim:** Total cleaning

**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

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. IMS was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

Possible 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.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing 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:** see pre-conservation reports.

The gilding is in good condition and unusually unstained, although it has suffered some localised darkening, grey silver corrosion and abrasion on the ends. The back is black with an encrustation of corrosion products and silt. The edge above the decorated band is bent upwards and fractured; part of it became detached during cleaning. As this stamped foil may potentially become part of a large object as part of the BM reconstruction project, repairing it was not deemed necessary. The broken off end is now kept in a gelatine capsule next to the object.

**Samples:**

1. Soil from all sides- contains plant material.
2. Broken off edge.