

## K1570 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 24/01/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 24/01/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 15mm (W) 13mm (D) 1-2mm

**Weight before:** 1.12g

**Weight after:** 0.98g

**Weight with re-joined fragments:** 5.40g

**X-ray:** L47, L140

**Catalogue number:** 185

### 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 convex, roughly rectangular fragment of silver gilt hilt collar, pair to K369. It has incised decoration in the form of triangular indentations and bands of recessed lines with gilding. The decorative scheme is as follows (top to bottom):

2 rows of triangular indentations with the summits of the triangles facing each other

1 recessed silver gilt line

2 rows of very small triangular indentations with the summits of the triangles facing each other

1 recessed silver gilt line

2 rows of triangular indentations with the summits of the triangles facing each other

1 recessed silver gilt line

2 rows of very small triangular indentations with the summits of the triangles facing each other

1 recessed silver gilt line

2 rows of triangular indentations with the summits of the triangles facing each other

1 recessed, gilded line with ridged decoration

2 rows of triangular indentations with the summits of the triangles facing each other

**Associated Objects:** K19, K430, K537, K1446, K1570, K1589, K2090, K2091

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

The entire exterior is covered with a layer of waxy, purple silver chloride corrosion that obscures much of the decoration. There is a small amount of soil on the corrosion. Corrosion will need to be removed to see the metal surface. At present the colour of the object is dark purple.

Two of the edges (the slanted ones) are breaks. The top and bottom edges are finished. The object is bent.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Study

**Aim:** Partial 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 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.

Silver chloride corrosion on the front and edges was removed with a thorn and a blunt scalpel blade to allow the surface to be seen. Corrosion products on the back 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 and corrosion removal has revealed a lustrous silver surface and clarified the decorative design. Gilding is only present in the recessed lines (4x plain lines and 1x ridged line).

The silver is heavily tarnished to a consistent, dark grey colour. The silver has multiple surface abrasions and some recent scratches.

**Key Features:**

- Fragment of silver gilt hilt collar
- Triangular indentations
- Recessed, gilded lines (one ridged)

**Samples:**

1. soil
2. gilding fragment