

**CAT No.75**

**K20, K163, K290, K530, K744, K903, K904, K907, K942, K983, K1112, K1185, K1204, K1376, K1726**

**Condition Report**

**Conservation Started: 03.02.2015**

**Conservation Finished: 06.02.2015, 06/08/2015**

**Conservator: Rachel Altpeter, Kayleigh Fuller**

**Time Taken: 12hrs, 3 hours**

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** L. re-joined body fragment 50.5mm (est. original L. 80mm); W. body 12.5mm. W. rivet-housing 18.5mm; H. 30mm; Th. edge 1–1.5mm

**Weight before:** (see individual reports)

**Weight after:** 30.16g

**Digital photography:**

Taken with a Canon EOS 1100D digital camera. Taken before and after.

**Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:**

All individual fragments boxed together including samples.

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

Pommel in cast silver, of cocked-hat form with double sword-rings, with cast interlace, niello and glass decoration (CF)

**06/08/2015- K. Fuller**

Pommel caps K290, K1204+K903 were added.

**Associated objects:**

It is possible that the ornate hilt guard assembly may match this object to become a suite.

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

For detailed condition of fragments, please see individual records.

The fragments had been largely cleaned, leaving the corrosion in place. There is some hard brown corrosion visible as an irregular thin layer on the silver surfaces. On fragments K774, K163 and to a lesser extent on K983 there are patches of a soft greenish corrosion product. All observed break edges are irregular from tears or breaks. There is some slight overall distortion of the shape.

Apart from K163 all the fragments were individually labelled. Most of the fragments form one side of the pommel and the back has more areas of loss.



**Figure 1:** The pommel cap fragments before joining with some of the individual fragment numbers

**Treatment:** Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

The fragments were slightly further cleaned using a natural thorn and IMS, targeting the edges and inside surfaces to facilitate the joining process.

The fragments were joined using Paraloid B72 and a backing of polyester tissue over the join on the inside.

A small mount was made of black Plastazote and inserted into the middle of the pommel cap to provide strength for the loosely joining sides. A bespoke Plastazote cut out was made for a storage box, including the fragments that do not join directly and indicating their relative position.

**Purpose:** Permanent grouping and further study of the shape

**Aim:** Stabilization, re- assembly and stabilisation for display

**Materials:** natural thorn, IMS and cotton wool swabs for cleaning, Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 15% w/v in acetone for applying backing and 20% w/v in acetone for direct joins, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm as backing material, black and white Plastazote (polyethylene foam), scalpel.

**06/08/2015- K. Fuller**

A custom made mount was produced to house items. Items were adhered to each other and fixed to the mount with 40% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone. The plastazote was adhered together using more Paraloid B72 adhesive. It is envisioned that this will only be a temporary mount to aid stability of the object and catalogue photography.

**Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**

The object is stable and supported by the Plastazote. However, some joins remain fragile particularly the connection between back and front of the pommel cap and the joins where due to slight distortions hardly any direct contact supports the join.

The front and back have a similar design of decoration but are comprised of different materials; niello and glass.

**Samples:**

- 2 Samples of small metal fragment found in the soil of K20 and K907
- Soil samples associated with fragments K20, K530, K904, K907, K942, 983, K1376

**Key Features:**

- Pommel cap
- Green glass
- Niello inlay
- Knot pattern

**Analysis:**