

K1328 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 30/5/2013

Conservation Finished: 31/5/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions:

Fragment A: (L) 9mm (W) 7mm (D) 1mm

Fragment B: (L) 7mm (W) 6mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.80g

Weight after: 0.08g (A) and 0.09g (B)

Catalogue number: 596

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS 1100D 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: None

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

Two small fragments of silver gilt pressblech foil. Each fragment has raised decoration on the gilded front and ungilded backs. Both fragments have ridged decoration adjacent to a plain flange (finished edge). Fragment A has a dimpled area above the ribbed decoration. All but one of the edges of each fragment are old-looking breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Object is a soil block containing at least two fragments of very thin silver gilt. Visible metal has general surface abrasion and tarnish (probably from burial). The soil block is accompanied by multiple small clumps of soil in a gelatine capsule and a plastic vial. No additional metal fragments can be seen in the small soil clumps but they will be excavated to be sure.

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.

A moving crack on Fragment A required a support backing to prevent breakage through handling or transportation; Japanese tissue was applied using Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone.

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:

Excavation of the soil block released two small fragments of silver gilt pressblech foil. For full description see 'Description' section above.

Fragment A has widespread multicolour tarnish (probably from burial) over much of the front surface as well as general surface abrasion and a few distinct, old-looking scratches on the flange. The back is tarnished to a fairly consistent mid-grey colour and has general surface abrasion. There is a support backing of Japanese tissue in one corner.

Fragment B is slightly smaller than Fragment A but has the same ribbed design. The front has patchy multicolour tarnish (probably from burial) and general surface abrasion (some abrasions look recent).

The smaller soil clumps were excavated but no further metal fragments were found.

Key Features:

- Two fragments of silver gilt pressblech foils, each with ribbed decoration

Samples:

1. soil