

K120 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 11/07/2013

Conservation Finished: 11/07/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Catalogue number: 600

Fragment A:

Dimensions: (L) 11mm (W) 7.5mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.26g

Weight after: 0.16g

Fragment B:

Dimensions: (L) 5.5mm (W) 4.5mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.04g

Weight after: 0.04g

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: 24/7/2009, 27 (in a triangle)

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

Fragment A: Flat, undecorated fragment of silver gilt sheet. The front is gilded and the back is ungilded. All edges are breaks.

Fragment B: Flat, undecorated fragment of silver gilt sheet. The front is gilded and the back is ungilded. All edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Fragment A: All edges are breaks; one break edge looks recent, with shiny, soil-free silver visible on the break edge. The other breaks look old. The front is gilded with surface abrasions and a little soil. The back is 90% covered with a thick layer of soil. Visible surface is ungilded and tarnished (probably from burial).

Fragment B: All edges are breaks; one break edge looks recent, with shiny, soil-free silver visible on the break edge. The other breaks look old. The front is gilded with surface abrasions and a little soil. The back is ungilded and tarnished (probably from burial).

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 of fragment A only (fragment B is too small) 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 condition of the front of fragment A is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small amount of soil. The back can now be seen. It is ungilded with moderate tarnish (probably from burial).

The condition of fragment B is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small amount of soil.

The two fragments join.

Key Features:

- Two joining, flat, undecorated fragments of silver gilt sheet

Samples:

1. soil