

K1089 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 29/04/2013

Conservation Finished: 29/04/2013

Conservation stage 2: 19/04/13

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey & Deb Magnoler

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 41mm (W) 6mm (H) 10mm (Th.) 0.5mm

Weight before: 3.90g

Weight after: 2.91g

Catalogue number: 615

(K1089b and K1089c silver gilt sheet fragments renumbered to K1950 and K1951)

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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: None

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

Section of gently curved, undecorated silver strip. The front is convex and the back is concave; the fragment is c-sectioned. Both long edges are finished and both short ends are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Object is a broken, gently curved fragment of c-sectioned silver strip. Both long edges are finished and both short ends are breaks (probably old).

The front is ~30% covered with patches of unremarkable soil. The surface is tarnished (possibly post-excavation) to a fairly consistent mid-grey colour. There are many abrasions; most look old but a few are fresh/recent. There are patches of purple film (likely silver chloride corrosion) on the surface.

Packaged with the object is a gelatine capsule containing one silver gilt fragment and two silver fragments. They are probably unrelated to the object.

The back is completely filled with a thick layer of soil that has no remarkable features or inclusions. Soil removal will be necessary to describe and assess the condition of the back.

Originally part of K1089 was also:

-One small silver gilt sheet fragment, weighing <0.01 and now separated and renumbered as K1950.

-Two very small fragments of a hard, shaped black material, possibly niello, weighing <0.01 and renumbered as 1951.

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.

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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The condition of the front is the same as pre-conservation apart from the removal of a small amount of soil.

Soil removal from the back revealed several deep, old, intentional-looking scratches. They are similar to those seen on several other hoard objects and might be keying marks (TBC). The back has moderate dark tarnish (probably from burial) and general abrasion.

19/07/13: the back of the object was cleaned. Two of the empty niello channels were cleaned; the cleaning methodology and materials used were the same as for the first stage of conservation. DM

Key Features:

- Section of c-sectioned, undecorated silver strip
- Intentional scratches on interior – keying marks?

Samples:

1. soil