

K175 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 11/7/13

Conservation Finished: 11/7 /13

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler

Time Taken: 2 hr

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: a. Boss: (L) 5 mm (W) 5 mm (H) 4.5 mm **b. Silver sheet** (L) 20 mm (W) 7 mm (T) 1 mm **c. Die-impressed silver sheet:** (L) c.3 mm (W) c.2 mm (T) c. 0.3

Total weight before: 1.78g

Weight after: a. 0.77g; b. 0.55 g; c. 0.05g

(K175b silver sheet renumbered to K1793, catalogue number: 607; K175c die-impressed silver sheet renumbered to K1794)

Catalogue number: 649

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: L100

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

A collection of different fragments, apparently unrelated. K175 comprises: one fragment of plain and flat silver gilt plate or sheet. This fragment appears to have the remains of a square hole on one end. One gold plain boss or domed nail head with a central perforation; two fragments of stamped foil.

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

Covered in soil. See post-conservation report for details.

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, 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 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:

The boss contained a black material which fell out on removal of the soil on the inner side. This material has now been sampled. The plain silver gilt fragment features a deep, wide incision across it: this does not appear to have occurred during or post excavation. The gilding is dulled by a light form of oxidation or enrichment. The two fragment of stamped foil are very fragile. And were found trapped between the top of the plate and the bottom of the boss, while they were attached together by soil.

Key feature:

- One gold boss with central perforation
- One plain silver gilt sheet fragment, possibly with square hole or slot now renumbered as K1793, W: 0.57g
- Two fragments of stamped foil now renumbered as K1794, W: <0.01g

Samples:

1. soil from all sides of Ag gilt plate
2. soil form inside the boss
3. Black material from inside the boss.