

## K 1700 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 24/04/2012

**Conservation Finished:** 25/04/2012

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 12mm (W) 10mm (D) 1.5mm

**Weight before:** 1.34g

**Weight after:** 1.33g

### **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, during and after.

**Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:** None

**Description:** Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Piece of silver formed of two shapes with empty niello channel between them.

**Associated Objects:** TBC

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

A zigzag-shaped section of niello is detached from the object and retained in a gelatine capsule. No niello remains on the object apart from perhaps a small amount of residue in the empty channel.

The object is a fragment; all edges are break edges. Some breaks might be recent as very shiny granular silver can be seen on some break edges. There is some black and green residue (probably copper corrosion) in the empty channel and on some break edges.

The object is tarnished on both sides but inconsistently. Surface colour is patchy and ranges from light grey to black. There may be some silver chloride corrosion. There is a significant band of recent-looking scratches and micro-dents across the front of the object. There are additional, old-looking scratches that run in the same direction.

There are some scratches, possibly recent, on the back of the object.

In the empty niello channel there is a significant open crack. The object is structurally unsound and in great danger of breakage with handling or transportation. A support backing is necessary to prevent breakage.

The profile of the object is largely flat, though it is slightly concave as viewed from the front, probably due to the crack running down the centre.

There is a small amount of soil on some break edges, but the object is otherwise clean.

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

**Purpose:** Stabilisation / Analysis / Study

**Aim:** Partial cleaning

**Materials:** Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water/IMS on metals

The goal of this treatment is to stabilise the object by providing structural support. Apart from a very light swab of the break edges with IMS, no cleaning was performed.

Corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

The open crack in the back of the object required support to prevent breakage; Japanese tissue was applied with Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 20% w/v in acetone.

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 new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house the object.

**Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

The object is now supported by the Japanese tissue backing and is in less danger of breakage with handling. Otherwise the condition is as stated previously.

**Key Features:**

- Silver shapes
- Empty niello channel
- Niello detached and in separate gelatine capsule
- Green corrosion on niello and in empty channel

**Samples:** None taken