

CAT No. 409 - Hilt Guard Assemblage

K38, K41, K63, K94, K137, K151, K231, K232, K244, K379, K425, K529, K642, K826, K931, K1242, K1334, K1387, K1449, K1450, K1531, K1569, K1583, K1584, K1924, K1929, K1969, K1979, K5026, K5037, K5061

Condition Report

Conservation Started: 10/06/2015

Conservation Finished: 25/1/2016

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 22 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions:

Upper guard: L. largest 27.5mm; H. 13/18.5mm; Th. 1mm

Lower guard: L. 99mm (est. original L. 105mm); W. 25mm; H. 14.5mm; Th. 1mm

Weight before:

Lower guard:

Panel: K379 (1.10g)

Panel: K1924 (1.11g)

K63 (1.00g); K137 (4.92g); K151 (2.00g); K244 (2.70g); K1242 (1.32g); K5026 (0.45g); K94 (1.30g); K1531 (1.03g); K425 (1.06g); K826 (2.01g); K5061 (0.59g); K231 (0.34g); K232 (0.38g); K931 (1.38g); K1569 (1.00g); K1583 (0.77g); K1929 (1.64g); K1979 (0.36g); K1584 (0.40g); K5026 (0.45g); K5037 (1.16g); K642 (0.15g)

Total lower guard: 28.62g

Upper guard:

Total upper guard: 8.70g

Panel K38 (0.49g)

Panel K41 (1.29g)

Panel K1450 (0.49g)

K529 (1.65g); K1334 (1.24g); K1387 (0.55g); K1449(x2: 2.99g)

Either plate:

K1969 (0.23g)

Total: 0.23g

(Gold panels: 0.49g+1.53g+0.49g/1.10g+1.11g)

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:

See individual reports for pieces

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

Thin and narrow fragment of a strip of Silver hilt guard and associated parts with decorative gold filigree serpent and knotted panels. One of these has a garnet centred between gold filigree knot designs. Some fragment from the side borders show a geometric design. The upper surface of the hilt guard plate has stippled pattern scattered across the surface. Two pin holes have a decorative border on the upper surface. There is a clearly defined oval shape on the upper surface of the lower hilt guard and a rectangular insert void on the bottom side which would have been where the blade is inserted.

Associated Objects:

Hilt Collar pair- *K34, K53, K947, K993, K1026, K1169, K1189, K1238, K1248*

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

Lower surface is highly corroded with copper corrosion products. The edges and point of the tips from the assemblage are also worn. Some of the structure near where the blade would be inserted is distorted in structure.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis

Aim: Partial cleaning / Reassemble/Stabilisation

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, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm.

Fragments have been cleaned previously and some joined.

Join edges were adhered with HMG Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) and Acetone. Some breakages required polyester netting fixed to the reverse as a backing support across the break edge. This was carried out with 20% Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

A plastazote insert mount was created so that the Lower guard top and bottom sections could be re-associated with each other and subsequent panels attached to the mount for interpretation.

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

The paper K number was adhered to the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick).

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Item shows wear and tear from use. Edges in particular have gilding and cast decoration worn down.

It was discovered later that the lower hilt guard has an insert section on the top which is the same size as one of a pair of cast silver collars. It is believed that the collars and the elaborate hilt guards are a set.

After Treatment Joins+ boxing:

Hilt Guard bottom/ base

K63; K137; K151; K244; K379; K1242; K5026; K94; K1531; K425; K826; K5061; K231; K232; K931; K1569; K1583; K1929; K1979; K1584; K1924; K5026; K5037; K642

Upper Guard

K1449+K1387, K529+ K41, K38, K1347

Key Features:

- Hilt Guard Assemblage
- Filigree gold decorative snake panels, one with garnet
- Silver with niello
- Decorative pin holes for sword with gold design
- Gilding on borders
- Knot design on panels
- Tip pieces – both slightly different and with clear signs of wear and tear abrasion on end.

Analysis Undertaken:

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

References: