

CAT No. 372- Hilt Plate
K159, K239, K1029, K5084
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 08/07/2015

Conservation Finished: 08/07/2015

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 1 hour

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: a (L) 60 mm (W) 19 mm (D) 6 mm (Th.) 1-1.5 mm

Dimensions after: L. 70mm; W. 19mm; H. flange 6mm; Th. edge 1.5mm

Weight before: K159- 1.35g, K239- 3.09g, K1029- 5.24g, K5084- 1.22g

Weight after: 10.90g

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, using overhead lights. Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

K159- 29/7/2009 (Unstrat)

Description:

Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 20x magnification

Two fragments of silver-alloy cast hilt-plate, both with flange.

Large fragment, one end from the underside of the upper guard. 3 rivet holes at the tip in a triangular configuration. One stub remains. Two side flange fragments which attach directly to end of upper guard.
(CF)

Associated Objects: K279 Hilt Plate

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 20x magnification.

Tarnished on the entire visible surface, some purple silver chloride on the tip. Green copper corrosion products are present on the front as well as the back. Some tool marks are visible on the back.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS, 50:50 water/IMS, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72,

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. 50:50 IMS/water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

The green copper corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

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.

08/07/2015- K. Fuller

Fragments K159, K239 and K1029 were adhered together with HMG Paraloid B72. Object was re-boxed.

18/08/15 – L. Miller

K5084 silver fragment joined to group with 40% Paraloid B-72 w/v in acetone applied with a fine paintbrush (joined directly to K159).

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Very brittle especially the inside surface. Possibly some traces of gilding are present on the surface.

08/07/2015- K. Fuller

All break edges are original.

Key Features:

- Silver Hilt Plate
- Rivet holes and stub of rivet that is still intact
- Traces of gilding

Analysis Undertaken:

Surface and subsurface analysis was carried out using the Bruker Mistral M1 XRF. This analysis formed part of the silver pilot study for the English Heritage programme. To access the core (sub-surface) of the object a small area on the surface was removed from the edge of the hilt-plate. Due to errors detected another area had to be prepared on a flat surface.

Samples:

- 1: Soil from the front and side surfaces of object A
- 2: Soil from the back surface of object A
- 3: Soil sample of the front, sides and back surfaces of object B

References:

Fern, C. *Hoard conservation notes* 2012