K 1458 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 6/6/13
Conservation Finished: 6/6/13
Conservator: Deborah Magnoler
Time Taken: 4.5 hr
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.
Catalogue number: 607

Dimensions: a) L. 5mm; W. 3mm; Th. 1mm (renumbered to 2011)
b) L. 12.5mm; W. 7mm; Th. <0.5mm (renumbered to 2012)
c) L. 23mm; W. 17mm; Th. <0.5mm (1458, ?renumbered to K2190 catalogue no. 696?)
d–e) <L. 13mm; Th. <0.5mm (?)
f–m) <L. 8mm; Th. <0.5mm (?)

Digital photography:
Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification.
13 fragments of silver and silver gilt sheet of different shapes and sizes. Three fragments join into a narrow, flat strip (now renumbered as K2013 Wt 0.30g) Two small sheet fragments possibly join one of the largest sheet fragments (see AT image), one is a small reeded strip fragment (now K2011, Wt 0.12g); one is possibly stamped with a decoration and has a flanged edge 9now K2012, Wt 0.03g); one is thicker and curved, and possibly part of C-sectioned tubing; one of the smaller fragment is a silver gilt sheet fragment with an impression of a geometric pattern that might have been caused by compression against another object.

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

Minor soil deposits, all fragments are incomplete and are considered brittle and fragile. The surfaces are dulled or obscured by dark discolouration, possibly oxidation. The sheet with the flanged edge has a fracture that makes a third of its main body precarious, as it is likely to break off entirely during handling : this part might need consolidation. Some of the silver is affected by grey, waxy encrustations which might be silver chloride.

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, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

The granular soil on the front and 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.

Possible 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.

7/1/2016- Susan Hull
Two of the three of narrow flat strip Joined with 40% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone. Attached to K1393. Fragments renumbered as hilt plate.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings: see pre-conservation reports.

Samples:
None – insufficient soil.