

CAT No. 252- Hilt Plate
K60+K143
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 23/10/2015

Conservation Finished: 23/10/2015

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: L. 29mm; H. flange 3mm; Th. sheet =0.4mm

Weight before: K60 -2.46grams K143- 1.39grams

Weight after: n/a

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:

Number 53 in triangle in top left hand corner, 24/7/09 in top right hand corner, DN1971, SSH09 in top right hand corner.

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

X-ray: L60

K60- Gold, fragment of hilt-plate of sheet-metal, with a flange around the edge. It is badly damaged, torn and misshaped (from removal). It is covered by soil, though a small flat-topped cabochon garnet, in a claw setting, is visible at the tip of the surviving end, where it presumably covers a rivet hole. No rivets survive. (C.F)

K143- Possible end part of a gold sheet hilt plate with one bezel set red/pink coloured cabochon stone, possibly a garnet.

The piece appears torn on all sides.

Two holes in the gold sheet just below the stone.

Associated Objects: *Set:* probably a pair with hilt-plate **251**, possibly a suite with hilt-plate **253**.

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

K60- Badly damaged, torn and misshapen where the plate border strips have peeled away from the plate and are now in a ribbon shape. Heavy soil covering, obscures the surfaces. One area of the gold sheet has been exposed where the soil has been pushed aside. Here the gold has been damaged with a curved scratch; this is new damage as the scratch is quite bright. Light scratches to the garnet through wear.

K143- The piece is quite damaged; torn and crumpled on all edges and warped throughout. The garnet appears in good condition and held securely in its setting. Compact, hard granular soil lightly covers the surface and there is more accumulated in the recesses and folds.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning / Partial cleaning/ Reassembly

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, water on garnets, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72, Acetone, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm

The granular soil on the front and back was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

The garnet and the surrounding area were lightly cleaned with water on cotton swabs.

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

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

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Fragments have been assembled together using 30% W/V Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

A support backing of polyester netting was attached to the inside back of the hilt plate join using 10% W/V Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Key Features:

- Garnet surrounded by three strand beaded wire.
- Gold plate plain and not decorated.
- Solder visible in areas where the gold edge strips have peeled back from the main sheet of the object.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples: see individual fragment condition reports

References: n/a