

K1447 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 08/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 08/02/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 6.5 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Fragment A:

Dimensions: (L) 25mm (W) 14mm (D) 18mm

Weight before: 5.60g

Weight after: 5.54g

Catalogue number: 72

Combined:

Dimensions: (L) 43mm (W) 14.5mm (H) 21mm (Th.) 1.5-2.5mm

Weight after: 11.76g

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 and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

Two fragments of silver pommel cap. Undecorated/plain on front with smooth surface. Unfinished/rough on back. One finished edge; the remainder are old-looking breaks. Two empty, round rivet holes on fragment A.

Associated Objects: K240

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

Fragment A: Tarnished to a fairly consistent dark grey colour. Patches of green corrosion product on both sides, particularly the back. The back is unfinished with a few protruding blobs of silver. Some silver chloride corrosion and old-looking scratches. The fastening holes are empty apart from soil.

Fragment B: Tarnished to a fairly consistent dark grey colour. Patches of green corrosion product on both sides, particularly the back. The back is unfinished with a few protruding blobs of silver. Some silver chloride corrosion and old-looking scratches.

Fragment C: Corrosion (green).

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, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The surface has many old-looking scratches and dents and general abrasion as well as some patches of silver chloride and copper corrosion. The shoulder area of the fragment has consistent scratches that might be working marks.

Could be adhered with K240 in the future if desired; the joins with K240 are neat and clean.

Key Features:

- Part of silver pommel cap (plain)
- Joins with K240

Samples:

1. soil

Analysis:

Surface XRF analysis was undertaken on the gilded surface, and a sub-surface area was prepared on the base of the object to allow analysis of the core alloy.