

K1696 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 17/06/2013

Conservation Finished: 17/06/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: many tiny fragments; not measured

Weight before: 0.90g (including soil & stones)

Weight after: 0.76g (excluding soil & stones)

Catalogue number: 190

(K1696b silver sheet fragments renumbered to K2059; K1696c silver beaded wire renumbered to K2060, catalogue number 689; K1696d gilt-silver reeded strip renumbered to K2061, catalogue number 613; K1696e gilt-silver die-impressed sheet fragments renumbered to K2062)

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

Numerous small fragments of copper alloy, silver and silver gilt; some decorated and some undecorated.

A group of eleven small fragments of silver sheet with gilding on one side has now been renumbered as K2059, Wt. 0.24g.

A group of fragments of silver gilt reeded strip was renumbered as K2061, Wt. 0.07g

A small fragment of silver gilt die impressed sheet was renumbered as K2062, Wt. 0.33g

Associated Objects: K1618, K1659 and K1660; possibly others (TBC)

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

The copper alloy fragments are completely corroded and have a little soil on the surface. The silver gilt fragments have some tarnish (probably from burial) and surface abrasion. Some breaks look recent. There are several small clumps of soil and a few stones.

It is a mixed lot of fragments, including plain fragments, a piece of beaded wire (?), pressed foil and some gilded copper alloy in the same design as K1618, K1659 and K1660.

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

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.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The collection of fragments has been divided into four gelatine capsules: soil/stones, copper alloy, silver and silver gilt. The condition of the objects is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small amount of soil.

Key Features:

- Many small copper alloy, silver and silver gilt fragments; some decorated

Samples:

1. soil & stones