

K1232 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 28/05/2013

Conservation Finished: 29/05/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.75 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Fragment A:

Dimensions: (L) 15.5mm (W) 7mm (D) 4mm

Weight before: 0.46g

Weight after (combined): 0.34g

Catalogue number: 611

Fragment B not measured/weighed due to small size.

X-ray: L95

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS 1100D digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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

Fragment A: Bent, roughly rectangular fragment of silver gilt fluted strip with two finished edges, two break edges, and one round, empty fastening hole in the centre.

Fragment B: Two tiny fragments of the same type of object.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Fragment A: The object is a fragment of medium-width fluted strip. It is bent so that it is concave when viewed from the front. The long edges are finished and the short edges are old-looking breaks. 90% of the front and 60% of the back are covered with unremarkable soil.

The back is convex and heavily tarnished (probably from burial). There is one round fastening hole in the centre of the fragment that is empty apart from soil. There is a small lip of metal around the hole on the back of the object, suggesting that it was punched through from the front.

Soil removal is necessary to fully describe and assess the condition of the object.

Fragment B: Two small fragments of what appears to be the same type of fluted strip. They are housed in a gelatine capsule.

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 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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Fragment A: Soil removal has revealed the entire surface. The object is a fragment of medium-width fluted strip (i.e., with a series of raised lines running lengthwise down the front of the object). The long edges are finished and the short edges are old-looking breaks.

The front has patchy moderate to dark tarnish (probably from burial) and one patch of green corrosion product adjacent to the fastening hole. The surface has multiple abrasions and the gilding is crazed but stable adjacent to one of the break edges. One corner is bent upward slightly.

The back is partially gilded along the finished edges and ungilded in the centre. The surface has patchy discolouration and general abrasion.

Fragment B: No change to condition; fragments are housed in a gelatine capsule.

Key Features:

- Fragment of medium-width silver gilt fluted strip
- Back gilded along finished edges with strip of ungilded silver in centre of strip
- One empty, round fastening hole

Samples:

1. soil from K1232a