

## K1618 Condition Report

**FRAGILE**

**Conservation Started:** 14/06/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 14/06/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 0.75 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 7.5mm (W) 3.5mm (D) 2mm

**Weight before:** 0.10g

**Weight after:** 0.10g

**Catalogue number:** 190

### **Digital photography:**

Taken with 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:** None

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

Roughly rectangular, gently curved fragment of copper alloy, gilded and with ribbed decoration on the front. The back is ungilded. The ribbed decoration on the front is formed of two rows of raised ribs separated by a raised ridge.

**Associated Objects:** K1607, K1659, K1660, K1696 and possibly others (TBC)

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

The copper alloy is very corroded and cracked; a section moves when touched and is very vulnerable. Consolidation will be necessary to prevent detachment.

The gilding has some holes in it and patches of green corrosion product. There is a little soil on both sides. There is what appears to be a fragment of gilding embedded in the corroded copper alloy on the back.

**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, 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.

The cracked copper alloy required consolidation to prevent detachment or breakage through handling or transportation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 10% w/v in acetone was applied with a small brush.

Corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

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:**

The moving section of copper alloy is now secure. **The object is fragile and should be handled with care.**

**Key Features:**

- Gently curved fragment of gilded copper alloy
- Ribbed decoration on front

**Samples:**

1. gilding fragment