

K1359 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 23/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 23/01/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 Hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (H) 7mm (W) 17mm (D) 3mm (Th.) 1mm

Weight before: 0.60g

Weight after: 0.52g

Catalogue number: 189

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:

K1359

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

Small fragment of silver, with decorative surface.

Associated Objects: None Known at present.

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

A small fragment of metal, covered in a heavy layer of loose and compact soil. The longer bottom edge of the object is curved in an 's' shape whereas the shorter top edge has a slight curve. There is no decoration visible due to the obscuring nature of the soil layer.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Partial 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.

25/09/2015- K. Fuller

Item has been boxed with K814, K2075 and K205

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The object has a heavy layer of corrosion products on the surface with soil impregnated into this soil layer, both on the front and back surfaces. Within the corrosion layer a possible herringbone style decorative motive is visible, but the rest of the surface is obscured by the corrosion products and impregnated soil.

The majority of the dirt was removed as was some of the corrosion layer so as to unveil any possible surface decoration, but some dirt and corrosion was left in-situ. The reason for this was to prevent further weakening of the thin metal surface and to prevent any further loss of the information in the corrosion layer.

Key Features:

- Metal (Silver??) object with thick layer of corrosion products.
- Possible Herringbone motif visible on the front surface.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

Samples:

Sample 1 – Soil on object surface.

References: