

K156 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 28/05/2013

Conservation Finished: 29/05/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.75 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 19mm (W) 14mm (Th) <0.5mm

Weight before: 1.08g

Weight after: 0.24g

Catalogue number: 595

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS 1100D digital camera under daylight or bulbs and a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights (20-200x magnification). Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: 24/7/09 (unstrat)

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Fragment of thin, flat silver gilt pressblech foil with raised design on the front consisting of two rows of raised dots with a raised line adjacent to each one. There are two additional nonspecific raised areas. All but one of the edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The object is a fragment almost completely encased (95% back; 80% front) in soil that contains some plant matter but is otherwise unremarkable. Visible surface is tarnished (probably from burial) and abraded. It is unclear at this stage if the fragment is decorated.

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 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 removal has revealed the entire surface. The object is a thin fragment of silver gilt pressblech foil. The front is gilded and the back is ungilded. All but one of the edges are old-looking breaks. Along the finished edge there is a row of raised dots and a raised line immediately above them. There is one additional row of raised dots/lines radiating from this line toward a break edge. There are two additional nonspecific raised areas that form part of the larger design of the foil.

The front has general abrasion and several more distinct, possibly recent scratches. The entire surface is covered with moderate to heavy dark tarnish, probably from burial. The back has general abrasion and several more distinct, possibly recent scratches. Patches of bumpy, purple corrosion product (probably silver chloride) are present on the back, particularly around the finished edge.

Key Features:

- Fragment of silver gilt pressblech foil
- Two rows of raised dots and lines as well as two raised non-specific forms
- Heavily tarnished

Samples:

1. soil