

CAT No. 99 – Hilt Collar
K321 + K512
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 25/9/2015

Conservation Finished: 25/9/2015

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 32.2mm (W) 13.5mm (H) 26.5mm

Weight before: K512 - 1.81g, K321- 1.61g

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: none noted

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

Hilt-collar in gold with all over filigree decoration. Probably from the upper grip. Almost complete, found in 2 fragments rejoined possibly torn apart at the sheet join. Collar body possibly constructed from one strip of sheet metal. Fixing hole at each end; no nails/rivets. *Interlace:* two registers each side originally, the interlace patterns repeated (identical, but flipped). *Filigree:* interlace in triple-strand beaded wire; registers framed with herringbone bands (formed of two-ply twisted beaded wires); beaded wires form the outer collar edge and also frame the surviving vertical herringbone band separating the sides (that from the other end is missing).

Associated Objects: K739 + K105

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

K512- Bent, broken and extensively tarnished. The west end is bent under and features a tear on the base and lifting of sections of the filigree wire. There is one major linear dent or scratch running vertically across the width on the east side. This does not appear recent. There are small, localised areas of abrasion and wearing of the beaded wire. The object is mostly clean, but some soil still remains trapped within the wire decoration. Stable overall, but hanging portions of wire are fragile and may catch.

K321- Almost entirely covered in soil. The surface is covered by an even dark & iridescent form of oxidation. The object is bent. Both ends are torn.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Display / Analysis

Aim: Partial cleaning / Stabilisation/ Some 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, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm

This object was not cleaned and the condition was noted as it was presented to the museum from the find site. The scratches are assumed historic as they appear consistent with wear and use.

No further work was deemed necessary for the object to be displayed in Lichfield. The soil can be excavated at a later date as the requested for the research programme

The paper K number was adhered to the interior surface with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a fine paint brush.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house 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 re-joined using HMG Paraloid B72 and support polyester netting attached with 10%w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

Boxed with K105 and K739

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings: N/A

Key features: Three sizes of beaded wire and herring-bone plain wire decoration. Extensive dark/iridescent tarnish may be aggravated by removal of soil and exposure to extra air. There is a slight red hue on the gold base.

Analysis Undertaken:

See results of the XRF analysis in K512 XRF results form

Samples: