

CAT No. 247- Hilt Plate
K777+ K1083
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 09/07/2015

Conservation Finished: 09/07/2015

Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 1.75 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions (distorted): (L) 68mm (W)variable (Th) 0.2mm

Weight before: K777 – 1.77g, K1083- 2.21g

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:

K1083 - SSH09, 1971, 1001, 30/7/09, M11, 180 (inside a triangle).

K777 – SSH09, 1971, 27/7/09, 93 (inside a triangle).

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

Two halves of a torn and damaged gold hilt plate with boss or stone housing at each end. The piece has been torn so that only one length of the tang aperture remains.

Associated Objects: n/a

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

The pieces are damaged yet seem stable. The piece has been torn so that only half of the hilt plate remains and it has been twisted, crumpled and distorted. There is a medium covering of soil obscuring any further damage and details of the piece. No stones remain at either end of hilt plate.

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, Acetone, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm

The granular soil all over the object 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.

No corrosion products were left found.

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.

The pieces were adhered together with HMG Paraloid B72 at the original tear edge where one tang remains. Polyester netting was placed on the underside of the break and adhered with 20% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The piece remains structurally stable.

Cleaning and soil removal revealed that the boss or stone setting did not contain a stone; however the style of setting and the height of the gold band which forms the setting suggest that this may have housed a stone. At the base of the inside of this setting is a hole, approximately 2mm in diameter, possibly for a rivet. The setting is surrounded by a circlet of three beaded wires, one thicker in the centre, two thinner on the outer.

The gold sheet on the hilt below the setting is torn and has been distorted upwards. At this point on the reverse deep sweeping linear scratches mark the surface. These appear to be modern. Further down the piece the gold sheet is crumpled and the area that forms the tang aperture is twisted. A straight line on the reverse of the aperture is scribed into the gold sheet, this may be a layout marking. The gold is very yellow in colour with small areas of iron staining and black tarnish.

Part of the other tang is still missing.

Key Features:

- Setting for a stone surrounded by a circlet of beaded wire.
- Remains of a tang aperture cut out.

Analysis:

Samples:

1. Soil – all over.