

K 1149 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 24/04/2012

Conservation Finished: 25/04/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 11mm (W) 9mm (T) 1mm

Weight before: 0.60g

Weight after: 0.48g

Catalogue number: 571

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, during 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 piece with niello inlay.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The object is a fragment; all edges are break edges that look old. Visible metal is heavily tarnished on both sides.

The front is ~80% covered with compact, sandy soil with no remarkable features or inclusions. The profile of the niello channel can be seen on a break edge. There is a gap between the edge of the niello inlay and the wall of the channel, and there is a gap underneath the niello inlay. This niello looks vulnerable to being dislodged with handling and will require consolidation to prevent detachment.

One section of niello was found loose in the box and has been retained in a gelatine capsule.

The back is covered with a thin layer of soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Stabilisation / Analysis / Study

Aim: Partial cleaning

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

The goal of this conservation treatment is to reveal the front and edges to aid grouping and to stabilise the vulnerable section of niello that is in situ. No attempt will be made to re-attach the section of niello that is already detached.

The granular soil on the exterior/interior surface 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 edge of the niello channel required consolidation to stability; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone was applied.

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 new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house the object.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Soil removal revealed additional niello inlay in a V shape.

There are light-coloured deposits on the silver on the front; this may be some silver chloride corrosion.

The vulnerable section of niello has been consolidated and the object is now safe to handle.

Key Features:

- Silver piece
- Niello inlay

Samples:

1. soil – front and edges