

K1217 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 05/02/13

Conservation Finished: 05/02/13

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 2hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 14mm (W) 12mm (H) 4mm (Th) 1mm

Weight before: 1.06g

Weight after: 0.92g

X-ray: L43

Catalogue number: 380

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: n/a

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

X-ray: L43

Five-sided silver alloy fragment, diamond shaped. Fragment from one edge of a cast hilt-plate, slightly flattened, with a flange. The upper surface has remains of gilding. (C. Fern notes).

The gilding remains on the front side, which also appears it has a smooth surface. Soil obscures all of the reverse side.

Associated Objects: Possibly K1141 and K1180?

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

Appears structurally stable, soil obscures all of the reverse side. This fragment appears to be broken off from a larger piece, or part of a series making up a larger piece. It has four torn sides/edges with one straight edge that appears it might be an original border edge. Gilding seems to be stable and is currently intact. Black coloured patina, possibly silver tarnish covers all surfaces.

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.

Green copper alloy corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

Pinkish / Purple discolouration in granular form was found in areas. This could possibly be silver corrosion and was left in situ.

Reddish / brown discolouration was found in areas. This could possibly be iron corrosion or soil impregnated into the granular silver corrosion product and cannot be removed at this stage. This was left in situ.

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:

Four edges torn, one edge appears to be an original border edge where tool marks, file or cut marks, can be seen. Removal of soil revealed a half hole pierced into the sheet on the upper left hand side of the piece.

Gilding intact and visible in one broad stripe through the centre of the front face of the object. More gilding beneath this area. There is a deep scratch in the shape of a 'Y' in the upper right hand side – this appears to be old damage as the soil is quite engrained into the scratch.

Possible silver corrosion product in the form of a pinkish/purple insoluble crust covers much of the surface on the front, although does not obscure any decoration or information.

On the front, an area above the pierced hole appears to have been pushed in or dented; this area also seems to be pitted, possibly due to corrosion.

The reverse is heavily textured with a dimpled appearance, possibly evidence of casting? The front has a smooth texture and appearance.

Green copper alloy corrosion products on the reverse of the piece and inside the pierced hole were found.

Reddish / brown discolouration in areas. This cannot be easily removed without damage as it has become engrained into the silver corrosion products and the grainy torn edges.

Black coloured silver tarnish covers all surfaces.

Key Features:

- Flange, or original border edge.
- Gilding on the front.
- Pierced hole.
- Dimpled texture on reverse, possible casting evidence?

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples:

1. Soil – from all over.

References: Chris Fern's notes.