

## K1209 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 05/02/13

**Conservation Finished:** 06/02/13

**Conservator:** Natalie Harding

**Time Taken:** 2hours 30minutes

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) incomplete 33mm; (W) 8mm; (H) 4mm; (Th) 1.5mm

**Weight before:** 2.90grams

**Weight after:** 2.64grams

**X-ray:** L43

**Catalogue number:** 384

### **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:**

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

X-ray: L43

Silver-alloy fragment from one edge of a cast hilt-plate, slightly twisted, with a flange. The inner edge shows the curvature of a blade aperture. The upper surface has remains of gilding. (Chris Fern's notes).

**Associated Objects:** May join K1338 and K979

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

The piece is slightly twisted and buckled throughout, yet maintains its original shape and seems structurally stable. There are two broken ends on the short edges. The two long sides appear to be original border edges. The front surface is gilded with some losses in areas where black patina, possibly silver tarnish has formed, the gilding seems stable. The reverse is filled and obscured by soil. Linear surface scratches all over, possibly due to damage at removal. Granular nodules of silver corrosion product in areas and obscuring some of the gilding.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Study / Analysis

**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 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 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:**

Removal of the soil showed that the reverse of the piece has a dimpled texture, which suggests this piece is cast. Gilding on the top surfaces only which are also smooth and non-decorated. Two straight edges, suggesting border edges. Silver nodular corrosion product in areas mixed with iron corrosion product that has stained the surface with a reddish/brown colour in areas. Patches of copper alloy corrosion product on reverse.

**Key Features:**

- Dimpled texture on reverse of piece.
- Two border edges with flange.
- Gilding on top surfaces.
- Smooth surface finish on top surfaces.

**Analysis Undertaken:** n/a

**Samples:**

1. Soil – reverse side
2. Unidentified black fragment.

**References:** Chris Fern's notes.