

K 1113 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 13/07/2012

Conservation Finished: 13/07/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 15mm (W) 10mm (Th.) 2mm

Weight before: 1.24g

Weight after: 1.05g

Catalogue Number: 594, 687

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 and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None noted

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

Silver gilt fragment with two decorative areas and one lip of plain metal. All edges are break edges. The first decorative area is an interlace in which each strand of the interlace has three ridges. Underneath this is a curved section with ribbed design. The second decorative area is adjacent to the interlace area consists of raised blocks of geometric shapes.

Associated Objects: K1138? K1260? (TBC)

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

The object is almost completely encased in soil; ~99% of the front and ~90% of the back are covered with a thick layer of sandy soil that obscures all surface detail. The soil is unremarkable apart from a large piece of plant matter embedded in the soil on the back.

Front: under magnification a small area of silver gilt surface can be seen that might have some decoration. The top of what appears to be a ridge pokes through the soil.

Back: A patch of tarnished, ungilded, rough silver surface can be seen.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study

Aim: Partial cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water/IMS on metals

The granular soil on the front and edges 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 soil on the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house 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:

Soil removal revealed a silver gilt fragment with a complex decorative scheme. The surface has patches of orange to grey tarnish and general abrasion. All of the edges are break edges and all of the breaks look old.

On the plain gold rim there are a few patches of green residue (corrosion? paste?).

There is a thin layer of purple, waxy silver chloride corrosion on the area with raised geometric shapes. The other areas have patches of tarnish but no chloride corrosion.

Key Features:

- Three-strand interlace decoration
- Silver gilt fragment; all edges are breaks
- Large piece of plant matter in soil on back
- Complex decorative scheme
- Green deposit on rim (corrosion? paste?)

Samples:

1. soil - front and edges
2. plant matter in soil - front **DISPOSED**