

## K 1122 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 6/12/2012

**Conservation Finished:** 6/12/2012

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 1.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 12mm (W) 7mm (Th.) 2mm

**Weight before:** 0.72g

**Weight after:** 0.63g

**Catalogue number:** 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

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

Silver gilt fragment with complex decoration on front (gilded side) and plain back (ungilded side). All edges are breaks, though one appears to be finished. The decorative scheme involves raised walls, raised 'volcano-like' circles with an indentation in the top of each, and ridged lines.

**Associated Objects:** TBC

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

The object is largely encased in a thick layer of soil, making assessment of condition difficult. The object is a flat fragment of silver gilt with decoration on the gilded side only. All edges are old-looking breaks with some soil coverage. Visible metal appears to be tarnished.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Study / Analysis

**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 and 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:**

Soil removal has revealed a complex, dense decoration on the front (see description and photographs for details). The gilded side has moderate tarnish and some surface abrasion. The back has a rough texture and is heavily tarnished.

The bottom edge (below the circles) at first appeared to be a finished edge but actually is a break (see photomicrographs).

**Key Features:**

- Silver gilt fragment with complex decorative scheme

**Samples:**

1. soil – front and back
2. black inclusion (charcoal?) in soil - back