

K1243 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 29/04/2013

Conservation Finished: 29/04/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 20mm (W) 7mm (D) 6mm

Weight before: 2.81g

Weight after: 1.76g

Catalogue number: 614

Digital photography:

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

Section of straight, undecorated silver gilt strip. The front is convex and gilded and the back is concave and unglided; the fragment is c-sectioned. Both long edges are finished and both short ends are breaks.

Associated Objects: Joins K622

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

~40% of the front is covered with a thick layer of soil. Visible surface has widespread abrasion (most of which looks old) and patchy, dark tarnish (probably from burial). The object is broken into two pieces lengthwise; the two parts are held together by soil only.

There are a series of regular, old-looking dents on the front surface.

The back of the object is completely covered with a thick layer of soil that contains a little plant matter but is otherwise unremarkable. Soil removal will be necessary to describe and assess the condition of the back.

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.

After discussion with the conservation manager the decision was taken to adhere the two fragments together. This was done using HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

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 was included to help lift the object from the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Soil removal revealed the back/interior surface, which is heavily tarnished (probably from burial) to a dark grey colour. There are several distinct, deep, long scratches down the length of the interior that look intentional and old. Similar marks have been observed on other fragments such as K1633 and might represent keying marks (TBC). There are a few flecks of purple corrosion on the surface as well (likely silver chloride).

The exterior has moderate tarnish widespread superficial abrasions and dents, most of which look old. There are a few flecks of purple corrosion on the surface as well (likely silver chloride).

Key Features:

- Section of c-sectioned, undecorated silver gilt strip
- Broken into two pieces (they are now adhered together)
- Deep, old, intentional-looking scratches on back – keying marks?

Samples:

1. soil