CAT No. 384- Hilt Plate
K979+K1209+K1338
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 23/09/2015
Conservation Finished: 24/09/2015, 7/10/2015
Conservator: Kayleigh Fuller, Lizzie Miller
Time Taken: 1.75 hours, 0.5 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: L. 51mm; H. flange 3mm; Th. edge 1mm
Weight before: K979-2.01g, K1209-2.64g, K1338- 0.78g
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:
X-ray: L43

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

Silver-alloy fragments from one edge/ end of a cast hilt-plate, slightly twisted, with a flange. The inner edge shows the curvature of a blade aperture. The upper surface has remains of gilding. Curved end has a single pin hole

Associated Objects: K979, K1209, K1338

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification (Prior to any conservation)

K979- The object is a hilt plate fragment. There is a break edge on one side with the majority of object now missing. At the break edges the metal is warped, rough and ragged. The surface appears to have a heavy corrosion layer and possibly insoluble cru stations. The object is covered in a moderate layer of loose and compact soil.

K1209- The piece is slightly twisted and buckled throughout yet maintains its original shape and seems structurally stable. There are two broken ends on the short edges. The two long sides appear to be original border edges. The front surface is gilded with some losses in areas where black patina, possibly silver tarnish has formed, the gilding seems stable. The reverse is filled and obscured by soil. Linear surface scratches all over, possibly due to damage at removal. Granular nodules of silver corrosion product in areas and obscuring some of the gilding.

K1338- The object is a small straight fragment of metal with a slight curve with a lip in an 'L' shape. The fragment has a defined narrow form with break edges visible on the two ends, which are both missing

material. One side is more complete than the opposite side, for example the side with the lip is longer than the opposite side. The top and side surface (of the lip) has gold gild visible. The surface of both the front and reverse has tarnish visible. The object is covered in a light layer of loose and compact soil, especially the front.

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.

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. 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.

Corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

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.

23/09/2015- K. Fuller
Fragments were adhered back together using 30-40% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone. Item was rehoused in smaller box and plastazote.

7/10/2015- Lizzie Miller
Boxed with K198+K944+K1335

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:
Removal of the soil showed that the reverse of the piece has a dimpled texture, which suggests this piece is cast. Gilding on the top surfaces only and they are smooth and non-decorated. Two straight edges, suggesting border edges. Silver nodular corrosion product in areas mixed with iron corrosion product that has stained the surface with a reddish/brown colour in areas. Patches of copper alloy corrosion product on the reverse.

Key Features:
- Dimpled texture on reverse of piece.
- Two border edges with flange.
- Rounded single pin hole end
- Gilding on top surfaces.
- Smooth surface finish on top surfaces.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a