

K1446 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 24/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 25/01/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 6 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Fragment A:

Dimensions: (L) 15mm (W) 11mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.41g

Weight after: 0.39g

Fragment B:

Dimensions: (L) 12mm (W) 11mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.51g

Weight after: 0.50g

Fragment C:

Dimensions: (L) 11mm (W) 4mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.11g

Weight after: 0.10g

Fragment D:

Dimensions: (L) 8mm (W) 4mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 0.08g

Weight after: 0.08g

Weight with re-joined fragments: 5.40g

X-ray: L47, L140

Catalogue number: 185

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

Four slightly convex fragments of silver gilt hilt collar, pair to K369. It has incised decoration in the form of triangular indentations and bands of recessed lines with gilding.

Associated Objects: K19, K430, K537, K1446, K1570, K1589, K2090, K2091

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

The entire exterior of the fragments is covered with a layer of waxy, purple silver chloride corrosion that obscures much of the decoration. There is a small amount of soil on the corrosion. Corrosion will need to be removed to see the metal surface. At present the colour of the objects is dark purple.

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 on the front and edges were removed with a scalpel and/or thorn in a pin vice. Corrosion products on the back 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:

Soil and corrosion removal has revealed a lustrous silver surface and clarified the decorative design. Gilding is only present in the recessed lines.

The silver is heavily tarnished to a consistent, dark grey colour. The silver has multiple surface abrasions and some recent scratches.

Key Features:

- Four fragments of silver gilt hilt collar
- Triangular indentations
- Recessed, gilded lines

Samples:

1. soil