

CAT No. 77 – Silver Gilt Pommel

K136, K149, K189, K417, K536, K762, K876, K908, K994, K1337, K1403, K1448, K1835, K1896, K2158, K5090

Condition Report

Conservation Started 15/05/2015

Conservation Finished: 21/05/2015, 11/12/15

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller + Lizzie Miller

Time Taken: 10 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions whole item: 66.8mm (L) x 28.2mm (H) x 13.8mm (D)

Weight before: K136-2.19g, K149-2.01g, K189-2.55g, K417-2.08g, K536-1.31g, K762-unknown(no record), K876- 0.28g ,K908-0.59g ,K994-0.72g ,K1337-0.34g, K1403-0.73g, K1448-unknown (no record), K1896- 0.79g **K1835-0.30g- not attached anymore**, K2158- 0.49g, K5090- 0.24g

Weight after: Overall after with adhesive and support minus K136 and K908 weights =15.34g

New weight (minus K908) 4/12/15: 18.94g

New weight of all fragments including mount 11/12/15: 22.37g.

Digital photography:

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

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

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

See individual items reports for more detail

Pommel Cap made of a cast silver gilt frame with knotted design on back with circle in centre. Gold filigree decoration in a spiral pattern and eye shaped centre on the pommel caps. Centre piece on front has gold filigree design with a rock crystal in the centre. One pin from the cap is much longer than the corresponding one.

The object currently consists of the fragments K136, K149, K189, K417, K536, K762, K876, K908, K994, K1337, K1403 and K1448, K1896

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

For detailed condition of fragments, please see individual condition reports.

Some of the gilded surface is abraded. A soft corrosion product with a greenish hue fills most of the inside of the object. The gold panel is slightly distorted as is one of the pommel caps and bridge has been flattened slightly. Most sections have clear edges but very thin for the weight of the object.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

The fragments were joined using HMG Paraloid B72 and a backing of nylon tissue applied over the join on the inside and adhered into place with 10%w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone. The gold panel was attached with single drops of adhesive in the area where the metal touches directly. A mount was created for the item to help support it once it had been adhered together. Corresponding items such as K136 with the rock crystal were adhered directly to the mount in the position it would have originally been in.

Purpose: Permanent grouping and further study of the object

Aim: Stabilization and re-grouping of fragments back together in original object form.

Materials: Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) 10% w/v in acetone for applying backing and HMG Paraloid B72 for direct joins, nylon tissue as backing material, Plastazote (polyethylene foam), scalpel for cutting Plastazote

Update 04/12/15: Fragment K2158 (was a fragment from K763) was found to join to pommel 77 (K136 etc). It was adhered to the pommel using 40% Paraloid B-72 (w/v) in acetone applied with a fine paintbrush. A small piece of polyester webbing material was adhered to the reverse of the join using 30% Paraloid B-72 (w/v) in acetone to provide additional support. Lizzie Miller.

New dimensions: 66.8mm (L) x 28.2mm (H) x 13.8mm (D)

Update 11/12/15: Fragment K5090, a small gold filigree panel, found to be associated. Doesn't join directly to the object due to loss of neighbouring fragments, however it could be adhered to the mount to gain an impression of the original object. The fragment was adhered to a small piece of Plastazote cut to fit using 40% Paraloid B-72 (w/v) in acetone. Using distances measured in the mirrored panel on the other side to ascertain the correct spacing, the fragment (on its Plastazote) was adhered to the main Plastazote mount which supports the rest of the pommel, and also at the point of contact with the long pin, using 40% Paraloid B-72 (w/v) in acetone. Lizzie Miller.

Dimensions unchanged: 66.8mm (L) x 28.2mm (H) x 13.8mm (D)

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The object is fairly unstable at some join edges due to the weight of the pommel caps. Polyester tissue was applied internally to support it in these places. The item is still at risk of the adhered joins breaking when it is not supported on its mount.

Samples:

See individual reports for more detail

Key Features:

- Gold "eye"-shaped panel
- Filigree decoration with rock crystal
- Cast silver with gilding
- Knot pattern