

K 1642 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 12/12/2012

Conservation Finished: 13/12/2012

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 13mm (W) 11mm (D) 7mm

Weight before: 0.81g

Weight after: 0.79g

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

Curved silver gilt fitting fragment decorated with cast or incised three-ridge interlace and a geometric design. It has traces of niello and is convex when viewed from the front.

Associated Objects: K1623, K1631, possibly others (TBC)

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

The fragment is corroded; much of the front has a layer of green corrosion product and a few flecks of silver chloride corrosion. There is a small amount of soil on the surface, mainly in recessed areas. There is tarnish on both sides.

The fragment has one finished edge. Break edges are covered with soil. The back is plain silver.

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.

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:

Soil removal revealed surface detail, incusing several small areas of niello inlay in the area with a geometric design. There is also an area of three-ridged interlace.

Key Features:

- Silver gilt fitting fragment
- Three-ridged interlace design
- Area of geometric design with traces of niello

Samples:

1. soil – front and edges
2. black fragment (niello? silver?) in soil - front