



# THE MEDIEVAL WARRIOR

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# BREAKDOWN:

- Start with types of armor:
  - Chainmail
  - Transitional
  - Plate
- Weapons:
  - Common Man's Weapons
  - Side Arms
  - Shield
- Equestrian Warfare
- Sword

# CHAINMAIL (OR MAILLE)

- Charlemagne- Early 1300s
- Made of interlocking, riveted links
  - Good against cuts, not thrusts
- Commonly used during the Crusades
- Would cover from head to toe to fingertips
- Comprise of shirt, pants, and coif
- Tunic would go over
- Helms consisted of “secret helms” and Great Helms



# TRANSITIONAL

- The 13th Century
- Saw addition of plate armor
  - Wisby Coat of Plates
  - Plates to protect joints and limbs
  - Tunic still in use over armor, got shorter
  - By the End of 13th Century, plate armor took over
- Response to weaponry
- Could absorb shock far better and divert thrusts and slashes away



# MORE TRANSITIONAL



# FULL PLATE

- 15<sup>th</sup> Century- 16<sup>th</sup> Century
- Great at resisting all but heavy blunt damage, “chinks”, sometimes guns
- Quickly transitioned to more flexible options
- By the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, knight in shining armor
- Each country had a different version
  - Some still included chainmail and brigandine
  - Jousting and Tournament forms
  - 16<sup>th</sup> Century saw fanciest forms (fashion)



# COMMON MAN

- Armor
  - Little to none until 14<sup>th</sup> century
  - Helms, elbow and knee poleyns/ cops, brigandine
- Longbow vs Crossbow
  - Longbow: 120-200 lb draw, 6-7 ft tall, Yew, fire greater distances, armor piercing, quicker, took years of training
  - Crossbow: Armor piercing, very accurate over short distances, easy to use, some used cranks or pure strength to load
- Axe
  - Common household item
  - Good at chopping wood and heads
  - Developed into tool of war
- Dagger
  - Varying shapes and designs, varying purposes
- Staff



# SIDE ARMS:

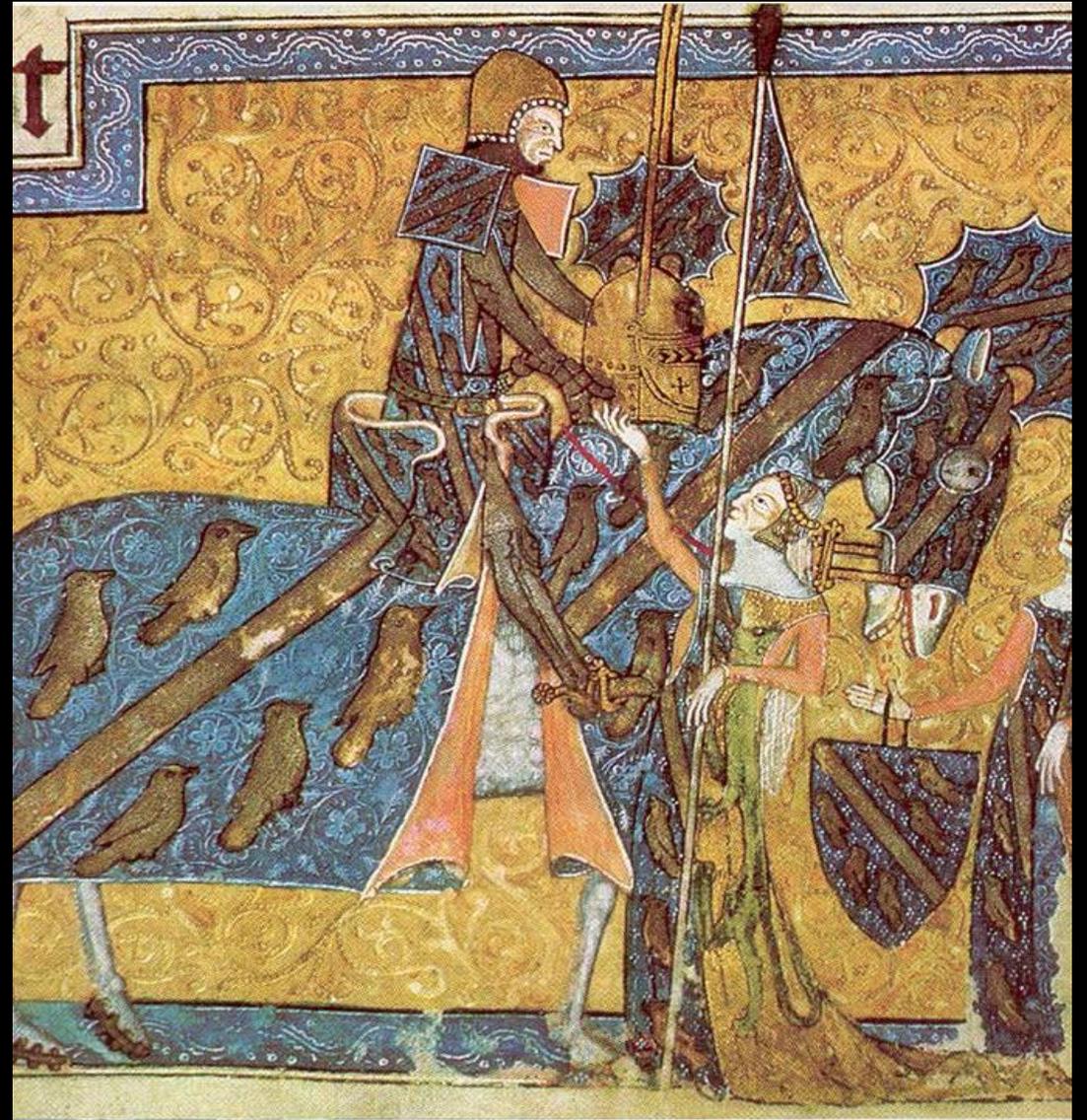
- Messer
  - Used by knights and peasants
- Mace
  - Used to crush plate armor
  - Sign of power
- Warhammer
  - Piece/smash plate armor, could hook opponent or horse, not meant to be huge
  - Very common amongst all classes
- Pole Weapons
  - Spear
  - Halberd

# SHIELDS:

- Made of wood, not steel or iron
- Edged with leather or iron sometimes
- Painted
- Started larger, kite like shape
- Steadily decreased in size, until rarely used in warfare
- Buckler used throughout the medieval and Renaissance
  - Made of metal
  - Small, common archer shield for combat

# EQUESTRIAN:

- Vital to medieval warfare
- Knight's greatest weapon
  - 12-14 Hands (Hand = 4 inches)
  - Light, fast, small compared to what was previously thought
- Stirrup Invented
  - Could keep rider in the saddle after an impact
  - Part of Charlemagne's requirements
- Different Horses for different purposes:
  - Destrier:
    - Best for war and tournament, but rare and expensive
  - Palfrey:
    - General purpose
    - Travel
  - Courser:
    - More common war horse
  - Rouncy:
    - Working and riding. Average man's horse



# THE MEDIEVAL SWORD:

- Varying types, broken down by use
  - Composition:
    - Blade: foible, forte, true/false edge, medial ridge or fuller, some with riccasso, edges varied with purpose
    - Hilt: Cross-guard, grip, pommel
    - Sheath: Some have caps, some attached to belts
  - One-Handed:
    - All used either alone, with dagger, with shield or buckler, with cape, never dual-wielded
    - A: Arming sword, R: Rapier, CAT: cut-and-thrust
    - A: 2-3 lbs, 28-32 inch blade length, cruciform guard, grip (3-6 inch) and pommels vary, military and civilian, edge and point
    - CAT: 2-3 lbs, 28-32 inch blade length, complex hilt (Renaissance), grip (3-6 inch) and pommels vary, edge and point, riccassos common, military
    - R: 2-3 lbs, 34-36 inch blade length, complex hilt, (Renaissance), grip (3-4 inch), pommels vary, point only for thrusting, civilian

# MEDIEVAL SWORD (CONTINUED):

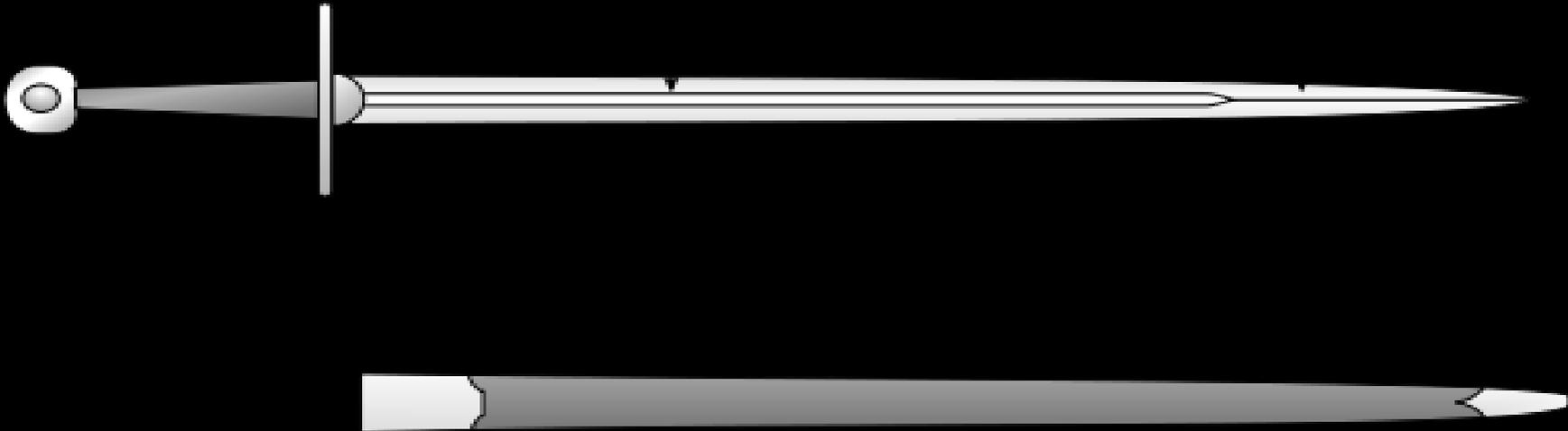
- Two- Three Handed Blades:
  - Two Handed:
    - Bastard Sword, Longsword
    - 34- 36 inch blade, medial ridge or fuller, Riccassos common, (6-10 inch) grip and pommels varied, cut against unarmored or weakly armored, thrust against fully armored, used like sword or staff or club
  - Three-Handers:
    - Claymores, Zwiehanders (snake like blades and straight blades), parade swords
    - 36-42 inch blade, similar characteristics to two hander, (10-12 inch) grip and pommels varied, used against pike lines and horseman and intimidation



# MEDIEVAL SWORDS AND SHIELDS

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# THE MEDIEVAL SWORD



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sword>

# BROADSWORD



<http://www.preferredarms.com/images/weapons/large/broadswords-single/Small-Ridged-Broadsword.jpg>

- Broad blade, two cutting edges meant for hacking.
- Used by knights and were the earliest of the medieval swords.
- Base: 2-3 inches, tapering to a point.  
Length: 30-45 inches  
Weight: 3-5 lbs
- Close contact, heavy swings.
- Secondary weapon of a knight.

# LONGSWORD

- Long two-edged sword with a handle capable of being grasped by two hands, sometimes called the “hand-and-a-half”.
- Length: 40 – 48 inches, with 7 – 9 inches of this being the hilt  
Weight: 2.5 – 3.5 lbs
- Using two hands allowed for heavier blows against armored opponents.



<http://www.swordworld.com.au/product139/detail/15th-century-longsword/>

# GREAT-SWORD

- Length: 44 – 53 in. About 7 – 9 in. of this being the hilt  
Weight: 3 – 4 lbs.
- Can be considered a two-handed sword, but great-swords are not of the specialized weapons of later two-handed swords
- Was used mainly as an infantry weapon against pole-arms, large axes, and was devastating against light armor.



# BASTARD-SWORDS

- The true “hand-and-a-half” incarnation of the long sword.
- Length: 40 – 48 inches  
Weight: 3.0 – 3.5 lbs
- Different swords had different uses. Some were made for cutting, others more for thrusting.
- The difference in weight is attributed to the guard. Lack of gauntlets led to heavier cross-guards for greater protection of the hands for these swords



<http://masterofthebootdeadliestwarrior.blogspot.com/2011/05/alucard-vs-dante-alighieri.html>

# THE ESTOC

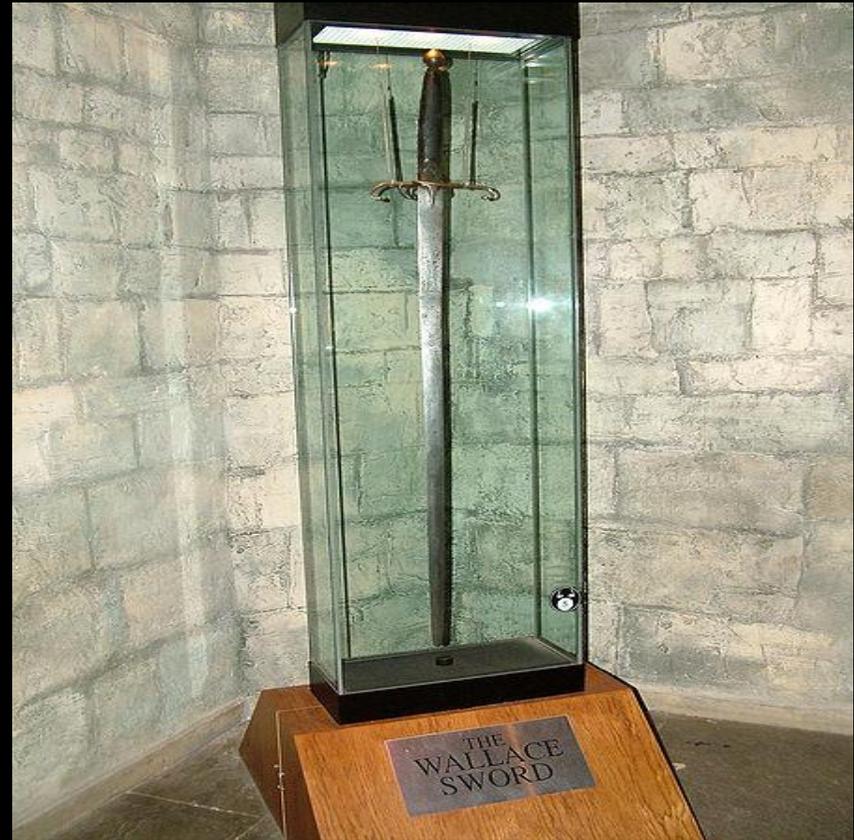


Length: 50 in.  
Blade width: 1 in.  
Weight: 2 lbs. 6 oz.

- Long, pointed, edgeless, triangular or square blade.
- Used mainly to beat armor in or thrusting into openings and gaps. More or less a glorified nail with a cross-guard.
- Usually had a bastard-sword grip.

# TWO-HANDED SWORDS

- Massive.
- Typical blades could be up to 6 feet long with 14 to 18 in. grips.
- Weighed anywhere from 3.5 – 5 pounds depending on the make.
- Mainly made to fight against pike-squares.



# TWO-HANDED SWORDS (CONT.)



- The pointed lugs or flanges protruding from blades are used to prevent other weapons from sliding down into hands when gripping the blade itself. This made up for the slowness in defense.

# THE FALCHION

- Wide, heavy, single-edged and slightly curved sword.
- Incredible chopping power and balanced at 3 – 4 lbs.
- These were the footman's "tools" during war and could have possibly been used as a general tool outside of combat.



Medieval Falchions

# THE MEDIEVAL SHIELD



Left: <http://www.aceros-de-hispania.com/armours-swords/cid-gladius.asp?product=escudo-gladius-cid>

Middle: <http://www.aceros-de-hispania.com/armours-swords/shield-medieval-9700.asp?product=escudo-medieval-9700>

Right: <http://www.swordsandarmor.com/mall/shields-closeout.htm>

# THE KITE SHIELD

- Rounded at the top, tapered at the bottom



# HEATER SHIELD

- Associated with the jousting knight.
- A knight would be covered in full body armor. Therefore a smaller shield would compliment him.



<http://www.aceros-de-hispania.com/armours-swords/cid-gladius.asp?product=escudo-gladius-cid>

# BUCKLER SHIELD



- Much smaller shield than the others, usually made of metal and was used for hand-to-hand fighting (i.e. swords or maces). Offered little to no protection against missile weapons.

# THE PAVISE



- Used by crossbowman during reloading.
- Often covered in holy images in hopes that the enemy would not attack them for fear of committing a sacrilegious act

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