

CAT No.11- Pommel
K585 +K714
Condition Report

Conservation Started: 01/07/2013, 25/07/2013

Conservation Finished: 04/08/2015

Conservator: Cristina Mazzola, Chi Chun, Lin, Kayleigh Fuller

Time Taken: 7 hrs, 25 hours, 3 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 29 mm (W) 13 mm (D) 12 mm

Weight before: K585- 6.53g, K714- 2.52g

Weight after: -

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights (20-200x magnification). Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:

n/a

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
Three fragments of a gold pommel with beaded wire ornaments and a plain piece of golden plate. All pieces are torn, warped and bent

The edges of the wire ornamented piece are torn, whereas plain metal sheet seems to be whole. The wire ornaments are shaped like pretzels or loops respectively, the two ornaments are separated by straight beaded wires. The plain metal bit is attached to the loop ornamented section. The back is plain, but shows that the metal sheet is made of several pieces of gold sheet, that have been soldered together.

The top part is also broken leaving an uneven edge. There is an obvious broken hole on the back side, so that some parts of gold sheet are recessed. There are two rivet holes fitting on each profile side; however, on the one side the rivet holes are misshaped and hard to recognize.

Associated Objects:

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

The outside is covered in brown soil through which beaded wire ornaments are visible. A plain bit without ornaments is visible. The edges of the ornamented bit seem torn. The inside is covered with reddish soil, a label with the number is attached. There are a few fresh scratches, especially around the label. Overall the object warped and bent, but seems not very fragile. It is possible, however, that cracks will appear, once the soil is removed.

The gold pommel was covered with a lump of soil on the whole surface. However, some raised patterns were still visible. The interior area was filled with dark orange soil, a label with the number is attached. The broken side is bent and warped where a visible crack on its surface is. As a result, this area is very fragile.

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, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72 in Acetone, Reemay Polyester netting 30gsm

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 was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a brush and IMS.

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.

03/08/2015 Kayleigh Fuller

The sections were re-adhered with 40% w/v Paraloid (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) B72 in Acetone and supportive strips of tissue were also pasted over break edges with 10% w/v Paraloid B72 in Acetone.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The ground plate of the ornamented area shows on the reverse several joints of overlapping sheets – possibly it has been soldered together from several sheets or was reinforced in some areas?

The plain metal plate seems to be soldered on the ornamented section. It has been lifted off on one side, causing a tear where it had been adjoining the ornamented sheet. Near this tear a piece of golden wire / strip was embedded in the adhering soil on the reverse side.

Key Features:

- Gold fragment with beaded wire ornaments and a plain gold sheet; pretzel- and loop-shapes
- Ornamented plate was assembled from or reinforced by several metal sheets.
- Possibly part of a pommel cap.

Analysis Undertaken:

XRF analysis of the object was performed. See folder 'K585 XRF Reports'.

Samples:

K585

1. Soil – front
2. Soil – back
3. Gold piece from back soil – near large tear behind plain metal piece
4. Plant matter from back.

K714

Sample 1: soil from back and front sides

Sample 2: rootlets from back and front sides

Sample 3: soil from interior area

Sample 4: rootlets from interior area

References: