

K1338 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 07/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 07/02/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L). 11.5mm; (W). 8mm; (H). flange 4mm; (Th). 1.5mm

Weight before: 0.84g

Weight after: 0.78g

Catalogue number: 384

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: K1338, X-Ray: L47.

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

Silver-alloy fragment, with a gilded upper surface, from the side of a flanged hilt-plate.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a small straight fragment of metal with a slight curve with a lip in an 'L' shape. The fragment has a defined narrow form with break edges visible on the two ends, which are both missing material. One side is more complete than the opposite side, for example the side with the lip is longer than the opposite side. The top and side surface (of the lip) has gold gild visible. The surface of both the front and reverse has tarnish visible. The object is covered in a light layer of loose and compact soil, especially the front.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation

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.

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:

The object is defined narrow strip that is 'L' shaped with a flat surface and a lipped end. There are break edges on both ends with material missing. The object appears to be silver with a copper alloy; there is silver tarnish, corrosion products and copper corrosion products visible across the surface, especially on the back of the object. The green/black corrosion layer appears to be a combination of corrosion products the silver and the copper content and is prominent on the back. The back is also rough in texture and un-adorned. There are areas of insoluble crustations on the surface, especially on the back. There is visible evidence of gold gilding on the front and lipped surface on the object. As there were no decorative features on the object, some of this corrosion product and insoluble crustation was left in place to prevent the potential loss of further gold gilt. The defined lip side is longer than the opposite side. There is heavy damage and warping to the object, especially along the edges on the top surface, which may be the result of the breaking up of the original object and/or from compression damage in the soil. There is a slight curve to the length of the lip also.

Key Features:

- A defined narrow flat fragment with a slight bend/lip and break edges on either side.
- Heavily damaged and warped.
- Gilding visible on the front and on the front of the lip of the object.

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'XXXX XRF Report'.

Samples:

Sample 1 - soil from the surface of the object.

References: