



## Basinet Helm with Aventail (mail hood) and "Dog-Faced" visor

### Date

about 1360–1370

### Primary Maker

German

### Medium

steel, iron and brass with modern leather, cord and restorations

### Description

The metal components have been acid cleaned and heavily ground down. The surface of the visor is lumpy and deformed, at least in part due to the heavy patching of the metal, and the edges have been trimmed. The egg-shaped skull has been artificially resurfaced. (helmet) Egg-shaped basinet of steel with heavily patched, one-piece skull. Roundedly ogival apex is slightly to rear of center. Roundly arched facial opening to rounded side edges that extend straight along the sides and across the back of the neck. Sides and rear bordered by a row of seventeen stubby, tubular, plinthed vervelles beginning just outside of the eye orbits (From the left, only numbers 1, 15, 16 are original and undisturbed; 4, 5, 7, 12 are old but have been re-mounted; rest are modern restorations.) There are no signs of holes for the

mounting of triangular plates to protect the strap with the aventail. Below the vervelles are circular, punched holes for the liner retainer; these holes extend across the brow edge. Vertically pierced above the brow are two holes (either later, or enlarged then); the uppermost is fitted with a modern, iron, pivoting arm that is designed to engage the hinge of the associated Klappvisier. The hole below the arm has a modern "L"-shaped hook for the visor, with a screw base fitted with an iron rosette washer. (Visor) Swiss or German, style of 1370-80, but probably cut down from a late 14th century example (see Forner, V.I. plts III, IV, #17; Cripps-Day, p. 115, note; Dufty plt. LXXIII, # IV.467, IV.6). Once part of a larger visor pivoted at the temples (See Forner), this is now formed as a Klappvisier profile. Boxed sights of two "I"-shaped ocularia, divided with a lozenge-shaped recess at the medial area. A medial ridge extends from the base of the sight to the tip of the "conical" snout. In section this is faceted on the upper half and rounded below. Near mid-length on each of the flat faces above, is an irregular piercing of six circular breaths around a seventh. At the same point on the rounded area below is a boxed, "toothed" breath cut with five oblong slots. At the brow center the modern hinge and its mounts are secured with three domed rivets in a horizontally extended "V" pattern. No marks are visible. (Mail aventail) May once have been a part of a mail hood. This is of riveted and welded iron rings, in the usual pattern of four rings interlocked through a fifth. There are no solid rings visible. The rings are medium-size (average 10-11 mm outside diameter), and slightly oblate in form. Mail of flattened links with wedge-shaped rivets (the rivet shape is clearly visible on some of the broken links); has been acid-cleaned. Not originally an aventail: the piece has been shaped by cutting and slipping in opened links at the seam-lines. Brass edging links are modern.

### Dimensions

48.3 × 38.1 × 40.6 cm (19 × 15 × 16 in.), 6 lb 2 oz (weight)