

## K163 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 03/09/2012

**Conservation Finished:** 26/07/13

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey & Deborah Magnoler

**Time Taken:** 4.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 25mm (W) 9mm (Th) 2mm

**Weight before:** 1.30g

**Weight after:** 1g

**X-ray plate:** L42, L95, L104, L116, L125, L139

**Catalogue number:** 75

### **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 noted

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

Flat, roughly rectangular fragment (all edges are breaks) of silver gilt plate that is gilded on the front and plain, ungilded silver on the back. The front features a large area of three-strand interlace design (chased or cast) surrounded by raised, gilded walls that apparently served as barriers to other decorative areas (not broken off). The raised walls form a triangular area on one end that looks like an empty setting for something (e.g., glass).

**Associated Objects:** TBC

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

The fragment is flat and all edges are breaks. There are a few recent-looking 'chips' on two edges; otherwise the breaks are covered with soil and look old. The visible metal in the chipped areas is dark grey throughout and somewhat shiny; it looks friable.

The front is 95% covered with soil that has no remarkable features or inclusions. It obscures the decoration, though the three-strand interlace design can be seen beneath the soil. Soil is thickest in the triangular area and on the break edges. There is a large clump of light green material (likely a corrosion product) in the middle of the interlace area. There is an additional flake of darker green material (likely a corrosion product) in the soil near this large clump.

On one end of the fragment there is a triangular area bounded by raised silver gilt walls. This area is filled with soil.

The small amount of metal that can be seen is tarnished.

The back is 95% covered with soil that has no remarkable features or inclusions. The visible metal is ungolded and tarnished.

**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 break 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. No attempt was made to clean the back of the object.

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.

26/07/13: the soil on the back and the remaining soil at the front of the object were removed using the same method and material as on the first stage of conservation. There were no new findings to report. DM

**Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

Cleaning revealed a three-ridge interlace design that is the same as that seen on K1112 and K744. It has patchy tarnish and some scratches. The raised walls have some light deposit on them - possibly silver chloride corrosion.

The large clump of green corrosion product on the interlace area was left in situ; a smaller clump was removed and retained in a sample vial for possible future analysis.

A lip of metal extends on the edge opposite the interlace area. It is covered with dark green corrosion products. On this lip there is a protrusion of metal also covered with corrosion products.

The triangular area looks very much like the glass setting seen on K744. It is empty apart from a little soil and possible residue.

There are two patches of recent damage; the silver visible in these areas is highly deteriorated and friable. Handle with care.

**Key Features:**

- Silver gilt 'three-strand interlace' design
- Empty triangular setting similar to that seen on K744
- Fragment; all edges breaks

**Samples:**

1. soil - front and break edges
2. flake of dark green material (corrosion?) in soil - front
3. soil from empty triangular area **ADDED TO SAMPLE 1**
4. silver fragments from new break area
5. green corrosion product from front **DISPOSED**
6. silver fragment from break edge