

CAT No. 188- Pair of Hilt Collars
K34, K53, K947, K993, K1026, K1169, K1189, K1238, K1248
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 29/9/2015

Conservation Finished: 29/9/2015

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions:

L. mounts 31–41mm; L. largest joined fragments 28mm; H. mounts 11–11.5mm; Th. collar edge 2mm;
Th. mount edge 0.5–1mm

Weight before:

K34- 0.39g, K53-1.68g , K993- 1.34g, K1169-0.47g , K1189- 1.77g, K1238- 1.17g, K1248-0.92g , k1026-
0.9g and pin, K947 -0.72g, K180- 1g

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, under daylight or bulbs and Meiji Techno RZ Stereo microscope with an Infinity 1 camera (with analyses capture software) and fibre optic lights, 7-75x magnification. Taken before, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

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

A pair of hilt-collars in cast silver with gold mounts (i.e. from the upper and lower grip). *Cast interlace*: some silver fragments [K53, K993, K1248] suggest one side of each collar had a panel with fine densely-weaved triple-strand interlace, in low relief and gilded (the fragments do not join and could be from either collar). This was probably contained in panels that mirrored the shape of the gold mounts, which were set on the opposite sides; there is also a small part of a round frame, possibly for a gem-stone. The silver (ungilded) frame may have had animal heads each end, one of which remains as a fragment [K1169], but it also does not join. Another piece [K1026] has the edge of a blank panel with a fixing-hole and 1 silver rivet (L. 2mm); it aligns with a hole at the angled edge of the smaller of the gold mounts [K1238]. Two other joining silver fragments [K34, K947] are part of the blank panel probably from the second collar. They show remains of five fixing-holes and 1 silver rivet. The holes align exactly with those on the second, larger gold mount [K1189]. *Mounts*: the smaller mount [K1238] has four fixing-holes, the large mount [K1189] a total of eight. Both are constructed of gold sheet, have angled ends, and similar filigree ornament, comprising a central quatrefoil knot in a panel, flanked by looping interlace and annulets. On the larger mount some wires are missing on the quatrefoil, where additional holes have been added (possibly indicating a repair) *Filigree*: interlace/annulets in triple-strand beaded wire on flat sheet; the central panels have frames formed of herringbone bands (of two-ply twisted wires) flanked by beaded wires; beaded wire also frames the mount edges. (CF)

Associated Objects:

One of the collars fits directly into the upper void of the hilt guard assemblage K826 etc.

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

There is light wear and abrasion of some of the gilding over the surface of the two items. K180, a newly associated item, has heavier wear and a tough crust of copper accretions on the surface. Both collars are highly distorted with significant portions missing.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Partial cleaning / Stabilisation/ Re-assembly

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

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:**During Treatment:**

Fragments have been cleaned previously and some joined.

Upper Hilt Collar – K1248, K180, K53a, K1238, K1026

Lower Hilt Collar which joins hilt guard – K1189, K947, K993, K34

Join edges were adhered with HMG Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) and Acetone.

Due to the association with the elaborate Hilt Guard, the two collars where mounted onto a custom made mount from plastazote to appropriately display their form. They were lightly adhered with HMG Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

Item was rehoused. A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object.

After Treatment Findings:

K1169 is to be re-boxed with this group after speaking to Chris Fern- possibly a higher portion of a collar in the group.

Key Features:

- Silver cast and gilded hilt collars
- Filigree wire panels
- Associated elaborate hilt guard

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'KXXX XRF Report'.

References: