



"Bracelet" Cowter for the Left Elbow

Date

about 1540

Primary Maker

Northern German

Medium

steel with traces of black paint

Description

As much of inner part of 2014.810.2 is lost it is not totally possible to assume that construction of the two was identical. For sake of convenience this text describes 2014.810.1. Of large, shell-like form, deep lobes of which are slightly asymmetrical, upper lobe

being somewhat larger than that below. Defense is sharply pointed at elbow, which is embossed with bold, deeply roped rib within thin incised lines, extending transversely from point on inner side of elbow, across outer face to point at outer end of V-shaped "pucker." Defense is of closed, "bracelet" type, probably at one time of 1 piece riveted at front, but now fitted with second, riveted plate from the bend of arm to an inner point forward of mid-length. Edges of defense are inwardly turned over wire core & roped. This bordered from point of elbow to pucker by plain, shallow recessed band, in turn bordered within by embossed band of scales overlapping away from circular motif centered on lobes above & below, the latter band framed by pair of thin, incised lines. The defense was secured to vambrace cannons above & below by leathers. Interior of both couters is painted black, & traces of black paint is also present on exterior as well. 2014.810.2 is similar to 2014.810.1, but not quite identical. Discrepancies in dimension might be due to them coming from two separate pairs of cowters. The condition of 2014.810.2 is much worse, with a substantial loss to the inside section. Perhaps due to its having corroded more severely, it has been severely ground down, which has resulted in a very different surface appearance from 2014.810.1.

Dimensions

22 × 23.2 × 10 cm (8 11/16 × 9 1/8 × 3 15/16 in.), 15 oz (weight)