

K1242 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 06/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 06/02/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 26mm (W) 8mm (D) 3mm (Th) 1mm

Weight before: 1.51g

Weight after: 1.32g

X-ray: L43

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 and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

Silver fragment with 90-degree angle edge; L sectioned. All edges apart from the 90-degree bent edge are breaks. 'Leaf'-shaped indentations on edge.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The fragment is roughly L-sectioned with a 90-degree bend. All edges are breaks apart from this 90-degree angled edge. The breaks are covered with soil and look old.

Soil covers ~90% of the exterior surface and obscures surface decoration. Visible metal is heavily tarnished to a dark grey colour and covered with a substantial layer of green corrosion products.

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:

There is a small trace of gilding on one of the break edges; see photos. The object has many surface scratches and dents, most of which look old. There is a substantial layer of copper corrosion on the front and edge; it is inactive and was left in situ.

The silver as seen on the back of the object is quite pitted, corroded and tarnished.

There are recessed 'leaf'-like shapes along the edge, similar to the shapes seen on K826 and K137.

Key Features:

- Silver fragment with oval indentations on border
- Edge has trace of gilding

Samples:

1. soil
2. waxy material on back of object