

K1714 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 30/5/13

Conservation Finished: 30/5/13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 1 hr

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions (i): (L) 12mm (W) 7mm (Th) <0.5mm

(ii): (L) 15mm (W) 11mm (Th) 0.5mm

Weight before: 0.76g

Weight after: total 0.75g

Catalogue number: 600

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: L93

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

Two fragments of thick silver gilt sheet. The larger fragment is very flat, with a thick, smooth layer of gilt and has no other form of decoration. The smaller fragment has curved edges – visible from the underside – but it is difficult to establish whether this has been caused by damage or is a construction feature.

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

The objects are virtually clean. There are patches of dark & iridescent discolouration on the surface. The underside is dark with possible oxidation and silver corrosion products. The gilding has multiple and multidirectional fine scratches, some of which might have occurred during burial or excavation.

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.

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.

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

Samples:

None – insufficient soil.