

K1182 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 24/6/13

Conservation Finished: 25/6/13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 2 hr

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 9 mm (W) 4.5 mm (T) 1.5 mm

Weight before: 0.64g

Weight after: 0.50g

Catalogue number: 570

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Annotation on box: SSH09 1971 (1001) K9 sf 295 4/8/09

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

A stepped triangle made of silver with channels filled with niello. The bottom of the channels appears to be square. The stepped triangle shape appears to have been incised onto a plain silver backing sheet. This is a fragment that belong to niello group C, forming a larger decorated plate.

Associated objects: Niello group C

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

One side is entirely covered with soil. One side is plain and exposed. The object's surface is dulled by a dark form of discolouration. See post-conservation report for more details

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, 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 was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

Possible 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. 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: see pre-conservation reports.

Not much of the niello within the channels survives. During cleaning part of it broke off and was sampled in a gelatine capsule. (See photomicrograph)

Samples:

1. Niello sample from the inside of a channel.