

CAT No. 262- Hilt Plate
K481+K769+K860
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 8/7/2015

Conservation Finished: 9/7/2015

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: L. 81mm; W. 20.5mm; Th. sheet 0.4mm

Weight before: K481- 1.59g, K769- 2.00g, K860- 0.77g

Weight after: n/a

Digital photography:

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

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

X-ray: L59, L63, L91

Description:

Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 20x magnification

K769 - Fragment of a gold sword-hilt plate with one narrow strip bent in a 90 degree angle and twisted at the end. A three-part fitting with a dark red garnet is situated at the tip of the hilt plate. The fitting consists of a base formed by two filed-in (beaded) gold wires, with a smooth gold strip on top that holds the garnet. The hole for the fitting runs all the way through the plate, the back of the garnet is covered by gold foil that appears to have a black residue of some kind.

The metal is laminated, and consists of at least three layers of gold foil.

K481- Half of a gold hilt plate, the other half has been torn off.

Boss or rivet hole at one end. Part of the tang aperture remains at the damaged end. Gold sheet torn and bent back at the tear edges.

K860- Flat, narrow and curved gold fragment, possibly part of hilt plate. The two long edges appear to be complete while the ends are both broken to reveal a layered gold structure, slightly delaminating. The object has no decorative features with the exception of a mark of line along its length that might have been caused by contact with another object.

Associated Objects:

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

K769 - The gold has some discolorations, there are many scratches on the surface. The material has started to delaminate in several places, causing fragile bits to be deformed and stick out. Granular soil is present on the surface, the space between the plate tip and the narrow strip is filled with soil.

The garnet was damaged at some point; the top has chipped off.

K481

- Gold sheet torn and bent back at the tear edges.
- Approximately 80% soil covering, most heavy on reverse side.
- Boss covered in soil with part of a line of beaded wire visible through the soil.

K860

Partly covered in soil. The object has no loose parts and does not display evidence of fresh damage or particular surface discolouration.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning, 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.

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 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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Break edges were carefully aligned and adhered using HMG Paraloid B72. Edges may need further support from polyester netting.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Soil removal from the crevices in the delaminating areas has proven to be difficult.

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Break edges clearly torn/ ripped apart. Delamination at break ends.

Key Features:

- Laminated gold, bezel fitting with garnet.
- Wires around fitting are filed-in to create beaded wire.
- Reddish discoloration on the surface of the object.
- Black residue present on the back of the gold foil behind the garnet.

Analysis Undertaken:

Samples: -

References:-