

Excavated "Baselard" Dagger

Date

1300s-1400s

Primary Maker

European

Medium

steel and iron

Description

1 piece of iron, "Baselard" form. Acutely pointed blade of stiff, flattened-diamond section, with pronounced medial rib on faces. Base of blade flares into 2 integral trapezoidal projections (one lacking) forming a rudimentary crossguard. Projection punched by

single hole. Corroded blade has been ground down. Face of tang cut with full-length, broad channel into which was set wood or horn plaques (missing). 3 vertically aligned, punched mounting holes & traces of a fourth. Upper part of tang flares out into flattened, mushroom-like profiled terminal. This transversely cut for inset plaque of elliptical form, & retains 2 crudely fitted, iron dome-headed rivets. Tang has cracked near the crossbar.

Dimensions

 $31.8 \times 20.2 \times 4 \times 6.2$ cm (12 1/2 × 7 15/16 × 1 9/16 × 2 7/16 in.), 6 oz (weight)