

## K1183 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 20/06/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 21/06/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 0.75 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 10mm (W) 7mm (D) 3.5mm (Th.) 0.5mm

**Weight before:** 0.33g

**Weight after:** 0.13g

### **Digital photography:**

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights (20-200x magnification). Taken before and after.

**Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:** SSH09, 1971, (1001), J9, 296 (in a triangle), 4/8/09

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

Bent, broken fragment of silver gilt pressed foil.

**Associated Objects:** TBC

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

The fragment is bent so that it appears convex when viewed from the front. ~70% of the front is covered with a layer of unremarkable soil. Visible surface is tarnished and has light surface abrasions. The back is concave and almost 100% filled with a thick layer of unremarkable soil. All edges are breaks.

**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.

An area of metal barely hanging onto the body of the object and an area of delaminating gilding required consolidation to prevent detachment or breakage through handling or transportation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in 50/50 acetone/IMS was applied with a small brush. For location of consolidated areas see 'K1183 Treatment Details'.

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:**

The entire surface can now be seen. The front and back have patchy, dark tarnish (probably from burial) and general surface abrasion. Some of the break edges might be recent.

The two vulnerable areas have been consolidated, making the object safe for handling. It is, however, fragile and should be handled with care.

The decorative scheme is currently unclear; the fragment will need to be joined with others to make sense of the design.

**Key Features:**

- Bent, broken fragment of pressed silver gilt foil

**Samples:**

1. soil
2. metal fragments found in soil near area that was consolidated