

K1329 Condition Report

FRAGILE; lifting gilding and crack

Handle with care

Conservation Started: 30/05/2013

Conservation Finished: 03/06/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 11.5mm (W) 7.5mm (D) 1mm (Th.) <0.5mm

Weight before: 0.14g

Weight after: 0.10g

X-ray: L94, L116

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, plain silver gilt sheet fragment. All edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The front is ~80% covered with unremarkable soil. Visible surface is gilded and has general abrasion. The back is un-gilded and ~80% covered with unremarkable soil. Visible surface is heavily tarnished (probably from burial) to a dark grey colour. All edges are old-looking breaks.

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.

The moving crack required a support backing to prevent detachment or breakage through handling or transportation; a tab of Japanese tissue was applied to the back 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.

19/2/16- Susan Hull

Joined with K1350 B with 35%w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Soil removal revealed a front surface that has patchy brown to orange discolouration and multiple surface abrasions, some of which look recent. The gilding is delaminating in one corner. It is stable but vulnerable; handle object with care and avoid touching this corner.

The back is heavily tarnished (probably from burial) and has a large patch of bumpy, brown corrosion product (likely silver chloride). There is a Japanese tissue support backing over the crack.

Key Features:

- Undecorated, flat fragment of silver gilt sheet
- All edges breaks
- Delaminating gilding

Samples:

1. soil