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CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE HISTORY OF MEDLÆVAL
ARMOUR AND WEAPONS IN EUROPE.

By JOHN HEWITT.

HELMETS OF THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES,
CALLED SALADES.

IN the progress of defensive equipment, the fifteenth century is characterised as the Era of complete plate. Not the body-armour alone, but the head-defence also partook of the change then effected: the old bassinet, which was formed of mail and plate, gave way to a new head-gear made of plate only. This was the *Celata*, *Salade*, or *Sallet*, as we follow the Italian, the French, or the English terminology. And there seems good reason to believe that the Italian *Celada* or *Celata* (see Florio in v.), derived from their verb *celare*, was the first name applied to this casque; and by fair inference that the Italians were the inventors of the thing itself. Meyrick, in his "Critical Inquiry," suggests that "the name had its origin from the German word *schale*, implying a shell" (Glossary, voce *Salett*, ed. 1842); but at p. 94, vol. ii. of the same edition he proposes "a cup," and at p. 116 of the same volume he refers the derivation to "a saucer." The rival claims of a shell, a cup, and a saucer, we must leave to our readers to adjust, and shall not be surprised if they find no resemblance to any of the three.

The *Salade pur-sang* consisted of two parts, the scull-cap with visor. and the beevor or chin-piece; and it was a characteristic of the former that it should come low in the neck behind. But we must bear in mind that, once the word *Sallet* adopted for a head-piece, the particular component parts were not rigidly exacted. Thus we have, in the course of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, *salades* with fixed and with moveable visors, with or without beevors, and at length *sallets* which were in fact nothing more than plain skull-caps. For a royal army in 1543, the mayor and sheriffs of Norwich are to see that "Evry man provide a

PLATE I.

Salades, from the Turkish Arsenal at Rhodes.

capp to put his scull or sallet inne, whiche Willm. Tailour, capper of London, dothe make for viiid. a pece" (Norfolk Archæology, vol. i. p. 37). The order for the arming of the *Francs-archiers* of Louis XI. directs that "les Archiers aurent les Salades sans visieres;" while the lancers, guisarmiers, and cross-bowmen are to have them with visors (Daniel, Mil. Fran., i. 243).

The Salade appears to have come in about 1440. Its chief varieties of form are seen in our plates 1 and 2; the first containing examples lately procured from the Turkish arsenal at Rhodes, which, formerly belonging to the Knights of Rhodes, are now deposited in the Royal Artillery Museum at Woolwich; the second presenting specimens to illustrate special features in the defence under examination. No. 1 of plate 2 gives us the Salade with its mentoniere, and it will be seen that the beavor is fixed to the breast-plate by a screw: the knight, therefore, could not depress this portion, but could obtain abundance of air by throwing back his head; while, by a *forward* movement of his head, he could bring into contact the two parts, and thus obtain all the security this kind of head-piece was calculated to afford. That security was not of a very high order, and hence the changes effected towards the end of the fifteenth century, and the final attainment of the close-helmet of the sixteenth century.

An improvement of the visor is seen in the examples from Rhodes, Nos. 7 and 8, pl. 1, where that portion can be thrown up over the crown of the helmet. No. 8 has the further advantage of an articulated neckpiece. Such sallets as were worn by archers, arbalesters, and the like, are shown in pl. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 6, the last being a renewal of the old Greek form so familiar to us from a thousand monuments. It is commonly known among collectors as the "Venetian Salade." Nos. 4 and 5 are very rare and exceptional forms. No. 3 of this group requires its chin-piece, to be complete. Figures of archers, cross-bowmen, and others, combating in Salades with the face more or less disclosed, may be seen in the well-known Warwick pageant (Julius, E, IV.), in Roy. MS., 14, E, IV., Harl. MS., 4374, in the plates to Hefner's Costumes, the Archæologia, vol. xxi., and many other evidences of the second half of the fifteenth century. Mixed with them in the same conflicts will

Stone Cup, found in Anglesey. In possession of Miss M. Conway Griffith.
Diam. 4 in. See page 292.

Urn, found at Heighington, Lincolnshire. Height, $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. ; diam., $6\frac{1}{4}$ in.

be found the more complete Salade with beevor. Plate 179 of Hefner's Part ii. gives us an example of the sallet with long tail, copied in our second plate, fig. 2. It is worn with a beevor. In some cases the beevors were grated. Grose, at p. 243 of his "Ancient Armour," quotes from an inventory of the time of Edward VI.—"At Hampton Court, sallets with grates." Fig. 3 of our second plate gives one of these grated aventailles from the Tapestry of Aulhac, a work of the fifteenth century (Jubinal's "Tapisseries historiées"). Other examples occur in the same tapestry, and the whole of these wall-pictures are well deserving of an attentive examination by the student of military antiquities. An unusual variety of the visor appears among the drawings of Harl. MS. 4205, where it has a globose form, and is pierced with about a dozen round holes for sight. An example is given in our plate 2, fig. 4.

The beevor, as we have seen, was secured in front by screwing to the breast-plate; at the back it was held by a strap, as shown in Hefner's pl. 45, part 2. The skull-piece also was fastened by a strap passing under the chin, as in our fig. 5, pl. 2, an example supplied by Harl. MS. 4425, fol. 83. The open Salade with Wreath appears in our pl. 2, fig. 7, from Hefner's *Trachten*, part 2, pl. 169, of the fifteenth century. It is worn by a soldier carrying a two-hand martel-de-fer, sword, and oval shield. Plumes of various kinds are of frequent occurrence as adornments of the Salade. The narrow, upright feather is already seen in our fig. 7; and compare 80 of Hefner, part 2. In pls. 1 and 161 of the same work, a single ostrich feather is fixed to the *side* of the casque, and the same arrangement appears in the "Weiss Kunig," cut 38, &c. No. 1 of our Rhodian group has the pipe for a plume, in front; in other cases the plume-socket was placed on the top of the crown. Feathers in clusters were also worn with the knightly salade. No. 6 of our pl. 2, from the Ehrenpforte of the Emperor Maximilian, affords a good example: it is borne by a knight tilting. See also Hefner's plates 74 and 90. Brantôme, in his Memoir of the "Grand Duc d'Albe," describes him as mounted "sur un cheval d'Espagne tout blanc, armé tout à blanc, et de grandes et longues plumes blanches, qui luy pendoient sur sa salade, et sur les espaules bien bas" (vol. 4, p. 61, ed. 1787).

When worn in the tilt, the Salade was not unfrequently

PLATE II.

Helmets of the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries, called Salades.

“ Il eut encore un autre trophée, que le bon Pape Pie Quinte luy envoya, une Salade et une Espée bénite, qui est un présent et honneur qui a accoustumé d'estre donné par les Papes aux grands princes et illustres capitaines qui ont bravement combattu pour le soustien de l' Eglise, et en sont sortis victorieux ” (vol. iv. p. 67).

Notwithstanding the improvements in the Salade, this head-piece by no means fulfilled the requirements of the soldier. Especially, the mere contact of visor and beavor was a fatal weakness ; for an adroit thrust of lance, sword, or bill, would inflict a terrible face-wound, if not totally disable the wearer. To obviate this disadvantage, a helmet was constructed, in which those two pieces were merged together, a contrivance represented in our fig. 10, pl. 2. This *transitional* form, of the close of the fifteenth century, while it better defended the face, still left the neck unprotected. Again the Wayland Smiths of the day plied their hammers, and at length the *Close Helmet* of the sixteenth century was achieved. Of this the varieties are very numerous, but it will suffice here to invite attention to the so-called “Burgonet” or *Bourguignotte*, of which we give a sketch in pl. 2, fig. 11. The arrangement of it is very ingenious : the visor and beavor overlap each other, and are made fast by hook and staple, or by spring-bolts ; to guard the neck there is a hollow rim, which fits over the *projecting* rim of the gorget and thus holds the two pieces together, while it permits the wearer to move his head freely to right or left. Thus the “Defence” was for the moment triumphant, and for a moment only. No sooner had the armour-smith given the advantage to protective Steel, than aggressive Lead advanced to dispute the claim ; and very soon the *cause célèbre* of Bullet versus Burgonet was decided in favour of the former.