

K1641 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 19/07/2013

Conservation Finished: 19/07/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 12mm (W) 7mm (D) 3mm

Weight before: 0.33g

Weight after: 0.32g

Catalogue number: 76

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

Fragment of decorated silver gilt with one curved, finished edge. The front has a gilded decorated area adjacent to a recessed, ungilded area largely filled with an unknown dark substance (corrosion? Deteriorated inlay?). There is one round fastening hole in this area. The back is plain, undecorated silver.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The fragment is slightly bent so that it appears slightly concave when viewed from the front. The finished edge is gently curved; the other edges are old-looking breaks. There is one round, empty fastening hole through the body of the object in the recessed area that is filled with an unknown dark substance. The back is plain, undecorated silver with a rough texture and widespread dark tarnish (probably from burial). There is a raised lip of metal on the back of the object around the fastening hole, suggesting that it was punched through from the front.

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, 50:50 water/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.

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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The condition of the object is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small amount of soil.

Key Features:

- Silver gilt fragment
- Decoration on front
- Unknown black material in recessed area (corrosion? Deteriorated inlay?)

Samples:

1. fragment of the unknown dark material on the front