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| **Saracen Scimitar**  **12th Century**  **Holy Land**  Typical of Saracen blades used against the crusaders, a lethal slashing weapon. The deep curving blade would slice into an opponent without lodging in the bone. |  |
| **Thrusting Spear**  **Time Immemorial-Present**  **Around the World**  Despite the reverence given the sword, the spear has been the weapon of choice for many warriors since man first picked up a pointed stick. Spears were designed as throwing weapons, ultra-long pikes, or thrusting weapons. This particular piece is a thrusting spear, featuring a lugged spearhead (dating to 1000 A.D.) and a pointed steel butt-cap. The pointed butt-cap added balance and effectively rendered the weapon as a double-headed spear. |  |
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| **Early Scottish Dirk**  **Scotland**  **13th-16th Centuries**  The Scottish Dirk was a direct descendent of the Medieval ballock dagger. The grip form began to change, probably sometime in the late 16th century, but soon developed a form that was purely Scottish. The later versions that are quite popular are somewhat debased in form, and not the pure fighting weapon of the early version. And make no mistake about it, this dirk was a pure fighting knife, and unabashedly so. The blade was long and single-edged. Made to use alone, with a shield and sword, or just with a basket-hilt claymore. |  |
| **Scottish Damascus Dirk**  **Scotland**  **18th Century**  The Scottish Dirk was a direct descendent of the Medieval ballock dagger. This particular example is forged of modern Damascus steel. Although known in the Highlands in the 18th century, true Damascus steel was rare and precious. The Scots considered the dirk (*Biodag* in Gaelic) to be sacred and would swear unbreakable oaths on the iron of the dirk. The dirk represents the soul of the highlander. The blade was long and single-edged. Made to use alone, with a shield and sword, or just with a basket-hilt claymore. Modern dirks are often decorative and ceremonial, but this was a true fighting weapon. The back of the blade allowed the dirk to be used as a parrying weapon. But the leading edge was meant to kill. Notice the single blood groove down the blade. This was designed to break the suction created when the dirk is thrust into an opponent’s belly. |  |
| **Sgian Dubh**  **Scotland**  **12th Century-Present**  The Sgian Dubh is a Scottish tradition and is probably as well known, if not better, than the Claymore. The original Sgian Dubhs were frequently worn under the shirt close to the armpit, and were considered knives of last resort. A hidden reserve to be brought forth only when the swords and pikes had failed (later, guns took the place of pikes). Now it is traditional for the Sgian Dubh to be worn in the stocking of the highlander, and the knife is frequently called a ""stocking dirk"". The term ""Sgian Dubh"" itself actually means black handled knife. This Sgian Dubh has a traditional black wooden handle that is carved on one side, smooth on the other. Embossed nickel silver fittings feature a thistle motif. |  |
| Medieval Scottish Armor **Scotland**  **11th - 16th Century**  Comprised of **gambeson**, **arming cap**, **mail coif**, **mail hauberk**, **mail leggings**, **mail gauntlets**, and **great helm**, weighs approximately 93 lbs. |  |
| **Scottish Burgeonette**  **Scotland**  **16th Century**  Popular throughout the 16th century, the lightweight burgonet protected the head, cheeks, and neck, while allowing excellent vision and plenty of oxygen. This particular example was used largely by the Scots, whose enemies used the term "Steel Bonnet" when referring to the highland raiders. The original appears to be of German manufacture. Constructed of 18-gauge steel. Original is in a private collection. |  |
| **Sugar Loaf Great Helm**  **Europe**  **13th Century**  The rounded shape of the Sugar Loaf Helm caused sword blows to skate off the top, so that the knight had to absorb less of the force of the blow. This was a distinct improvement over the flat-topped great helms of the day. This style was the principal helm for the armored knight for many years. |  |
| **Mail Coif, Hauberk, Gauntlets, and Leggings**  **300 B.C. – 19th Century**  **Europe and Asia**  From the Celts of 300 B.C. to 19th Century Asia, mail was one of the most prized items a warrior could own. The “Foe of Swords” probably derived the name “mail” from the Latin “macula” meaning net. Made from mild steel similar to the originals; because of the large surface area to volume of each link, this armor was highly susceptible to rust. In fact, most mail was allowed to darken and then was oiled. This mail is made from galvanized steel to protect it from rust. Links are combined in the historical pattern common to all European mail: four links through a fifth. Greater protection was afforded to the warrior by wearing padded clothing beneath the mail. The padded headpiece is an **arming cap** and the padded shirt is a **gambeson**. |  |
| **Brigandine**  **Scotland**  **15th-17th Centuries**  Even with a gambeson and a mail shirt, a fighter was not as well protected as a warrior with plate armor. However, plate armor could be expensive and require great skill to repair. The brigandine filled this gap very well. This suede leather garment has small steel plates riveted onto a leather vest or harness. This kind of construction made it easy for a soldier to make and repair his own armor without having the high skill of an armorer. Lighter than plate armor, it is very flexible and does not restrict movement. Commonly worn over a gambeson and mail shirt, it was not long before this form of protection was in wide use with fighters from knight to archer. This particular brigandine is modeled after a Scottish design. The disks are hand-hammered. |  |
| **Mail Gauntlets**  **Europe**  **14th-17th Centuries**  To protect the back of the hand, mail was added to the back of leather gauntlets and also placed slightly cupped steel lames all around the cuff. These gauntlets offer good protection to the hand, wrist and lower arm from a sword slash or draw cut. |  |
| Scottish Fighting Targe **Scotland**  **12th-18th Century**  Used by the wild clansmen of Scotland, this shield was still in use in 1745 when it gave the Redcoats real trouble during Bonnie Prince Charlie's Rebellion. When the Redcoats lunged with the bayonet, the Scots would catch it on the Targe, and then slash with the sword. The 7 inch long, removable steel spike has a square cross section like the old ones and screws into a grommet for use as a weapon. The square cross section left a gaping wound that would not close easily. The Scots did not favor metal rims. The absence of a metal rim allowed the opponent’s weapon to become stuck in the edge, effectively disarming the opponent momentarily. |  |
| Viking Shield **Scandinavia**  **Middle Ages**  Used by the Viking raiders. Alternating layers of hardwood gave the shield greater strength. A flat shield deflected force outward far better than a curved shield. The metal rim protected the shield from breaking. The steel boss in the center protected the hand. These large shields could be raised and overlapped to create an effective shield wall to guard against archery attack. |  |
| **English Sword Rapier**  **England**  **16th Century**  Desiring the fashionable hilts of the rapiers of Europe, but not wanting to give up the heft and power of a military sword, the sword rapier or transitional rapier was developed by the English. The result is a sword with poor balance. |  |
| **Swept-Hilt Rapier**  **Europe**  **16th-18th Centuries**  The swept hilt rapier was the civilian weapon of choice for close to 200 years, from the early 16th century to the early 18th. Nine bars swirl and curve to make the cage that protects the hand from being cut. Also, the Swept-Hilt often caught an opponent's blade, opening him up to a fatal stab. |  |
| **Scottish Medieval Sword**  **Scotland**  **13th-15th Century**  Few weapons are as rich in history as this exclusively Scots forerunner of the legendary Claymore two-handers. This is the sword on the seal of King John (Baliol) from 1292. The most famous documentations of this sword is its presence in stone, carved on the grave marker of Robert of Greenlaw, killed in battle in 1411. A handful of these swords were found in Ireland, left there by the mercenary Scottish Gallowglass. Though most surviving examples date from 1350-1450, King John’s seal shows that it likely originated circa 1250. |  |
| **Scottish Two-Handed Claymore**  **Scotland**  **13th – 17th Centuries**  Used in the constant clan warfare and border fights with the English. Widely feared because its lightness made it faster in combat than its European counterparts. Early Scottish Medieval Swords developed a distinctive style of cross-hilt with down sloping arms that ended in spatulate swellings (representing heather). The two-hand claymore seems to be an offshoot of those swords as they were developed into great swords. In the 17th century, the Scottish crown outlawed this type of sword in an effort to limit the power of the clan chiefs. The original sword reportedly dates to the 13th century. The blade can be wielded one-handed. The leather-wrapped ricasso allows the bearer to cinch up and wield the blade in close combat. |  |
| **Culloden Basket-Hilt Claymore**  **Scotland**  **1745**  Never has there been a sword so strongly identified with a people as the Claymore with the Scots. From the early years of the 17th Century until today, the basket-hilted Claymore has been the symbol of the warrior race of Scotland. The basket protects the hand. The blade is superbly balanced. The original sword was fashioned in the 1730’s and was used at the battle of Culloden. |  |
| **Heron-Mark Blade**  **The Wheel of Time**  **Fantasy**  In the old days, the Heron Mark Swords were fashioned by blending metals to make a blade that need never be sharpened nor could it be broken. But today, the Heron Mark is a sign that the sword was made by a blademaster. Such swords are awarded only to those who have proven that they have the highest possible skill with a sword. This is the only licensed Heron Mark sword as approved by Robert Jordan, author of The Wheel of Time. |  |
| **Union Infantry Officer’s Saber**  **Mid 19th – 20th Centuries**  **United States of America**  This is the sword carried by most U.S. infantry officers in the U.S. Civil War. A saber is, by definition, primarily a slashing weapon, but with the shallow curve, it can be used as a thrusting weapon as well. Similar designs are in use today as ceremonial weapons. |  |
| **Blackened Scottish Schiavona**  **Circa 1630-1650**  **Scotland and throughout Europe**  The Schiavona is one of the most beautiful of all the basket-hilt swords. Originally used by the Slavic Mercenaries hired by the Doge of Venice, the Schiavona proved to be such an effective and attractive sword that it was soon in use all throughout Europe. In Drummond's famous book, "Ancient Scottish Weapons", there are several Schiavonas, many of which are of this style. This sword has a steel basket and the traditional brass catshead pommel. Both basket and blade are blued. The single-edged blade is well balanced and well tempered. The Schiavona, like its contemporary, the Claymore, was a cut and thrust sword, and although used alone, frequently a light buckler or target was also employed. |  |
| **Gurkha Kukri**  **Nepal and throughout world.**  **4th Century B.C.-Present**  Traditional weapon and tool of Nepal. Used with devastating effectiveness by the famous Gurkhas of Nepal in the Siege of Delhi in 1857, in the trenches of WWI France, throughout the New Guinea jungle in WWII, and with distinction in the Falkland Islands. Can decapitate an opponent with a single stroke. It is also used to clear brush and as a general chopping tool. Two smaller utility knives traditionally accompany this weapon. |  |
| **Maintz Roman Gladius**  **The Roman World.**  **2th Century B.C.-5th Century A.D.**  The Roman Army's approach to warfare was direct and pragmatic. It chose the Gladius as its principal sidearm because it was practical and efficient and excelled in any close combat situation. The early Gladius was wasp waisted with a long point (the “Maintz” pattern) that combined cutting power and stabbing ability in one handy weapon. The later version was not waisted and had a shorter point but was just as effective and easier to make. This is the sword that conquered most of the known world. Circa 100. Original was excavated from the ruins of Pompeii. |  |
| Crusader’s Axe **England**  **1150**  The axe is one of man's oldest implements. Axes of stone, bronze, iron and finally steel were used as both tool and weapon. During the Crusades particularly, the axe was a favorite weapon. Richard the Lion Heart favored it, as did many men-at-arms, knights and peasants. Except for the large Danish axe, the full-fledged battle-axe had yet to appear. Most axes were used both to hew the limbs of trees as well as the limbs of men. |  |
| **Breast and Back Plate** **13th-16th Centuries**  **Europe**  **The wearing of Breast Plate has been an effective means of protection in combat and war for centuries. Its use dates back to the Greeks and early Roman empire where warriors and legionnaires donned metal plate.** |  |
| **Roman Centurion’s Armor** **Circa 100 A.D.**  **Roman Empire**  **The armor of the Roman centurion consisted of the Galea (helm), Lorica Segmentata (breastplate), Cingulum Militare (belt), and Caligae (boots).** |  |
| **Roman Greaves** **Circa 100 A.D.**  **Roman Empire**  **Ocreas (greaves) are designed to protect the lower leg from the cut of a sword or the vicious kicking that occurred during battle. Although worn by many Roman units, greaves were not worn by all.** |  |
| KatanaJapan **18th Century**  This sword is made using the techniques of the sword makers of Old Japan. The steel is folded, forged and refolded many times to produce a blade of superb toughness and beauty. It is then differentially tempered, after being covered in clay with the clay being scraped off the leading edge, to produce an edge of extreme hardness, while maintaining a blade tough enough to stand the shock of combat without bending or breaking. Light, but strong, in ancient times the blades were tested by lining up condemned men and seeing how many necks could be cut through in a single stroke. A fine blade could hew through 5 or 6 necks in a single stroke. |  |
| Naval/Pirate CutlassThe Seven Seas **17th-19th Centuries**  Naval cutlass of the type used by England in the 17th & 18th centuries. Made most famous by the pirates of the same age. This design was still in use during the U.S. Civil War. Designed for combat in the close quarters of a ship, the cutlass was typically short and slightly curved with a large hand guard or basket. |  |
| Flanged MaceEngland **12th-14th Century**  The club is no doubt the oldest weapon, and the mace its most high-minded variation. Always a symbol of power and authority, its great advantages are simplicity and durability. It was never required to be sharpened, and was very effective against plate or mail armor. The flanged version was in use by at least the later part of the 11th century. Because of its long handle, this mace- the original of which was recovered from the River Thames in London was highly suitable for combat from horseback. The flanges provided an excellent weapon that was light, quick, and yet could deliver a crushing blow. Believed to date from the early 14th century, but of a style that was in use about 200 years earlier. |  |
| War HammerEngland **16th Century**  With the increasing sturdiness of plate armor, the sword became less and less effective against a fully armored knight. Hammers, axes and maces soon became the weapon of choice for hand-to-hand combat of the mounted knight. The war hammer quickly evolved and became one of the premier weapons. Generally it was lighter and faster than the mace. Often it was made somewhat longer, so that the reach could be extended, but it could be shortened as well if need be. The original from about 1530 AD. |  |
| Early Bronze Era Copper SwordBritainCirca 1100 B.C. The earliest examples of metal swords originated in the pre-Grecian cultures dating before the Bronze Age. The first metal used in the making of sword blades was copper, the predecessor of bronze, and its use can be followed through the ages of Troy and Rome. Blades were cast with the tang or the entire handle as a single piece. This particular sword has a fullered blade to make it lighter and stronger. The softness of copper and the weight of the sword made longer copper swords impractical. Although longer specimens do exist, they were made primarily for ceremonial purposes. |  |
| Spiked FlailEurope **13th – 15th Centuries**  The military flail started out as a variant of the normal agricultural flail. The term "flail" was given first to a farming implement used to separate wheat from chaff. This was normally a block of wood attached to a handle with either leather or rope. It was probably farmers called up for military service or peasant rebels who discovered its usefulness as a weapon. A few added spikes made the flail even more dangerous. Although an imprecise weapon and difficult to control, the flail doesn't transfer vibrations from the impact to the wielder and is difficult to block with a shield or parry with a weapon, because it can curve over and round impediments such as shield or weapons and still strike the target. The flail needed space to swing and could easily endanger the wielder's comrades. |  |
| Late Roman PlumbataRoman Empire **3th – 6th Centuries**  Plumbatae or mattiobarbuli (“little barbs of Mars”) were lead-weighted darts carried by late Roman infantry from the late 3rd century onwards, although earlier versions were in use centuries before. Plumbatae were carried behind a legionary’s shield in groups of five. They could be hurled for great distances with devastating effect. Seeing an actual Roman dart gives a whole new meaning to St. Paul’s “fiery darts of the wicked”. |  |
| **Atgeir (Hewing Spear)**  **Middle Ages**  **Scandinavia**  An atgeir, sometimes called a "mail-piercer" or "hewing-spear," was a type of polearm in use in Viking Age Scandinavia and Norse colonies in the British Isles and Iceland. This weapon provides a greater reach than a sword and could deliver a more forceful blow. This particular piece features a pointed steel butt-cap. The pointed butt-cap added balance and effectively rendered the weapon as a double-headed spear. |  |
| **Throwing Spear**  **Time Immemorial-Present**  **Around the World**  Despite the reverence given the sword, the spear has been the weapon of choice for many warriors since man first picked up a pointed stick. Spears were designed as throwing weapons, ultra-long pikes, or thrusting weapons. This particular piece is a throwing spear, featuring a smaller spearhead and a blunt-ended steel butt-cap. The butt-cap added balance, protected the shaft from moisture and breakage, and made the butt a bludgeoning weapon. |  |
| **Sword-Breaker**  **Middle Ages-Renaissance**  **Europe**  The sword-breaker was a very sturdy dagger that had slots on one side much like the teeth of a comb. The teeth could catch the blade of the opponent's sword and hold it fast, allowing a variety of follow-up techniques. It is uncertain whether "sword breakers" could, in fact, break sword blades, but with a good twist, you could disarm your opponent. |  |
| Halberd **14th-15th Centuries**  **Europe**  A halberd (also called halbert or Swiss voulge) is a two-handed pole weapon that came to prominent use during the 14th and 15th centuries. Possibly the word halberd comes from the German words Halm (staff), and Barte (axe). The halberd consists of an axe blade topped with a spike mounted on a long shaft. It always has a hook or thorn on the back side of the axe blade for grappling mounted combatants. It is very similar to certain forms of the voulge in design and usage. The halberd was 1.5 to 1.8 metres (5 to 6 feet) long. The halberd was cheap to produce and very versatile in battle. As the halberd was eventually refined, its point was more fully developed to allow it to better deal with spears and pikes (also able to push back approaching horsemen), as was the hook opposite the axe head, which could be used to pull horsemen to the ground. Additionally, halberds were reinforced with metal rims over the shaft, thus making effective weapons for blocking other weapons like swords. This capability increased its effectiveness in battle, and expert halberdiers were as deadly as any other weapon masters. It is said that a halberd in the hands of a Swiss peasant was the weapon that killed the Duke of Burgundy, Charles the Bold, decisively ending the Burgundian Wars, literally in a single stroke. |  |
| **Roman Galea (helm)**  **1st Century BC – Early 2nd Century AD**  **Roman Empire**  *Galea* is Latin for “helmet.” In the first century, Roman helmets appear to have varied widely in style, although the “Imperial Gallic” style of *galea* was the most common type used in the latter half of the first century A.D. These helmets were constructed of iron and trimmed with brass, or of bronze. In some cases, they were covered with gold. They were often custom made for the legionnaire, although some were mass-produced. The *galea* was round, with cheek guards on the side, and a neck guard on the back. It had a “brow ridge” on the front. This ridge guarded the face against attacks from above, while keeping the face open. This allowed the Roman soldier an unrestricted field of view and plenty of oxygen. The ears were also left open but protected by ear guards. This design allowed the legionnaire to hear the orders of his commander in the chaos of combat. A crest of dyed horse hair on the top of the *galea* indicated military rank. The *optio* wore his crest longitudinally (i.e., running from front to back). A *centurion* wore his crest transversely (i.e., running from side to side). The rank-and-file legionnaire wore no crest, although many *galea* were equipped with crest holders, because any legionnaire might be chosen as an *optio*. |  |
| Bronze Age Celtic SwordBritainCirca 1000 B.C. This bronze sword is a beautiful example of pre-iron age Celtic weaponry. The blade is cast in solid bronze with the bronze hilt built around the tang and secured with copper rivets. Blades were cast with the tang or the entire handle as a single piece and not sharpened after casting. Although longer specimens do exist, they were made primarily for ceremonial purposes. This short sword would have been used primarily as a thrusting weapon, although it would have been effective as a slashing weapon. |  |
| Viking Dragon Axe **Norway**  **8th-10th Centuries**  The Nordic warrior held his weapon in great reverence and often lavished them with elaborate decorations. This piece displays a Viking dragon knot-work motif. This weapon is designed for one-handed combat in conjunction with a shield. A Viking's equipment consisted of sword, sax, axe, spear and round shield, the quality of which indicated a warrior's social status. |  |
| German SwordGermany14th CenturyThis hand-forged sword has excellent balance, making it very easy to wield. This is a beautiful example of the sword-smith’s art. |  |
| |  | | --- | |  | | HangerEngland-U.S.A.17th-19th CenturiesShort saber used by woodsmen, soldiers, sailors, and pirates. Called a “hanger” because it was worn hanging straight down from the belt. It was short enough to hang down and not get tangled in the legs. This particular specimen is a replica of the hanger carried by Lt. General Joseph Smith, commander of the Nauvoo Legion 1840-1844. | |  |
| Seax **Northern Europe**  **Circa 750 A.D.**  The seax, or sax, was universal in Northern Europe. Carried and used by the Saxons, Angles, Vikings and German tribes, its use probably dated before the fall of Rome and continued on into the early Middle Ages. From small knives with 3-4 inch blades to actual swords with blades of 27-28 inches and always single-edged, the profile of the seax varied a great deal. The original version of this large knife served from camp work to cutting work, on shipboard, and for fighting if a sword or axe was not available. The remnants of the original Seax can be seen in the British Museum. |  |
| |  | | --- | | Square Pilum **Roman Empire**  **Circa 100 A.D.**  This was the principal weapon of the Roman legionnaire, well designed to destroy the ability of the opponent's shield defense. The short head could easily penetrate a wooden shield, and the long neck prevented the head from being cut off. Thus encumbered, the shield was rendered useless, leaving the opponent unprotected. Made of mild steel, the pilum would easily bend, preventing it from being thrown back (when the heat of the battle had subsided, it could be retrieved and straightened). This replica is of a late version that is slightly weighted to aid penetration, common about 100 A.D. | |  |
| |  | | --- | | Scutum **Roman Empire**  **Circa 50 – 100 A.D.**  Large wooden shield covered in leather (or linen). The oval design was used by cavalry units as well as infantry. | |  |
| German Bastard Sword **Europe**  **Circa 1510 A.D.** This sword is a replica of number A477 from the famed Wallace Collection. Primarily a cutting sword, with a wide blade that has a flattened oval cross section that gives very little resistance in a cutting blow. A perfect example of a true bastard sword. The proportions of the sword are that of a one handed sword, but with a slightly longer grip and a pommel shape that will allow two hands to be used. Called a “bastard” because it had no direct ancestor; it was created “out of whole cloth” by German sward smiths in the 16th century. |  |
| Pugio **Roman Empire**  **Circa 100 A.D.** The distinct shape of the Pugio blade was excellent for a close quarters fight, and was used throughout the legions. Although swords and knives were generally not worn by civilians within the boundaries of the "Pax Romana", barbarians and bandits were certainly to be found in the outlands, and a merchant or trader best go armed. No doubt many an old legionnaire must have found it easier to keep his balance with the familiar weight on his hip as he worked his farm in new-won territory. |  |
| Falchion **Europe**  **Circa 1250-1300 A.D.** Although its prevalence in medieval art testifies to its popularity, very few original falchions still exist. This rarity of surviving specimens may be more proof of its popularity; most of the falchions were used up in battle! While the double-edged sword gets most of the press, the single-edged falchion was favored by a great many knights and men at arms. The wide cutting blade was quite effective against mail (although armor was being improved by the addition of plates, only the very wealthy could afford it). Although the falchion was intended primarily to be a cutting weapon, the development of the point was not ignored. |  |
| Falcata **Iberia (Spain, Portugal)**  **Circa 200 B.C.**  The Celt-Iberians of Roman times were justly famed for their weapons, such as the Falcata; one of the most devastating swords ever made! The inward curving blade delivered a tremendous blow and could split both shield and helmet. Although the Greeks developed a similar weapon (kopis), one weapon is not derived from the other. |  |
| Roman Spatha **Brittania**  **5th Century A.D.**  The spatha was straight and long sword used by Roman heavy infantry and cavalry. The Feltwell Spatha was unlikely to have been made in Britain and instead probably came from the continent and was of Roman origin, though very similar swords could be found in the hands of the Germanic tribesmen outside the boundaries of the Western Roman Empire. This Spatha is suitable as a sword that could be representative of many Spatha in the late 4th to 5th century. |  |
| Lorica Segmentata **Roman Empire**  **Circa 100 A.D.**  The *lorica segmentata* was a type of laminated or laminar armor composed of metal strips fashioned into overlapping bands. It was constructed of metallic strips connected by internal leather straps. The plates were soft iron on the inside and mild steel on the outside. This type of construction hardened the plates against damage without making them brittle. The girth strips were arranged around the body, overlapping downward. They surrounded the body in two halves, laced together in the front and in the back. The upper body and shoulders were protected by segmented plates that went over the shoulders. The *lorica segmentata* was very flexible and allowed the legionnaire great freedom of movement, while providing substantial protection. The armor could be separated into four collapsible parts for compact storage. Weighing in at under 20 lbs., the *lorica segmentata* was much lighter than the *lorica hamata* and the bronze or gold-plated *lorica musculata*. |  |
| Cingulum Militare **Roman Empire**  **Circa 100 A.D.**  The only part of the uniform that could be personalized was the *cingulum militare* (military belt). This item was a simple leather belt worn about the waist of the tunic. A variable number of leather strips (usually five) hung from the belt in front of the groin area. The *cingulum militare* was often the only means of distinguishing one fully armored soldier from another. Even when the legionnaire was not in armor, he usually wore his *cingulum militare*. |  |
| Caligae **Roman Empire**  **Circa 100 A.D.**  The *caligae* were the military footwear worn by both the Roman legionnaire and the Roman auxiliary soldier. While the *caligae* resemble modern sandals, they were actually marching boots. (In ancient Rome, sandals were considered indoor footwear and were never worn outside.) A *caliga* had a hard leather sole, studded with iron hobnails. The nails provided reinforcement for the sole and traction. The top of the boot was open to allow the free passage of air. This open design helped to prevent disabling foot conditions such as blisters, tinea (a.k.a. “ringworm”), and trench foot. The *caligae* were worn without socks unless the army was operating in a colder climate (such as in Britain). The Roman infantry was the most mobile force of foot soldiers in the ancient world, due in large part to the *caligae*. |  |
| German War HammerEurope **Circa 1320 A.D.**  The proliferation of plate armor across Medieval Europe was shadowed by the development of crushing weapons like this war hammer. Since swords were virtually useless against plate armor, mounted knights used short hammers, axes and maces to defeat an opponent's improved protection. This beautiful, impressive weapon is replicated from an example in the German National Museum in Nuremberg. Steel head is secured to the hardwood shaft with steel langets. |  |
| Hewing SpearheadScotland15th Century A hewing spear was used to hack at the enemy. This weapon provides a greater reach than a sword and could deliver a more forceful blow. This particular specimen was found near Edinburg, Scotland and dates to the 15th century. |  |
| Russian KindjalRussian Empire18th - mid 20th CenturiesThis military issue version of the kindjal served Russian armed forces well into the mid-20th century. This curved, double-edge blade was perfect as a close combat weapon. It originated in the Georgian Republic of Russia, but was best known as a Cossack weapon. The kindjal is descended from the Roman gladius. |  |
| Bosworth Longsword **England**  **15th Century**  The longsword was a central weapon of the The Company of Maisters of the Science of Defence and an indispensable part of the chivalric art of arms from the 12th through the 17th centuries. With a long, semi-tapered diamond cross-section fitted to a round ergonomic pommel on a double-handed grip, this is a fine example of the perfection that was achieved in this popular design. Against any opposing arms or armor it was capable of quick deadly cuts as well as accurate and forceful thrusts. Aptly named for the bloody late 15th-century battle during the War of the Roses, the Bosworth is a fast and capable warsword adeptly able to execute the deadly “Mastercut” techniques so closely associated with double-handed blades of the period. |  |
| Orleans Battle Axe **Europe**  **15th Century**  Axe used at the Siege of Orleans, 1428-1429. Very typical of battle axes used in the 14th-15th centuries. The haft is reinforced with steel to prevent breakage. Could be wielded either with one hand or two, making it ideal for mounted combat. |  |
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| Bar Mace **Europe**  **Circa 1300 A.D.**  The remains of a mace of this type were found in the River Thames, but they were in use all across Europe. Little finesse was needed for this brutal mace, and a warrior strong enough to wield it could crush helms and break swords with the heavy blows it could deliver. Made from four bars of steel with a wood and leather grip and a large steel pommel to help balance it, this is indeed an awesome weapon. |  |
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| Iron Age Celtic Dagger **Brittania**  **Circa 700 B.C.**  This wicked dagger was used with effectiveness in battle as well as around the camp. |  |
| **Steel Stiletto**  **Europe**  **Circa 1400-1700**  Stilettos were light, easy to carry and often worn like jewelry by both men and women. In use throughout the European Renaissance, they were common at the feast table. It has been said that the stiletto was the favorite tool of assassins due to its size, weight and the ease with which it could be thrust through the layers of the heavy fabrics of the era. Our version has a triangular shaped blade which is deeply fullered on all three sides and comes to a very keen point. |  |
| **Macuahuitl**  **Meso-America**  **Early Book of Mormon period through 1570 A.D.**  A wooden sword with obsidian blades. Its sides are embedded with prismatic blades traditionally made from obsidian, famous for producing an edge far sharper than even high quality steel razor blades. The weapon was used by many different civilizations in Mesoamerica including the Aztec (Mexicas), Mayan, Mixtec and Purépecha. The macuahuitl was the standard close combat weapon together with the Tepoztli and the long range spear thrower Atlatl. This weapon was used also during the campaigns of the Spaniards in Mexico by their Tlaxcalan allies. |  |
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| **Medieval Crossbow**  **Europe**  **11th – 17th Centuries**  European medieval giant crossbows saved many a Castle from siege. Crossbows were originally brought to England by the Normans in 1066. They were used for hunting and warfare and employed throughout England through the time of Queen Elizabeth. |  |

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| **Buckler**  **Europe**  **11th – 17th Centuries**  This small shield was useful in hand-to-hand combat during the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Its size made it poor protection against missile weapons like arrows and spears but useful in deflecting the blow of an opponent’s weapons, binding his arms or hindering his movements. | https://acc-cdn.azureedge.net/mrl-live-media-file/w_1_0005028_soldiers-buckler.jpeg |
| **Heater Shield**  **Europe**  **12th – 14th Centuries**  The heater shield or heater-shaped shield is a form of European medieval shield, developing from the early medieval kite shield in the late 12th century as depicted in the great seal of Richard I and John. The term is a neologism, created by Victorian antiquarians due to the shape's resemblance to a clothes iron.  Smaller than the kite shield, it was more manageable and could be used either mounted or on foot. Heater shields often featured a strap, called a guige, for the shield to be slung over the back when not in use.  The heater shield was used by almost every class of society in medieval Europe, from knights to typical soldiers. It was relatively lightweight and inexpensive to make compared to other similar shields at the time such as the kite shield, being easy to move around during both mounted and on-foot combat, and had a fairly high amount of surface area, making for a solid defense, although it left the legs exposed. | https://acc-cdn.azureedge.net/mrl-live-media-file/w_1_0000013_crusader-wooden-shield.jpeg |
| **Close Helm**  **Europe**  **15th – 17th Centuries**  The close helmet or close helm was a military helmet worn by knights and other men-at-arms in the Late Medieval and Renaissance eras. It was also used by some heavily armoured, pistol-armed, cuirassiers into the mid-17th century. It was a fully enclosing helmet with a pivoting visor and integral bevor. The close helmet was used on the field of battle, but was also popular for use in tournaments. | http://kultofathena.com/images/SNH2213PL16_l.jpg |
| **German Longsword**  **Europe**  **15th Century**  The longsword was a central weapon of the The Company of Maisters of the Science of Defence and an indispensable part of the chivalric art of arms from the 12th through the 17th centuries. With a long, semi-tapered diamond cross-section fitted to a double-handed grip, this is a fine example of the perfection that was achieved in this popular design. Against any opposing arms or armor it was capable of quick deadly cuts as well as accurate and forceful thrusts. This 15th century German version is longer and heavier than the English version. | [Lockwood Swords - Type XIIA Longsword](http://kultofathena.com/images/SL1012_l.jpg) |
| **Bowie Knife**  **USA**  **19th and 20th Centuries**  The original Bowie knife is a fixed-blade fighting knife created by James Black in the early 19th century for Jim Bowie, who had become famous for his use of a large knife at a duel known as the Sandbar Fight. | Texas Bowie |
| **Templar Accolade Sword**  **13th Century**  **Europe and the Holy Land**  *Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis, Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam*  These iconic words engraved on the blade define this historic sword replica. The creed of the Knights Templar - *Nothing for us, Lord, nothing for us but for the glory of Thy name* - marked their illustrious 200-year military influence. Sometimes referred to as the Templar Thrusting Sword is the forerunner of the longsword. A single-handed weapon, wide at the base and narrowing toward the tip, this unique weapon is said to be capable (with a nearly perfect right-angle thrust) to pierce plate mail. The slightly curved crosspiece was more effective than a straight (cruciform) crosspiece at catching and trapping an opponent’s blade. A superb cut-and-thrust weapon. |  |
| **Templar Accolade Dagger**  **13th Century**  **Europe and the Holy Land**  The matching dagger for the Templar Accolade Sword. The slightly curved crosspiece was more effective than a straight (cruciform) crosspiece at catching and trapping an opponent’s blade. |  |
| **Viking Helm**  **8th through 11th Centuries**  **Scandinavia**  This helm is of the Gjermundbu type, excavated in 1943. This is **only** Viking helm found to date. We do not know why no other helms have been found. One theory is that, while Vikings were buried with their weapons, they expected to go to Valhalla and there fight and feast forever in Odin’s undead army. (And if you’re undead, who needs a helm?) Viking helms never had horns. |  |
| **Stiklestad Viking Sword**  **900 A.D.**  **Norway**  The Battle of Stiklestad was the final battle of St. Olaf. This was old school warfare, with two hosts meeting face-to-face and sword-to-sword. It was a brutal, bloody, and deadly fight, and in the end the mighty Olaf fell. Gaining a lot of fame for his exploits, he was eventually canonized as St. Olaf. The sword is a beautifully balanced and highly effective weapon, capable of both cutting and thrusting. |  |
| **Kettle Helm**  **12th -15th centuries**  **Europe**  A kettle hat, also known as a war hat, is a type of helmet made of iron or steel in the shape of a brimmed hat. There are many design variations. The only common element is a wide brim that afforded extra protection to the wearer. This particular hat is 13th century. The kettle helm gained its common English language name from its resemblance to a metal cooking pot (the original meaning of kettle). The kettle hat was common all over Medieval Europe from the end of the 12th century through the 15th century. It was called *Eisenhut* in German and *chapel de fer* in French (both names mean "iron hat" in English). |  |
| **Viking Helm**  **8th through 11th Centuries**  **Scandinavia**  This helmet is rich with deeply embossed detail across and around the crown and on the nose guard. Raised traditional Celtic Dog designs embellish the hinged cheek plates.  Note that Vikings did not use horned helmets. |  |
| **Roman Iron Dagger**  **79 A.D.**  **Pompeii**  The original specimen was found in Pompeii. Iron is a heavy and brittle metal. Steel was a huge improvement over iron, but iron was much stronger than bronze. The particular dagger has an anthropomorphic handle in the shape of a gladiator and is one solid piece. |  |
| **Ulfberht Sword**  **9th century**  **Scandinavia**  An old legend has it that a Nordic smith named Ulfberht developed the first all-steel blade. This crucial development achieved near-mythical status among warriors, making this one of the most important swords in the study of medieval weapons. Prior to the Ulfberht swords, all European swords were of the pattern welded variety. Soft iron bars were welded together with strips of steel, forged into a blade shape, then a steel edge was welded onto the sword. But the Ulfberht sword was a quantum leap in both technology and design. Made not of strips, but good carbon steel blades with enough carbon content to produce excellent swords. The design of the sword was also an improvement. The blade tapered more sharply to the point than did previous blades. This put the balance of the sword closer to the hand, making a sword that was faster on both the stroke and recovery than previous blades. |  |
| **Crested Corinthian Helm**  **600 to 550 B.C.**  **Greece**  The Corinthian style helmet favored by ancient Greeks enjoyed a long period of use, from the early 7th to the 4th Century B.C. This helm is made of brass, with a horse-hair crest. It’s design allowed the wearer great vision, hearing, and plenty of oxygen. |  |
| **Egyptian Khopesh**  **3000 to 1300 B.C.**  **Egypt**  The Egyptian Khopesh first became popular around 3000 BC when Upper and Lower Egypt were first united under one Pharaoh. From then on it was an important weapon in the Egyptian foot soldier’s arsenal. Originally made of bronze and later iron, the Khopesh could be sharpened on either side or both. In this case, the edge is on the outside curve. The unusual shape of the blade is derived from an axe, making this a chopping weapon. |  |

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| **Durendal, Sword of Roland**  **8th Century A.D.**  **Holy Roman Empire**  Durendal, also spelled Durandal, is the sword of Roland, a legendary paladin and partially historical officer of Charlemagne in French epic literature. It is also said to have belonged to young Charlemagne at one point, and, passing through Saracen hands, came to be owned by Roland. The *flambard* (flame sword) looks impressive, but the wavy shape served no practical purpose and did not make the sword more or less effective. It might, however, have created a jarring sensation as it was draw along an opponent’s blade. The particular replica has a modern Damascus steel blade. | Flamberge Damascus Sword |

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| **Slavic War Hammer**  **9th – 10th Centuries A.D.**  **Central Europe**  This is Slavic Svarog hammer. It is a special symbol for blacksmiths as the God Svarozhich has the incredible power of natural fire. The hammer is made from hardened carbon steel. This is considered a small war hammer, which means the handle is shorter, but the head is much heavier. Weighs approximately 4.9 lbs. |  |