

K1245 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 14/5/2013

Conservation Finished: 15/5/2013

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 16.5mm (W) 8mm (Th.) <0.5mm

Weight before: 0.50g

Weight after: 0.13g

Catalogue number: 682

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: SSH09 N13 BA1971 1001 sf 333 3/8/09

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

Fragment of very thin gold sheet. see post-conservation condition report for details.

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

Fragile. Lightly covered in soil and silt. Broken on all sides. Bent and flexible. The two halves of the object are attached to one another by a narrow bridge of metal.

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.

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 was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

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 surface features some pitting that might have been caused by manufacture (see photomicrographs). There is a set of three deep dents at one end, that might have been part of the technology of the object. Just beneath these, there is a linear mark parallel to the border which may also be evidence of the original construction. There are a number of microcratches on the surface that might have been caused partly by contact with the granular soil and partly by historical polishing or use. The gold is quite soft.

Key Features:

- Plain gold sheet with superficial pitting
- Intentional dents and linear mark

Samples:

1. Soil from all sides.