

## K1383 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 27/07/2011

**Conservation Finished:** 04/08/2011

**Conservator:** Ellen Promise

**Time Taken:** 12 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (of 11 fragments laid out as panel) (L) 100mm (W) 28mm (D) <1mm

**Weight After:** 11 fragments secured on matboard 7.87g

**Catalogue number:** 597

### **Digital photography:**

Taken with a Nikon D60 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:** none

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

The object comprises 12 silver-gilt fragments with repoussé designs. From left to right, the fragments that fit together to form a strip will be described as 1 through 11. A twelfth fragment does not fit with the others and is housed in a gelatine capsule.

The design is a repeating zoomorphic image, which appears to be an S-shaped, double-headed creature. One of the heads, nearest the designated bottom edge, resembles a duck with an open bill. The animal refrain is bordered at the top and bottom by a ridged line. There is a plain, undecorated border outside the ridged border at each edge.

**Associated Objects:** none

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

The fragments are adhered to a temporary mount, so that only the front surfaces are visible. Details on the front surfaces are obscured by soil in the recesses of the repoussé. There is a tiny fragment of foil caked in soil and loosely secured to fragment 2.

There are fine scratches across the surfaces of all fragments. The gilding appears to be in good condition but is hidden in many areas by dark or multi-coloured tarnish.

Cracks of varying severity are visible in several of the fragments, notably fragments 1, 3, 5 and 6.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Display/ Analysis / Study

**Aim:** Partial cleaning

**Materials:** IMS and cotton swab, Japanese tissue paper, Paraloid B-72 20% w/v in acetone, acid free card for mounting, polyester mesh, Plastazote®

The foils were removed from their original, temporary mount by wetting the adhesive on the back of the fragments with acetone applied with a brush.

Adhesive remaining on the back of the fragments was carefully removed using small swabs of IMS and a thorn held in pin-vice where necessary. The backs of the fragments were not cleaned further.

The granular soil on the front surface mechanically removed or reduced where possible using small swabs of IMS. Multi-coloured tarnish on the surface was not significantly affected by this process.

The tiny foil fragment on the surface of fragment 2 was removed and placed in the associated gelatine capsule.

A deep crack in fragment 5 required consolidation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 10% w/v in acetone was applied with a fine brush.

Loops of Japanese paper were adhered to the backs of the fragments using B-72. The loops were then adhered using B-72 to a layer of nonwoven textile secured to a piece of matboard. This will facilitate reversability in the future.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house the object.

**Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

The crack in fragment 5 was found to be deep, at risk of spreading and causing the fragment to break in half. A large amount of adhesive was present on the back of this fragment, possibly applied as a consolidant. This adhesive was softened and compromised during separation of the fragment from its temporary mount.

Reddish spots of tarnish were found on fragment 3.

A small, fine, blind crack was discovered through the ridged border of fragment 9. A fine crack is also visible on the back of fragment 4.

There is an abraded spot near the centre of fragment 3 and a deep scratch near the top edge of fragment 11.

**Samples:**

1. Flake of tarnish
2. Soil from front surfaces on swabs **DISPOSED**