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Authenticity

Sabatons

Sabatons

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1. Definition and general requirements

1.1 Definition

- Sabatons is the terms used to describe all foot protections.

1.2 Sabatons description

Sabatons can be:

- Plate sabatons : Made of metal plates riveted together, it is the most effective and the most common foot protection over all middle ages.
- Brigand sabatons : Made of metal plates riveted to a leather base. This protection is not commonly represented in historical sources. The plates are covered by the leather.
- Scales sabatons : Made of small scales riveted upon a leather base. This protection is not commonly represented in historical sources.
- Chainmail sabatons : The protection of the foot is ensured by chainmail. This is the earliest foot protection documented by historical sources.
- Eastern sabatons : Due to very few historical sources, we allow eastern stylization of European sabatons. Allowed designs are displayed in the document "Eastern Armors".

1.3 General requirements

All types of sabatons must respect the following requirements :

- Be based on historical sources.
- Have an anatomical shape of the foot.
- Must reproduce the proportions based on historical sources.
- Any metal part of the sabatons must conform to the Armors and weapons Aesthetics and decorations document.
- Any textile or leather part of the sabatons must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

2. Plate sabatons

2.1 Historical sources and datation

- Plate sabatons are mainly represented from the mid 14th century to very late armors of 15th century.
- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional and 15th century armors.



A

A: Köln - 1375 - Germany

B: E. of Woodstock - 1376 - England

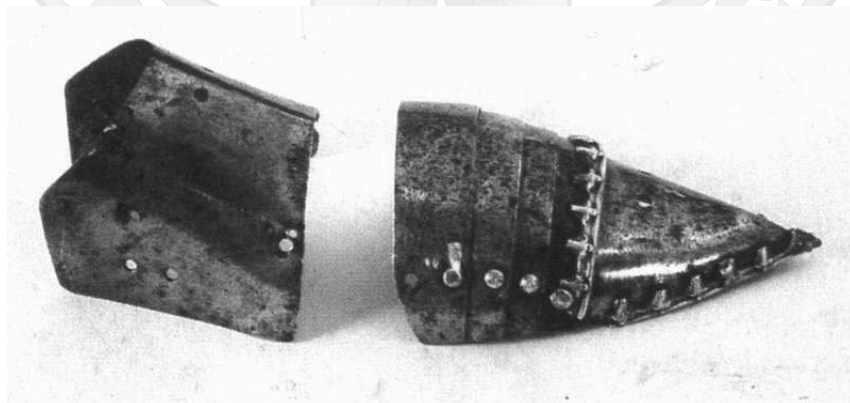
C: BL Sloane 2683 Book of Hours - 1390/1399 - Belgium

B

C

2.2 Specific requirements

- Plate sabatons must conform to the general requirements (1.3).
- Plate sabatons must have at least 5 segments



- It is allowed to add heel protection.



- Plate sabatons must have a pointed shape.



- Maximilian style armors of the 16th century can have a square shape.



2.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



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Picture from Age of Craft ©



3. Brigand sabatons

3.1 Historical sources and datation

- Brigand sabatons are not well represented in historical sources. They are displayed in sources from the middle of the 14th century.
- They are **approved** for 14th century armors.
- They are **denied** for Transitional and 15th century armors.



G. von Schwarzburg - 1349 - Germany

3.2 Specific requirements

- Brigand sabatons must conform to the general requirements (1.3).
- Brigand sabatons must be made of metal plates.
- The plates must be firmly-riveted to a leather base.
- The plates must be riveted from the inside of the leather base.

3.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



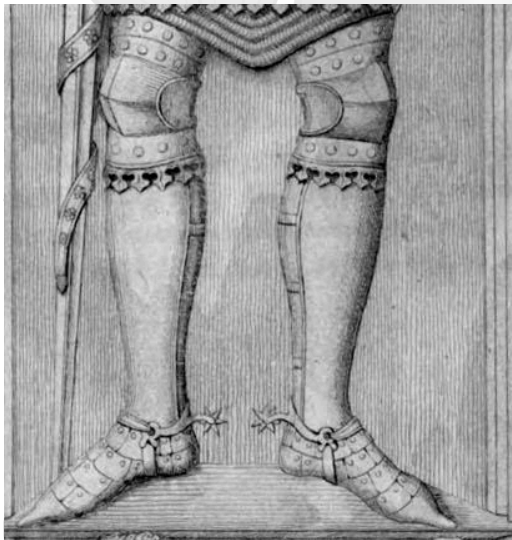
Picture from Medieval Extreme ©



4. Scale sabatons

4.1 Historical sources and datation

- Scales sabatons are not well represented in historical sources. They are displayed in sources from 1350 to 1395.
- They are **approved** for 14th century and Transitional armors.
- They are **denied** for 15th century armor.
- Their construction makes scale sabatons less protective than plate sabatons. Therefore, we do not recommend such sabatons in any category.



J. von Falkenstein- 1365 - Germany



Guda von Bellersheim - 1394 - Germany

4.2 Specific requirements

- Scales sabatons must conform to the general requirements (1.3).
- The scales can have a rectangular shape or a rounded shape.
- The scales must be firmly attached to the shoe with rivets or leather thread
- Scale sabatons must have a pointed shape.

4.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Picture from Medieval Extreme ©



5. Chainmail sabatons

5.1 Historical sources and datation

- Chainmail sabatons are the earliest foot protection. They were popular in the XIIIth and early 14th century, and were replaced by more protective sabatons around the middle of the 14th century. They are still in use in very rare cases during the 15th century.
- They are **approved** for 14th century armors and Transitional.
- They are **approved** for 15th century armors if documented by sources. We encourage you to send an email to the authenticity committee before purchasing such sabatons and armors.
- Their construction makes chainmail sabatons less protective than plate sabatons. Therefore, we do not recommend such sabatons in any category.



Pfarr- und Klosterkirche Sankt Lampert, Seeon-Seebruck, Bavaria - 1395 - Germany

5.2 Specific requirements

- Chainmail sabatons must conform to the general requirements (1.3).
- It is mandatory to use plate segments as the main protection, and use chainmail only for articulation purposes.
- It is strongly recommended to use plate sabatons as it is the best protection you can use for your foot.

5.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Picture from Medieval Extreme ©



6. Change log

Below, we will keep track of all the changes made over the lifetime of this document. This way, all our members can see how the documents are changing over time.

December-2024: -Add
Document has been created

