

K1631 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 12/12/2012

Conservation Finished: 12/12/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 23mm (W) 9mm (D) 7mm

Weight before: 2.04g

Weight after: 2.04g

Catalogue number: 76

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

Fragment of silver gilt fitting (type of pommel cap?) consisting of a roughly square, slightly convex area with complex cast or incised decoration with niello. It has a long, blunt-ended shaft.

Associated Objects: K1623, K1642 (fragments of same object); possibly others (TBC)

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

The decorated area is covered with a thin layer of green corrosion products and tarnish. The shaft is tarnished. A small amount of soil is present in recessed areas. Some of the break edges look possibly fresh/recent.

A small amount of niello inlay can be seen on the decorated surface.

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 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 bottom 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:

A few flecks of niello inlay are present; the majority of the niello is missing, presumably pushed off by the formation of bulky corrosion products during burial.

Soil removal has made the surface decoration more legible. The surface now has a green, slightly shiny appearance.

This fragment joins with K1623 and K1642.

Key Features:

- Silver gilt fitting fragment
- Niello inlay
- Complex decoration
- Attached to long shaft

Samples:

1. soil