

K352

There is a framework of cloisonné garnets on one side of this gold pommel cap and filigree decoration on all the faces composed of three-strand bands of beaded wires arranged in geometric and zoomorphic motifs, while the rivets at either end of the pommel cap are masked by herring-bone carpets composed of two-ply twisted wire ropes, Figures 4a and 4b. The level of wear is overall moderate with some areas more heavily worn resulting in flattened wires.

The bead diameter varies between *ca.* 0.65 mm and 0.7 mm for broader wires⁷ and between *ca.* 0.25-0.4 mm for finer wires. The distance between beads varies between *ca.* 0.35 mm and 0.45 mm for broader wires and between *ca.* 0.25 mm and 0.3 mm for finer wires. These measurements point towards the use of a grooved swage with two different gauges for the beading of broad and fine wires of the three-strand bands.



Figure 4a. Photomicrographs of gold pommel K352 with its side panels decorated with garnet cloisonné and filigree panels on one side and filigree decoration on the other side and the shoulders (fields of view *ca.* 25 mm).



Figure 4b. SEM BSE image of the geometric and zoomorphic motifs composed of three-strand bands of beaded wires (left, field of view *ca.* 12 mm) and photomicrograph of the herring-bone carpet concealing the pair of rivet holes at each end of the pommel cap (right: field of view *ca.* 20 mm).

⁷ Broad and fine wires bordering each panel have not been measured on K352, nor have plain wires.

**Scientific investigation of filigree decoration on 37 artefacts from the Staffordshire Hoard (Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery & The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent)
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K352

	Thick beaded wire				Thin beaded wire			
	Bead diameter (µm)	Average (µm)	Bead length (µm)	Average (µm)	Bead diameter (µm)	Average (µm)	Bead length (µm)	Average (µm)
Three-strand band	666-688 (704)	679	410-428 (463)	428	374-391 (361)	380	283-296 (247, 264)	279
					311-328		322	
Three-strand band	640-647	644	386-407 (445)	408	344-388	370	237-262	248
					345-373		363	
Three-strand band	672-703	683	421-464	441	286-295	292	257-303	277
					272-308		289	

Table 15. Filigree wire measurements for K352.