

K1337 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 24/01/13

Conservation Finished: 24/01/13

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 3hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 10mm (W) 7mm (thickness) less than 1mm

Weight before: 0.34grams

Weight after: 0.34grams

Catalogue number: 77

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, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: n/a

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Four-sided fragment, possibly silver. Possible gold gilding on surfaces and recesses. This appears to be a corner edge piece of a design, although all the sides are torn suggesting this has come apart from another piece.

Corner of an interlaced three strand or grooved pattern bordered by a three strand edging.

The reverse is covered in a light soil and the area in the lower right hand corner appears like a 'lump' which suggests it may be a rivet or pin head?

Associated Objects:

Possibly associated with: K1248 and K993

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

Seems structurally stable. Torn on all four sides. Soil obscures most of the design on the front. Black patina can be seen on all surfaces, probably silver tarnish. Green copper alloy corrosion product can be seen in areas beneath the soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Partial 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 and 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.

Some copper alloy corrosion products were removed to allow a better interpretation of the design beneath. Corrosion products in lower recesses 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:

Full decoration revealed beneath soil and corrosion products. The upper three strand edging has small wave lines intersecting the design. The dividing edge of the panel was found to be segmented with little squares. Gilding was found to cover much of the surface and remained intact and well attached to the surface. This gilding layer can be seen on the torn edges from the side. Corrosion nodule on reverse, unsure if this could be the remains of a pin or rivet head? Black silver tarnish covers the gold in most areas.

Key Features:

- Good area of gilding.
- Three strand interlace design in main panel.
- Pattered edging,
- Possible tool marks visible under magnification.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples:

Not enough soil was recovered to obtain a sample.

References: n/a