

K168 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 08/03/2013

Conservation Finished: 08/03/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Fragment A:

Dimensions: (L) 13mm (W) 8mm (D) 1.5mm

Weight before: 1.71g (attached to fragment B)

Weight after: 0.81g

Fragment B:

Dimensions: (L) 19mm (W) 12mm (D) 1mm

Weight before: 1.71g (attached to fragment A)

Weight after: 0.62g

(Renumbered to K1792, catalogue number: 607)

Fragment C:

Not measured due to size.

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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

Silver fragment, roughly triangular in shape but with one straight edge, one curved edge and one stepped edge. All edges are breaks. Attached by soil to a thin, plain silver gilt sheet.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The silver object is heavily tarnished on the front (the back cannot be seen because of soil) and has soil on the break edges. All edges are breaks. The front has general surface abrasion. It is attached by soil to a thin, flat silver gilt sheet that has light to moderate tarnish and general surface abrasion. It is unclear at this stage if the two fragments have any relation to one another.

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, 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 paper K number was adhered to the back of fragments A and B 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:

Fragment A: The condition of the object is the same as pre-conservation, except that soil has been removed. The break edges show shiny, granular silver.

Fragment B: The condition of the object is the same as pre-conservation, except that soil has been removed. It is gilded on one side and unglilded on the reverse. The gilded side has light to moderate tarnish and general surface abrasion. The back has patchy dark tarnish. One spot of shiny silver is visible where the tarnish has come away.

Fragment C: Tarnished and with some surface abrasion. Very small fragment housed in gelatine capsule.

There does not appear to be any relationship between fragments A and B. Fragments B and C might be part of the same object.

Key Features:

- Silver fragment with one straight edge, one curved edge and one stepped edge
- Plain, flat, thin silver gilt sheet fragment
- Additional very small fragment of silver gilt sheet

Samples:

1. soil