

K1583 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 23/01/13

Conservation Finished: 24/01/13

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 6hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 13mm (W) 8mm (D) 3.5mm

Weight before: 0.77g

Weight after: 0.77g

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, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: n/a

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Four sided fragment possibly silver. Curved in a half barrel shape, decorated on the front, plain on the reverse. Decoration appears to be an interlaced / knotted pattern. Two sides appear like original edge borders as these are smooth and rounded. One side appears like an opening or groove for a corresponding tab – perhaps for a clasp? Black patina covers all surfaces. Minimal soil on reverse, soil obscures full interpretation of decoration on the front. Small possible tab groove on the opposite side of the large tab groove.

Associated Objects:

Possibly: K149, K536, K994 and K1387

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

Possible tab groove torn with most of the curved plate missing. Gold gilding visible in lower recesses of decoration and on border edges. Soil obscures most of the decoration. Possible copper alloy corrosion on the front decoration.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

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 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.

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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Interlaced zoomorphic pattern on front which appears to have paws, heads and tails. Possible herringbone pattern on the side which has what appears to be a smaller clasp tab groove (opposite the side of the larger clasp groove). Gilding in recesses of zoomorphic pattern. Gilding in grooved recesses of curved border edge. Silver granular corrosion left on the object as this is quite well attached to the object and when removed it lifts the underlying metal and could possibly lift any gilding which may be underneath. Green copper alloy corrosion on the zoomorphic pattern.

Key Features:

- Interlaced zoomorphic design on the front.
- Gilding in the recesses.
- Possible groove for tab for a clasp or buckle?

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples: n/a – not enough soil removed to collect for a sample.

References: n/a