

K1215 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 24/06/2013

Conservation Finished: 24/06/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 9.5mm (W) 8mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.44g

Weight after: 0.37g

X-ray: L95

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: None

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

Flat, four-sided fragment of undecorated silver gilt sheet. The front is gilded and the back is ungilded.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The fragment is slightly bent. All edges are old-looking breaks. The front is gilded and ~90% covered with a thick layer of soil. Soil removal will be necessary to assess the condition of the front. The back is ungilded with light tarnish and numerous abrasions, some of which look recent.

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:

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

The front surface can now be seen. It has widespread tarnish ranging from mid-grey to black and numerous old-looking, distinct abrasions. There is no surface decoration.

Key Features:

- Plain/undecorated fragment of silver gilt sheet

Samples:

1. soil