

K1284 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 13/06/2013

Conservation Finished: 13/06/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.25 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 13.5mm (W) 10mm (D) 2mm

Weight before: 0.36g

Weight after: 0.35g

Catalogue number: 691

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, four-sided fragment of gilded copper alloy. The front has cast or incised raised decoration that imitates beaded filigree. The back is ungilded and undecorated. One edge is finished; the remainder are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The fragment is flat and has one finished edge and three old-looking break edges. The copper alloy is very corroded; no uncorroded metal is visible on break edges. The front of the object is gilded and has cast or incised decoration that imitates the appearance of beaded filigree (two straight lines and two swirls). The gilding is missing in some areas, particularly the high points of the design. There is a small amount of soil on both sides. The back is ungilded.

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 or stabilised 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. 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 condition of the object is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small amount of soil.

The front has general surface abrasion and some missing areas of gilding.

Key Features:

- Corroded fragment of gilded copper alloy
- Cast or incised decoration on front imitating beaded filigree (spirals and straight lines)

Samples:

1. soil – back
2. tiny fragment of gilding