

## SALADE BELONGING TO THE BARON DE COSSON.

By W. BURGES.

The thanks of the readers of the *Archæological Journal* are due to the Baron de Cosson for his kindness in lending for illustration the *salade* in question, out of his collection of arms and armour at Chertsey.

This *salade* is remarkable from more than one point of view.

In the first place it is very thin, only weighing 5lb. 1 oz. The edges are cut square, except round the tail, where they have been flattened out and turned inward, as at F.

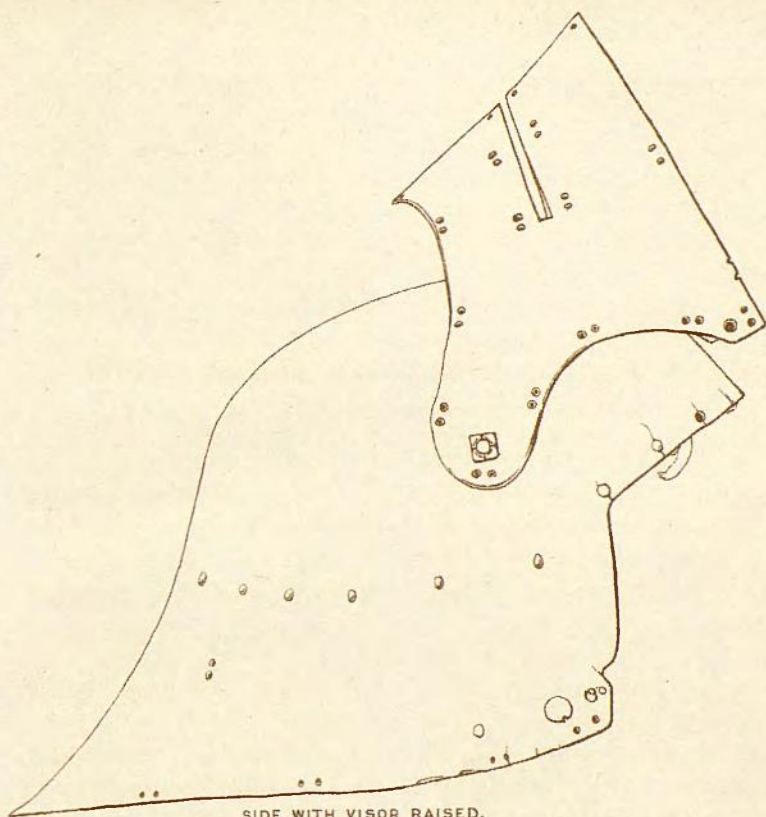
In the next place the exterior surface is exceedingly rough and unfinished, leading to the impression that it must either have been painted, or else covered by some sort of textile material, and indeed it is well known that armour was not infrequently covered in the latter part of the fifteenth century with precious stuffs.

Now our own national collection in the Tower of London luckily supplies a solution of the question; in it is preserved a *salade* of precisely the same shape and dimensions as that belonging to the Baron de Cosson, but the exterior is entirely painted over with ornamental decoration. The label affixed gives its history as follows:

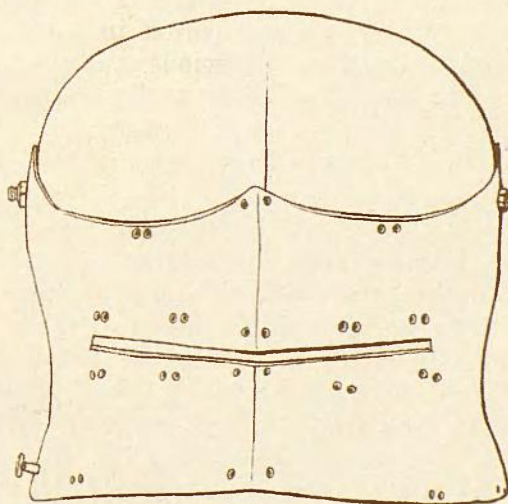
"This came from the castle of Ort, in Bavaria, and was formerly in the possession of Professor Baer, at Dresden, who subsequently sold it to the Tower authorities."

During the time it belonged to the Professor it was drawn and engraved for the great work of Hefner,<sup>1</sup> and here it may be observed how very little even the best and most careful works are to be trusted. In the colored copy in my possession the flame-like ornaments are re-

<sup>1</sup> Hefner's *Trachten*, vol. ii, plate 179, p. 254.



SIDE, WITH VISOR RAISED.



FRONT VIEW.

# SALADE WITH VISOR.

IN THE POSSESSION OF THE BARON DE COSSON.

presented as painted on the steel itself. This could hardly have been the case with the Baron de Cosson's example, as the ground is so very rough. On application to the Tower it turned out that the *salade* in that collection was the identical *salade* represented in Hefner's work.

By the kindness of the Assistant Commissary General, who has charge of the collection, the glass case was removed, and then it appeared that the entire surface had been painted, and that Hefner's plate was wrong as regards the distribution of color.

There can therefore be little doubt but that the *salade* under consideration was equally covered by ornamental painting.

The distribution of colors in the Tower example is as follows :

The lower part and the visor is covered by a pattern of chequers three deep. The squares are alternately white and yellow ; the former are charged with a red interlaced ornament ; the latter with a red portcullis, but occasionally stars are substituted in a very irregular manner ; above this border is a row of portcullises, and then the crown is divided with variously colored longitudinal divisions running from the front backwards, and upon each of these is a flame-like ornament running equally from front to back. It should be remarked that the painting has got very dark, and in many parts much worn off, but enough remained to make certain of the total covering of the surface.

In the Baron de Cosson's example there is now no trace of the painting, for the cleaning process has been very thorough and complete, but at the same time it enables us to discover that there have been sundry ruptures, either caused by violence or bad forging, which have been made good in the usual ancient manner with copper brazing.

The lining is not the least curious part of this *salade*, for it remains nearly entire, and is thus arranged : about three-and-a-half inches from the bottom edge are a series of rivets, which have broad flat heads on the inside, but are filed flat with the surface on the outside. They fasten down a strip of leather, above one inch in width, to the lower edge of which is sewed the lining. This latter

consists of two layers of linen, the upper being rather coarser than the inside ; between them is a layer of wool roughly quilted down. The lining, which is quite loose except at the lower edge where it is sewn to the leather strip, is divided at the top into quarters, at the apex of each of which is an eyelet hole, so that the whole could be gathered in with a cord.

In the sharp angle behind the head is a pad of linen also stuffed with wool, to cause the lining to fit better to the head.

Round the lower edge of the *salade* and round the vizor is a series of little holes in groups of two, counter-sunk on the outside ; these served to attach the lining of the lower part by stitches of stout thread or silk, the upper part of this lower lining being sewn to the lower part of the upper lining above described. It was perhaps of richer material, and may even have been continued over the surface of the upper lining.

This *salade* has been exceedingly fortunate in preserving its original straps, which fastened under the chin. They are five inches and twelve inches long respectively, the former finishing with a pretty little buckle. The top ends expand in the shape of a Y, and are secured by means of the lining rivets.

The vizor presents the same series of double stitch holes, both round the edges and round the occularium, as occurs in the body of the *salade* ; it is also furnished with a catch on the right-hand side to keep it secure when lowered. The heads of the screws, which form the pivot, are made into four-foil flowers, and are also original.

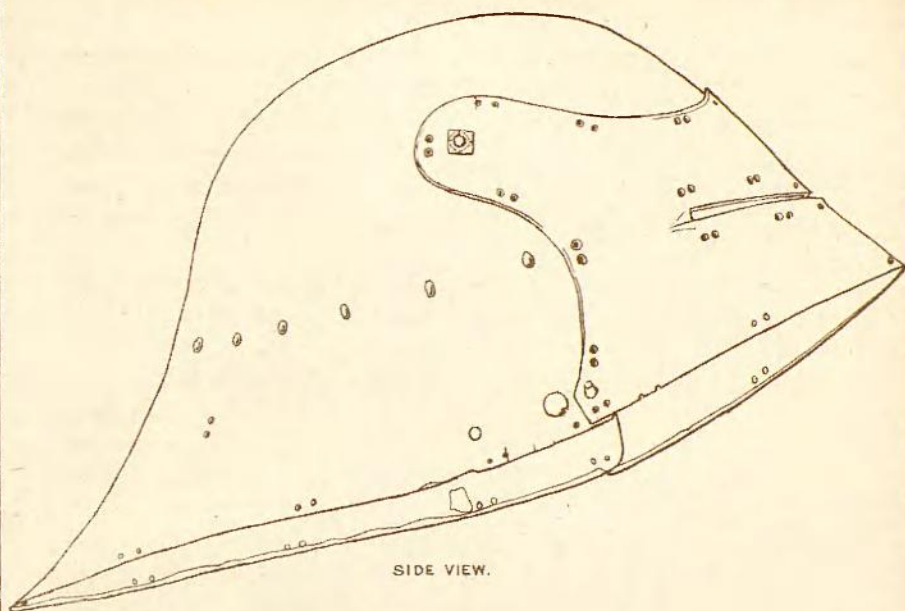
In conclusion, it may be observed that there are few helmets which present so many original features as the one which is the subject of the illustrations.

The examples in the Tower enables us to form a very clear idea of how it was painted outside, and the only part really lost is the lower part of the lining.

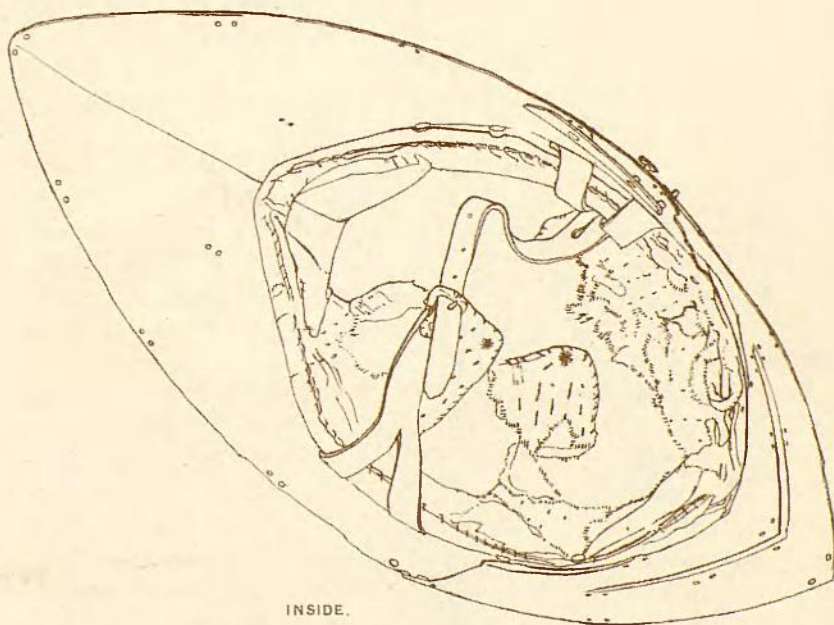
The possessor considers it to have belonged to an archer, and dates it from 1450 to 1480.

In the Ambras collection, there is a *salade* either decorated or covered with stuff, on the head of a knight's suit of armour, which may possibly be another of the





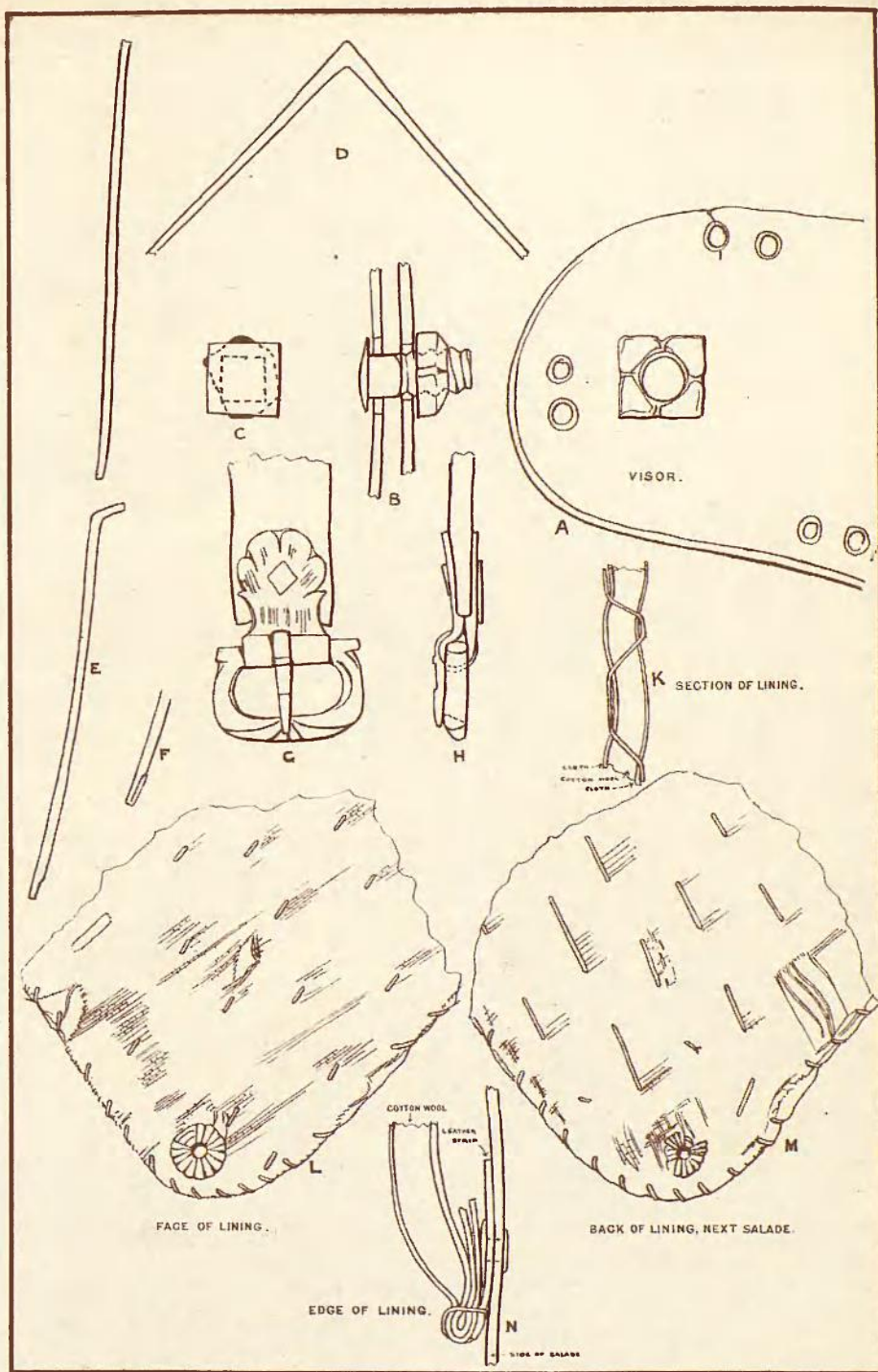
SIDE VIEW.



INSIDE.

# SALADE WITH VISOR.

IN THE POSSESSION OF THE BARON DE COSSON.



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same set, and there is another in Sir R. Wallace's collection which is unpainted.

But from the extreme thinness and lightness, these salades probably belonged to some company of archers attached to the Castle of Ort, and had nothing to do with knight's armour, as a blow of an axe would have made very short work of them.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE FULL-SIZED DETAILS.

- A End of visor showing pivot.
- B Section of pivot.
- C Inside elevation of pivot.
- D Cross section in front of visor.
- E Section through occularium.
- F Section through lower edge of salade.
- G Buckle of strap.
- H Section of ditto.
- K Section of lining.
- L Face of lining, showing the eyelet-hole for the cord which drew the quarters together.
- M Back of ditto.
- N Section through bottom of lining, showing the strap of leather to which it is sewed, and also the rivet.

The dimensions.

Extreme length 1 ft.  $5\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Extreme height  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in.

N.B.—The Tower example has no lining.