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Authenticity

Shields and Bucklers

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1. Definition and general requirements

1.1 Definition

- Shields and bucklers are the terms used to describe every protection made of wood or steel and designed to protect yourself.

1.2 Shields and bucklers description

Shields and bucklers can be:

- Heater shields : Shields made of triangular shape, the most common shape of shields from the XIIIth century and beyond. They must be made of wood.
- Punch shields : Punch shields primarily designed to hit the opponent. It includes a wide variety of shapes. They must be made of wood.
- Round shields : Shields made of a round shape, very common throughout the middle ages. They can be made of wood or metal.
- Bucklers : Small round shape shields with central handle, mainly used in duels and as a secondary equipment for close defense. They can be made of wood or metal.

1.3 General requirements

All types of shields and bucklers must respect the following requirements :

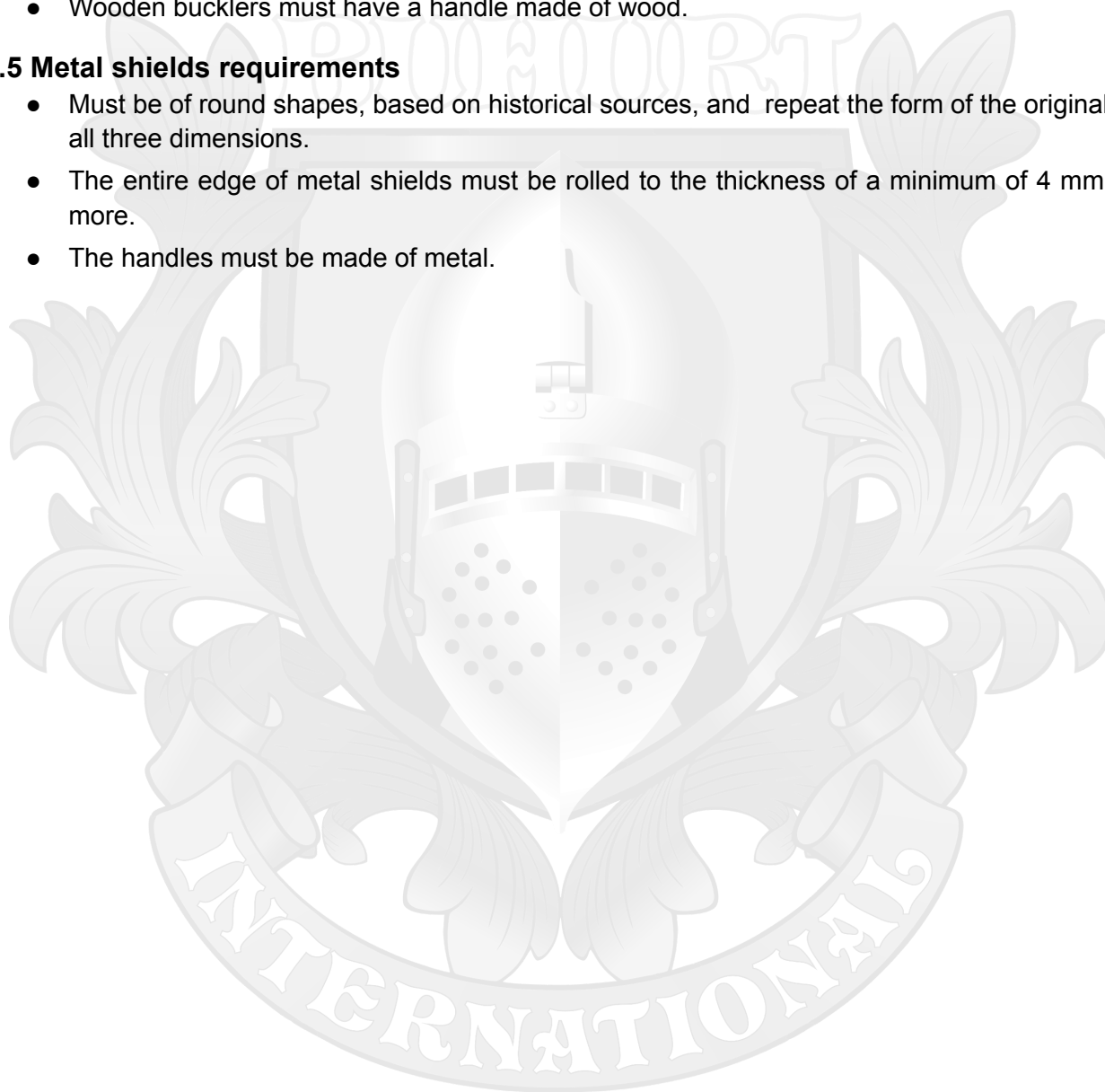
- Be based on historical sources
- Must reproduce the proportions and curves based on historical sources
- Must be made of wood or metal. Any other material must be approved by the Authenticity Committee to be allowed in Buhurt International events.
- Must match the style of the armor kit of the competitor.
- All images, drawings, and paintings on shields must be stylized in accordance with the style of the armor kit of the competitor.
- It is prohibited to decorate shields with images that are clearly modern and/or offensive.
- The weight of all shields and bucklers must not exceed 5 kg.
- It is allowed to use bolts and nuts to fasten straps.
 - Nuts must not protrude the screw.
 - Bolts and nuts must be painted in black or concealed with leather or fabric.
- All straps must be made of leather.
- Any metal part of the shield or buckler must conform to the Armors and weapons Aesthetics and decorations document.
- Any textile or leather part of the shield or buckler must conform to the Textiles and Leather document.

1.4 Wooden shields requirements

- The entire edge must be covered with either a band of strong leather, or with at least three or more layers of fabric.
- A leather band must be glued, sewn or riveted, to the shield. Any rivets must be neatly finished, the edge of the rivet should not stick out.
- The flat outside wooden shields must be covered with leather or fabric.
- The handles must be made of leather.
- Wooden bucklers must have a handle made of wood.

1.5 Metal shields requirements

- Must be of round shapes, based on historical sources, and repeat the form of the original in all three dimensions.
- The entire edge of metal shields must be rolled to the thickness of a minimum of 4 mm or more.
- The handles must be made of metal.



2. Heater shield

2.1 Historical sources and datation

- Heater shields are the main shield shape for knights of the middle ages. Its triangular shape is typical of the 14th century. The shape goes thinner as the armors become more effective.
- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional and 15th century armors.



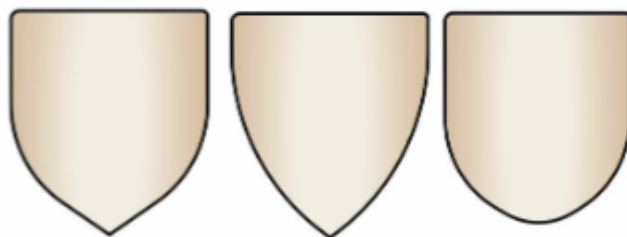
Shield of Loew von Steinfurth,
1380 - Germany



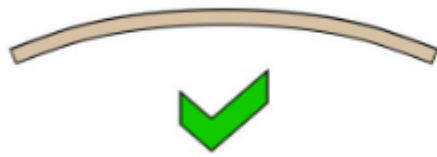
Grande Chroniques de France
1400 - France

2.2 Specific requirements

- Heater shield must conform to the general requirements (1.3) and wooden shields requirements (1.4)
- Heater shield must be made of wood.
- Shape must be rectangular with a pointy shape at the bottom.



- Heater shield must be curved, not flat.



- Length must be from 40 cm to 75 cm.
- Width must be from 30 cm to 65 cm.
- It is not allowed to add a shield boss (umbo) on a Heater shield, unless documented by historical sources.

2.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

2.4 Examples of **Denied** reproductions



This shape (oval) is not based on historical sources. Heater shield can't be built with a central handle and a metal boss (same as a buckler).

Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

3. Punch shield

3.1 Historical sources and datation

- Punch shields are designed to strike with the edge. The handles and straps allow you to wear them in a striking position. Their shape may vary depending on the time and place. Most common shapes are rectangular, trapezoid and oval.
- Their ultimate evolution is the pavese of the 15th century. This type of shield has a rectangular shape and a gutter in the middle.
- All shapes except Pavese shape are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional armors, and 15th century armors.
- Pavese shape is **denied** for 14th century and Transitional armors, and **approved** for 15th century armors.



Shield of Order Teutonicus Great Master
1320 - Germany



Castello di Avio - 1350 - Italy



Pavese shape
with gutter in the middle



Deutsches Historisches Museum (Berlin) 1480 - Germany

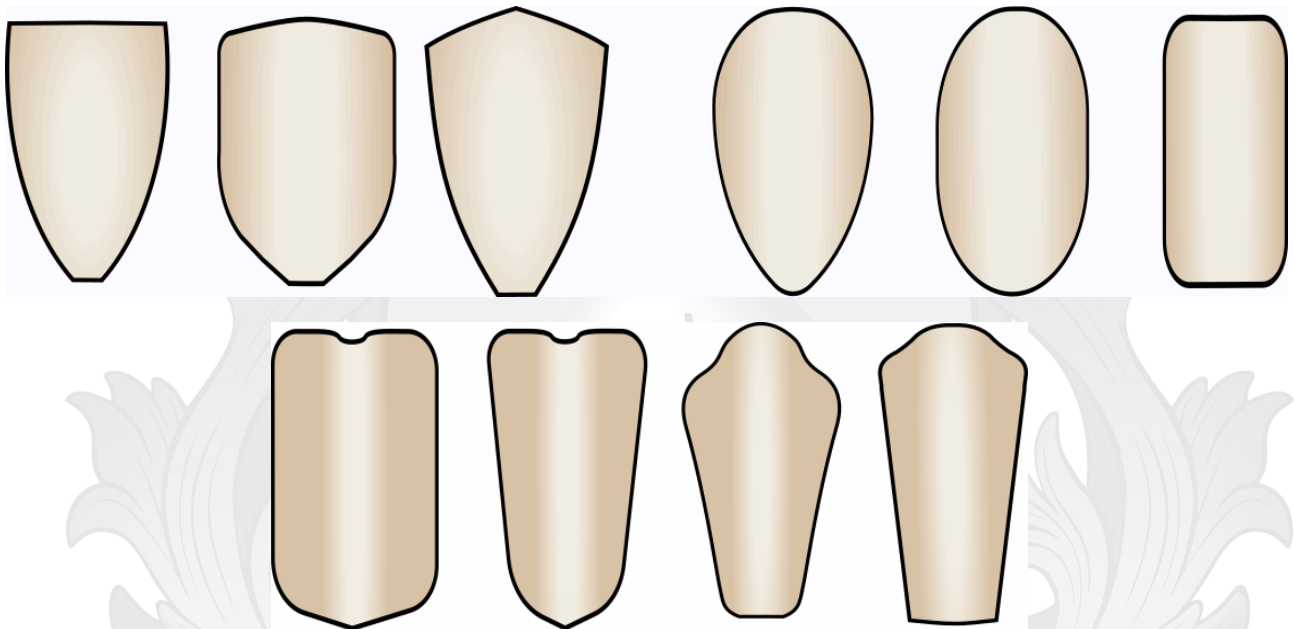
Wien Museum
1480 - Austria



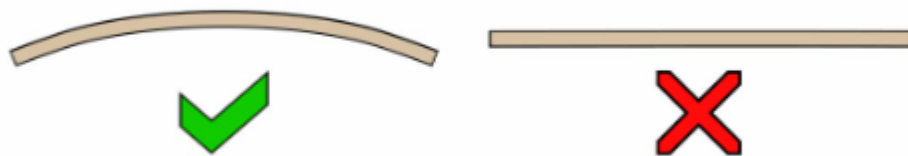
Paduan Bible - 1400 - Italy

3.2 Specific requirements

- Punch shield must conform to the general requirements (1.3) and wooden shields requirements (1.4)
- Punch shield must be made of wood.
- Shape must be rectangular, oval or pointed.



- Length must be from 55 cm to 75 cm.
- Width must be from 30 cm to 50 cm.
- Punch shield must not be flat and conform to a curve.

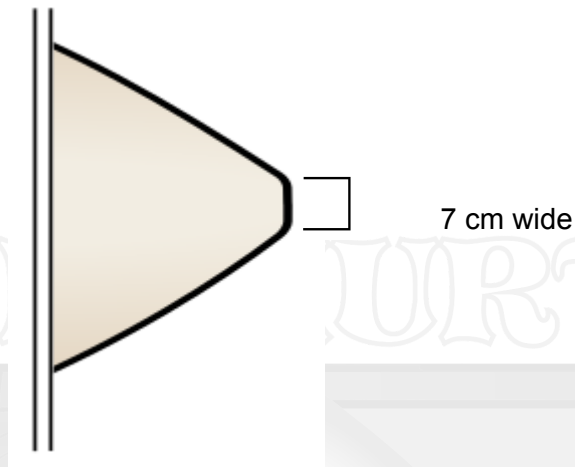


- By exception of 3.2.6, pavese shape can be flat if they conform to historical designs.



- Striking area can be rounded or flat.

- Rounded striking area must conform to a curve of 7cm diameter.
- Flat striking area must be 7cm wide as a minimum.



- It is not allowed to add a shield boss (umbo) on a Punch shield.
- It is allowed to add a metal sheet on the shield to increase its resilience.
 - Additional metal sheets must be covered by leather or fabric as another part of the outside of the shield.
 - Additional metal sheets must have no sharp edges nor pointy parts.
 - Additional metal sheets must be properly attached to the wooden core of the shield, by rivets, nails or strong glue.

3.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

3.4 Examples of **Denied** reproductions



Flat Shield



Absence of leather or 3 layers of fabric on the edge

Pictures from The Medieval Things ©



4. Round shield

4.1 Historical sources and datation

- Round shields were very common in the early 14th century, and became rare while other designs spread. They are mainly made of wood. Some examples of metal round shields exist but they are parade shields and should be worn only with the proper set of armor of the late 15th century.
- Round shields are worn with straps made of leather.
- They are **approved** for 14th century and Transitional armors.
- They are **denied** for 15th century armors unless historical sources are provided.



Roman de la Rose - 1350 - France

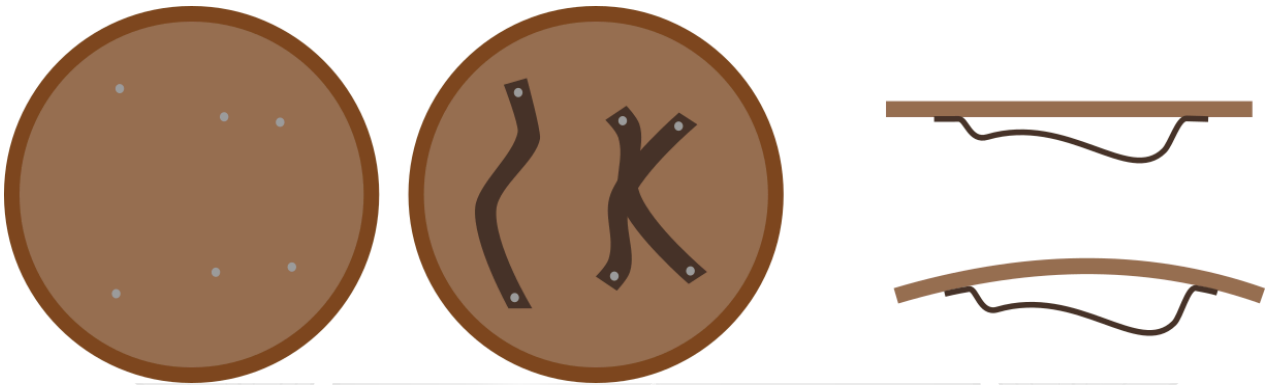


Cathedral of Strasbourg - 1340 - France

4.2 Specific requirements

- Round shields must conform to the general requirements (1.3) and either wooden shields requirements (1.4) or metal shields requirements (1.5) depending on material.
- Round shields can be made of wood or metal.
- Any metal round shields must be approved by the Authenticity Committee to be allowed in Buhurt International events.
- Diameter must be from 25 cm to 70 cm.
- Round shields may be flat or have a concave curve.
- The handles must be made of leather.

- It is not allowed to add a shield boss (umbo) on a round shield unless documented by historical sources.



4.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Pictures from The Medieval Things ©

4.4 Examples of **Denied** reproductions



Round shield with shield boss (umbo)

5. Bucklers

5.1 Historical sources and datation

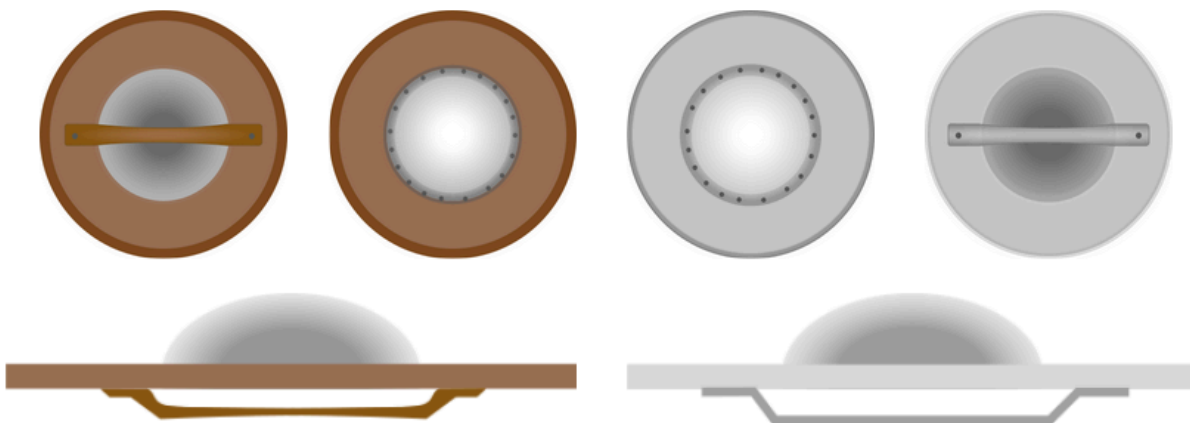
- Buckler is a small round shield made of wood or metal. It does not have straps but a rigid handle and a shield boss (umbo).
- They are **approved** for 14th century, Transitional armors and 15th century armors.



Weltchronik in Versen - 1370 - Germany

5.2 Specific requirements

- Bucklers must conform to the general requirements (1.3) and either wooden shields requirements (1.4), or metal shield requirements (1.5), depending on the material of the buckler.
- Bucklers must be made of wood or metal.
- Buckler must have a shield boss (umbo).
 - Shield boss must be made of metal.
 - Shield boss can be riveted or forged.
- Diameter of a buckler must be from 20 cm to 35 cm.
- Bucklers can be flat or curved depending on historical sources.



- If the buckler is made of wood, the handle must be made of wood.
- If the buckler is made of metal, the handle must be made of metal.
- A strap can be added to secure the buckler in punch position. This strap must be made of leather.

5.3 Examples of **Approved** reproductions



Forged shield boss

Riveted shield boss

Reinforced buckler with cross

Pictures from Black Dog Armoury ©



Wooden buckler

Picture from The Medieval Things ©



Additional leather strap

5.4 Examples of **Denied** reproductions



Black painting is not allowed as per Armors and Weapons Aesthetics and Decoration.

Pictures from The Medieval Things ©



6. Fastening systems

6.1 Historical sources and datation

- Leather straps were fastened with nails or rivets.
- The following methods are approved for 14th century, Transitional armors and 15th century armors:
 - Nails
 - Rivets
 - Modern nuts and bolt



Nails



Rivet with metal plate

Pictures from Black Dog Armoury ©

6.2 Specific requirements

- Nails and rivets can be left visible.
- Modern nuts and bolts must be concealed by one of the following methods:
 - Covered by a piece of leather nailed to the shield.
 - Painted in black or any other color to make it concealed.
 - Bolts must not protrude from the nuts.
 - Hexagonal bolts must be grinded to a rounded shape, replicating a rivet aesthetic.

6.3 Examples of **Approved** systems



Rivets can be visible



Modern nuts and bolts, painted

black

Pictures from Medieval Extreme ©

7. Change log

Below, we will keep track of all the changes made over the lifetime of this document. This way, all our members can see how the documents are changing over time.

December-2024: -Add

Document has been created

