K1712 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 4/7/13
Conservation Finished: 4/7/13
Conservator: Deborah Magnoler
Time Taken: 2 hr
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: fragment with hole (L) 14mm (W) 14mm (Th) 1mm (Diam) hole 2.5mm
Others (L) <11.5mm (Th) 0.5-1mm.
Dimensions when Joined: (L) 21mm; (W) 17mm; (H) flange 5mm; (Th) 0.5mm
Total weight: 1.84 g
Catalogue number: 697
(K1712p silver sheet with wood renumbered to K2065; K1712m-o silver sheet fragments renumbered to K2066)

Digital photography:
Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.
X-ray: L99 - L100

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

This object comprises five large silver fragments and a number of small silver fragments as well as a sample that probably features a small quantity of mineralised wood and a silver gilt fragment. The smaller fragments all appear to be made of a thin silver sheet and are contained within five capsules. The wood specimen is contained in a glass vial. The larger pieces of the object might have been part of a thin hilt plate, whose oval end with a single rivet hole survives. The larger pieces have a layer of whitish material on the underside: this could be the remains of an associated unknown material or the product of corrosion. One of the fragments features a deposit of green material, possibly corroded copper.
The Fragment of silver gilt sheet with mineralised wood was renumbered as K2065
Three small fragments of silver with gilding on one side were now renumbered as K2066, Wt. <0.01g

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

Virtually clean of soil and highly fragmentary. This collection is likely to be fragile due to its thinness and corroded condition. The surface of most of the fragments is darkened by a layer of black oxidation or enrichment.

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 and 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 was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

Possible 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. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

7/1/2016 – Susan Hull
Joined 3 pieces with 40% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone, including sheet with oval edge and rivet hole. 1 smaller piece broke during this process and was re-attached. Weight after join 0.89g

15/4/2016
Further joins identified:
3 pieces weight 0.18g , 0.04g, 0.03g. Joined with 20% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone. Joined weight: 0.22g
2 pieces weight 0.08g, 0.02g. Joined with 20% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone. Joined weight: 0.1g
2 pieces weight 0.05g, 0.06g. Joined with 20% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone. Joined weight: 0.11g

12/5/2016 – KF
Further pieces added to the assemblage to construct a hilt plate using 35%w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone
2 pieces weight 0.05g, 0.06g
3 pieces already joined- 0.89g
1 piece added to side 0.21g
1 piece – 0.13g

25mm(L)x 20mm(W)x 6mm(H)

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings: see pre-conservation reports.

Key features:

- Collection of mixed fragments, possibly part of a thin silver hilt plate.

Samples:
None – insufficient soil.