

K1191 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 20/04/2012

Conservation Finished: 20/04/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 11mm (W) 8mm (D) 1.5mm

Weight before: 0.88g

Weight after: 0.85g

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: SSH09, BA1971, 1001, 305 (in triangle), M14, 4/8/09

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

Geometric piece of silver (six-sided) with partial strip of niello attached to one break edge.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Silver is heavily tarnished on both sides. All edges are break edges.

~80% of front covered with thick layer of sandy soil. On one edge a strip of niello is visible partly attached to the object. The niello is very vulnerable and mobile when touched. If not consolidated there is a high probability that it will become detached with even careful handling.

The back of the object has a thin layer of soil but is largely clean. The texture is rough; there may be silver chloride corrosion.

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 granular soil on the exterior 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 loose strip of niello required consolidation to prevent it from detaching; 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:

The niello is now stable and not in danger of detaching. Removal of soil revealed several previously unseen channels of niello in good condition.

Shiny, granular silver can be seen on one break edge (where niello is present).

The silver on the front and back has light-coloured deposits that may be silver chloride corrosion. There is one shiny, possibly recent scratch on the front of the object.

Key Features:

- Geometric piece of silver with niello inlay

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'K1191 XRF Report'.

Samples:

1. soil from front and edges