

K1385 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 19/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 19/02/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 35mm (W) 12mm (D) 4mm

Weight before: 2.22g

Weight after: 2.21g

Catalogue number: 76

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 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 is a four-sided, slightly convex fragment of silver gilt plate. Two edges are breaks and two are finished. The border along the long finished edge has a channel into which three twisted gold filigree wires are set. These wires are soldered onto a gold base to form a strip that is set into the recessed channel. The border along the short finished edge is ribbed. In the centre there is a recessed plain/ungilded silver plate with one round fastening hole.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

Front: There is a small amount of compact, sandy soil in recessed areas of the front. The remainder of the object is fairly clean, suggesting that it might have been washed after excavation. The border areas are gilded and have moderate to heavy tarnish. The ungilded, recessed area has patchy tarnish.

There are multiple patches of green corrosion on the surface, particularly on ungilded areas. They appear to be inactive. In the filigree channel, at the bottom there is a little bit of white material (composition unknown). There is also a patch of it on the back of the filigree strip that has come out of the channel.

A section of the filigree wire strip is broken, bent and splayed out of the channel, allowing the channel and the base of the strip to be seen.

There is one round fastening hole in the recessed plain silver area. It has the remnants of a broken silver pin in situ. Near the hole is what appears to be a deliberate, straight scratch (possible maker's mark).

Back: The back of the object is ungilded silver that has a rough, pitted texture, some tarnish and some small patches of light green corrosion products. Apart from a small clump of soil it is clean. The end of the silver pin can be seen. It is cut roughly in half and covered with silver chloride corrosion.

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.

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:

Nothing was done to the object apart from a small amount of soil removal on the front. As such, the condition of the object is virtually the same as its pre-conservation condition.

Key Features:

- Silver gilt fragment with remnant of silver pin
- Gold twisted filigree set into border

Samples:

1. soil, front