

CAT No. 285- Hilt Plate
K646 + K647 + K991
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 8/5/2013, 10/7/2015

Conservation Finished: 9/5/2013, 30/7/2015

Conservator: Deborah Magnoler, Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 2 hours, 3.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: L. 75.5mm; W. 25mm; Th. sheet <0.5mm

Weight before: K646-2.77g, K991- 0.82g K647- 2.49g

Weight after: n/a

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.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

K991 - SSH09 BA 1971 M13 1001 sf 279 3/8/09 EVSC

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

K646- Fragment of a gold hilt plate of elliptical shape with one fastening hole at one end. The hole is surrounded by a disjointed ring made of two strands of filigree wire. This object presents interesting construction details: one is the layered nature of the surface: one of the fine superficial layers of gold is slightly lifting off the surface at the back and a line is clearly visible there. The other feature is the regularly jagged edge of the blade or tang slot which appears as if it was produced using a tool with very sharp, possibly short blades. (See photomicrograph). The blade or tang slot appears wide and rectangular. There is also a dark mark around the slot which may indicate contact with another hilt component. The metal is of a brilliant yellow gold.

K991- Possibly a fragment of hilt plate. This is a thin, plain strip of gold with slight nicks and irregularities on the surface that appear to have been caused by manufacture. The long edges are both possibly complete, and the two short ends appear to have been cut neatly, rather than torn.

K647- End of a gold hilt plate with part of a rivet and decorative boss still in situ. The back of the object features and X shaped incision that appears intentional.

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

Lightly covered in soil, incomplete, bent and with micro-scratches on the surface. There are no loose parts and the object appears stable. The gold is a brilliant yellow with no considerable dark discolouration.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Total cleaning

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm.

The granular soil on the front & back was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS or 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.

10/7/2015- K. Fuller

Fragments were attached to each other using HMG Paraloid B72 and supported with polyester netting adhered on with 10% Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings: see pre-conservation condition

Key Features:

- Gold Hilt Plate
- Cut at both ends
- X mark on surface

Analysis:

Samples:

None taken