

K1138 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 28/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 28/01/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 17mm (W) 15mm (Th.) 2mm

Weight before: 1.38g

Weight after: 1.31g

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

Slightly convex silver gilt fragment with several decorative areas and a plain, wide, ungilded channel down the centre. The design is raised; there are geometric areas (triangles), a ridged area and an area with three-ridged interlace.

Associated Objects: K1260; possibly others (TBC)

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

All edges of the fragment are old-looking breaks. Soil covers much of the front, particularly in recessed areas, obscuring detail. There is a thin layer of soil on the back of the object. The soil has no remarkable features or inclusions.

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:

Soil removal has revealed the complex surface decoration. There are three distinct decorative areas and a plain silver (ungilded), wide, recessed channel in the centre of the object. No residues or materials apart from soil were found in this area, so it is not clear if an inlay of some type was in this area at some point.

The metal surface has general abrasion and some tarnish.

There were several spots of waxy silver chloride corrosion on the object, particularly in the area with the triangular shapes. The surface around the triangles is quite rough and unfinished in texture. It might be possible that the recessed areas around the triangles had an inlay (niello?) at some point, though no trace of it was found during conservation.

Key Features:

- Slightly convex silver gilt fragment
- Complex surface decoration including ridges, three-ridged interlace and geometric (triangles)

Samples:

1. soil