

## K1106 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 11/07/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 12/07/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 12mm (W) 10.5mm (D) 2mm

**Weight before:** 11.84g

**Weight after:** 0.75g

**X-ray:** L103, L116

**Catalogue number:** 534

(K1106b silver fragment renumbered to K1955)

### **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

Tab-shaped silver gilt fitting with channelled interlace design containing niello on the front. The reverse is plain.

**Associated Objects:** TBC

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

The object is a large soil block containing a few small stones and a little plant matter. A piece of silver can be seen in the largest soil clump. It is unclear at this stage what the silver object is and what its condition is; excavation of the soil block will be necessary.

**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 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.

#### **Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

Excavation of the soil revealed a tab-shaped silver gilt fitting with a channelled interlace design on the front containing niello. All edges are finished and plain. The object is curved so that it is slightly concave when viewed from the front.

The front has widespread dark tarnish (probably from burial) and patches of inactive green corrosion product. Most of the niello is missing; only one small area of niello remains in situ. A fragment of possible niello was found in the soil and retained in sample vial 2 for possible future study/analysis. The back has patchy dark tarnish (probably from burial) and remains of what appears to be greenish solder material in a circle in the centre. Both sides of the object have some old-looking scratches.

The soil had a little plant matter and a few stones but was otherwise unremarkable. A small fragment of silver gilt sheet (now renumbered as K1955, weighing <0.01g), thought to be unrelated to the fitting, was found in the soil and retained in sample vial 3 for future study.

#### **Key Features:**

- Silver gilt tab-shaped fitting
- Channelled interlace design on front containing niello
- No fastening holes
- Possible solder remains on back
- A little niello remains in situ; most is missing

#### **Samples:**

1. soil
2. possible niello fragment found in soil
3. silver gilt fragment found in soil (now K1955, weighing <0.01g)