



Breastplate from a Siege Cuirass

Date

1590–1600

Primary Maker

German

Medium

steel, brass, black paint

Description

Very large, and of heavy, black-painted proof steel. It is of vestigial peascod form, with deep curved arms & neck openings having plain turns, & followed by a row of large domed rivets. Low full-length medial ridge, framed by double band of incised lines. A similar set extends from the arms to the waistline. Basal flange dips to the fork, with turned edge & incised lines as above, the band filled by domed rivets. Several plugged holes suggest the locations of posts or mounts for a plackart. At least eight bullet dents; one of these might be a proof mark. Domed studs on chest for shoulder straps. At the midpoint there is a patched repair in the

back, of very thick metal, almost certainly a working-life fix. Traces of the damage can be seen on the front, which was probably hammered back into shape as part of the repair.

Dimensions

57.2 × 48.3 × 21 cm (22 1/2 × 19 × 8 1/4 in.), 24 lb, 10 oz (weight)