

K1081 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 30/05/2013

Conservation Finished: 30/05/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Fragment A:

Dimensions: (L) 9mm (W) 9mm (Th) <0.5mm

Weight before: 0.18g

Weight after: 0.17g

Catalogue number: 600

Fragment B:

Dimensions: (L) 3mm (W) 2.5mm (Th) <0.5mm

Weight before: <0.01g

Weight after: <0.01g

X-ray: L94

K1081b renumbered to 1949

Digital photography:

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights (20-200x magnification). Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: BA 1971, 1001, M10, 175 (in a triangle), 30/7/09

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

Fragment A: Thin, flat, four-sided fragment of silver gilt sheet. The front is gilded and the back is ungilded. All edges breaks.

Fragment B: Tiny triangular fragment of thin, undecorated silver sheet. Renumbered to K1949.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Fragment A: The fragment is largely flat, though slightly bent. The front is gilded, abraded and has patchy dark tarnish (likely from burial). There is a thin film of unremarkable soil on ~50% of the surface and several cracks in the gilding. The back is ungilded, 50% covered with a thin film of unremarkable soil, and tarnished (probably from burial). All of the edges are old-looking breaks.

Fragment B now renumbered as K1949, weighing <0.01g. : Tiny flat, triangular fragment of silver. Both sides tarnished (probably from burial) and with surface abrasion. The break edges might be recent; shiny, granular silver is visible.

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/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 at a later date.

The paper K number was adhered to the back of Fragment A only 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. Fragment B is housed in a gelatine capsule.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Fragment A: The entire surface can now be seen. The front has widespread dark to multicolour tarnish (probably from burial) and there are several stable, old cracks in the gilding. The back has moderate tarnish and general surface abrasion, some of which might be recent.

Fragment B: The condition of the front is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small speck of soil.

Key Features:

- Two fragments: one undecorated silver gilt, one undecorated silver

Samples:

None