

K1190 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 30/04/2013

Conservation Finished: 30/04/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Catalogue number: 614

Fragment A:

Dimensions: (L) 20.5mm (W) 8mm (D) 7mm (Th.) 1mm

Weight before: 3.57g

Weight after: 2.36g

Fragment B:

Dimensions: (L) 27mm (W) 7mm (D) 4mm (Th.) 1mm

Weight before: 1.45g

Weight after: 1.34g

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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, BA1971, 1001, M11, 304 (triangle), 4/8/9

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

Two fragments of silver gilt channelled strip.

Fragment A: Gently curved section of undecorated silver gilt strip. The front is convex and gilded and the back is concave and ungilded; the fragment is c-sectioned. The long edges are finished and the short edges are breaks.

Fragment B: Section of undecorated silver gilt strip. The front is convex and gilded and the back is concave and ungilded; the fragment is c-sectioned. All edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Fragment A: The object is almost completely encased in a thick layer of soil. Only a ~10% of the front surface can be seen through the soil. The surface is abraded and has moderate tarnish (likely from

burial). Underneath the soil bumpy, purple corrosion products can be seen (likely silver chloride). Soil removal is necessary to describe and assess the condition of the object.

Fragment B: The object is completely covered with soil; none of the surface can be seen. Underneath the soil bumpy, purple corrosion products can be seen (likely silver chloride). Soil removal is necessary to describe and assess the condition of the object. It appears that all edges are old-looking breaks (TBC after soil removal).

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.

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:

Fragment A: Soil removal revealed that about 70% of the front and 100% of the back of the object is covered with a thick layer of bumpy, purple corrosion product (likely silver chloride). Most of one of the finished edges is broken. There is no corrosion on this break edge and it looks as if it might be recent. A section of the front (gilded) surface can be seen; it is abraded and has patchy, dark tarnish. Corrosion products were left in situ as they could potentially aid finding joins with other objects. The corrosion can be removed at a later date if desired.

Fragment B: Soil removal revealed that about 99% of both sides of the object are covered with a thick layer of bumpy, purple corrosion product (likely silver chloride). One edge is finished; the remainder are old-looking breaks. A very tiny section of the front (gilded) surface can be seen (enough to confirm that gilding is present). Corrosion products were left in situ as they could potentially aid finding joins with other objects. The corrosion can be removed at a later date if desired.

Key Features:

- Two pieces of c-sectioned, undecorated silver gilt strip
- Almost completely covered with corrosion (likely silver chloride)

Samples:

1. soil – K1190a
2. soil – K1190b