

CAT No. 74- Silver gilt pommel
K5, K596, K597, K604, K1374, K1968
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 23.09.2014

Conservation Finished: 24.09.2014

Conservator: Rachel Altpeter

Time Taken: 6 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions:

K596, K597, K604, K1374, K1968- (L) 40.5mm (W) 15mm (H) 15mm (Th) 1.5mm

K5- L. 29mm; W. 14mm; Th. sheet <0.5mm

Weight before:

K596, K597, K604, K1374, K1968- 7.08g,

K5- 1.22g

Weight after:

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, under fibre optic lights. Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: individual boxes combined

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

Gilt silver-alloy round-back pommel cap in fragments. One side is decorated with an inserted gold panel with filigree decoration; the other side shows the edge of a similar space probably for a matching gold inlay. The front is decorated with an incised knot design. On the shoulder of the pommel there are two fastening holes on each side.

Associated Objects:

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

Detailed description and condition see individual fragments.

The five fragments form most of one side and the shoulder of the pommel cap. The gilding is partially lost, but where still present stable. The silver inside is nearly completely tarnished to a dark grey-black. A closely adhering dark brown to grey corrosion product is visible in patches on the outer surface. All break edges are torn and some appear to be recent. Three of the fastening holes are intact, one is partially lost. In one of the holes a greyish-green corrosion product is filling most of the space, possibly traces of a pin with a different alloy composition. Some green corrosion is visible in small spots under the microscope in the break edges, possibly an indication of copper being present in the alloy. An additional gold fragment forms a panel for the other side with scrollwork detail and side tabs.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study, Re-assembly

Aim: Enable study of overall shape, make grouping permanent

Materials: natural thorn, IMS, cotton wool swabs, Paraloid B72 (ethyl-methacrylate copolymer) 35% w/v in acetone for direct joins, Paraloid B72 15% w/v in acetone to apply backing, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm, white Plastazote (polyethylene foam)

The fragments were cleaned a little further, mainly in the break edges using IMS swabs and a natural thorn.

The fragments were rejoined using Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 35% w/v in acetone directly in between the joins. One join where there is only a very small contact area was additionally backed with a polyester netting and Paraloid B72 15% in acetone on the inside.

The object was repacked in a crystal box, supported in Plastazote foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The object is stable but fragile at the weak point of small contact when handling. None of the tarnish and corrosion has been removed.

Key Features:

- silver-alloy, gilt.
- Gold filigree panel
- Incised knot pattern

Samples: 2 soil samples from fragments K596 and K597 repacked into new box