

K1324 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 14th August 2013

Conservation Finished: 14th August 2013

Conservator: K. Fuller

Time Taken: 3.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 28mm (W) 5.5mm (D) 0.2mm

Weight before: 0.89g

Weight after: 0.56g

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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:

X-Ray L120

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

Thin gold panel with slight curvature from the mystery object. Plait design moulded into original plate with possible incising marks. Overall full length of this particular strip.

Associated Objects:

Mystery object

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope

7-75x magnification

Item has been previously cleaned on outer surface but a large lump of soil is present in middle. Item is bent round and small holes or punches are present which appears to be deterioration of thin gold surface. Silver/ grey metallic fragments can be seen in middle lump of soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick

The granular soil on the 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/ water 50:50.

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:

Metal fragments were found in the middle lump of soil. They appeared to be silver with gilding on one surface. Three deterioration holes in the gold plate were more visible after removing the soil. Paste was found as a layer on top of the inner gold metallic surface underneath part of the lump of soil indicating it was soldered on the inner surface to another object. Parting wall between two sections of design appears to have been made and attached separately.

Key Features:

- Gold plait design plate
- Fragments of gilded silver in soil
- Copper alloy paste/ solder deposits on inner surface

Samples:

Sample 1b: Soil

Sample 2b: Gilded silver fragments

Sample 3b: Copper paste material from inner surface

References: