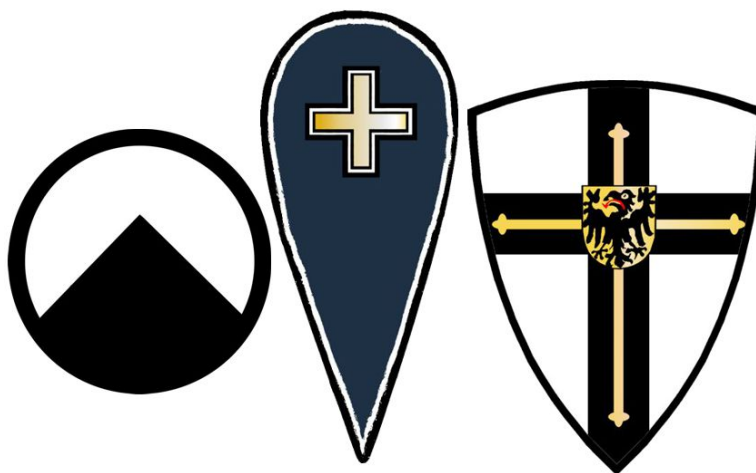


Crusader Shields



+ Heraldry +

Below is depicted the heraldry that is desired on the various shields. The images are made in an advanced and a simple version. The advanced version is how the sources show the shields very precisely. The simple version is a reflection on how they have looked in reality.



- Advanced version.



- Simple version.

Round shield - Templar shield

Templar Heraldry



Description

The shield's heraldry originates from a fresco in the Italian church San Bevignate (R01) which after 1283 was a church of the Knights Templars. Perhaps the fresco depicts "The Battle of Acre" in 1291.

On the upper part of the shield is the same color as the background on the fresco, this probably because the white color almost has disappeared. Comparing remnants of the paint along the edge of the upper half of the shield, a gray/white color (R02) can be seen, which is also seen in another shield (R03), on the same fresco.

Part of the fresco is missing in the middle of the shield (R01), there are no shield boss on the shield.

Later heraldry for i.a. The Dominican and Carmelite orders also use a kind of coat of arms (in other colors). Here, the top field symbolizes the color of the order's cloak, the bottom field symbolizing the color of the tunic under the cloak.

Source of templar heraldry

R01

Templar shield.
After 1283.



San Bevignate kirke, Italien.

R02

Detail with color codes



San Bevignate church, Italy.

R03

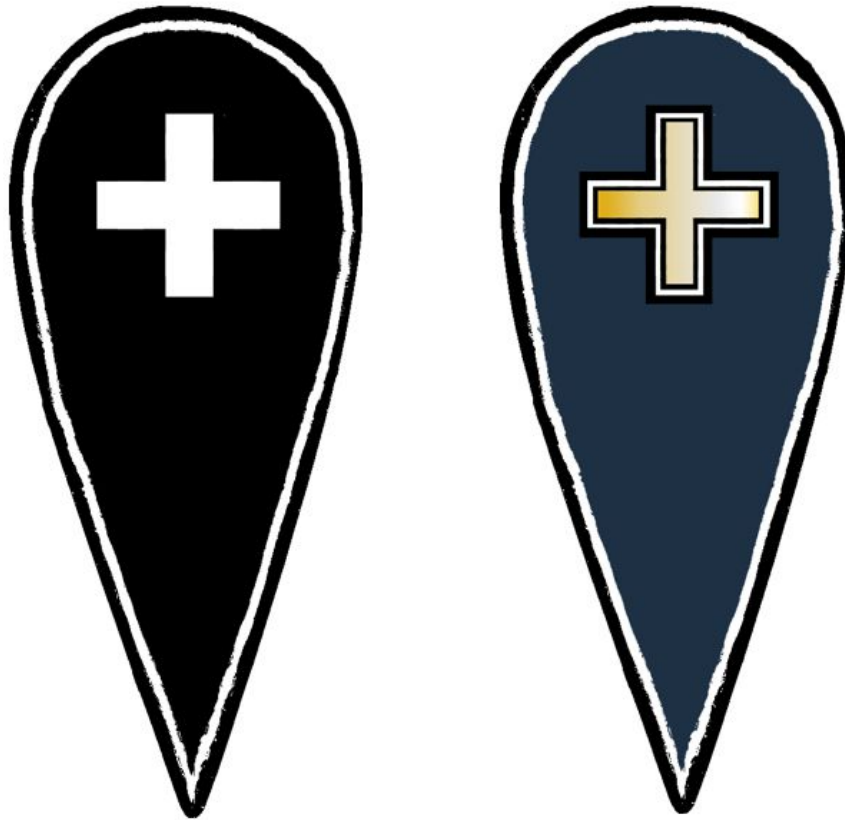
Templars shield, banner.



San Bevignate church, Italy.

Almond-shaped shield - Knights hospitaller

Heraldry



Description

To the left is a simplified version of the heraldry. To the right is a advanced version of the heraldry as it is reproduced in the main source (M01).

The heraldry origins from an illustration in a manuscript from the Holy Land (m01). The illustration depicts the Crusaders occupying Antioch in the Holy Land, the knights often depicted as Knights Hospitaller, which may be doubtful.

The colors in manuscripts can often be misleading, as it often depends on the colors the different illustrators have access to. The simple solution of the heraldry is thus almost as likely as the more advanced.

Source of Knights hospitaller heraldry

M01

Crusader(Knights Hospitaller) shield.
Ca. 1287.

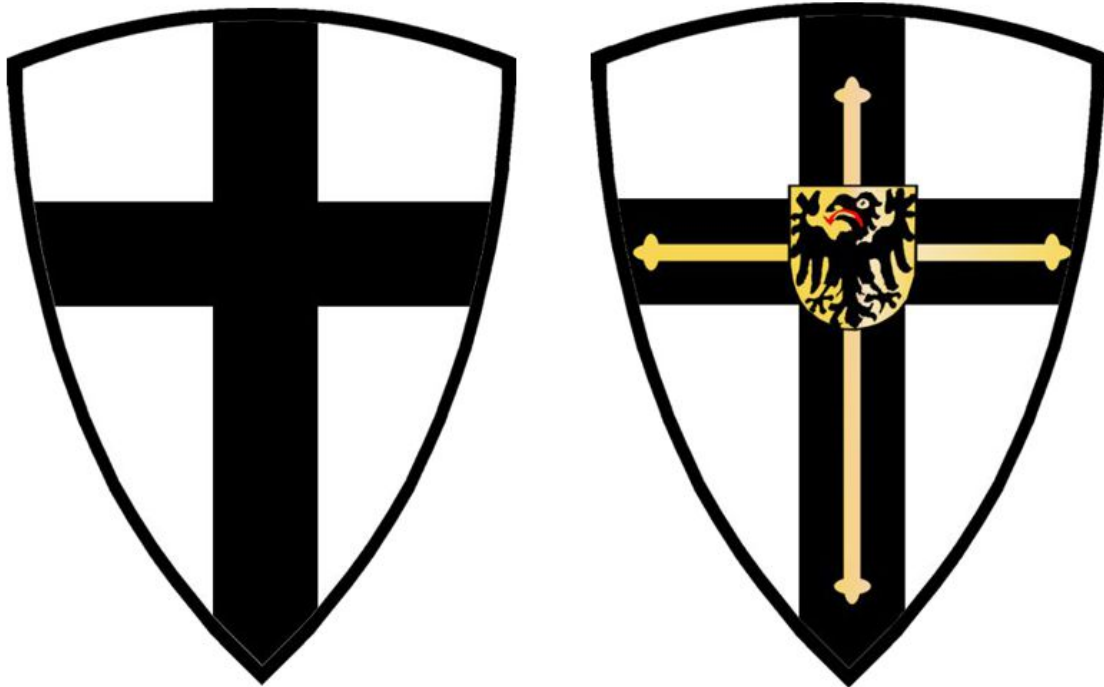


Histoire d'Outremer

Bibliothèque municipale de Boulogne-sur-Mer, France (BM MS.142 - f.49v).

Triangular Shield - Teutonic Shield

Heraldry



Description

To the left is a simplified version of the heraldry. To the right is a advanced version of the heraldry as it is shown in the main source (T01).

The earliest known heraldry for the teutonic order is to find as a image of a shield on another shield (T01). The original shield probably belonged to the Teutonic Grandmaster Karl von Trier, he was the grandmaster of the order from 1311-1324.

The Prussian eagle on the advanced version of the shield is very difficult to see at the original source (T01), therefore an eagle is used from the manuscript "Armorial de l'abbé de Saint-Gall" (T02).

The inner cross and the shield around the eagle, on the advanced version of the shield, may be gold-colored instead of yellow. The yellow (gold-colored) cross ends with small rounded crosses at the ends (not a fleur de lis), this likely to render a "Jerusalem cross".

Source of Knights Teutonic heraldry

T01

Teutonic Grandmaster Shield.

Between 1311-1324.



Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, Austria (Historische Sammlungen, Inv.-Nr. Waffen, Defensionswaffen 1).

T02
Teutonic heraldry.
1400s.



Armorial de l'abbé de Saint-Gall

Author: Ulrich Rösch.

Originally from Heidelberg in Germany.

St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Switzerland

(Cod. Blod. 1084 - f.47).

T03
Prussian eagle.
1400s.

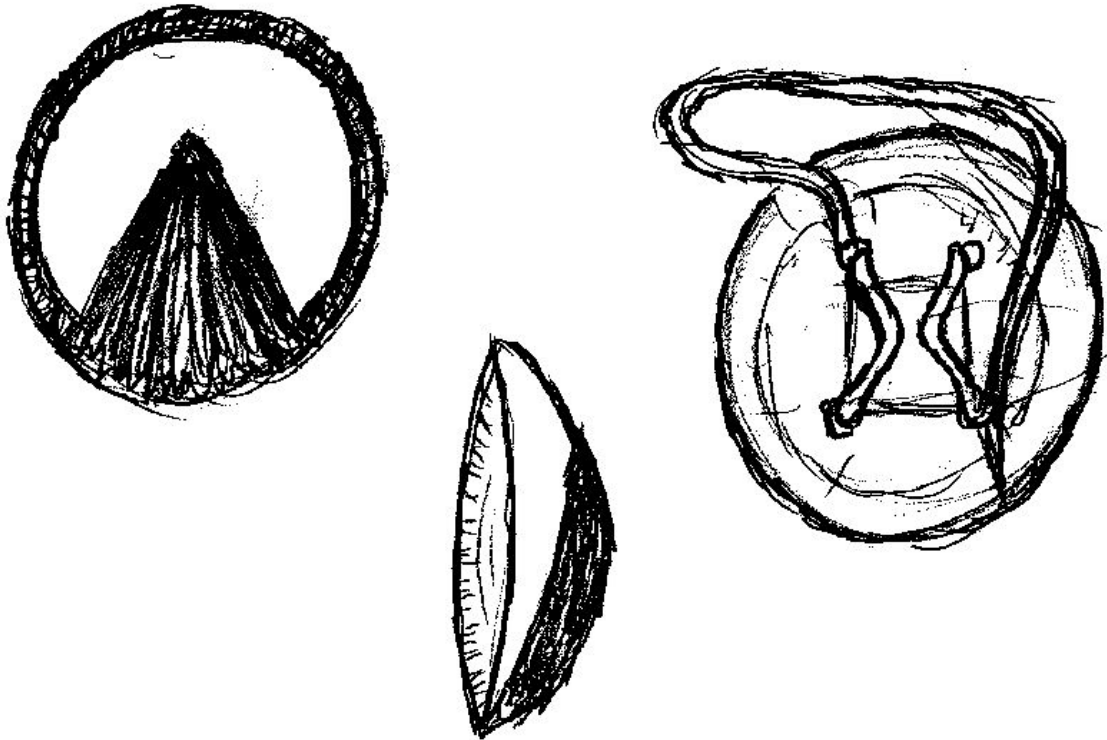


Armorial de l'abbé de Saint-Gall

- Detail from T02.

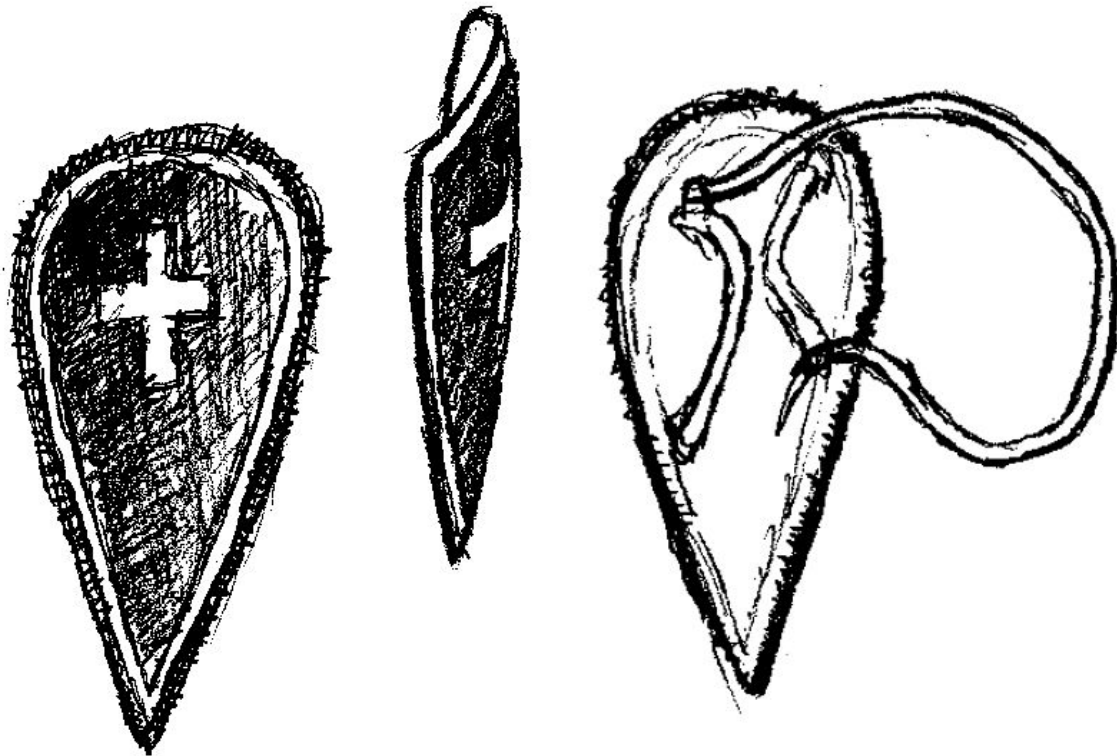
+ Shield shapes +

Shape of the round shield



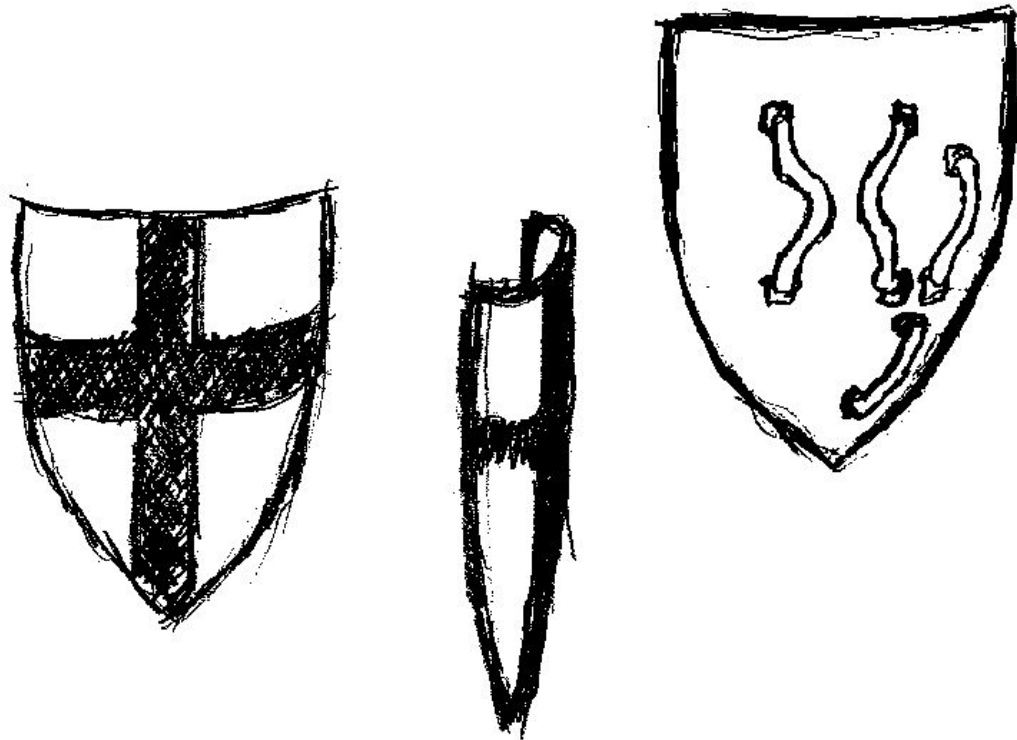
Round shield is round, but also lenticular or concave (S05). The straps on the shield are made of buck hide (D03), they are held by hand, while a strap goes from the upper left handle, around the neck to the lower left handle (S01).

Shape of the almond-shaped shield



Almond-shaped shields have curves when viewed from the side (S06). The straps on the shield are made of buck hide (D03), they are held by hand (S03), while a strap runs from the upper left handle, around the neck to the lower left handle (S02).

Shape of the triangular shield

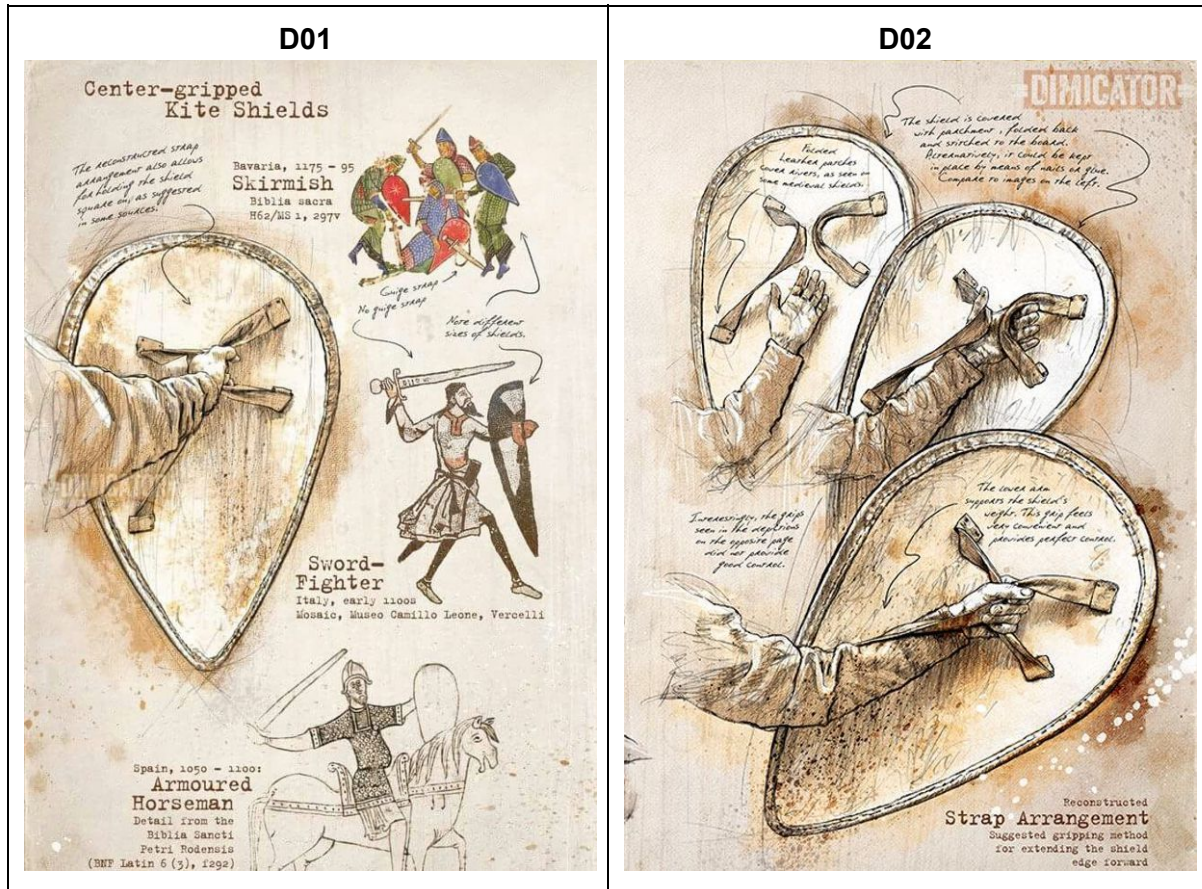


Triangular-shaped shields have a little curve when viewed from the side (S07). The straps on the shield are made of buck hide (D03), they are held by hand (S04). Some shields of this type also have a strap going from the upper left handle, around the body to the lower left handle (S04).

Dimicator

Roland Warzecha, also known as "Dimicator", has made a drawing that explains very well why the straps on almond-shaped shields are located as they are (D01 & D02).

Besides, Roland has made a video that explains very well why the straps on triangular-shaped shields are placed as they are (D03).



Sources on shield straps

S01

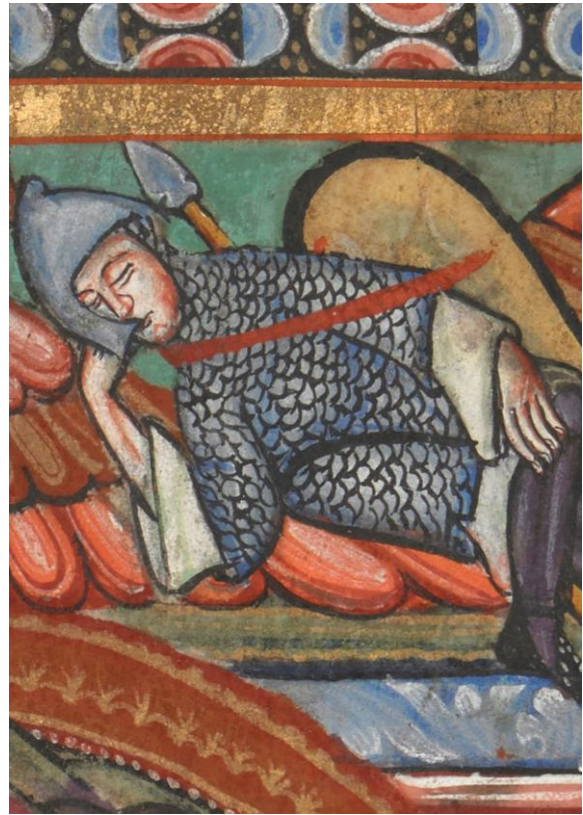
Round shield from behind.
Ca. 1220.



Huelgas Apocalypse
Originally from Toledo, Spain.
Morgan Library, NY, US (M.429 - f.128r).

S02

Almond-shaped shield from behind.
Ca. 1100-1125.



Gospel Lectionary.
Originally from Germany.
British Library (Egerton MS 809 - f.27v).

S03

Almond-shaped shield from behind.
Middle of 1100s.



Mural in the chapel Cressac-Saint-Genis.
Cressac-Saint-Genis, Blanzac-Porcheresse, France..

S04

Triangular shield from behind
Between 1332-1350.



.Les Grandes chroniques de France.
Originally from Paris, France..
British Library, London, England (Royal 16 G VI -
f.185v).

Sources on curved shield shapes

S05

Round shield from the front and side view.
Ca. 900-1100.



Biblia Sancti Petri Rodensis
Originally from Catalonia in Spain.
Bibliothèque nationale de France (MS. Latin 6 (2) -
f.129v).

S06

Almond-shaped shield, side view.
Ca. 1185.



Psalter of Eleanor of Aquitaine
Originally from France.
Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands (KW 76 F 13 -
f.29r).

S07

Triangular-shaped, side view.
Ca. 1220-1240.



Album de dessins et croquis.

Author: Villard de Honnecourt.

Originally from France.

Bibliothèque nationale de France (Français 19093 -
f.19r).

+ Buckler +

Sources on Bucklers

Z01

Buckler seen from front and back..

Ca. 1270-1290.

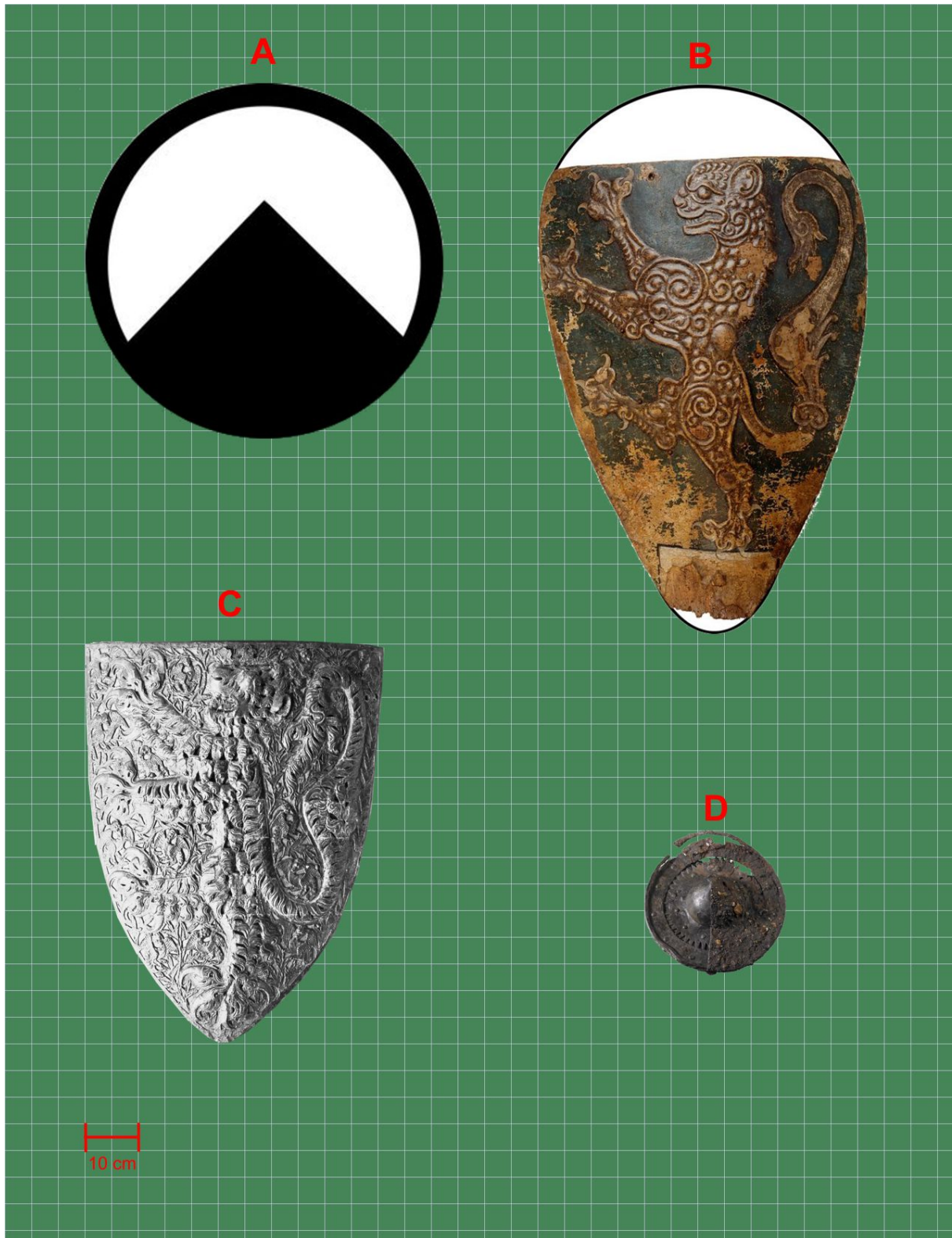


Romans arthuriens.

Originally from North of France (Maybe St-Omer).

Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des manuscrits (MS. Français 95 - f.52r).

+ Shield size +



Note to the shield-maker

All measurements are approximately measurements, none of the measurements take into account what is practically possible.

You have free hands to change what you think needs to change.

The short story

The almond-shaped shield:

Approximately length: 103 cm.

Approximately width: 67 cm.

Approximately depth: 21.5 cm.*

**This measurement is very uncertain, do what you find best.*

Triangular shield

Approximately length: 75.5 cm.

Approximately width: 56 cm.

Approximately depth: 11 cm.

Round shield (concave-shaped)

Approximately diameter: 65 cm. to 70 cm.

Approximately depth: 20 cm. to 26 cm.

Buckler

Approximately diameter: 25-30 cm.

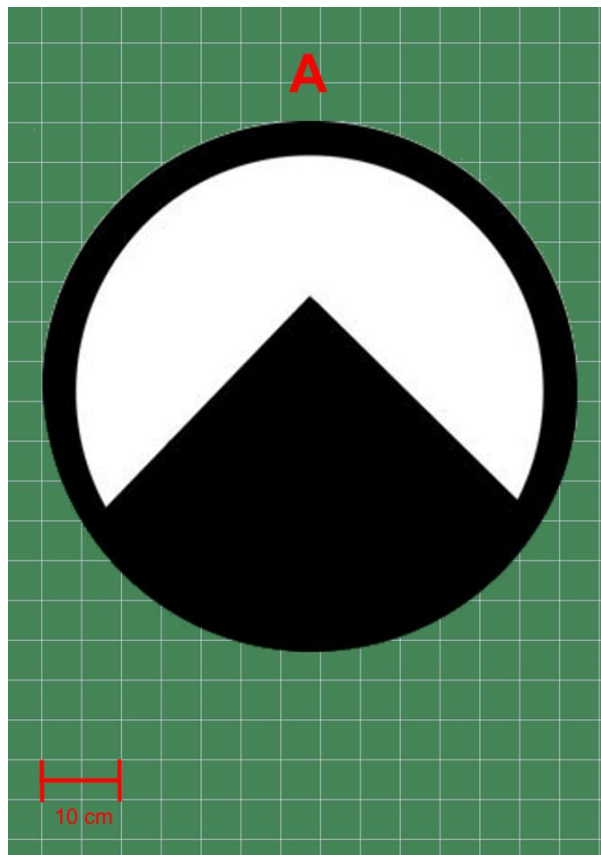
The detailed measurement

To see how the measurements have turned out, see the next sections on shields A, B, C & D.

Shield measurements

If possible, the measurements are taken from archaeological shields (B, C & D), which match the time periods we would like to tell about. Only the concave round shield (A) is the measurement made only by way of illustrations.

A: The measuring of round shield (concave-shaped)



A
Shield from italian templar church.
Dating after 1283.
Mural from Chiesa di San Bevignate, Perugia, Italy.

Size:

Approximately diameter*: 65 cm. to 70 cm (M01 red arrow).

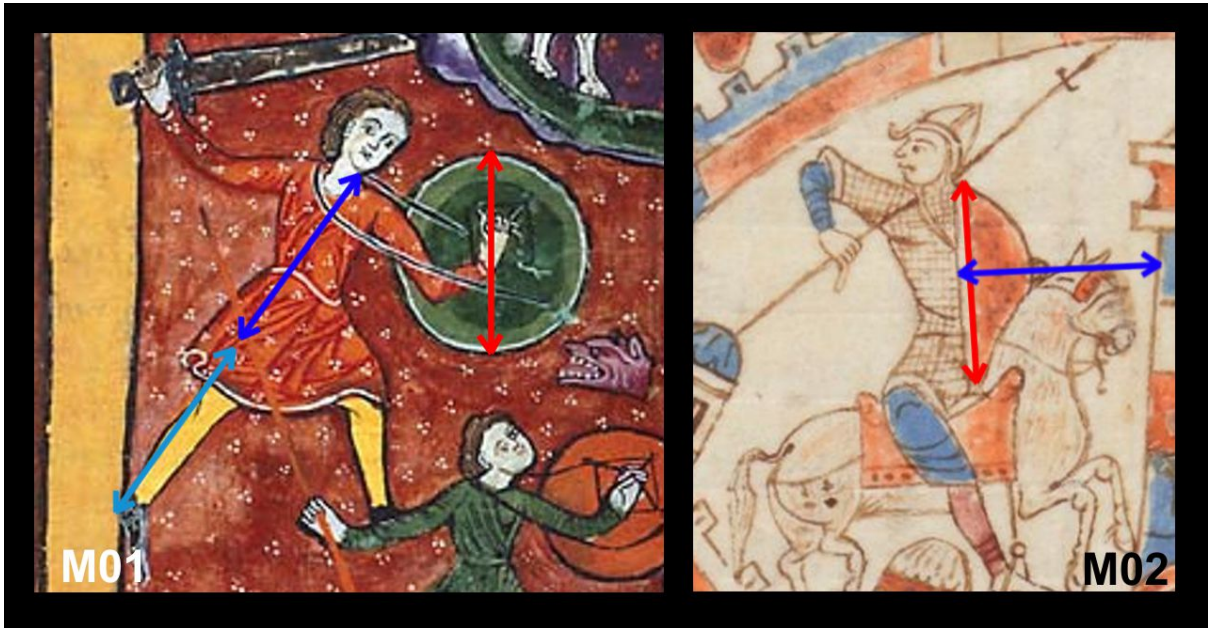
Approximately depth*: 20 cm. to 26 cm (M02 blue arrow).

*Measurement

The measurement is based on studies of illustrations, as this type of shield is not known archaeologically.

In illustration M01, togetherness is the length of the shield (red arrow) with points on the man's body (blue arrows). Now, an approximate diameter can be calculated (if the man is 187 cm tall, then the shield is about 70 cm in diameter).

The measurements of diameter from M01 (red arrow) are compared with illustration M02 (red arrow). Now, an approximation can be calculated for the depth on M02 (blue arrow) (if the man is 187 cm tall, then the shield is about 26 cm in depth).



M01

Huelgas Apocalypse.

Dating ca. 1220..

Originally from Toledo, Spain.

The Morgan Library, NY, US (M.429 - f.128r).

M02

Biblia Sancti Petri Rodensis.

Dating After 950, before 1050.

Originally from Monestir de Santa Maria de Ripoll, Ripoll, Catalonia, Spain.

Bibliothèque nationale de France (MS. Latin 6 (2) - f.129v).

B: The measuring of a almond-shaped shield.



B

The Seedorf Shield

Dating 1197-1200.

Originally from Frienisberg kloster, Seedorf, Switzerland.

Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum/Landesmuseum Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland.

Size:

Approximately length*: 103 cm. (without reproduction included the shield is 95 cm.).

Approximately width: 67 cm.

Approximately depth**: 21.5 cm.

*Measurement

Because the almond-shaped shield from Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum has been shortened, the illustrations "B" and "N01" is reproduced with what is believed to have been lost.

**Measurement

The measurement of depth is based on studies of illustration N02, as this shield N01's depth is not known.

The measurements of height from N01 (green arrow) are compared with illustration N02 (green arrow). Now, an approximation can be calculated for the depth on M02 (blue arrow) (if the shield is 103 cm in height, then the shield is about 21.5 cm in depth).



N01

N02

N01

The Seedorf Shield

Dating 1197-1200.

Originally from Frienisberg kloster, Seedorf, Switzerland.

Schweizerisches Nationalmuseum/Landesmuseum Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland.

N02

Psalter of Eleanor of Aquitaine

Dating ca. 1185.

Originally from France.

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Netherlands (KW 76 F 13 - f.29r).

C: The measuring of a triangular shield



C

The shield of Landgraf Heinrich I. von Hessen

Dating ca. 1300..

Universitätsmuseum, Marburg, Germany.

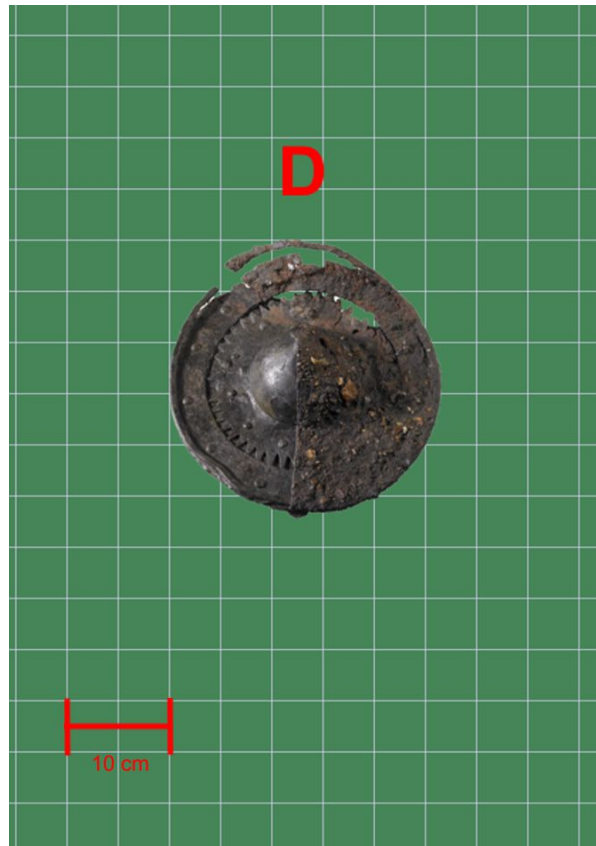
Size:

Approximately length: 75.5 cm.

Approximately width: 56 cm.

Approximately depth: 11 cm.

C: The measuring of a buckler



D
Buckler in London
Dating late 1300s.
Museum of London, London England.

Size:

Approximately diameter: 25 cm (25-30 cm.*).

*Measurement:

Bucklers appear very different in size, both in illustrations (L01) and archaeologically. The archaeological buckler "D" from London is 25 cm. in diameter. The illustration L02, which is the one we should have a copy of, looks maybe a few centimeters larger?



L01



L02

L01

Liber de natura rerum.

Dating ca. 1280.

Originally from Abbaye de Saint-Amand, Saint-Amand-les-Eaux, France.
Bibliothèque municipale de Valenciennes (Ms 0320 - f.44r).

L02

Romans arthuriens.

Dating ca. 1270-1290.

Originally from North of France (Maybe St-Omer).
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des manuscrits (MS. Français 95 - f.52r).