

K1200 gold sword pommel

Date started: 28/09/2010

Before photographs taken: 28/09/2010

Time taken so far: 3 hrs

Dimensions: L. 40mm; W. 11mm; H.20mm; Th. edge 1.5mm; L. rivets (bent) 18-19mm

Weight before: 22.44g

Weight after: 15.90

Catalogue number: 16

Description/condition before treatment:

Looking down on the top of the pommel there is a dimple filled with soil at the central highest point. The plain gold top is worn.

To each side there are panels with an arched end at the top and straight ends at the bottom. Both panels are full of soil but show evidence of decorative wirework. The edges and bottom of the panels are wirework.

Side 1 (refer to photos)

Side 1 is full of soil but there is evidence of decorative wirework in a knotted pattern. All the edges but the top are wirework.

Side 2

As side 1 but slightly less soil covered. Seems to be more worn at the corners and is indented slightly along the bottom.

Tip 1

When looking at side 1, tip 1 is on the left.

Although this tip is soil covered, two pin heads and two plain gold rounded pin sockets can be seen. The right pin head is higher than the other, suggesting it has been dislodged slightly. The bases of the pin sockets look worn. There is a wirework edge around the edge of the main pommel part. Pins coming out of the bottom of the pockets can just be seen.

Tip 2

When looking at side 1, tip 2 is on the right

This tip has two pin heads and sockets like the other tip, but this one has less soil covering it. Again the right pin head is slightly dislodged, but in this case it is less so. The pin sockets look like they have black/grey tarnish on them. Again there is a wirework edge on the main pommel part, and the pins coming out of the sockets can be seen but more clearly this time.

Base:

The base is full of soil, but the edge of wirework can be seen. All 4 pins can be seen running along the base. The two from tip 2 are loose and have been bent over parallel to the base. The two pins from tip 1 are not loose and are covered in soil. One pin sticks slightly out away from the base, the other has been bent flat to the level of the

base and slightly into it in a NE direction. From this angle you can see that side 2 has been bent inwards whereas side 1 is straight.

Treatment:

Only the top panels and dimple were treated, along with both sides. The tips and base were left soil filled.

Treatment was to moisten the soil with a small paintbrush that had been dipped in water. Then the soil was carefully removed with a thorn in a pin vice and brushed away with a dry paintbrush.

Condition after treatment:

The very top dimple, once cleared of soil, was found to have many scratches in it. Both top panels were found to have the same design, containing a knotted pattern. It is all wirework except for a figure of 8 part in the centre, which is straight wire and not twisted. If side 1 is facing you, the left panel seems to have a lot of a grey tarnish particularly on the top. The right panel does not.

The sides are easier to tell apart after cleaning. Both sides were found to have thinner smaller wirework going around the edge and around all the thicker knotted wirework pattern. However, on side 2 this smaller wirework has an extra bit right at the top that mimics the larger wirework design in curling inwards towards the centre. This side was found also to be slightly deeper at the bottom than the top.

Side 1 was found to have an area of tarnish on the very top gold part above the main decorated panel. Much of the plain gold areas on this side that were not covered with decorative wirework had tarnishing rather than gold (as on side 2).

Phoebe Perkins