WINTERTHUR

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Condition & Treatment Report

Object: [2005.0003] Teapot, Coffee pot

Creator Name:

Category: Metals

Title:

Material: Fused plate, Silverplate on copper (fused plate), Wood

Object Date: **Dated:** **Earliest:** 1820 **Latest:** 1830

Measurements:

Height: 25.60 cm (10.08 in)	**Length:**	**Width:** 29.00 cm (11.42 in)
Depth:	**Diameter:** 12.50 cm (4.92 in)	**Weight:**

Measurement Notes: Diameter is of base.

Reason for Examination: Follow-up on prior examination

Requested by: Ann Wagner

Catalog Description: This fused plate teapot or coffee pot has a reeded parasol-shape ebonized wood finial at the top of the domed circular lid. The lid is secured with a three knuckle hinge. The bellied teapot body has a gadrooned border at the edge of the upper collar. The double C-shaped ebonized wood handle is secured to handle sockets with pins. The tapered gooseneck spout has a pierced opening on the interior of the pot. The base is stepped, circular, and has a gadrooned band at the rim.

The wooden handle and lid finial are not original.

The term fused plate describes wares made from copper with a thin layer of silver fused on one (or two) sides. In 1742 Thomas Bolsover, a cutler in Sheffield, England, discovered this process and wares using the material are also called Sheffield plate or silver plate. Later techniques using nickel rather than copper (also called German silver/paktong/nickel silver) or using electroplating should not be confused with fused plate.

Previous Treatment: See Fair 2009 in object conservation folder (polished, lacquered, epoxy repair to lid bezel).
See Auffret 2013 KE treatment record and report in object conservation folder (ebonized handle, replacement finial construction).

Condition: From June 2009 to June 2013 the teapot was in the Furniture lab awaiting ebonization of the handle and the construction of a new finial, both of which would be more aesthetically appropriate for the object (see Treatment Record by Auffret 2013). It was during the examination of the object in preparation for finial/handle reconstruction that failure of the March 2009 coating carried out by Lauren Fair, then WUDPAC fellow, class of 2010. Areas of loss in

the coating were located adjacent to the handle joins, most likely related to removal of the Parafilm coating temporarily wrapped around the handle for protection during lacquering. See Fair 2009 Treatment Report in the object conservation file for more details on this treatment.

Proposed Treatment: 1. Carefully wrap the handle in Parafilm M, being sure to not overlap adjacent silver sockets.
2. Remove 2009 lacquer coating with steam from a steamer. In delicate areas, particularly the lid bezel that now has an epoxy repair to a failed solder join, acetone solvent will be used so as to preserve the integrity of this repair.
3. Lightly polish overall and locally in tarnished areas where lacquer has failed, using a calcium carbonate slurry in 1:1 ethanol/deionized water.
4. Rinse object thoroughly in a dilute aqueous solution with a non-ionic surfactant, then rinse again in deionized water alone. Dry the object with compressed air.
5. Degrease silver surfaces thoroughly with acetone solvent.
6. Apply at least two coats of 1:2 Agateen lacquer #27/Agateen lacquer thinner #1 with a spray gun to most flat surfaces. Touch up surfaces not covered with spray gun by brush-coating, using a 1:1 mixture of lacquer/thinner.

Proposal By: Lauren Fair **Proposal Date:** 07/26/2013

Authorized By: Ann Wagner **Authorization Date** 08/23/2013

Treatment: 1. Wrapped the handle in Parafilm M, being sure to not overlap adjacent silver sockets.

2. Removed 2009 lacquer coating with steam from a steamer. On the lid, used cotton swabs and acetone solvent to remove lacquer.

3. Lightly polished overall and locally in tarnished areas where lacquer failed, using a calcium carbonate slurry in 1:1 ethanol/deionized water.

4. Rinsed object thoroughly in a dilute aqueous solution with a non-ionic surfactant, then rinsed again in deionized water alone. Dried the object with compressed air.

5. Degreased silver surfaces thoroughly with acetone solvent.

6. Applied two coats of 1:2 Agateen lacquer #27/Agateen lacquer thinner #1 with a spray gun to the following areas: the upper portion (excluding the lid) belly, stand, and the top of the foot. Applied two coats of 1:1 Agateen lacquer #27/Agateen lacquer thinner #1 with a brush to the following areas: the lid, inner lip, spout, handle sockets, applied gadrooning, areas on the belly behind the spout and handle that were missed by the spray gun, and the underside of the foot.

After the first two coats were applied, some flaws were immediately noticed in the coating. The brush coating on the spout appeared brushy and had noticeable drips that occured. Secondly, the spray coating appeared matte in several areas, and some of these areas lit up when tested with the continuity tester, indicating the coating was too thin. To remedy these flaws, the coating was removed from the spout only, using small cotton swabs dampened in acetone, and two new coats were brush applied, ensuring a better aesthetic appearance. Next, one final coating of 1:1 Agateen lacquer #27/Agateen lacquer thinner #1 was applied with a brush over the entire teapot; this saturated the matte appearance and ensures a continuous protective coating.

7. Applied new finial and pin manufactured by Auffret. Because the new pin tip is silver, applied a brush coating of the 1:1 lacquer mixture to this piece as well. Placed previous Mylar ring in between finial and silver lid to minimize abrasion to either component.

8. Applied accession number to underside of teapot with Golden acrylic paint in manganese blue.

Treated By: Lauren Fair

Date Completed:08/05/2013

Treatment Hours: 8.50