

K1669 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 25/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 25/02/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 13mm (W) 9.5mm (D) 2mm

Weight before: 0.98g

Weight after: 0.98g

Catalogue number: 569

Digital photography:

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope. 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

Silver fragment with niello inlay. Roughly triangular in shape but with one straight edge, one curved edge and one stepped edge. Adjacent to the straight edge is an extra section of silver with diagonal niello channels. All edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The object has moderate tarnish on the front and back. All edges are breaks. Most of the niello is missing, but some is present in the diagonal channels and the straight channel along the straight edge. There is a small amount of soil in recessed areas and on the back. There are regular, old-looking scratches on the back that may be working/filing marks.

The niello is rough/pitted in texture and loose in the channel. It will require consolidation for safe handling.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study/Stabilisation

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, 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.

The niello is very friable and required consolidation to prevent it from falling out with handling or transportation; Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone was applied with a paint brush.

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, except that soil has been removed from the break edges and some of the tarnish has been removed. The break edges show shiny, granular silver. The niello is now secure.

Key Features:

- Silver fragment with niello inlay

Samples:

None