

K1569 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 21/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 26/07/13

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey & Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 3.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 22mm (W) 6mm (D) 4mm

Weight before: 1.02g

Weight after: 1.g

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

Slightly curved silver fragment with niello inlay along the edge in an 'inverse zigzag' design (i.e., a silver zigzag with recessed areas on either side filled with niello). Perpendicular to the niello-decorated edge is a flat side with six rows of tiny triangular indentations arranged in three lines with two rows of triangles in each line. Also on this surface is a semicircular edge bordered by a ridged, gilded area. There is a recessed lip of plain silver on the other side of the niello-inlaid edge and a trace of gilding.

Associated Objects: K94, K529(?), K151, K1334(?), K137, K826, K1242, K63, K1531, possibly others (TBC)

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

The fragment is mostly clean, suggesting that it might have been washed by the finder or archaeologists. All of the edges are old-looking breaks. The surface has patchy light to dark tarnish and a few specks of copper corrosion and silver chloride corrosion. There is a patch of fibrous material on one end and a bit more of the same material on the niello-inlaid edge. A little soil is present in recessed areas.

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.

26/07/13: the object was checked and the decorated edge was cleaned further to expose the pattern. A thorn in a pin vice and a small swab on IMS were used. DM

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

As the fragment was mostly clean before conservation, the condition is the same as pre-conservation apart from the removal of the small amount of soil, some of the tarnish and the fibrous material.

The bulk of the fibrous material was removed in one clump and retained in sample vial 1. The small amount of fibrous material on the niello-inlaid edge was removed in one clump and placed between two glass slides for examination.

Key Features:

- Silver fragment with traces of gilding, niello inlay and rows of tiny triangular indentations.
- Curved break edge bordered by ridged, gilded area

Samples:

1. fibrous material found on end of object
2. fibrous material found on niello-inlaid edge

GLASS SLIDE WITH PLANT MATERIAL DISPOSED