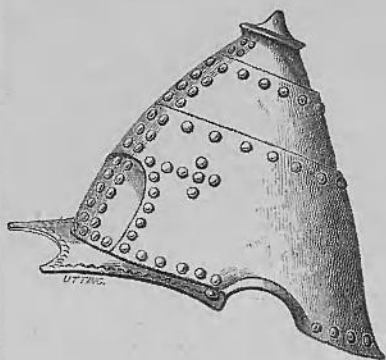


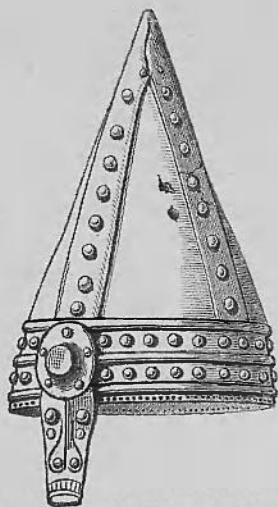
SERIES OF EARLY HELMETS AT PARHAM PARK.



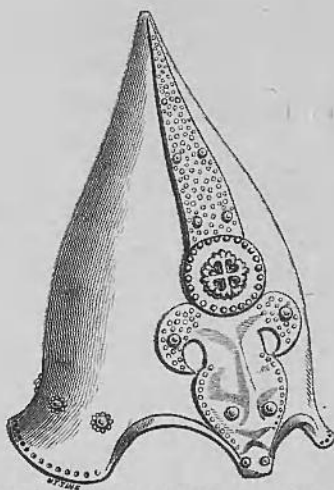
I. Anglo-Saxon.  
Seventh or Eighth century.



II. Anglo-Saxon.  
Date about A.D. 800.

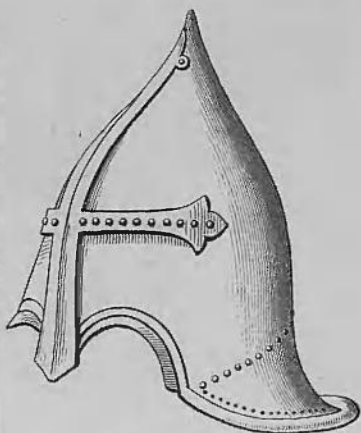


III. Norman.  
Of the time of William the Conqueror.

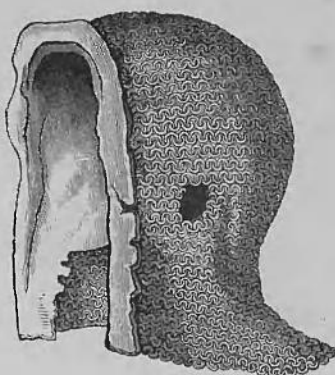


IV. Norman.  
Possibly of the Twelfth century.

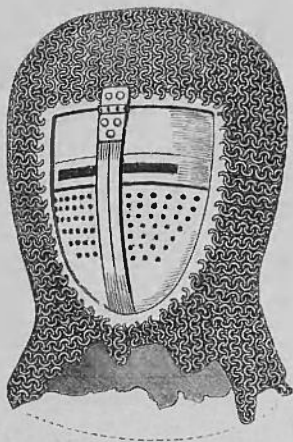
SERIES OF EARLY HELMETS AT PARHAM PARK.



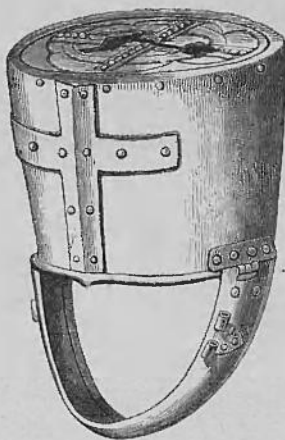
V. Basinet.  
Date possibly Twelfth century.



VI. Hood of chain-mail, not riveted.

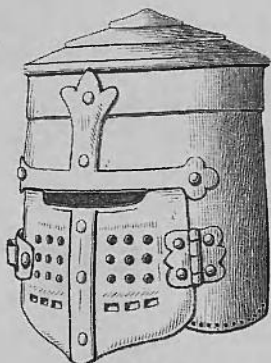


VII. Hood of chain-mail, with a hinged visor.  
Date Thirteenth century.



VIII. Norman.  
Date Twelfth century.

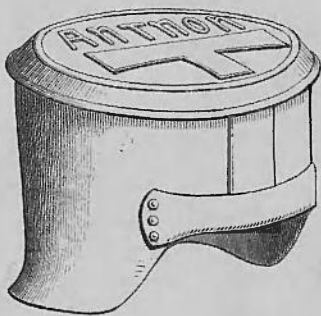
SERIES OF EARLY HELMETS AT PAIHAM PARK.



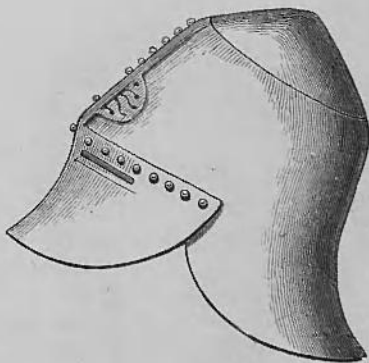
IX. Cylindrical helmet with moveable aventail.  
Date Thirteenth century.



X. Cylindrical helmet.  
Date Thirteenth century.

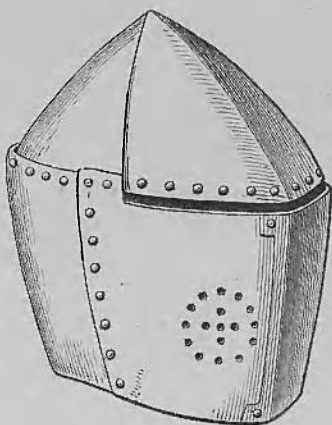


XI. Open cylindrical helmet, with the Tau of St. Anthony.  
Date about 1298.

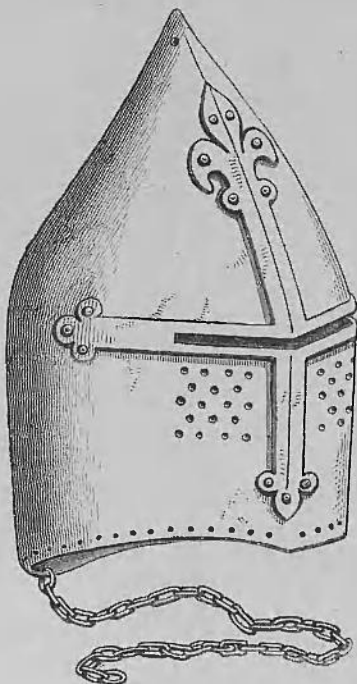


XII. Helmet ascribed to Robert Bruce.  
Date early Fourteenth century.

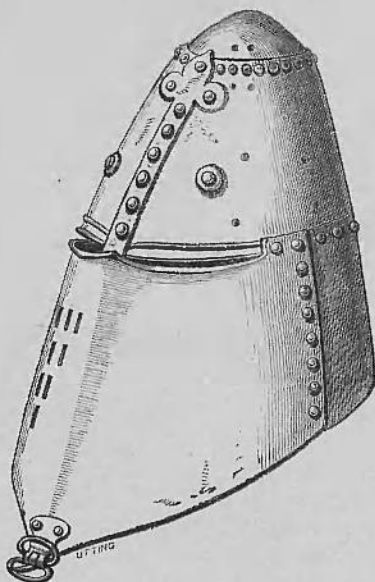
SERIES OF EARLY HELMETS AT PARHAM PARK.



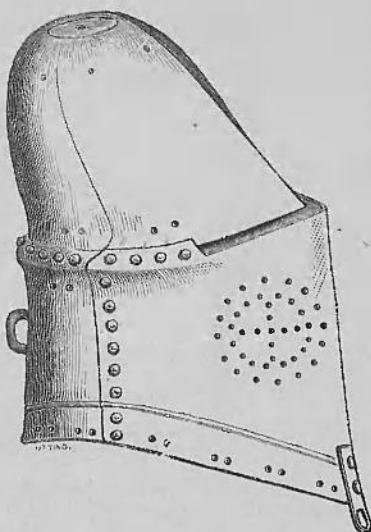
XIII. Tilting helmet.  
Date 1280—1320.



XIV. Tilting helmet.  
Date 1280.

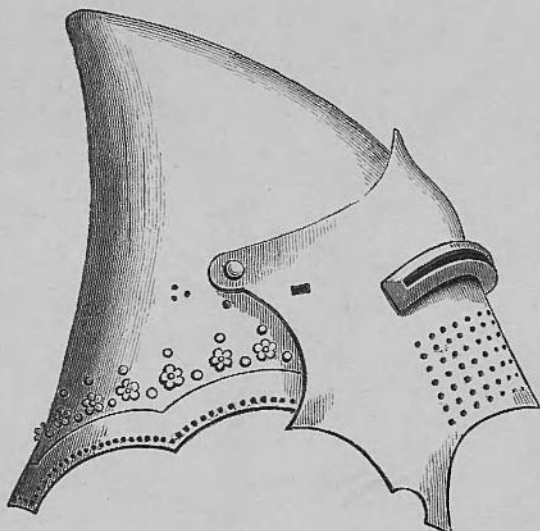


XV. Tilting helmet.  
Date 1401.

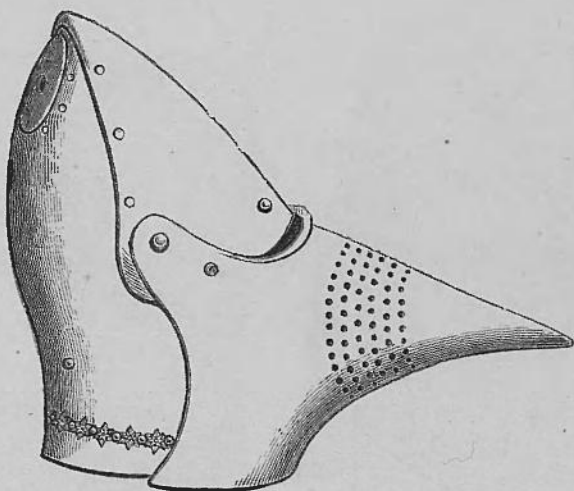


XVI. Tilting helmet.  
Date 1380.

SERIES OF EARLY HELMETS AT PARHAM PARK.

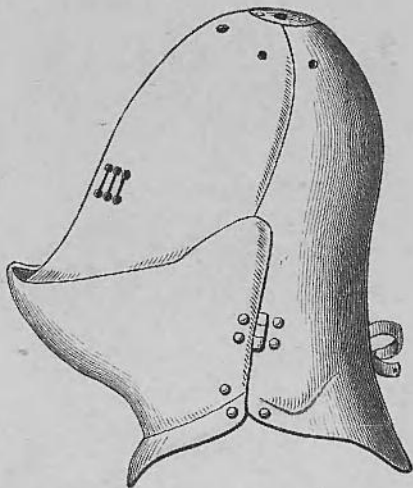


XVII. Visored basinet. German. Date about 1380.

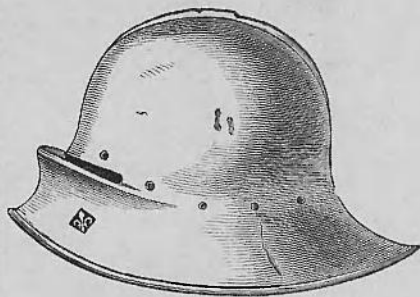


XVIII. Basinet, with singular long-peaked visor. Date 1350.

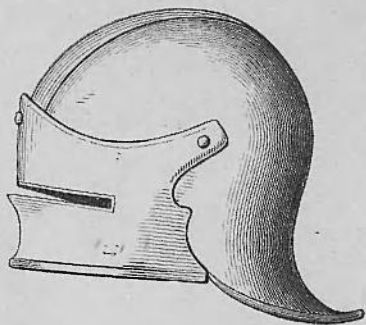
SERIES OF EARLY HELMETS AT PARHAM PARK.



XIX. Helmet, with beaver and visor. Date early Fifteenth century.

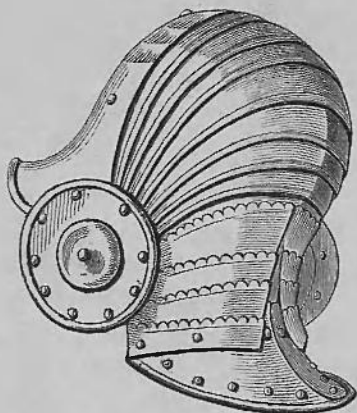


XX. Salade, worn by a knight of Rhodes.  
Date Fifteenth century.

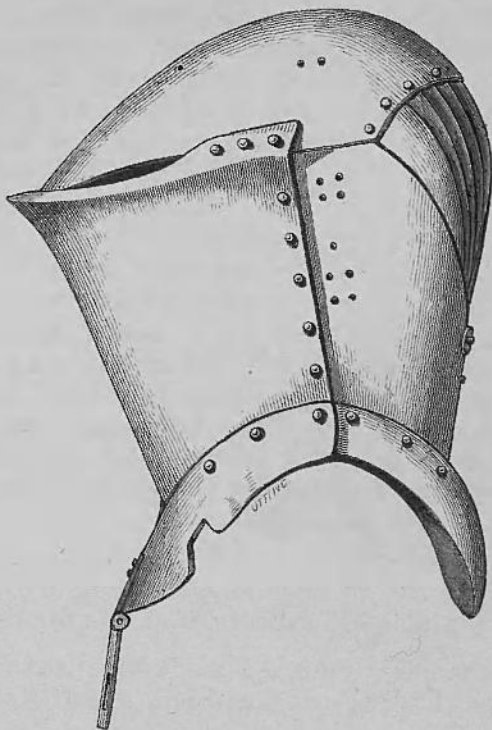


XXI. Visored Salade.  
Date Fifteenth century.

SERIES OF EARLY HELMETS AT PARHAM PARK.



XXII. Jointed Helmet. Date Fifteenth century.



XXIII. Tilting Helmet of unusual size. Date Fifteenth century.

NOTICES OF EARLY HELMETS PRESERVED IN THE ARMOURY  
AT PARHAM PARK, SUSSEX.

By the LORD ZOUCHE.

IN a former volume of this journal, in 1865,<sup>1</sup> a notice was given of sixteen early helmets, preserved in the armoury at Parham Park, Sussex. A further notice of twenty-three ancient helmets, with woodcuts, is now presented to the reader. As they are all English, except when the contrary is mentioned, they may be considered as interesting memorials of the history of this country, as well as affording proofs of the exact accuracy in which the real armour was copied, on the monumental effigies of the middle ages.

It is known whence all these helmets, and many others, come from, and to whom most of them belonged, but this information has not been given here, as it would swell the dimensions of a short paper into the size of a small volume, which would not be suitable to the present occasion.

They are arranged chronologically, as far as their dates can be ascertained with any certainty.

I. Anglo-Saxon helmet. This was found in a drain at Oxford, with a square iron bell, which had been coated with copper, a double-headed axe (*bipennis*), also the remains of a sword-blade and a spear-head, and some other pieces of iron.

This is the oldest piece of *iron* European armour that I am acquainted with, though it is difficult to assign an exact date to it. It may be of the seventh or eighth century.

The only older specimens of iron armour (not arms) that I have seen, are three helmets, brought by Mr. Layard from Nineveh, which are now in the British Museum.

II. Anglo-Saxon, date about A.D. 800. This was dug up in a field in Oxfordshire, and was shown at the Ironmongers'

<sup>1</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. xxii. p. 1—13.



exhibition in 1861.<sup>2</sup> It is made of several pieces riveted together. Helmets like it are seen on early sculptures, and in illuminations of the ninth and tenth centuries.

III. Helmet of the time of William the Conqueror, resembling those portrayed in the Bayeux tapestry. It is possibly one of those used at the battle of Hastings. With it, in the Parham armoury, is a heart-shaped shield of thin bronze, with a Wyvern embossed upon it; this has been mounted on wood. It was found in a dyke or earthwork at Kingston-on-Hull, on the banks of the Humber.

IV. Probably very ancient, perhaps of the twelfth century. It was dredged out of the river Thames at Radcot Bridge, near Abingdon, with some pieces of chain armour, which, however, were not older than the fourteenth century, dating, probably, from the battle fought there in 1387. The cross on the forehead is of brass or gold.

This may be a peculiarly-shaped basinet of the fourteenth century, but I should think, from its nasal and eyelids, and the way in which it is riveted together, not welded, that it must be much earlier.

V. This helmet is of a remarkably beautiful outline; it is very difficult to assign an exact date to it. It is either a peculiar form of basinet of the fourteenth century, or what seems more likely, from the way it is riveted together, and the general form and character, it may be of the twelfth century.

It is said to have belonged to Sir — Wyville, who slew the "grete worme" of Slingsby, in Yorkshire, in the year 1140; but, according to the Ballad, it was Lambton of Lambton, who slew the "laidlie worme" in the twelfth or beginning of the thirteenth century. I may observe that all helmets and armour were riveted together, and not welded, till about the year 1300.

VI. Hood of chain mail, the rings not riveted. It has part of the original leather lining remaining.

VII. A hood of chain mail, with a visor which lifts up with a hinge upon the forehead. The links are large and

<sup>2</sup> Catalogue of Antiquities exhibited at Ironmonger's Hall, London, p. 153, where this very curious specimen is

figured. It is probably unique. It is there ascribed to the middle of the twelfth century.

not riveted. This is an example of mail of the thirteenth century.

#### VIII. Cylindrical Norman helmet of the twelfth century.

This remarkable specimen is of the same form as the one on the effigy of Geoffrey de Mandeville, in the Temple Church. It has a quartrefoil inclosing a cross, upon the flat top of the helmet; the piece under the chin seems to have had an aventaille fastened to it with a hinge.

IX. Cylindrical helmet of the thirteenth century, with a moveable aventaille, opening with a hinge on the left side. It has been painted blue.

X. Cylindrical helmet of the thirteenth century; a very fine example. It has had a tremendous blow, perhaps with a heavy battle-axe, on the forehead.

XI. Open cylindrical helmet of the latter part of the thirteenth century. It belonged to a knight of the order of St. Anthony, and has the Tau, or crutch of the saint, and the word ANTHON, embossed upon the flat top. The order of St. Anthony was established by Pope Boniface VIII. in 1298, which is about the date of this helmet. The effigy of Sir Roger De Bois, in Ingham Church, Norfolk, has the insignia of the order of St. Anthony; but that monument having been erected many years after Sir Roger's death, the armour is represented of the fashion when it was sculptured, not when Sir Roger died—an artful trap for unsuspicious antiquaries.<sup>3</sup>

XII. Helmet of Robert Bruce, King of Scots, who died July 9, 1329. There are some plausible reasons for supposing that this really was the helmet of the great king of Scotland. It was long preserved as such by the family of MacLaughlan, and it is certainly of that date, though very peculiar in form, and unlike any other that I have seen.

XIII. Tilting helmet. A.D. 1280—1320. This has an additional plate on the forehead, and another on the left side of the head. I have not seen any other like it; but there

<sup>3</sup> The effigies of a knight and lady at Ingham, Norfolk, have been ascribed, on the authority of an inscription preserved by Blomefield, to Sir Roger de Boys and his wife Margaret. The knight and his

lady wear long mantles; on the right shoulder of each is a circular badge bearing the Tau and the letters—ANTHON—precisely as on the helmet at Parham. Stothard, Monum. Eff., No. 58, p. 52.

formerly existed a wooden figure of Philippe de Valois, in the church of Notre Dame at Paris : it was an equestrian figure, with the real helmet, surcoat, and housings of the horse ; it was destroyed in the great revolution, but there is an engraving of it, in Montfaucon, with a helmet, the same as this, which is, however, English, and not French.<sup>4</sup>

XIV. Tilting helmet. A.D. 1280. This fine helmet has the original chain, to fasten it to one of the mammelons (circular pieces of metal, worn on the breast) ; the other mammelon had a chain, to which the sword-hilt was attached, as seen on monumental effigies of the end of the thirteenth and beginning of the fourteenth centuries.

XV. Tilting helmet of the year 1401. Worn over the basinet at this period and in the fourteenth century. This one weighs 12 pounds 12 ounces.

XVI. Tilting helmet and gauntlets. A.D. 1380. The staple at the back is for fastening on the lambrequins, a sort of housings worn under the crest, as seen in heraldic achievements, in drawings also, and engravings.

XVII. Basinet with a visor. This singular helmet is not English ; it came from the south of Germany, and is characteristic of the quaint forms of armour in the fourteenth and the beginning of the fifteenth centuries. Worn by the knights of the Holy Roman Empire.

XVIII. Visored basinet, with a singularly long-peaked visor, or beak. Its date is A.D. 1350 ; it has a double piece of steel on the forehead, and the little roses round the neck seem to be of gold. The flat place on the top of the crown is for fastening, on the crest, a swan's head, or a demi-swan, or the like. This is a wonderfully quaint piece of English armour : it may, however, have been made abroad ; it is of very fine workmanship.

XIX. Helmet of the beginning of the fifteenth century, of a complicated construction ; the beaver opens on the left side with a hinge ; the visor does not open at all, a strap and buckle keeps it together round the neck. It resembles in its general character the helmet of Richard Beauchamp,

<sup>4</sup> Montfaucon, *Monarchie Française*, tom. ii. p. 286, pl. 49.

Earl of Warwick, now preserved at Warwick Castle. The projection on the top is for fastening on the crest.

XX. Salade of the fifteenth century forged in one piece.

This kind of helmet was commonly worn during the fifteenth century, all over Europe. This one belonged to one of the knights of Rhodes, another in the Parham collection, exactly similar, has a French armourer's mark.

XXI. Visored salade of the fifteenth century. This has been smaller, but has been opened down the middle, and a piece let in, to fit a man with a larger head.

XXII. A curious jointed helmet of the fifteenth century. This is the kind of helmet represented in Caxton's woodcuts and in block books. It is made of more than twenty pieces.

One, the circular ear pieces wanting, is in the Meyrick collection ; this is quite perfect.<sup>5</sup>

XXIII. Immense tilting helmet of the fifteenth century. The whole suit of armour belonging to it, with its shield, is at Parham, the only one now existing in England (1871).

This helmet is 20 in. high, 3 ft. 5 in. round the head, and weighs 15 lbs. 2 oz.

From a long continued study of very early armour and military antiquities, I have come to the conclusion that weapons of bronze continued to be used at a comparatively late period, because the sword (*Ferrum*) was made of iron, and was little or no better, as a cutting instrument, than those of the metal composed of copper and tin. The famous swords of chivalry, such as Joyeuse, the sword of Charlemagne, now preserved at Vienna, and Durandana, the sword of Orlando, now at Madrid, were held in such esteem because they were not made of iron, but of steel, which made all the difference.

The armour of chain mail, represented on monumental effigies of the Knights Templars and other personages of the thirteenth century, was made of large rings ; the earliest rings were each forged separately, and were made of triangular or quadrangular bits of iron ; but later, when the art

<sup>5</sup> Skelton, Engraved Illustrations of Armour at Goodrich Court, vol. i. plate viii. Swabian Suit of Tournament Ar-

mour, date 1543. The helmet is described as a "Coursing-hat."

of wire-drawing in iron was discovered, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, the rings were made of strong, thick wire; but later than that period they were never riveted. It must be observed that although thick iron wire seems to have been unknown before, about the year 1300, thin gold, and silver and copper wire, was used at a very early period, as is shown in many specimens of *cloisonné* enamel.

Riveted chain armour was brought into Europe, for the first time, from the East, by the soldiers of the Crusades, and I believe that the earliest specimens of riveted chain armour now in existence in Europe are oriental, and none of it older than the first half of the fourteenth century.

Before that time I believe all the chain armour, of which the rings were as big as sixpences, were sewn on to leather, or strong linen tunics and stockings, but the lighter and later riveted chain mail was not sewn on to anything, but was worn over other clothing.

The masceled armour, seen in illuminations and painted glass, was composed of diamond-shaped pieces of iron, fastened by leather thongs, the same as boot laces, to strong cuirasses of bull's hide or buck-skin, as is shown by the solitary example still in existence at Parham.

The chain armour represented on monuments, in a kind of stripes, was composed of interlaced iron rings, every other row of rings being threaded with a lace of raw hide. This kind of armour is still worn in Circassia and the northern parts of India and Persia. As it is quite stiff, it is only used in those countries for collars and those parts of the armour which do not require to be bent, and is often lined with padded velvet.

The most ancient iron plate armour was always made up with small pieces of iron riveted together; there were six or seven pieces in a helmet. Shields were not made of iron or covered with iron, but were of wood, covered with brass, often gilt, probably sometimes of gold, and were usually very ornamental. Ancient illuminations show that the shield was almost an article of furniture before the eleventh or twelfth century. The victorious general was elevated on a shield in Roman and Byzantine times, it was used as a table and as a tray in the Norman days, and was hung up upon the wall of the castle hall as an ornament and mark of honour to its possessor, a custom which still lingers on in the instance

of the hatchments, or atchievements, hung over the door of the house after the death of its owner.

The armour and helmets before the year 1300, more or less, being always made of small pieces of iron riveted together, forms a guide to ascertain the date of those rare relics. After the year 1300 pieces of armour first began to be braced together. I have never seen any pieces of iron braced together before that period, and about this time also iron was apparently hardened, it may be called case hardened, by hammering it when cold, after having been heated in the forge, and plunged while hot into cold water, in which acids, leather, and other things, were soaked, and which were supposed to temper the iron.

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The Central Committee desire to record the expression of their grateful esteem of the renewed liberality of the Lord Zouche, by whom the whole of the illustrations of the foregoing memoir have been contributed.