



Right Tasset (thigh guard) from a child's ceremonial armor

Date

about 1620

Primary Maker

Southern German

Medium

steel

Description

The tassets are symmetrical, mirror-images of one another. They are trapezoidal in form, of one piece, pseudo-laminate

construction, shaped to the thighs. The basal and side edges are finished as the side edges of the skirt, and the plain upper edge is pierced with a keyhole slot at the outer and oblong slot at the inner edges. Each tasset has two groups of decorative domed rivets in an L-shaped pattern below the attachment slots. The two sides and basal edge are fitted with 15 domed, lining-retaining rivets (one lacking from lower inner corners of right tasset), only four of those of the left tasset retain their circular washers. On each tasset the uppermost rivet on either side is merely decorative. The outer and basal edges of both tassets, and the lower lame of the skirt retain traces of a gold-painted running foliate design within gold lines, on a blued ground. The extreme outer edge of these borders is also gilded. The inner edges of the tassets have traces of a similarly applied trophied décor. This seems to be carried from the trophied groups of the bands along the medial line, and centered on the lames and tassets to either side. These bands, while nearly completely worn away, appear to consist of painted panoplied groups of arms and other trophies and other devices, with undulating ribbons on the blue ground contained within their gold-painted ventral lines. The upper edge of each skirt lame, as well as those of the tassets, have traces of thin gold painted line borders, imitating the laminations of articulated tassets. The tassets additionally have fragments of these transverse gilded lines across their faces. Steel, once blued, with traces of gold-painted decoration. Mirror-image mate to 2014.906.2. Trapezoidal, of 1 piece, pseudo-laminate construction & concave to body. Basal & side edges inwardly turned & plain, top edge pierced with keyhole & oblong slots for attachment to fauld (2014.926.1). Decorative, domed rivets at ends, & sides & bottom followed by similarly formed lining-band rivets, some with circular washers within. Traces of gold decoration as found on 2014.926.1, as well as traces of transverse, gold lines across face of each simulated lame.

Dimensions

10 x 24 cm (3 15/16 x 9 7/16 in.), 6 oz (weight)