

K 1516 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 5/6/13

Conservation Finished: 5/6/13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 4 hr

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: a) L. 27mm; W. 16.5mm; Th. 0.5mm

b) L. 21mm; W. 19; Th. 0.5mm

c) L. 10mm; Th. 0.5mm

d) – j) L.<14mm; Th. 0.5mm

Weight before: 3.46 g

Weight after: 3.43g

Catalogue number: 607

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.

A group of ten fragments comprised almost entirely of silver or silver gilt sheet. One of the large fragments in a gelatine capsule is thicker and may be a different type of sheet. The smallest silver fragment is thick with a curved edge and may not be sheet at all. All fragments are bent and incomplete, with fractured or torn edges.

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

All the fragments are affected by a dark/iridescent form of discoloration which may have been caused by enrichment or oxidation. Some of the silver metallic surface is visible on the undersides. Scratches and deep abrasions are also present on the undersides of the larger fragments. There is some soil trapped in the folds of the larger fragments, but the group is virtually clean and might have been wet sieved.

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.

19/2/2016 – Susan Hull

Joined 5 pieces together with 35% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

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

Samples:

None – insufficient soil.