

K1244 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 29/05/2013

Conservation Finished: 29/05/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 12.5mm (W) 8mm (D) 1.5mm (Th.) 0.5mm

Weight before: 0.65g

Weight after: 0.39g

X-ray: L94

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: None

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

Five-sided fragment of undecorated, flat silver gilt sheet. The front is gilded and the back is ungilded. All edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The fragment appears to be flat, though slightly bent. The front is gilded, 90% covered with unremarkable soil, and tarnished (probably from burial). The back is ungilded, 95% covered with unremarkable soil, and tarnished (probably from burial). All edges are old-looking breaks.

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:

Soil removal revealed the front and back surfaces. The front has several scratches, some of which might be recent. There is patchy multicolour tarnish (probably from burial) and the gilding layer is delaminating in a few places. It is stable but the object should be handled with care.

The back has patchy dark corrosion and areas with a thin film of light brown corrosion product (possibly silver chloride). There are a series of regular, old-looking scratches that might be filing marks from manufacture.

Key Features:

- Fragment of undecorated silver gilt sheet
- Gilding layer compromised
- Filing marks on back

Samples:

1. soil