



KNIGHTS

in Armor

PHOTO DOSSIER



MUSEO
STIBBERT

KNIGHTS

in Armor

CONCEPT AND PRODUCTION

Contemporanea Progetti, Florence

in collaboration with

Museo Stibbert, Florence

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TOUR DATES

Houston Museum of Natural Science
Houston, Texas
November 2017 - May 2018

theHoustonMuseumofnaturalscience

Canadian War Museum
Ottawa, Ontario
June - September 2018



Bowers Museum
Santa Ana, California
September 2018 - January 2019

BOWERS
MUSEUM

The John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art
Sarasota, Florida
January - April 2019

TheRingling



EXHIBITION VIEWS



ICONIC ARMOR

From the 15th-century Italian Renaissance to the 19th-century British Victorian era, armor has evolved through centuries of technological and cultural change. This exhibit explores the history of armor, from its origins in ancient times to its modern-day applications in military and law enforcement. The armor shown here is a full-body suit of plate armor, known as a 'cuirassier' suit, which was used by heavy cavalry in the 16th and 17th centuries. It features a large, rounded helmet, a breastplate, and a backplate, all made of polished steel. The armor is displayed in a dark, arched alcove, highlighting its intricate details and craftsmanship.

FUNCTIONS

The primary function of armor is to protect the wearer from physical injury, particularly from swords, spears, and arrows. In addition to its defensive capabilities, armor also served as a symbol of status and power. The armor shown here is a full-body suit of plate armor, known as a 'cuirassier' suit, which was used by heavy cavalry in the 16th and 17th centuries. It features a large, rounded helmet, a breastplate, and a backplate, all made of polished steel. The armor is displayed in a dark, arched alcove, highlighting its intricate details and craftsmanship.

The Knight and HIS HORSE

Knights were essential to military campaigns and as well-rounded, ready warriors for a knight, his horse was generally heavier in armor, and the protection and flow of armor was the decisive element in the Great Wars, centered for its natural abilities, strength and agility.

In place armor offered protection to the knight, the horse's armor was valuable and valuable horse armor was made of iron plates armor for horses as heavy as a shield. A full horse is composed of a harness designed to protect the horse, a corset for the neck, a breast for the chest, a crupper for the hindquarters, and a tail guard for the tail and generally a full harness. A horse was often used in conjunction with a knight, both in combat. These armor pieces were made of iron bars, some used as full and mounted to the ground.





OF ARM

The full harness of plate armor in the 15th and early Renaissance was a complex assembly of 12-14 components made of well-tempered steel. The full harness would weigh approximately 15kg (33lb) and the wearer remained highly agile and able to otherwise move freely as the armor was spread evenly throughout the body.

The armor was articulated and covered a man's entire body from head to toe. It consisted of a helmet, neck guards, arm guards, gauntlets, cuisses, poleyns, greaves and sabots. The terminology applied to elements of armor and Renaissance armor is highly detailed as illustrated in the accompanying diagram.





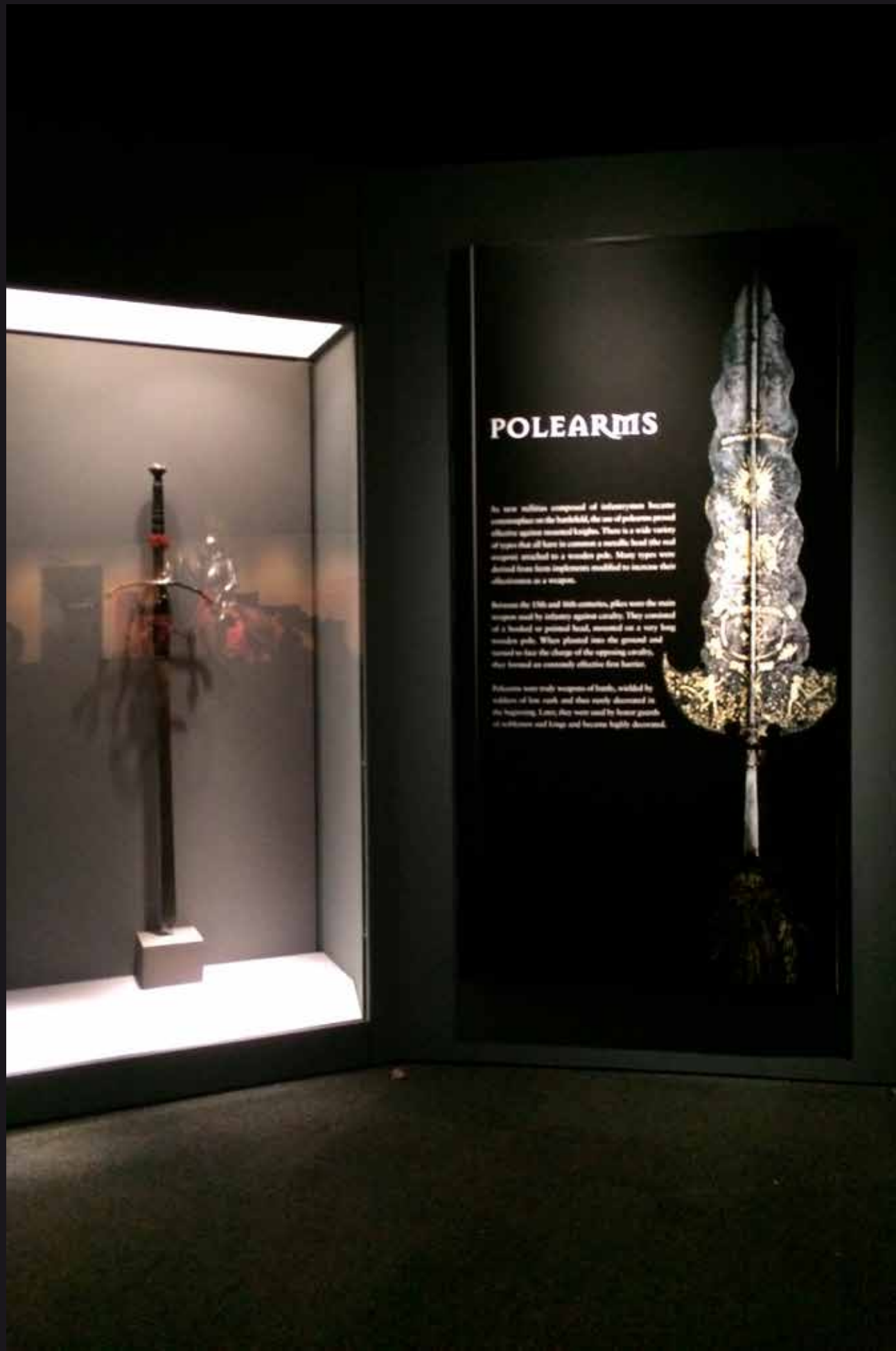
Brustplatte
15. Jh.
Längs: 45 cm
Breite: 35 cm
Gewicht: 12 kg
Museum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte
Helmstedt



Brustplatte
15. Jh.
Längs: 15 cm
Breite: 15 cm
Gewicht: 1 kg
Museum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte
Helmstedt



Brustplatte
15. Jh.
Längs: 35 cm
Breite: 25 cm
Gewicht: 8 kg
Museum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte
Helmstedt











FRANK STUBBINS
(1830-92)

Stubbins was a leading English architect of the late 19th century. He designed many of the grandest buildings in London, including the Houses of Parliament, the Admiralty, and the Bank of England. His work is characterized by its grandeur and its use of classical architectural forms.

KNIGHTS TODAY

In the ordinary reference of Englishhood, identity and place are faded from the historical, overlaid by sociological determinants, Englishness as a concept now conditional and circumstantial. As a national reflection of the process, the three would live in practice as an inseparable part of a gentleman's tradition, including the long period of history during which the word had been a noble synonym of the free man.

Today Englishness is primarily an honor bestowed by society for a year above military service. Most of us have Englishness as an honor bestowed by the United Kingdom to the Queen in recognition for some general contribution. For example, members of the Order of the British Empire and those who have been knighted.

Several new orders of knights have modern times will confer on service orders such as the Knight Bachelor and the Queen's Birthday Honours, and on the Knight Bachelor. Others, such as the Knight Bachelor, have become the subject of legend and lore. New knights are also the creation of noble families and that of a new order of knights.



Evolution of the KNIGHTLY SWORD

As the sword evolved, the hilt became a more important part of the sword's design. The hilt was the only part of the sword that was visible to the enemy. It was the only part of the sword that was visible to the enemy. It was the only part of the sword that was visible to the enemy.

MILITARY USE

Despite its iconic significance, the period in medieval and modern European history when the sword played an important role on the battlefield was rather short-lived. The invention and evolution of plate armor in the 1300s rendered the sword quite ineffective on the battlefield. Once the first effective designs were used, close quarter combat ceased during which the sword had little impact on the real arena as its blade could not easily penetrate steel plates. In this phase, other weapons that could replace the armor were the decisive factors.

Yet, throughout the 1500s, the combat sword continued to be simple enough in form. In 1550, the basket guard emerged and remained in vogue until the 1600s. From then on, however, firearms became the absolute protagonists on the battlefield, relegating the sword to a side-weapon or decoration of military rank.



SWORD CONSTRUCTION

Sword construction involved a range of craftsmen specializing in the processing of different materials: wood and leather for scabbards, bronze for the hilts and steel for the blades. Contrary to the production of armor, there were many centers of production of swords. Forges and workshops were specialized in single elements. For example, the most famous centers for blades—Toledo (Spain), Solingen (Germany), Brescia (Italy)—exported their products to all of Europe where a multitude of workshops would mount the blades and assemble swords that were distinctive from one another.

The hilt became a refined example of decorative techniques. Gilded bronze was the most used material, but gold, silver, porcelain and precious woods were also widely used for decorative purposes. The manufacturers of the sword hilts were usually artisans that worked in metal, but their ranks also included talented goldsmiths.





THE KNIGHT AND HIS HORSE

Modern armor was essential to military success. The knight's armor was made of steel plates, which were riveted together to form a protective shell. The knight's horse was also armored with plates, which were riveted to the horse's body. The knight and his horse were a formidable force on the battlefield.

Plate armor offered protection for knights, but it was equally important for their horses and warhorses.

ICONIC ARMOR

From the 14th to the 16th century, knights wore full suits of plate armor. This armor was made of steel plates that were riveted together to form a protective shell. The knight's horse was also armored with plates, which were riveted to the horse's body. The knight and his horse were a formidable force on the battlefield.

KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

Knights of the Round Table were a group of knights who served King Arthur. They were known for their bravery and chivalry. The knights of the Round Table were a central part of the Arthurian legend.

ICONIC WEAPON



ICONIC

The armor was made of steel plates, which were riveted together to form a protective shell. It was designed to protect the wearer from blows and cuts, and was used by knights and soldiers in the Middle Ages. The armor was made of steel plates, which were riveted together to form a protective shell. It was designed to protect the wearer from blows and cuts, and was used by knights and soldiers in the Middle Ages.

ARMOR DECORATION







KNIGHTS
IN ARMOR

14th-15th Century

REMARKS

REMARKS



ALEXANDER
INCENTENI ROMANA
VNICO VVLERE
INTERFICIT

Origins of TOURNAMENTS AND JOUSTS

Medieval tournaments and jousts have their origins in the military exercises of heavy cavalry in the 11th century. In a joust, a knight on a horse would charge at a target, usually a shield or a lance, and attempt to strike it with his lance or sword. The winner was the knight who struck the target first.

In a joust, two contestants, galloping on horseback, would attempt to strike each other with their lances. The knight who struck his opponent first was the winner. In some tournaments, the knights would also fight on foot with swords and spears. The tournament was a popular form of entertainment for the nobility and a way for knights to prove their skills.

Jousting in the RENAISSANCE

In the Renaissance period, jousting became a sport without direct relevance to warfare. During the 15th century, Emperor Maximilian I of Austria invented jousts with a lance and a shield, for which he earned his nickname of "The Lancer King."

The specialized jousting armor produced during this period was heavy and could weigh as much as 80 kg (175 pounds). As it was not intended for combat, it did not need to provide full protection; the only limiting factor was the maximum weight that could be carried by a horse. In case of its heavy armor, it resembled an armor-shaped cabinet mounted onto the horse's armor.

The success of these "tours" was measured and ranked into levels: gold, silver, and bronze. The jousting armor and equipment were made of iron and steel. They also offered an important opportunity for artists, who used to show off their most elegant clothes and jewelry, but also to create a model of the jousting armor.









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