

K1090 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 25/06/2013

Conservation Finished: 27/06/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 11mm (W) 8mm (Th.) 1mm

Weight before: 0.77g

Weight after: 0.40g

Catalogue number: 608

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: None

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

Flat, four-sided fragment of undecorated silver gilt. The front is gilded and the back is ungolded. All edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The front is gilded with patchy, moderate tarnish (probably from burial) and many abrasions, some of which look recent. The back is completely covered with a thick layer of soil. Soil removal will be necessary to describe and assess the condition of the back. All edges appear to be old-looking breaks.

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. 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 condition of the front is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small amount of soil. The back of the object can now be seen. It has patchy dark tarnish and general surface abrasion. All edges are old-looking breaks.

Key Features:

- Plain/undecorated, flat fragment of silver gilt sheet

Samples:

1. soil, back