

K1726 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 25/01/2013

Conservation Finished: 25/01/2013

Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle

Time Taken: 2.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 15mm (W) 5mm (Th) 2mm

Weight before: 0.94g

Weight after: 0.94g

X-ray plate: L42, L95, L104, L116, L125, L139

Catalogue number: 75

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: K1726

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

Fragment of a Silver/CuA object.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a curved metal fragment with rounded top, a flat bottom and a central decorated section running width-ways. The central channel appears to have a staggered decoration. In the centre of the rounded area on the top there is a rectangular protrusion that appears to be part of its design. The back appears to have a rough surface and lip on the top hanging over the back surface. Both sides are but the sides are missing with some break edges visible. Both ends are break edges. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/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.

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:

The object is curved and may be a fragment from a rounded object when complete, with a lip at the back of the object over the back of the object. The object appears to be silver with a copper alloy; there is silver tarnish, corrosion products and copper corrosion products visible across the surface, especially on the back of the object. The green/black layer appears to be a combination of corrosion from the silver and the copper content. The back of the object is rough and un-adorned. There are pronounced corrosion products and possible insoluble crustations across the front right-hand corner that disfigures/obscures the decorative ribbed surface. There is an especially obscuring, damaging and friable dark grey corrosion product on the top right corner. The central ribbed decorative feature may also be worn on this side of the object.

There is a groove running along the width of the object on the top surface of the lip with a metal insert. The insert appears to be decorative in nature but highly corroded and obscured.

There is visible evidence of gold gilding on and between the decorative ribbed surfaces as well as on the front and top surfaces of the object, as well on the surface of the lip at the back of the object. Some of this corrosion product and insoluble crustation was left in place to prevent the potential loss of further gold gilding.

Key Features:

- Ridged pattern on front surface.
- Rounded top surface with break edge.
- Evidence of a gilded surface.
- Groove with metal inlay around the top of the object.

Samples:

References: