

K 1261 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 31/07/2012

Conservation Finished: 31/07/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 16mm (W) 8mm (Th.) ~1.5mm

Weight before: 1.01 g

Weight after: 1.00 g

Catalogue number: 590

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: SSH09, 1001, N10, 1971, 350 (in a triangle), 5/8/09

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

Silver gilt fragment. The front is gilded and has a zoomorphic decoration. The back is ungilded. This object is thought to be a fragment of a channelled crest similar to K549.

Associated Objects: K546 ('crest' strip) + K678 (animal 'terminal')

Other possible fragments of this object (all TBC): K31, K47, K 49, K139, K192, K363 (tip of nose of animal terminal), K519, K535, K541, K616, K629, K868, K950, K1012, K1158, K1257, K1261, K1376, K1652, K1761

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

The object is a flat fragment. Three of the four sides are uneven break edges. The fourth side is finished and flat.

The front is gilded and ~60% covered with compact, sandy soil, particularly in recessed areas and on break edges. Visible metal has patches of dark grey tarnish and general abrasion.

The back is ungilded and ~50% covered with compact, sandy soil that is thick in areas. Visible silver is heavily and consistently tarnished to a dark grey colour. There is general surface abrasion.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study

Aim: Partial cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water/IMS on metals

The granular soil on the front 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 a patch of soil on the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house 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:

Soil removal from the front revealed a beautiful and delicate zoomorphic design of two creatures biting each other. The design seen on this fragment is not the same as that seen on the channelled 'crest' K546. The width and thickness of the fragment appears to be the same as that seen on K546, however.

Key Features:

- Silver gilt fragment with zoomorphic decoration – two animals biting each other
- Fragment of channelled crest

Samples:

1. soil from front and edges