

K1043 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 25/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 25/01/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 10mm; (W) 10mm; (Th.) 1mm

Weight before: 0.41g

Weight after: 0.27g

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, under daylight or bulbs and Meiji Techno RZ Stereo microscope with an Infinity 1 camera (with analyses capture software) and fibre optic lights, 7-75x magnification. Taken before, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: K1043

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

Flat fragment of a Silver/CuA object.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a flat fragment of metal with a curved section on one end. All sides have break edges visible. Both ends are break edges. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil. Possible evidence of gold gild on edges under the soil layer.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation

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

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:

The object is unadorned and flat silver/copper alloy with a curved section on one side. There is silver tarnish, corrosion products and copper corrosion products visible across the surface. The green/black layer appears to be a combination of corrosion from the silver and the copper content. There is also areas covered in insoluble crustations that slightly disfigures/obscures the surface but some of this corrosion product and insoluble crustation was left in place to prevent further potential damage to the surface. There little visible evidence of gold gilding on the edges but the base silver metal surface is visible and this may have appeared as gild. There are break edges on all sides, as the sides of the object are heavily damaged.

Key Features:

- Ridged pattern on front surface.
- Rounded top surface with break edge.
- Convex top and concave underside.

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'XXXX XRF Report'.

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil from Surface of Object.

References: