

K1257 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 16/04/2013

Conservation Finished: 16/04/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 11mm (W) 7mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.36g

Weight after: 0.35g

Catalogue number: 590

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

Flat fragment of a silver gilt channelled strip (thought to possibly be a helmet crest) with gilding and incised three-ridged interlace decoration on the front. The back is plain/ungilded silver. All but one of the edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: May join K49 and K1158. It has relief decoration very similar to the Style II ornament on K546.

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

The object is a fragment. All but one of the edges are old-looking breaks. The fragment is flat.

The front is gilded and ~60% covered with unremarkable sandy soil. Visible surface has moderate tarnish (probably from burial) and general surface abrasion.

The back is ungilded and has patchy tarnish (probably from burial) that ranges from light to very dark and a thin layer of soil covers ~20% of the surface. There is a distinct, old-looking dent across the back of the object.

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.

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. The fragment is housed in a gelatine capsule.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The design can now be seen clearly. It consists of areas of three-ridged interlace (possibly part of a larger zoomorphic design?).

Soil removal revealed a moderately tarnished gilded surface with general surface abrasion as well as a few distinct, old-looking dents. Tarnish was reduced with a swab of IMS but some remains on the surface, particularly in recessed areas. A small piece of gilding detached from the object and was retained in sample vial 2. The remainder of the gilding is in good condition and secure.

There is a distinct, old, long dent on the back of the object similar to that seen on K49.

Key Features:

- Silver gilt 'crest' fragment
- One finished edge
- Incised three-ridged interlace decoration

Samples:

1. soil
2. gilding fragment