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Authenticity

Gauntlets

Authenticity rules - Gauntlets

Authenticity rules - Gauntlets	2
1. Definition and General Requirements	4
1.1. Gauntlets can be	4
2. General Requirements for All Types of Gauntlets	5
2.1. Historical Basis	5
2.2. Proportional Accuracy	5
2.3. Aesthetic Consistency	5
2.4. Component Proportions	5
2.5. Comprehensive Protection	5
2.6. Metal Components	5
2.7. Textile and Leather Components:	5
2.8. Decorative Elements	5
3. Scales gauntlets	6
3.1. Historical Sources and Datation	6
3.2. Specific requirements	6
3.3. Examples of Approved reproductions	7
3.4. Examples of Denied reproductions	7
4. Hourglass gauntlets	8
4.1. Historical sources and datation	8
4.2. Specific Requirements	10
4.3. Examples of Approved reproductions	10
4.4. Examples of Denied reproductions	11
5. Segmented mittens	12
5.1. Historical sources and datation	12
5.2. Specific Requirements	12
5.3. Examples of approved reproductions	13
5.4. Examples of denied reproductions	13
6. 3/4 gauntlets	14
6.1. Historical sources and datation	14
6.2. Specific Requirements	14
6.3. Examples of approved reproductions	15
6.4. Examples of denied reproductions	15

7. Milanese gauntlets	16
7.1. Historical sources and datation	16
7.2. Specific Requirements	16
7.3. Examples of approved reproductions	17
7.4. Examples of denied reproductions	17
8. Late 15th century gauntlets	18
8.1. Historical sources and datation	18
8.1.1. Bifurcated mittens	18
8.1.2. Locked gauntlets	18
8.2. Specific Requirements	19
8.3. Examples of approved reproductions	19
8.4. Examples of denied reproductions	19
9. Plate articulated mittens	20
9.1. Historical sources and datation	20
9.2. Specific Requirements	20
9.3. Examples of approved reproductions	21
9.4. Examples of denied reproductions	21
10. Under-shield gauntlets	22
10.1. Historical sources and datation	22
10.2. Specific Requirements	22
10.3. Examples of approved reproductions	22
10.4. Examples of denied reproductions	22
11. Buhurt-optimization locking systems	23
11.1. Historical sources and datation	23
11.2. Buhurt-optimization system can be	23
11.3. Specific Requirements	23
11.3.1. Weapon lock	23
11.3.2. Locked gauntlets	23
11.3.3. Gauntlet's safeguard	23
11.4. Examples of approved reproductions	24
11.5. Examples of denied reproductions	24
12. Other denied items	25
13. Change log	26

1. Definition and General Requirements

Gauntlets (a pair of) is the term used to describe all hand protections.

1.1. Definition

- **Scales gauntlets**
Gauntlets made of multiple metal scales.
- **Hourglass gauntlets**
Named after an hourglass due to its shape. They are the main gauntlets used during the 14th to the 16th century. Historically they have separated fingers.
- **Segmented mittens**
Gauntlets that appeared in the late 14th century. They are made of articulated plates. Historical sources are quite few and controversial.
- **3/4 gauntlets**
Gauntlets that appeared in the early 15th century. They combine strength and flexibility due to separated fingers.
- **Milaneses gauntlets**
Gauntlets that appeared in the mid 15th century. They are articulated and provide very good protection.
- **Late 15th century gauntlets**
Bifurcated mittens from the late 15th century. They follow the same shape as milanese or gothic-style mittens, but the fingers are separated in the middle.
- **Plate articulated mittens**
Gauntlets that appeared in the late 15th century. They are made of articulated plates.
- **Under-shield gauntlets**
Metal plates riveted to a fabric base. They are allowed as buhurt-optimization. They must be worn only with a shield.
- **Eastern gauntlets**
Due to very few historical sources, it is allowed to use eastern stylization of european gauntlets. Allowed designs are displayed in the document "Eastern Armors".

2. General Requirements for All Types of Gauntlets

2.1. Historical Basis

- All gauntlets must be based on historical sources.

2.2. Proportional Accuracy

- The proportions of the gauntlet must replicate those found in historical sources.

2.3. Aesthetic Consistency

- The overall aesthetic of the gauntlet must imitate that of historical sources.

2.4. Component Proportions

- Components must not be out of proportion in terms of length, size, or curve.
- Components must fit harmoniously with one another, and the gauntlet must function properly.

2.5. Comprehensive Protection

- Gauntlets must protect the entire hand, including the wrist, fingers, and nails.

2.6. Metal Components

- Any metal parts of the gauntlet must conform to the standards outlined in the **Armors and Weapons Aesthetics and Decorations** document.

2.7. Textile and Leather Components:

- Any textile or leather parts of the gauntlet must adhere to the standards outlined in the **Textiles and Leather** document.

2.8. Decorative Elements

- Gauntlets may be decorated in medieval styles, such as etching, engraving, plating, or gilding.
- Decoration must be consistent with historical sources and the overall armor style.

2.9. Prohibited Imagery:

- The use of modern and/or offensive imagery and slogans is strictly prohibited.

3. Scales gauntlets

3.1. Historical Sources and Datation

Scales gauntlets are made of several scales sewn or riveted to a base, made of fabric or leather.

- They are based on historical sources of the first half of the 14th century.
- They are **approved** for **14th century** and **Transitional armors**.
- They are **denied** for **15th century armors**.



•Historical References

A: BNF Français 2091 *Vita et Passio Beati Dionysii* - 1317 - France

B: Bodley 264 *Romance of Alexander* - 1338/1344 - England

3.2. Specific requirements

- 3.2.1. Scales gauntlets must conform to the general requirements (2).
- 3.2.2. Scales gauntlets must be made of square or rectangular metal plates.
- 3.2.3. Scales gauntlets must be made of
 - 5 rows of scales to protect the hand and the fingers
 - 3 rows of scales to protect the sleeve and the wrist
- 3.2.4. Scales gauntlets must have a pronounced curve at the wrist.

3.3. Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Pictures from Ficelle ©

3.4. Examples of **Denied** reproductions



Not enough scales

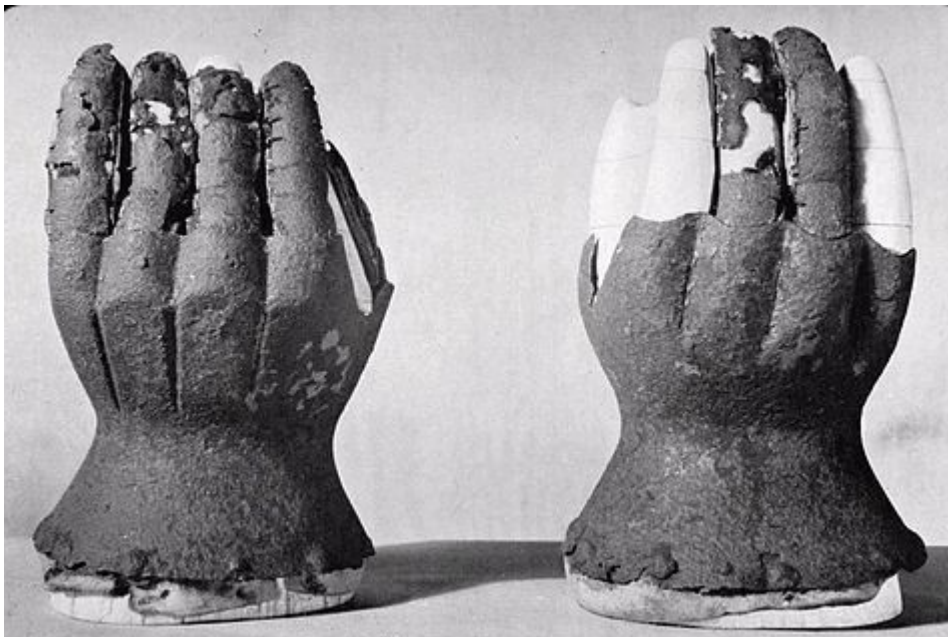
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4. Hourglass gauntlets

4.1. Historical sources and datation

Hourglass gauntlets appeared around the middle of the 14th century. They are still in use during the 15th century under different designs. They are made of a solid cuff, designed as an hourglass, and separated finger plates.

- For safety reasons, it is allowed to use a buhurt-optimization version of hourglass gauntlets, with non-separated finger plates (also called “Hourglass mittens”). This type of gauntlet must respect the style of historical hourglass gauntlets and be properly articulated.
- The historical gauntlets with separated fingers lack safety. They are no longer allowed in Buhurt International.
- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional and 15th century armors.



Gauntlets of Ripon Cathedral - 1380/1410 - England

4.2. Specific Requirements

- 4.2.1. Hourglass gauntlets must conform to the general requirements (2)
- 4.2.2. The design of the cuff must clearly present the correct hourglass shape.
- 4.2.3. Thumb protection
 - Must have anatomical shape.
 - Have to be articulated with at least 2 segments, or
 - Have to imitate the appearance of 2 segments-articulated thumb
- 4.2.4. Despite being 100% historical, separated-fingers gauntlets are **not allowed** due to lack of safety.

4.3. Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Picture from Medieval Extreme ©



Picture from Master Uley ©

4.4. Examples of **Denied** reproductions



Picture from Age of Craft ©



The leather part is not based on historical sources.

Picture from The Medieval Things ©

5. Segmented mittens

5.1. Historical sources and datation

Segmented mittens are based on controversial historical sources. One of them is a wooden statue decorating a fountain in Nuremberg (Germany). The actual statue is a reproduction of the original one. One of its hands is incomplete so it's not possible to evaluate the accuracy of this source.

- For **safety reasons**, it is allowed to use buhurt-optimized segmented mittens with alternative design. This type of gauntlets must respect the style of historical segmented mittens and be properly articulated.
- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional armors and 15th century armors.



Fountain of Nuremberg (Germany), the original is from the 14th century (left) but the reproduction is from the 20th century (right).

5.2. Specific Requirements

- 5.2.1. Segmented mittens must conform to the general requirements (1.3).
- 5.2.2. The design of the cuff must clearly present the correct hourglass shape.
- 5.2.3. Thumb protection:
 - Must have anatomical shape.
 - Have to be articulated with at least 2 segments, or
 - Have to imitate the appearance of 2 segments-articulated thumb

5.3. Examples of approved reproductions



Picture from Age of Craft ©

6. 3/4 gauntlets

6.1. Historical sources and datation

3/4 gauntlets tend to appear in the early 15th century. They are made of a solid cuff with a metacarpal plate. This plate can be riveted or articulated. Fingers are protected by separated plates or chainmail.

- They are **approved** for Transitional and 15th century armors.
- They are **denied** for 14th century armors.
- For safety reasons, it is allowed to use buhurt-optimization 3/4 gauntlets with non-separated finger plates. This type of gauntlet must respect the style of historical 3/4 gauntlets and be properly articulated.



Churchburg- 1410/1430 - Italy



Sion Castle Museum - 1420/1440 - Switzerland

6.2. Specific Requirements

6.2.1. 3/4 gauntlets must conform to the general requirements (1.3).

6.2.2. The design of the cuff must clearly present the correct hourglass shape.

6.2.3. Metacarpal plate can be either riveted or historically accurate articulation

6.2.4. Thumb protection:

- Must have anatomical shape.
- Have to be articulated with at least 2 segments, or
- Have to imitate the appearance of 2 segments-articulated thumb

6.3. Examples of **denied** reproductions



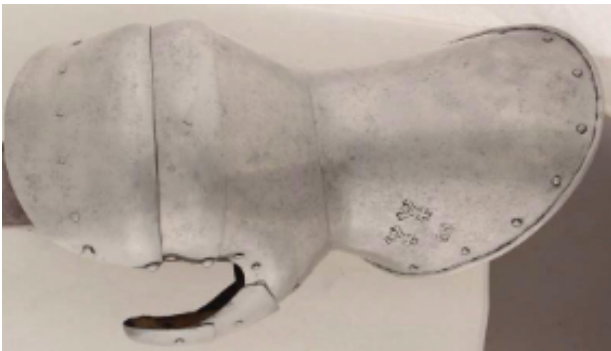
Picture from Age of Craft ©

7. Milanese gauntlets

7.1. Historical sources and datation

“Milanese gauntlets” term regroups several 15th century mitten shapes, with different designs. Common features are articulated plates (including metacarpal plate, such as 3/4 gauntlets), profiled wrist plate and a full protection of the fingers.

- They are **approved** for Transitional and 15th century armors.
- They are **denied** for 14th century armors.



Glasgow- 1438/1440 - Scotland



Metropolitan Museum of Art - 1450/1470

7.2. Specific Requirements

- 7.2.1. milanese gauntlets must conform to the general requirements (2).
- 7.2.2. The design of the cuff must clearly present the correct profiled shape.
- 7.2.3. The cuff must match the historical proportion in matter of length and width.
- 7.2.4. Cuff and metacarpal plate can be either riveted or historically accurate articulation
- 7.2.5. Thumb protection:
 - Must have anatomical shape.
 - Have to be articulated with at least 2 segments, or
 - Have to imitate the appearance of 2 segments-articulated thumb

7.3. Examples of approved reproductions



Pictures from Black Dog Armoury ©

8. Late 15th century gauntlets

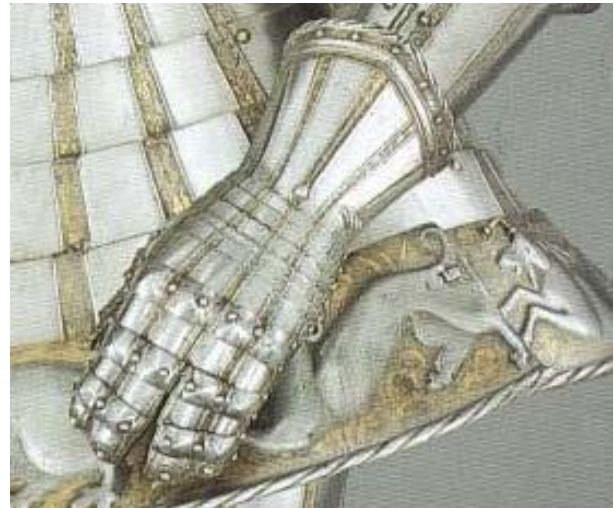
8.1. Historical sources and datation

The term "Late 15th century gauntlets" regroups 2 different types of gauntlets: bifurcated mittens and locked gauntlets.

- They are **approved** for 15th century armors.
- They are **denied** for 14th century and Transitional armors.

8.1.1. Bifurcated mittens

They follow the same shape as milanese mittens, but the fingers are protected by 2 plates instead of 1, increasing the handling of the weapon. They appeared in the late 15th century.



8.1.2. Locked gauntlets

they follow the same shape as milanese mittens, but the whole gauntlet can be locked to prevent any weapon loss.



8.2. Specific Requirements

- 8.2.1. Late 15th Century gauntlets must conform to the general requirements (1.3).
- 8.2.2. The design of the cuff must clearly present the correct profiled shape.
- 8.2.3. The cuff must match the historical proportion in matter of length and width.
- 8.2.4. Cuff and metacarpal plate can be either riveted or historically accurate articulation
- 8.2.5. Thumb protection:
 - Must have anatomical shape.
 - Have to be articulated with at least 2 segments, or
 - Have to imitate the appearance of 2 segments-articulated thumb

9. Plate articulated mittens

9.1. Historical sources and datation

There are no historical sources for such gauntlets. They are buhurt-optimization gauntlets designed to provide sufficient protection for full contact fights.

- The global design takes inspiration from the photo below: 1510 gauntlet
- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional armors and 15th century armors.



Wallace Collection - Germany

9.2. Specific Requirements

- 9.2.1. Plate articulated mittens must conform to the general requirements (2).
- 9.2.2. The design of the cuff must clearly present the correct profiled shape.
- 9.2.3. The cuff must match the historical proportion in matter of length and width.
- 9.2.4. Cuff and metacarpal plate can be either riveted or historically accurate articulation
- 9.2.5. Thumb protection:
 - Must have anatomical shape.
 - Have to be articulated with at least 2 segments, or
 - Have to imitate the appearance of 2 segments-articulated thumb

9.3. Examples of approved reproductions



Pictures from Medieval Extreme ©

10. Under-shield gauntlets

10.1. Historical sources and datation

There are no historical sources for such gauntlets. They are buhurt-optimization gauntlets designed to provide sufficient protection for the shield-wearer, thus being lighter and cheaper. However, it is **not recommended** to use such under-shield gauntlets for buhurt categories.

- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional armors and 15th century armors.

10.2. Specific Requirements

10.2.1. Under-shield gauntlets must conform to the general requirements (2).

10.2.2. Under-shield gauntlets must be made of metal plates riveted or sewn to a fabric or leather base.

10.2.3. The plates

- Must cover at least the fingers, including the thumb and the exposed-part of the wrist.
- Must be firmly-riveted to a fabric or leather base

10.2.4. The base must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

10.3. Examples of **approved** reproductions

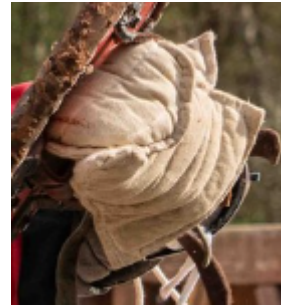


Pictures from Medieval Extreme

10.4. Examples of **denied** reproductions



No metal plate to protect the fingers



Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

11. Buhurt-optimization locking systems

11.1. Historical sources and datation

There are no historical sources for locking systems. However, it is likely plausible that knights of the middle ages used different techniques to prevent any loss of weapon during the battle. One of them consists of chains attached to the coat of plate. If the weapon should slip from the hand, it will not touch the ground, and therefore can be grabbed back.

- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional armors and 15th century armors.

11.2. Buhurt-optimization system can be

- A system to attach the weapon to the gauntlet, preventing any loss of weapon,
- A system to lock the gauntlet in “close” position, preventing any loss of weapon,
- A system to attach the gauntlet to the forearm, preventing the gauntlet to be removed,

11.3. Specific Requirements

Buhurt-optimization locking system can be allowed under conditions.

11.3.1. Weapon lock

- It is allowed to lock a weapon to the gauntlet with an additional leather thread, leather strap, or any discrete and historically plausible system.
- Additional leather elements must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

11.3.2. Locked gauntlets

- It is allowed to lock a gauntlet in “close” position with an additional leather strap, or any discrete and historically plausible system.
- Additional leather elements must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

11.3.3. Gauntlet's safeguard

- It is allowed to attach a gauntlet to another armor element (I.E forearm, gambeson) with an additional leather thread, leather strap, or any discrete and historically plausible system.
- Additional leather elements must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

11.4. Examples of **approved** reproductions



Lace to secure the gauntlet in close position
Pictures from Medieval Extreme ©

11.5. Examples of **denied** reproductions



Strap is too visible

12. Other **denied** items



← Chainmail gauntlet, not safe enough.

Brigant gauntlets, not safe enough ⇒



Gauntlets not based on historical sources.



Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

13. Change log

This will be the change log of this document. It will be updated regularly and we will display what has been removed/added/reworded/formatted. This way we keep transparent communication and clarity about the rules

05-Dec-2024: -add

Document has been created (Version 2024.12)