

ROYAL ARMOURIES

ROYAL ARMOURIES COLLECTION

Museum quality replicas – approved by the
Curators of the Royal Armouries



Royal Armouries Collection

Drawing upon the outstanding quality and range of the Royal Armouries collections, we are proud to present this range of fine quality replicas.

At each stage of the process, from the initial selection to the last details of the prototypes, the Museum's experts on armour and edged weapons have been personally involved.

These replicas are impressive in both their look and feel, accurately capturing the dimensions, materials and processes of the originals with tremendous attention to detail.

The Royal Armouries is delighted that enthusiasts will now be able to enjoy these objects 'at first hand'.



Tudor Longsword

Two-handed swords were one of several types of weapon used at tournaments for fighting on foot at the barriers. This example belongs to a group of English swords dating to the late 15th and early 16th centuries, although such swords remained in use until the mid 16th century.

Probably English, about 1500; modern wooden grip and leather binding.

Overall length: 1620 mm (63.8 in)

Blade length: 1130 mm (44.5 in)

Museum Accession No. ix.633



Writhen Hilt Sword

This knightly sword is of a rare type, with its gilt-bronze pommel and cross-guard formed to look like three rods twisted together. It retains its original wooden grip, which rarely survives on medieval swords, carved to resemble a writhen (twisted) stave and it also bears a gilt-bronze collar at its centre.

German, about 1480.

Purchased with the assistance of the Art Fund and the Pilgrim Trust.

Overall length: 1099 mm (43.2 in)

Blade length: 886 mm (34.8 in)

Museum Accession No. ix.949



English Arming Sword

English medieval swords are rare and although this sword's find site is unknown, it is definitely of English origin because of its decoration.

The copper alloy cross-guard is decorated with mythical creatures, probably including a gryphon and a wyvern. Importantly it also features 'babewyns', grotesque creatures without bodies but having heads with tiny legs coming from their necks. Similar 'babewyns' appear in contemporary English manuscript illustrations.

English, mid 13th century.

Accepted by HM Government in Lieu of Inheritance Tax and allocated to the Royal Armouries, 2007.

Overall length: 806 mm (31.7 in)

Blade length: 658 mm (25.9 in)

Museum Accession No. ix.5614



1796 Light Cavalry Sabre

This design was suggested for British service by cavalry officer John Gaspard Le Marchant, who believed cavalry swords should be light and have a curved, slashing blade.

At victories like Salamanca in 1812 and Waterloo in 1815 this pattern of sword gained a reputation as one of the finest ever manufactured.

British, about 1800.

Overall length: 965 mm (38 in)

Weight: 936 g (2 lb 1 oz)

Museum Accession No. IX.2709



Henry VIII Sabre

Its hilt consists of a slightly curved hand-and-a-half grip which curves to form a 'beaked' pommel, once covered by a metal cap. The sinuously curving quillons terminate in a tongued serpent's head and Tudor roses ornament the centre of the quillon block. Etched panels featuring St Katherine and St Barbara decorate the blade.

Possibly Flemish, about 1500.

Overall length: 1219 mm (48.0 in)

Blade length: 991 mm (39 in)

Museum Accession No. IX.634



English Dagger

This dagger has an ornate hilt with a cast and engraved copper alloy pommel and a cross-guard decorated with monsters' heads. The blade is also complex, its cross-section alternating no less than four times in its length, from double-edged at the hilt to single-edged at the point. Found beneath the floor of 15th-century Crosby Hall, London.

Probably English, about 1500.

Overall length: 424 mm (16.7 in)

Blade length: 307 mm (12.1 in)

Museum Accession No. x.7



Henry VIII Hunting Dagger

By tradition this dagger belonged to Henry VIII and was probably a hunting weapon. Its blade is long, hollow-ground, single-edged and decorated with etched roses and pomegranates.

These were respectively the badges of King Henry VIII and his first wife, Katherine of Aragon. Her badge probably dates the dagger to the first decade of Henry's reign.

Probably English, about 1510-20; the wooden grip with steel pommel and ferrule, 1960.

Overall length: 465 mm (18.3 in)

Blade length: 384 mm (15.1 in)

Museum Accession No. x.39



Henry VIII Tournament Helmet

The armour is probably the earliest surviving product of Henry VIII's Almain armourers at his royal workshop. Designed for the Field of Cloth of Gold tournament, this close helmet was one of the earliest designed to turn on the collar to prevent neck injuries from heavy blows but still allow some peripheral vision.

English, 1520.

Museum Accession No. II.6



Lyle Bacinet

The bacinet was the helmet most widely used by men-at-arms in battle in the late 14th and early 15th centuries, and was fitted with a visor when it replaced the great helm in the 1350s. This is one of the finest surviving examples of the 'hounskull' or 'pig-faced' bacinet, so called because of the protruding snout.

North Italian, late 14th century.

Bequeathed by Sir Archibald Lyle, in memory of his sons Captain I A de H Lyle, killed at El Alamein, October 1942, and Major R A Lyle, killed in Normandy, June 1944; originally from Churburg.

Height as mounted 490 mm (19.3 in)

Museum Accession No. iv.470



English Close Helmet

Close helmets formed part of the three-quarter armour worn by heavy cavalry or cuirassiers. A few such regiments were still active at the outbreak of the English Civil Wars. This rare example was made by an unidentified member of the London Armourers Company, whose guild mark, the crowned A, is stamped on the front gorget plate.

English, about 1630, Tower arsenal.

Museum Accession No. iv.1026



English Civil War Cavalry Helmet

English cavalry pots were characteristically fitted with a triple bar face guard, while their Continental counterparts had adjustable nasal bars. This one bears the makers' marks of the London armourers Rafe Boulter and Sylvester Keene, whose partnership broke up in 1648. Few such helmets retain their original cheekpieces; this has modern replacements.

English, about 1645, Tower arsenal.

Height 330 mm (13.0 in)

Museum Accession No. iv.547



English Great Helm

This is one of only three surviving English great helms for war and one of the last generation of such helms, which ceased to be worn in battle after the 1350s. Another, the Black Prince's helm preserved at Canterbury Cathedral, still has its papier-mâché crest in the form of a hat surmounted by a lion.

English, mid 14th century.

Purchased in 1976 with the aid of the Art Fund.

Height 356 mm (14.0 in)

Depth 306 mm (12.0 in),

Width 226 mm (8.9 in)

Museum Accession No. iv.600







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