

K1742 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 3/6/13

Conservation Finished: 3/6/13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 2.75 hr

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 21 mm (W) 6 mm (T) 1 mm

Weight before: 0.87 g

Weight after: 0.8g

Catalogue number: 558

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.

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

A gold, rectangular panel decorated with an intertwined pattern of filigree wire resembling a snake. The snake has a thick, ribbed head and definite jaws. The panel is slightly curved. The back is plain and features an intentional incision in the form of an X in the centre.

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

Covered by a thin layer of compact soil. The back is virtually clean. The surface is dulled by a form of patch, dark and iridescent discolouration. The border south of the head area has suffered some abrasion.

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, 50:50 water/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 or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

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.