

K1219 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 19/06/2013

Conservation Finished: 20/06/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 0.75 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 8mm (W) 6mm (D) 1.5mm

Weight before: 0.35g

Weight after: 0.32g

Catalogue number: 571

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: SSH09, BA 1971, (1001), K13, 4/8/09

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

Triangular, flat fragment of silver with niello inlay in a v-shaped channel. All edges breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Flat, triangular piece of silver. All edges are breaks; unclear if they are recent. A thin layer of soil covers the back; the front is 90% covered with a thick layer of soil. It is unclear if the fragment has any decoration. Visible surface is heavily tarnished (probably from burial) and has general surface abrasion.

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, 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. Soil removal revealed the front, which has niello inlay in a v-shaped channel; the fragment is part of Niello Group B, a silver/silver gilt/niello strip.

On the front there are patches of a thin layer of light brown corrosion, likely silver chloride.

Key Features:

- Flat, triangular piece of silver; all edges breaks
- Niello inlay in V-shaped channel
- Part of silver/silver gilt/niello strip (Niello Group B)

Samples:

1. soil