

K1544 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 4/6/13

Conservation Finished: 4/6/13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 2.75 hr

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 25 mm (W) 4.5 mm (T) 1.2 mm

Weight before: 1.29 g

Weight after: 1.27g

Catalogue number: 559

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 gold, rectangular panel decorated with an intertwined pattern of filigree wire resembling a snake. The snake has a thick, ribbed head and definite jaws. The panel is slightly curved. The back is plain and features three parallel vertical incisions in the centre.

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

Covered by a thin layer of compact soil. The back is virtually clean. A corner of the backing plate is lifted and folded back. The back of the object features multiple scratches and irregularities, but none of these appear to have occurred recently (post or during excavation). The back has a large patch of a dark/iridescent discolouration in the centre.

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.

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.

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: see pre-conservation reports.

Samples:

None – insufficient soil.