

## K1630 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 06/03/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 06/03/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 35mm (W) 9mm (D) 9mm

**Weight before:** 2.29g

**Weight after:** 2.27g

**Catalogue number:** 569

### **Digital photography:**

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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

Fragment of silver plate with linear niello inlay in straight and angled channels and a gilded border with two intact and two partial (empty) fastening holes. The top (gilded border) edge is finished; all other edges are breaks.

**Associated Objects:** TBC

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

The fragment is bent so that it is concave when viewed from the front. The body of the fragment is plain, ungilded silver that has tarnished to a consistent, dark grey colour. In this area there are niello channels. Some of the niello is missing; some is in situ and has a rough texture. It is not flush with the surface but slightly raised. The gilded border has moderate dark tarnish and surface abrasion.

The top (gilded) border is finished; all other edges are breaks that look old and are covered with soil. There are two intact and two partial (empty) fastening holes the gilded border. The fragment has general surface abrasion. The back is plain/ungilded and with an unfinished texture.

Some green corrosion products can be seen in empty niello channels. There are patches of soil on both sides. There are numerous scratches – some recent and some old – on the back.

There are several open cracks in the body of the fragment that will probably require a support backing to prevent breakage with handling or transportation.

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

**Purpose:** Study / Analysis

**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 and edges 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 open cracks on the back required consolidation to avoid breakage with handling or transportation; Japanese tissue was applied using HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube.

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.

#### **Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

The small amount of soil on the object has been removed; otherwise the fragment appears the same as pre-conservation. A support backing of Japanese tissue has been applied to the open cracks on the back of the object to reduce the risk of further damage or breakage with handling or transportation. The fragment is missing ~25% of its niello; the remainder is secure and no additional consolidation was carried out at this time.

There are several dents in the gilded border; they have a somewhat ribbed/scalloped appearance and look old. There are several other distinct scratches in the border, some of which might be recent, as well as general surface abrasion. There are several recent/fresh-looking scratches and dents on the back of the object.

#### **Key Features:**

- Silver plate fragment
- Gilded border with two intact and two partial fastening holes
- Linear niello inlay
- Granular silver visible on break edges

#### **Samples:**

1. soil