

K1324 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 08/02/2012

Conservation Finished: 10/02/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 15mm (W) 9mm (D) 5mm

Weight before: 0.92g

Weight after: 0.89g

Catalogue number: 541

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: None

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

Two joined rectangular gold panels with chased interlaced snake design on both panels. The top edge is shorter than the bottom edge as the panels were affixed to a curved object, K130. The edges are curved rather than straight.

Associated Objects: K1324 is a panel that goes in K130, which is part of the 'mystery object' consisting of K130, K545, and K1055. Other parts of K130: K112, K467, K54.

Four small fragments of silver gilt found during cleaning renumbered to K1967.

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

The object is bent and folded nearly in half. There is a large amount of soil sandwiched in between the two halves that contains some green material (corrosion? paste?) and a large fragment of grey metal (likely silver).

The exterior is ~50% covered with compact, sandy soil, particularly in recessed areas. The soil on the exterior contains a tiny fleck of green material (corrosion? paste?) and an unknown black inclusion.

Visible gold has a small amount of iridescent tarnish and one patch of black tarnish on the bend. The gold has widespread surface scratches ranging from very fine and superficial to deeper. Scratches look old.

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 exterior surface 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.

Removal of soil from the interior was not attempted as this is not necessary for display. The silver fragment was left in situ.

The paper K number was adhered to the soil on the bottom 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 (spunbonded polyethylene fabric) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Soil removal revealed a chased interlaced snake design on the exterior. The pattern is the same on both panels but in a mirror image; the snake head is at the bottom left on one panel and the bottom right on the other. Tool marks from chasing are clearly visible under 7.5x magnification.

There is one hole in the gold. See Loan-Out Condition Report for location.

There is a small patch of green material in the interior soil as well as a large fragment of metal (likely silver). These were left in situ for future study/analysis.

Key Features:

- Incised zoomorphic design (snake)
- Part of K130

Samples:

1. soil - exterior
2. black inclusion in soil - exterior **DISPOSED**
3. green material in soil - exterior **DISPOSED**
4. gold flake in soil - exterior