

CAT No. 288- Hilt Plate
K584 + K725
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 09/07/15

Conservation Finished: 10/07/15

Conservator: Lizzie Miller

Time Taken: 3hr

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 57 mm (W) 17 mm (T) 3.5 mm

K584: 38.2mm (L) x 16.8mm (W) x 0.4mm (T)

K725: 37.0mm (L) x 17.0mm (W) x 0.4mm (T)

Weight before:

K584 – 2.81g

K725 – 2.72g

Weight after: No change

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Annotations on the box:

Associated objects: n/a

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

Two halves of a gold hilt plate, each half has 3 remaining rivet holes in a cluster at each end (no rivets present). There is a central oval blade slot which is surrounded by a ring of dotted indents. This might possibly indicate the presence of a surrounding ring of beaded wire (now missing). The border is shaped to form a wall or flange. Surrounding one of the rivet holes on K725 is a circle of single beaded wire – this is missing on K584, however a series of indents around the rivet hole indicates that a band of beaded wires was once present. The other two holes on each of the fragments are surrounded by a shallow rectangular impression potentially left by a washer.

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

The fragments were previously cleaned (in 2013) and the metal is a bright yellow colour with no considerable discolouration. The surface is affected by some deep scratches and dents, but these do not appear to have been caused recently (i.e. during or post excavation). Both parts are distorted slightly.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Re-assembly

Materials: 40% and 20% Paraloid B72™ w/v in acetone, acetone, paintbrush, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm.

The two parts were joined together using 40% Paraloid B-72 w/v in acetone. Because the point of contact was so thin, a small piece of polyester webbing was adhered to the reverse using 40% and 20% Paraloid B-72 w/v in acetone to provide additional support. This join proved not to be strong enough therefore it was necessary to adhere another small piece of polyester webbing to the front of the object.

The newly joined object was housed in a storage box padded with white polyethylene foam. 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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

Two parts of a golden hilt plate

Key features:

- Gold hilt plate/tray
- Three set of rivet holes at each end
- Residues of one circular mount
- Impressions of beaded ring, rivet heads and washes.

Samples:

None – insufficient soil.

Photographs

Before joining:



After joining:

