Clubs, Maces and Battle-Axes

A Wikipedia Compilation
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Chapter 1

Battle axe

"Battleaxe" redirects here. For other uses, see Battleaxe (disambiguation).

A **battle axe** (also **battle-axe** or **battle-ax**) is an axe specifically designed for combat. Battle axes were specialised versions of utility axes. Many were suitable for use in one hand, while others were larger and were deployed two-handed.

Axes designed for warfare ranged in weight from just over 0.5 kg to 3 kg (1 to 6 pounds), and in length from just over 30 cm to upwards of 1.5 m (1 to 5 feet), as in the case of the Danish axe or the sparth axe. Cleaving weapons longer than 1.5 m would arguably fall into the category of polearms.

1.1 Overview

Through the course of human history, commonplace objects have been pressed into service as weapons. Axes, by virtue of their ubiquity, are no exception. Besides axes designed for combat, there were many battle axes that doubled as tools. Axes could be modified into deadly projectiles as well (see the francisca for an example). Axes were always cheaper than swords and considerably more available.

Battle axes generally weigh far less than modern splitting axes, especially mauls, because they were designed to cut legs and arms rather than wood; consequently, slightly narrow slicing blades are the norm. This facilitates deep, grievous wounds. Moreover, a lighter weapon is much quicker to bring to bear in combat and manipulate for repeated strikes against an adversary.

The crescent-shaped heads of European battle axes of the Roman and post-Roman periods were usually made of wrought iron with a carbon steel edge or, as time elapsed across the many centuries of the medieval era, steel. The hardwood handles of military axes came to be reinforced with metal bands called langets, so that an enemy warrior could not cut the shaft. Some later specimens had all-metal handles.

Battle axes are particularly associated in Western popular imagination with the Vikings. Certainly, Scandinavian foot soldiers and maritime marauders employed them as a stock weapon during their heyday, which extended from the beginning of the 8th century to the end of the 11th century. They produced several varieties, including specialized throwing axes (see francisca) and "bearded" axes or "skeggox" (so named for their trailing lower blade edge which increased cleaving power and could be used to catch the edge of an opponent's shield and pull it down, leaving the shield-bearer vulnerable to a follow-up blow). Viking axes were wielded with one hand or two, depending on the length of the plain wooden haft. (See entry for Viking Age arms and armor.)

1.2 History

1.2.1 Europe

Prehistory and the ancient Mediterranean

Stone hand axes were in use in the Paleolithic period for hundreds of thousands of years. The first hafted stone axes appear to have been produced about 6000 BCE during the Mesolithic period. Technological development continued in the Neolithic period (see, for example, the entry for the Battle-axe people of Scandinavia, who treated their axes as high-status cultural objects). Narrow axe heads made of cast metals were subsequently manufactured by artisans in the Middle East and then Europe during the Copper Age and the Bronze Age. The earliest specimens were socket-less.

More specifically, bronze battle-axe heads are attested in the archeological record from ancient China and the New Kingdom of ancient Egypt. Some of them were suited for practical use as infantry weapons while others were clearly intended to be brandished as symbols of status and authority, judging by the quality of their decoration.

In the eastern Mediterranean Basin during the Iron Age, the double-bladed labrys axe was prevalent, and a hafted, single-bitted axe made of bronze or later iron was sometimes used as a weapon of war by the heavy infantry of ancient Greece, especially when confronted with thickly-armored opponents. The sagaris—described as either single bitted or double bitted—became associated by the Greeks with the mythological Amazons, though these were generally ceremonial axes rather than practical implements. The Roman Army equipped itself with axes. Legionaries used them as laboring tools rather than as weapons of war. However, the Barbarian tribes that the Romans encountered north of the Alps did include iron war axes in their armories, alongside swords and spears.

The Middle Ages

Battle axes were common in Europe in the Migration Period and the subsequent Viking Age, and they famously figure on the 11th-century Bayeaux Tapestry, which depicts Norman mounted knights pitted against Anglo-Saxon infantrymen. They continued to be employed throughout the rest of the Middle Ages; although they dipped in popularity during the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, they did not disappear: King Robert I of Scotland used one to defeat Henry de Bohun in single combat at the start of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, and they enjoyed a sustained revival in use among heavily armored equestrian combatants in the 15th century.

Most medieval European battle axes had a socketed head (meaning that the thicker, butt-end of the blade contained an opening into which a wooden haft was inserted), and some included langets—long strips of metal affixed to the faces of the haft to prevent it from being damaged during combat. Occasionally the cheeks of the axehead bore engraved, etched, punched or inlaid decorative patterns. Late-period battle axes tended to be of all-metal construction.

Such medieval polearms as the halberd and the poleaxe were variants of the basic battle-axe form.

Battle axes had gone somewhat out of favor with Europe's mounted knights between about 1100 and 1400 (although King Richard the Lionheart had famously wielded one while fighting at Jaffa in 1192, as did Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314). Expensive swords with long, straight, steel blades intended for slashing became, overwhelmingly, the preferred weapon of upper-class combatants during this period. Such swords were indeed fearsome objects when wielded expertly against foot soldiers clad in boiled-leather body armor or even maille covered knights on horseback.

However, when steel plate-armor covering almost all of a knight's body—and incorporating features specifically designed to defeat swords—was developed in the 15th century, a fresh generation of hafted weapons with greater impact-power had to be devised and adopted as a counter-measure by European armies. (Despite the significance of this development, swords would never lose their prestige as the premier implement of war and symbol of knighthood, changing over the duration of the later Middle Ages from a broad-bladed cutting instrument with a semi-rounded tip into a narrow thrusting instrument with a sharply pointed tip, capable of penetrating any "chinks in the armor" of a fully encased opponent: see, for example, the entry for estoc).

The newly invented flanged mace, for example, was no crude bludgeon like its predecessors. The vertical flanges projecting at regular intervals from its head could fracture plate armor and smash into underlying body tissue—yet it was a much cheaper weapon to make than a sword, whose blade was inclined in any case to glance harmlessly off the smooth, curved plates of a well-designed suit of armor if used in a chopping manner.

Battle axes took the flanged mace's innovative design concept one step further. By concentrating the weight of a single, sharpened, crescent-shaped wedge on a small target area of metal plate, the battle axe was capable of slicing through an opponent's armor and cutting deeply into the exposed flesh beneath. A sharp, sometimes curved pick was often fitted to the rear of the battle axe's blade to provide the user with a secondary weapon of penetration. A stabbing spike could be added, too, as a finial. Similarly, the war hammer evolved in late-medieval times with the aim of punching its spiked head through helmets or breastplates. These armour penetrations were not always fatal. There

are many accounts of plate armored knights being struck with said weapons and while the armor was damaged, the individual underneath survived and in some cases completely unharmed.[3]

It eventually became common for these various kinds of impact weapons to be made entirely from metal, thus doing away with reinforced wooden hafts. But the increased use of gunpowder-driven projectiles by armies in the field during the 1600s—and the associated demise of elaborate plate armor—rendered the battle axe and its cousins redundant as weapons of war, and they passed into history.

A useful visual guide to high-medieval battle axes, contemporary with their employment, are the scenes of warfare depicted in the Maciejowski Bible (Morgan Bible) of circa 1250.[4]

Battle axes also came to figure as heraldic devices on the coats of arms of several English and mainland European families.

Post-medieval axes

Battle axes were eventually phased out at the end of the 16th century as military tactics began to revolve increasingly around the use of gunpowder. However, as late as the 1640s, Prince Rupert—a Royalist general and cavalry commander during the English Civil War—is pictured carrying a battle axe, and this was not merely a decorative symbol of authority: the "short pole-axe" was adopted by Royalist cavalry officers to penetrate Roundhead troopers' helmets and cuirasses in close-quarters fighting,[5] and it was also used by their opponents: Sir Bevil Grenville was slain by a Parliamentarian pole-axe at the Battle of Lansdowne,[6] and Sir Richard Bulstrode was wounded by one at the Battle of Edgehill.

In Scandinavia, however, the battle axe continued in use alongside the halberd, crossbow and pole-axe until the start of the 18th century. The nature of Norwegian terrain in particular made pike and shot tactics impracticable in many cases. A law instituted in 1604 required all farmers to own weaponry to serve in the militia. The battle axe, much more wieldy than the pike or halberd and yet effective against mounted enemies, was a popular choice. Many such weapons were ornately decorated, and yet their functionality shows in the way that the axe head was mountned tilting upwards slightly, with a significant forward curve in the shaft, with the intent of making them more effective against armoured opponents.

During Napoleonic times, and later on in the 19th century, farriers in army service carried long and heavy axes as part of their kit. Although these could be used in an emergency for fighting, their primary use was logistical: the branded hooves of deceased military horses needed to be removed in order to prove that they had indeed died (and had not been stolen). Napoleon's Pioneer Corps also carried axes that were used for clearing vegetation—a practice employed by similar units in other armies.

1.2.2 Asia

Persia

The **tabarzin** (saddle axe)(Persian: تبرزین) (sometimes translated "saddle-hatchet") is the traditional battle axe of Persia (Iran). It bears one or two crescent-shaped blades. The long form of the *tabar* was about seven feet long, while a shorter version was about three feet long. What made the Persian axe unique is the very thin handle, which is very light and always metallic.[7]

The *tabarzin* is sometimes carried as a symbolic weapon by wandering dervishes (Muslim ascetic worshippers).

Persian weaponry is at times identical to East Indian weaponry because these two cultures have intermingled many times over the century. "Tabar" means axe, and "zin" meaning "saddle". [8]

India

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the tabar battle axe was a standard weapon of the mounted warriors of India, Afghanistan and what is now Pakistan. Made entirely of metal or with a wood haft, it had a strongly curved blade and a hammer-headed poll and was often decorated with scroll work. Sometimes a small knife was inserted in the tabar's hollow haft. The Iranians wielded a similar weapon.

There are examples of the employment of the battle axe in ancient India. The farasa or parashu was the weapon of choice of Lord Parashu Ram. It is still borne by some of the heretic sects of Indian Sadhus. A typical farasa could

have single edge or double edge, with a hole for fixing a shaft. The cutting edge of Indian farasa is invariably broad and the length of the haft could be about three to four feet. It is invariably made of wood/bamboo. In fact, examples of farasa can still be seen displayed in Indian households—particularly in the villages.

Sri Lanka

The keteriya was a type of battle axe that was used in ancient Sri Lanka. A keteriya consisted of a single edge and a short handle made of wood. This would allow the user to wield it with a single hand.

China

Different types of battleaxes may be found in ancient China. The *qi* (□) and *yue* (□) are heavy axes. They were common in Zhou dynasty but lost the favor from user due to lack of mobility. Later, it only used in ceremony, and such battleaxes made of bronze and jade have been found. The dagger axe is another form used in ancient times.

Vietnam

The battle axe is one of the most common type of weapons found in Vietnamese ancient cultures, particularly Dong Son culture.

Philippines

The panabas is the 19th-century battle axe as well as the chopping tool favored by the Moro tribes of Mindanao, Philippines which soon gained its place as a weapon of war similar to the western battle axe and with just as deadly results. The panabas is not only used as a weapon but it is also believed that the panabas has traditionally been used as an agricultural tool as well.

The panabas can range in size from 2 to 4 feet and usually 34 inches long. This single-edged sword, which takes on the appearance looking like a long handled kukri, can deliver a dreadfully deep meat cleaver like cut. Due to its clean cutting capabilities it was also sometimes used as an execution weapon. It is said that the Moro warriors wielding the panabas would follow the main group of warriors up front and would immediately without discussion or attention to formalities, go in mopping up any American survivors of the first wave of attack during the Philippine-American war.

It can be used by holding it with one hand or two hands.

The panabas hilts were often wrapped in rattan bindings or had metal collars. [9]

1.3 See also

- Bardiche
- Danish axe
- Fasces
- Francisca
- Halberd
- Keteriya
- Labrys
- Farasa/Parashu
- Parashurama
- Sagaris

- Sovnya
- Tomahawk
- Viking Age arms and armour

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An ornamented, 7th-century Merovingian battle axe head on display in the British Museum.[1][2]

Dong Son axes

Panabas

Chapter 2

Club (weapon)

"Cudgel" redirects here. For the racehorse, see Cudgel (horse).

A **club** (also known as **cudgel**, **baton**, **truncheon**, **cosh**, **nightstick**, or **bludgeon**) is among the simplest of all weapons. A club is essentially a short staff, or stick, usually made of wood, and wielded as a weapon since prehistoric times.

Most clubs are small enough to be swung in one hand although two-handed variants are known. Various kinds of clubs are used in martial arts and other specialized fields, including the law-enforcement baton. The military mace is a more sophisticated descendant of the club, typically made of metal and featuring a spiked, knobbed or flanged head attached to a shaft.

The wounds inflicted by a club are generally known as *bludgeoning* or *blunt-force trauma* injuries.

2.1 Law enforcement

Main article: Baton (law enforcement)

Police forces and their predecessors have traditionally favored the use, whenever possible, of less-lethal weapons than guns or blades to impose public order or to subdue and arrest law-violators. Until recent times, when alternatives such as tasers and capsicum spray became available, this category of policing weapon has generally been filled by some form of wooden club variously termed a truncheon, baton, nightstick or lathi. Short, flexible clubs are also often used, especially by plainclothes officers who need to avoid notice. These are known colloquially as blackjacks, saps, or coshes.

Conversely, criminals have been known to arm themselves with an array of homemade or improvised clubs, generally of easily concealable sizes, or which can be explained as being carried for legitimate purposes (such as baseball bats).

In addition, Shaolin monks and members of other religious orders around the world have employed cudgels from time to time as defensive weapons.

2.2 Types

Though perhaps the simplest of all weapons, there are many varieties of club, including:

> *For other types see Baton (law enforcement).*

- **Aklys** – a club with an integrated leather thong, used to return it to the hand after snapping it at an opponent. Its origin is unclear.
- **Ball Club**- These clubs were used by the Native Americans. There are two types; the Stone Ball clubs that were used mostly by early Plains, Plateau and Southwest Native Indians and the Wooden Ball clubs that the Huron and Iroquois tribes used. These consisted of a relatively free-moving round headed stone or wood and attached to a wooden handle.

Baton

- **Baseball, Cricket and T-ball bats** – The baseball bat is often used as an improvised weapon, much like the pickaxe handle. In countries where baseball is not commonly played, baseball bats are often first thought of as weapons (e.g. in Poland, baseball bats or similar are defined as weapons by law, so have been illegal to carry or possess).[1] Tee ball bats are also used in this manner. Their smaller size and lighter weight make the bat easier to handle in one hand than a baseball bat.
- **Baton**
- **Blackjack**: see ***cosh***.
- **Clava** -- a traditional stone hand-club used by Mapuche Indians in Chile, featuring a long flat body. Full name is *clava mere okewa*. In Spanish, it's known as *clava cefalomorfa*. It has some ritual importance as a special sign of distinction carried by the tribal chief.[2]
- **Cosh**:
  1. A weapon made of covered metal similar to a blackjack. See Baton (law enforcement)#Blackjack.

2. Any of various sorts of blunt instrument such as bludgeon, truncheon or the like)[3]

- **Cudgel –** A stout stick carried by peasants during the Middle Ages. It functioned as a walking staff and a weapon for both self-defence and wartime. Regiments of Clubmen were raised as late as the English Civil War. The cudgel is also known as the Singlestick.
- **Crowbar**- The crowbar is a commonly used improvised weapon, though some examples are too large to be wielded with a single hand, and therefore should be classified as staves.
- **Flashlight –** Large metal flashlights such as Maglites, can make a very effective improvised club. Though not specifically classified as a weapon, it is often carried for self-defense by security guards, bouncers and civilians, especially in countries where carrying weapons is restricted.
- **Gunstock war club –** The wooden stocks of firearms introduced during the European colonization of the Americas were reportedly re-used by First Nations as improvised weapons; other sources claim that the club was an indigenous weapon before European contact, and acquired the term "gunstock" from the similarity of its shape. Regardless, the gunstock is an essential part of firearms, but it was stylized as a war club made famous by the American Indians as the Gunstock War Club. Another more modern idea of this kind of war club would be the combat skill of bayonet usage. Even without a knife or blade type attachment, the rifle's body itself is used for Close Quarters Combat (CQC).
- **Jutte –** One of the more distinctive weapons of the samurai police (*dōshin*) was the Jutte. Basically an iron rod, the Jutte was popular because it could parry the slash of a sword and disarm an assailant without serious injury. Essentially a defensive or restraining weapon, the length of the Jutte requires the user to get extremely close to those being apprehended. A single hook or fork, called a *Kagi*, on the side near the handle allowed the Jutte to be used for trapping or even breaking the blades of edged weapons, as well as for jabbing and striking. The Kagi could also be used to entangle the clothes or fingers of an opponent. Thus, feudal Japanese police used the jutte to disarm and arrest subjects without serious bloodshed. Eventually, the Jutte also came to be considered a symbol of official status.[4]
- **Kanabō** (nyoibo, konsaibo, tetsubō, ararebo). – Various types of different sized Japanese clubs made of wood and or iron, usually with iron spikes or studs.[5][6][7][8]
- **Knobkierrie**, occasionally spelled *knopkierie* or *knobkerry*, is a strong, short wooden club with a heavy rounded knob or head on one end, traditionally used by Southern African ethnic groups including the Zulu, as a weapon in warfare and the chase. The word Knobkierrie derives from the Dutch *knop* (knob or button), and the Bushman and Hottentot *kerrie* or *kirri* (stick); in the Zulu language it was called the *iwisa*.The weapon is employed at close quarters, or as a missile, and in time of peace may serve as a walking-stick. The head, or knob, is often ornately carved with faces or shapes that have symbolic meaning. The knobkierrie itself serves this function in the crest of the coat of Arms of South Africa.The name has been extended to similar weapons used by the natives of Australia, the Pacific islands and other places.
- **Kubotan** -- a short, thin, lightweight club often used by law enforcement officers, generally to apply pressure against selected points of the body in order to encourage compliance without inflicting injury.
- **Life Preserver** (also hyphenated **Life-preserver**), a short, often weighted club intended for self-defense. Mentioned in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* and several Sherlock Holmes stories.[9]
- **Mace** - a metal club with a heavy head on the end, designed to deliver very powerful blows. The head of a mace may also have small studs forged into it. The mace is often confused with the spiked morning star.
- **Mere** - is a type of short, broad-bladed club (patu), usually made from Nephrite jade (Pounamu or greenstone). A mere is one of the traditional, close combat, one-handed weapons of the indigenous Māori, of New Zealand. The designed use of the mere for forward striking thrusts is an unusual characteristic of Maori patu, where in other parts of the world, clubs are generally wielded with an ax-like downward blow.
- **Nulla-nulla** - a short, curved hardwood club, used as a hunting weapon and in tribal in-fighting, by the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- **Nunchaku** (also called *nunchucks*) -- an Asian weapon consisting of two clubs, connected by a short rope, thong or chain, and usually used with one club in hand and the other swing as a flail.
- **Oslop** - a two-handed, very heavy, often iron-shod, Russian club that was used as the cheapest and the most readily available infantry weapon.

- **Pickaxe handle –** Pickaxes were common tools in the United States in the early 20th century, and replacement handles were widely available. In developing countries, where manual labor is still prevalent, it is pervasive. Strong and heavy, they make a formidable club and have often been used as club weapons. Pickaxe handles were handed out by segregationist Lester Maddox to the white patrons of his Pickrick Restaurant to keep that establishment from being "integrated". In the British Army pickaxe handles are or were officially used as guards' batons.
- **Rungu** (Swahili, plural *marungu*) - a wooden throwing club or baton bearing special symbolism and significance in certain East African tribal cultures. It is especially associated with Maasai morans (male warriors) who have traditionally used it in warfare and for hunting.
- **Slapjack –** This is a variation of the blackjack. It consists of a longer strap which lets it be used flail-type, and can be used as a club or for trapping techniques as seen in the use of nunchaku and other flexible weapons. The slapjack became illegal for United States police officers to carry in the early 1980s.
- **Sally rod –** A Sally rod is a long, thin wooden stick, generally made from willow (Latin *Salix*), and used chiefly in the past in Ireland as a disciplinary implement, but also sometimes used like a club (without the fencing-like technique of stick fighting) in fights and brawls. In Japan this type of stick is called the Hanbō meaning half stick, and in FMA (Filipino Martial Arts) it is called the Eskrima or escrima stick, often made from Rattan.
- **Shillelagh –** A shillelagh is a wooden club or cudgel, typically made from a stout knotty stick with a large knob on the end, that is associated with Ireland in folklore.
- **Telescopic –** Telescopic batons are rigid batons that are capable of collapsing to a shorter length for greater portability and concealability. They are illegal in the United Kingdom and some other countries. In Hungary these weapons are named "vipera" ("viper") and though officially illegal, they were reported as being repeatedly used by riot police units.
- **Tipstaff**
- **Tonfa**, also known in slang as a "PR-24" or "Stanky Doodle," a staff of Okinawan origin and featuring a second handle mounted perpendicular to the shaft

2.3 Gallery

- *Ball-headed War Club with Spike*, Menominee (Native American),early 19th century, Brooklyn Museum
- Japanese Jutte with an iron shaft "boshin" and an iron hook "kagi", the handle "tuska" is wrapped with cord and it has an iron end piece "kan" which swivels.
- Antique Japanese Ararebo wood club. A small kanabo type weapon.
- Small Japanese Tetsubo, an iron club with a leather grip.
- Various assorted Shillelagh (club).
- Traditional Māori mere (weapon), made from pounamu (nephrite jade).

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2.5 External links

- This article incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press.

Chapter 3

Flail (weapon)

This article is about the weapon. For other uses, see Flail (disambiguation).

The term **flail** refers to two different weapons: a two-handed infantry weapon derived from an agricultural tool and a one-handed weapon. The defining characteristic of both is that they involve a separate striking head attached to a handle by a flexible rope, strap, or chain. The two-handed variant saw use in a limited number of conflicts during the European Middle Ages.

The two-handed flail is a hand weapon derived from the agricultural tool of the same name, commonly used in threshing. Only a limited amount of historical evidence exists for their employment in Europe during this era. These were deployed in Germany and Central Europe in the later Middle Ages. This weapon consists of a hinged bar connected to a longer shaft.

In Korea the flail as an agricultural tool is called “dorikke”, but as a weapon it is called “pyeongon”.[1][2][3] The Japanese terms for their equivalents of the ball-on-a-chain bludgeon are “rentsuru” and “chigiriki”, while the Chinese version’s name translates vividly into English as meteor hammer.

3.1 The two-handed flail

Throughout the Middle-Ages, two-handed agricultural flails were sometimes employed as an improvised weapon by peasant armies conscripted into military service or engaged in popular uprisings. For example, in the 1420-1497 period, the Hussites fielded large numbers of peasant foot soldiers armed with flails.[4][5]

However, these weapons often featured anti-personnel studs or spikes embedded in the striking end, so they were not always simple agricultural tools snatched up in a hurry by rural insurrectionists: turning these implements into weapons required some effort and skill. The modified flail was also used in the German Peasants’ War in the early 16th century.[6][7]

At a later date, the long-handled flail is found in use in India. An example held in the Pitt Rivers Museum has a wooden ball-shaped head studded with iron spikes. Another in the Royal Armouries collection has two spiked iron balls attached by separate chains.

The chief tactical virtue of the two-handed flail was its capacity to defeat a defender’s shield or avoid it entirely. Its chief liability was a lack of precision and the difficulty of using it in close combat, or closely ranked formations.

3.2 The one-handed flail

The European one-handed variant is generally depicted as a short wooden handle connected to one or many metal heads (often spiked) by way of a chain or chains. However, there is considerable debate if these weapons existed during the Middle Ages. They appear rarely in art, and are often seen in non-realistic contexts. Study of the matter is further complicated by numerous 19th century forgeries that still sit in modern museums. For example the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has three one-handed flails in its collections that are no longer on display due to doubt as to their authenticity.[8][9][10][11]

3.3 Variations

The agricultural flail was not just used as an improvised weapon in Europe. In southeast Asia, short agricultural flails originally employed in threshing rice were adapted into weapons such as the nunchaku or sansetsukon.

3.4 See also

- Morning star
- Mace
- Nunchaku

3.5 References

[1] "□□□ □□iN :: □□□ □□ □□ □□□ □". Kin.naver.com. Retrieved 2012-12-18.

[2] "□□□ □□□□". 100.naver.com. Retrieved 2012-12-18.

[3] "VOTE!". Dvdprime.donga.com. 2009-05-08. Retrieved 2012-12-18.

[4] Stephen Turnbull : The Hussite Wars 1419-36, Osprey MAA 409,2004

[5] media:344Wagenburg der Hussiten.jpg media:Hussites massacre.jpg

[6] Douglas Miller : Armies of the German Peasant's War 1524-26,Osprey MAA 384,2003

[7] media:German Peasants War.jpg

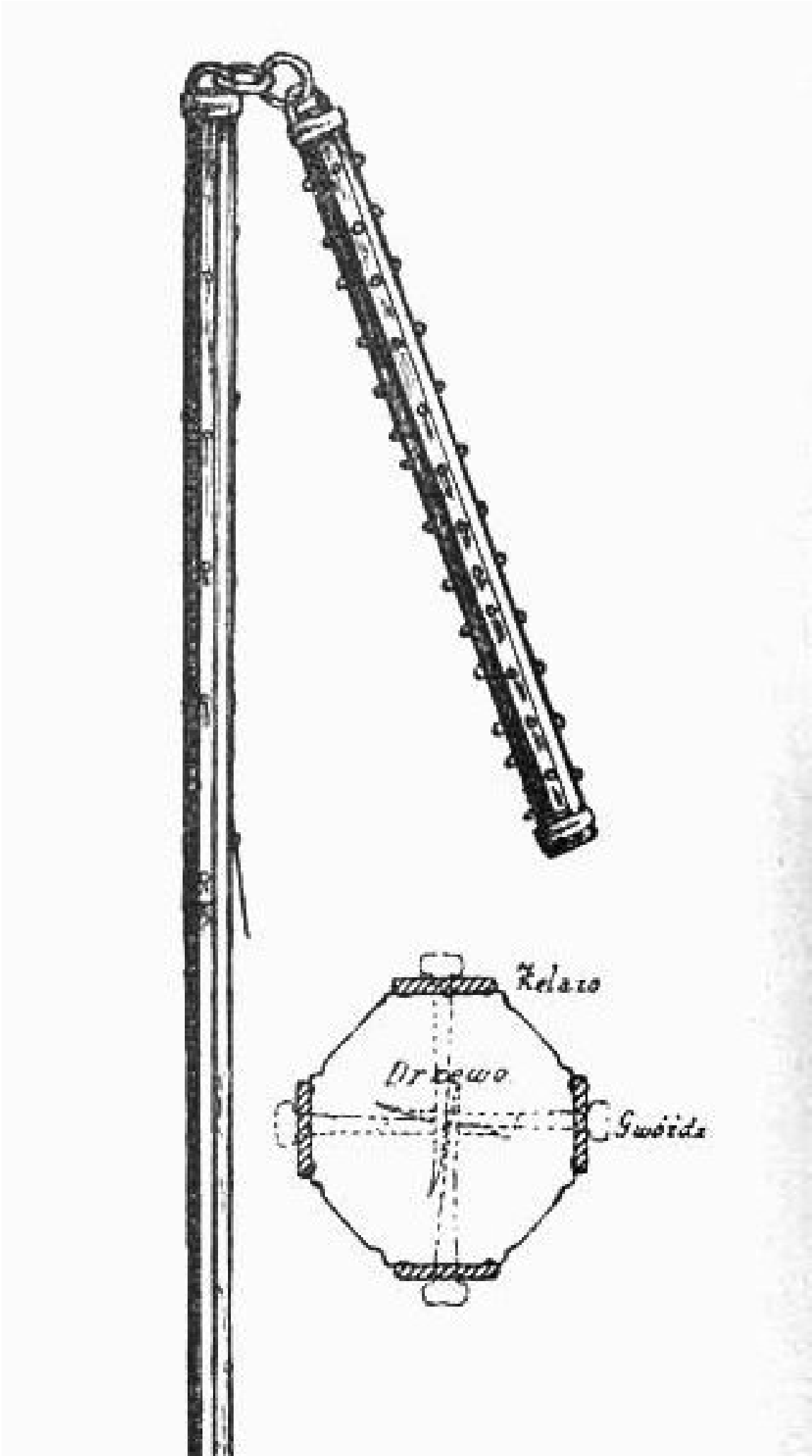
[8] Nikolas Lloyd (1 December 2014). "'Morning Star' flails". *YouTube*. Retrieved 2015-02-24.

[9] "Military Flail | German | The Metropolitan Museum of Art". *metmuseum.org*. Retrieved 2015-02-24.

[10] "Military Flail | German | The Metropolitan Museum of Art". *metmuseum.org*. Retrieved 2015-02-24.

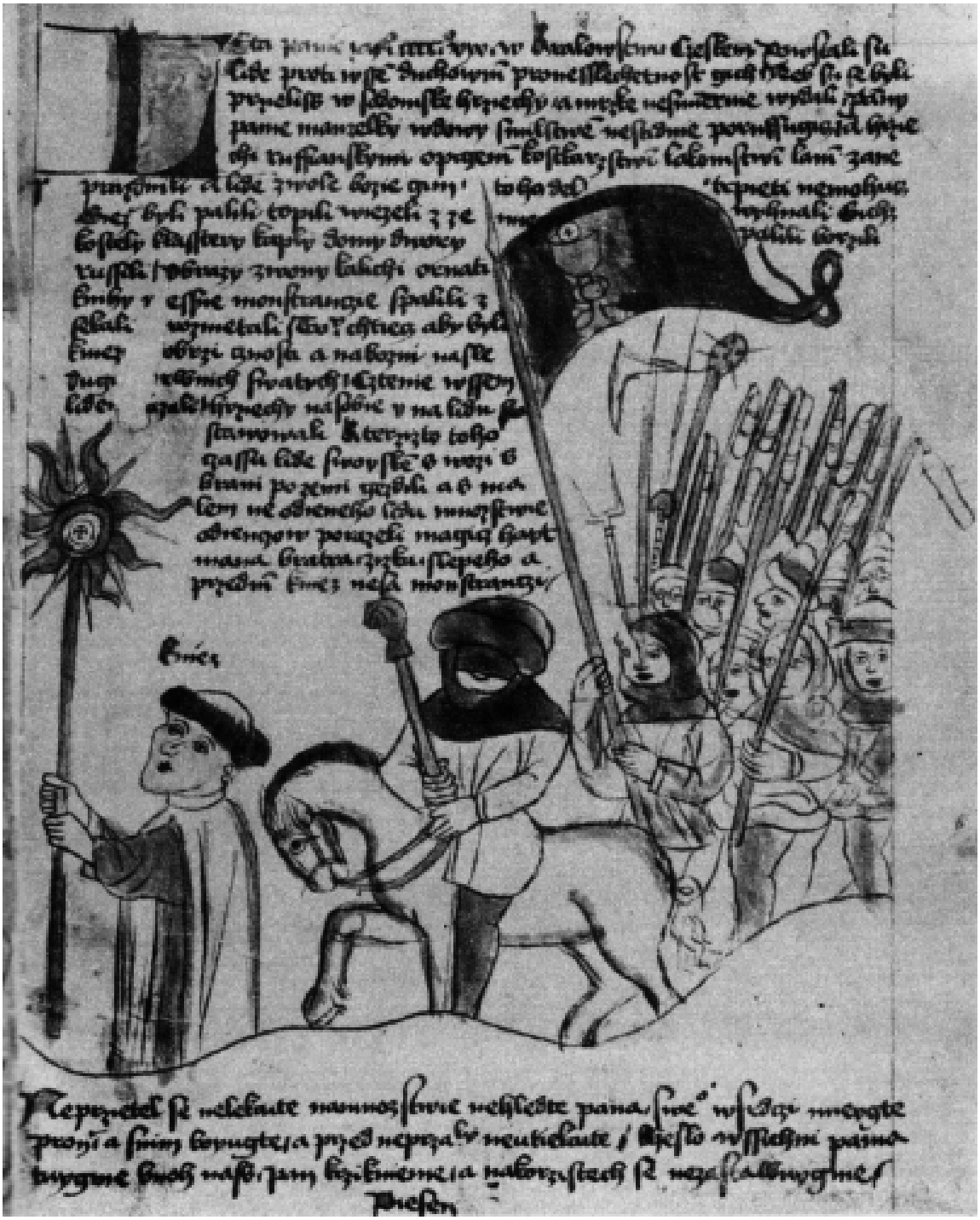
[11] "Military Flail | German | The Metropolitan Museum of Art". *metmuseum.org*. Retrieved 2015-02-24.

3.6 External links


Relax
Drzewo
Swoida

16th century peasant rebels

Modern reproduction of one-handed flail



Hussite troops with flails on the march

Chapter 4

Mace (club)

This article is about the non-spiked mace. For the spiked version, see Morning star (weapon). For a specific weapon from Akkadian folklore, see Sharur (mythological weapon). For the club, see Club (weapon).

A **mace** is a blunt weapon, a type of club or virge that uses a heavy head on the end of a handle to deliver powerful blows. A mace typically consists of a strong, heavy, wooden or metal shaft, often reinforced with metal, featuring a head made of stone, copper, bronze, iron, or steel.

The head of a military mace can be shaped with flanges or knobs to allow greater penetration of plate armour. The length of maces can vary considerably. The maces of foot soldiers were usually quite short (two or three feet, or seventy to ninety centimetres). The maces of cavalrymen were longer and thus better suited for blows delivered from horseback. Two-handed maces could be even larger.

Maces are rarely used today for actual combat, but a large number of government bodies (for instance the British House of Commons, the U.S. Congress), universities and other institutions have ceremonial maces and continue to display them as symbols of authority. They are often paraded in academic, parliamentary or civic rituals and processions.

4.1 Prehistory

The mace was developed during the Upper Paleolithic from the simple club, by adding sharp spikes of flint or obsidian.

In Europe, an elaborately carved ceremonial flint mace head was one of the artifacts discovered in excavations of the Neolithic mound of Knowth in Ireland, and Bronze Age archaeology cites numerous finds of perforated mace heads.

In ancient Ukraine, stone mace heads were first used nearly eight millennia ago. The others known were disc maces with oddly formed stones mounted perpendicularly to their handle. The Narmer Palette shows a king swinging a mace. See the articles on the Narmer Macehead and the Scorpion Macehead for examples of decorated maces inscribed with the names of kings.

The problem with early maces was that their stone heads shattered easily and it was difficult to fix the head to the wooden handle reliably. The Egyptians attempted to give them a disk shape in the predynastic period (about 3850–3650 B.C.) in order to increase their impact and even provide some cutting capabilities, but this seems to have been a short-lived improvement.

A rounded pear form of mace head known as a “piriform” replaced the disc mace in the Naqada II period of pre-dynastic Upper Egypt (3600–3250 B.C.) and was used throughout the Naqada III period (3250-3100 B.C.). Similar mace heads were also used in Mesopotamia around 2450–1900 B.C. The Assyrians used maces probably about nineteenth century B.C. and in their campaigns; the maces were usually made of stone or marble and furnished with gold or other metals, but were rarely used in battle unless fighting heavily armoured infantry.

An important, later development in mace heads was the use of metal for their composition. With the advent of copper mace heads, they no longer shattered and a better fit could be made to the wooden club by giving the eye of the mace head the shape of a cone and using a tapered handle.

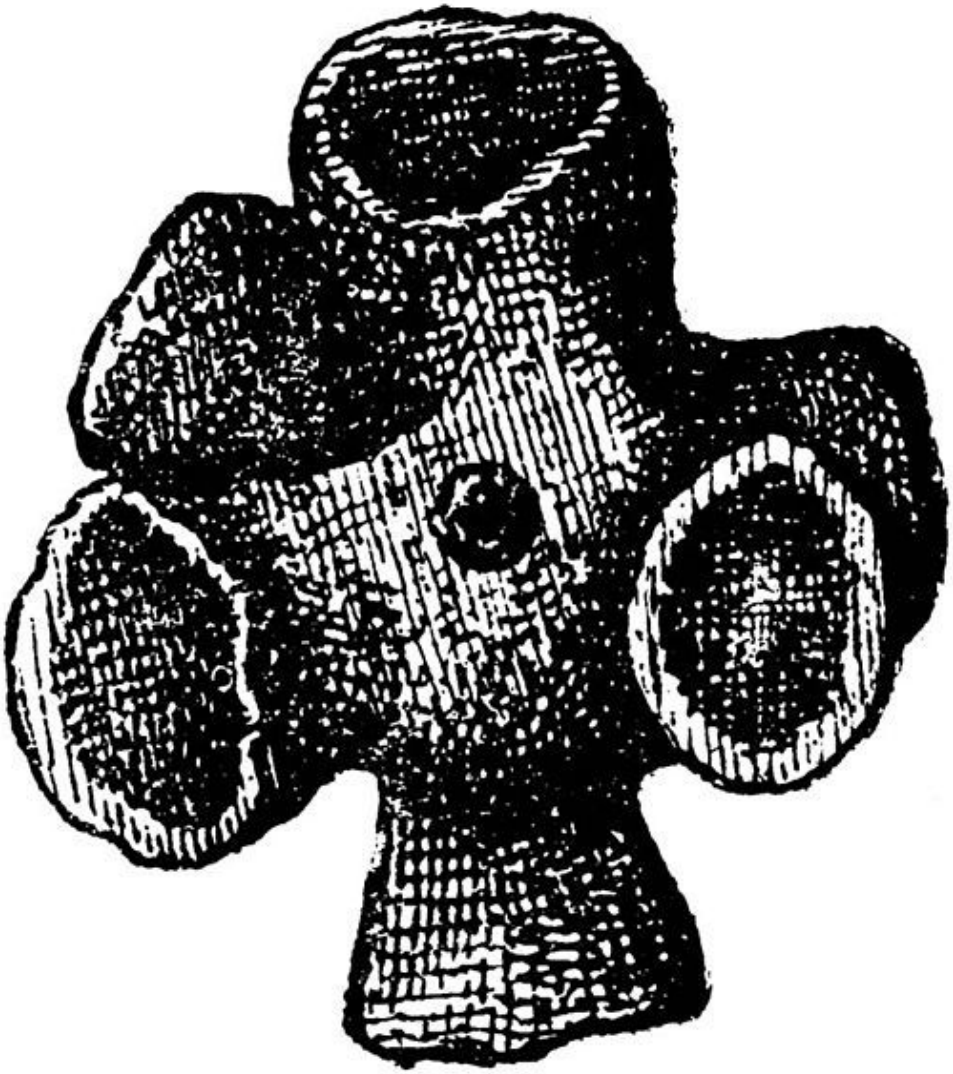
The Shardanas or warriors from Sardinia who fought for Ramses II against the Hittities were armed with maces consisting of wooden sticks with bronze heads. Many bronze statuettes of the times show Sardinian warriors carrying

Various Indo-Persian maces, from the left:Bozdogan / buzdygan (Ottoman), tabar-shishpar (Indian), shishpar (Indian), shishpar (unknown), gurz (Indian), shishpar (Indian).

swords, bows and original maces.

4.2 Antiquity

The usage of maces in warfare is also described in the ancient Indian epics *Ramayana* and *Mahabarata*. Unique types of maces known as “Gada” were used extensively in ancient Indian warfare, and the enchanted talking mace Sharur made its first appearance in Sumerian/Akkadian mythology during the epic of Ninurta.



An earthenware mace found near the site of the Battle of Šumatovac.

The ancient Romans did not make wide use of maces, probably because of the influence of armour, and due to the nature of the Roman infantry fighting style which involved the pilum (or spear) and the gladius (short sword used in a stabbing fashion). The use of a heavy swinging-arc weapon in the well-disciplined tight formations of the Roman infantry would not have been practical.

Persians used a variety of maces. One simple explanation is the mode of Persian warfare. Unlike Romans, Persians fielded large numbers of heavily armoured and armed cavalry (see cataphracts). For a heavily armed Persian knight, a mace was as effective as a sword or battle axe. In fact, Shahnameh has countless references to heavily armoured knights facing each other using mace, axe, or swords.

4.3 European Middle Ages

During the Middle Ages metal armour such as mail protected against the blows of edged weapons and blocked arrows and other projectiles. Solid metal maces and war hammers proved able to inflict damage on well armoured knights,

Moche stone maces. Larco Museum Collection. Lima-Peru

as the force of a blow from a mace is great enough to cause damage without penetrating the armour. Though iron became increasingly common, copper and bronze were also used, especially in iron poor areas. The Sami for example continued to use bronze for maces as a cheaper alternative to iron or steel swords.

One example of a mace capable of penetrating armour is the **flanged mace**. The flanges (protruding edges of metal) allow it to dent or penetrate even the thickest armour. This variation of the mace did not become popular until significantly after knobbed maces. Although there are some references to flanged maces (bardoukion) as early as the Byzantine empire c. 900[1] it is commonly accepted that the flanged mace did not become popular in Europe until the 12th century, when it was simultaneously developed in Russia and Mid-West Asia.

Maces, being simple to make, cheap, and straightforward in application, were quite common weapons. Examples found in museums are often highly decorated.

It is popularly believed that maces were employed by the clergy in warfare to avoid shedding blood [2] (*sine effusione sanguinis*). The evidence for this is sparse and appears to derive almost entirely from the depiction of Bishop Odo of Bayeux wielding a club-like mace at the Battle of Hastings in the Bayeux Tapestry, the idea being that he did so to avoid either shedding blood or bearing the arms of war. The fact that his brother Duke William carries a similar item suggests that, in this context, the mace may have been simply a symbol of authority.[3] Certainly, other Bishops were depicted bearing the arms of a knight without comment, such as Archbishop Turpin who bears both a spear and a sword named "Almace" in The Song of Roland or Bishop Adhemar of Le Puy, who also appears to have fought as a knight during the First Crusade, an expedition that Odo also joined.[4]

4.4 Eastern Europe

Maces were very common in eastern Europe, especially medieval Poland, Ukraine.[5] Eastern European maces often had pear shaped heads. These maces were also used by the Moldavian king Stephen the Great in some of his wars (see Bulawa).

The Pernach was a type of flanged mace developed since the 8th century BC in the region of Kievan Rus', and later widely used throughout the whole of Europe. The name comes from the Slavic word *pero* (*nepo*) meaning feather,

Sculpture of Indian deity, Hanuman carrying the Dronagiri (Sanjeevani) mountain, with a Gada (mace) in his left hand

reflecting the form of pernach that resembled a fletched arrow. Pernachs were the first form of the flanged mace to enjoy a wide usage. It was well suited to penetrate plate armour and chain mail. In the later times it was often used as a symbol of power by the military leaders in Eastern Europe.[6]

4.5 Pre-Columbian America

The cultures of pre-Columbian America used clubs and maces extensively. The warriors of the Moche state and the Inca Empire used maces with bone, stone or copper heads and wooden shafts.

An Assyrian mace head with inscriptions

4.6 Indian Subcontinent

Main article: Gada (weapon)

4.6.1 Gallery

- Indian shishpar (flanged mace), all steel construction, with eight knife edged, hinged flanges, 18th-19th century, 26 inches long.
- Indian shishpar (flanged mace), steel with solid shaft and eight flanged head, 24in.

- Indian (Deccan) tabar-shishpar, an extremely rare combination tabar axe and shishpar eight flanged mace, steel with hollow shaft, 21.75 in. 17th to 18th century.

4.6.2 Mace as exercise equipment

Indian akharas (combat training gymnasiums) often use use a heavy stone gada as a part of their training.

4.7 Modern era

Trench raiding clubs used during World War I were modern variations on the medieval mace. They were homemade mêlée weapons used by both the Allies and the Central Powers. Clubs were used during nighttime trench raiding expeditions as a quiet and effective way of killing or wounding enemy soldiers.

Makeshift maces were also found in the possession of some football hooligans in the 1980s.[7]

4.8 Ceremonial use

Maces have had a role in ceremonial practices over time, including some still in use today.

4.8.1 Parliamentary maces

Ceremonial maces are important in many parliaments following the Westminster system. They are carried in by the sergeant-at-arms or some other mace-bearers and displayed on the clerks' table while parliament is in session to show that a parliament is fully constituted. They are removed when the session ends. The mace is also removed from the table when a new speaker is being elected to show that parliament is not ready to conduct business.

4.8.2 Ecclesiastical maces

The ceremonial mace is a short, richly ornamented staff often made of silver, the upper part of which is furnished with a knob or other head-piece and decorated with a coat of arms. The ceremonial mace was commonly borne before eminent ecclesiastical corporations, magistrates, and academic bodies as a mark and symbol of jurisdiction.

4.8.3 Parade maces

Maces are also used as a parade item, rather than a tool of war, notably in military bands. Specific movements of the mace from the Drum Major will signal specific orders to the band he or she leads. The mace can signal anything from a step-off to a halt, from the commencement of playing to the cut off.

4.8.4 University maces

University maces are employed in a manner similar to Parliamentary maces. They symbolize the authority and independence of a chartered university and the authority vested in the provost. They are typically carried in at the beginning of a convocation ceremony and are often less than half a meter high.

4.9 Heraldic use

Like many weapons from feudal times, maces have been used in heraldic military blazons as either a charge on the shield or as external ornamentation.

Thus, in France:

- the city of Cognac (in the Charente département): *Argent on a horse sable harnessed or a man proper vested azure with a cloak gules holding a mace, on a chief France modern*
- the city of Colmar (in Haut-Rhin): *per pale gules and vert a mace per bend sinister or.* Three maces, probably a canting device (*Kolben* means mace in German, cfr. *Columbaria* the Latin name of the city) appear on a 1214 seal. The arms in a 15th-century stained-glass window show the mace per bend on argent.
- the duke of Retz (a pairie created in 1581 for Albert de Gondy) had *Or two maces or clubs per saltire sable, bound gules*
- the Garde des sceaux ('keeper of the seals', still the formal title of the French Republic's Minister of Justice) places behind the shield, two silver and gilded maces in saltire, and the achievement is surmounted by a mortier (magistrate's hat)

4.10 See also

- Gada (weapon)
- Bulawa
- Mace of the United States House of Representatives

4.11 Notes

[1] Heath, Ian. *Armies of the Byzantine Empire, 886–1118*.

[2] Disraeli, Isaac (1834). *Curiosities of Literature, Volume 1*. Boston: Lilly, Wait, Colman, and Holden.

[3] It is also possible that William was simply armed with a mace as was his brother Odo and other knights. See the following images of William, an unidentified companion and Odo carrying mace-like objects in the Bayeux Tapestry

[4] Much of the popularity of this view can be attributed to the *Dungeons and Dragons* game, which in early editions limited its cleric class to bludgeoning weapons, at first influenced by the popular belief, and later on to balance the game by reducing the class's power in battle, a rule that was widely imitated.

[5] Official Symbols of the President of Ukraine: The presidential mace

[6] Medieval flanged maces by Shawn M. Caza.

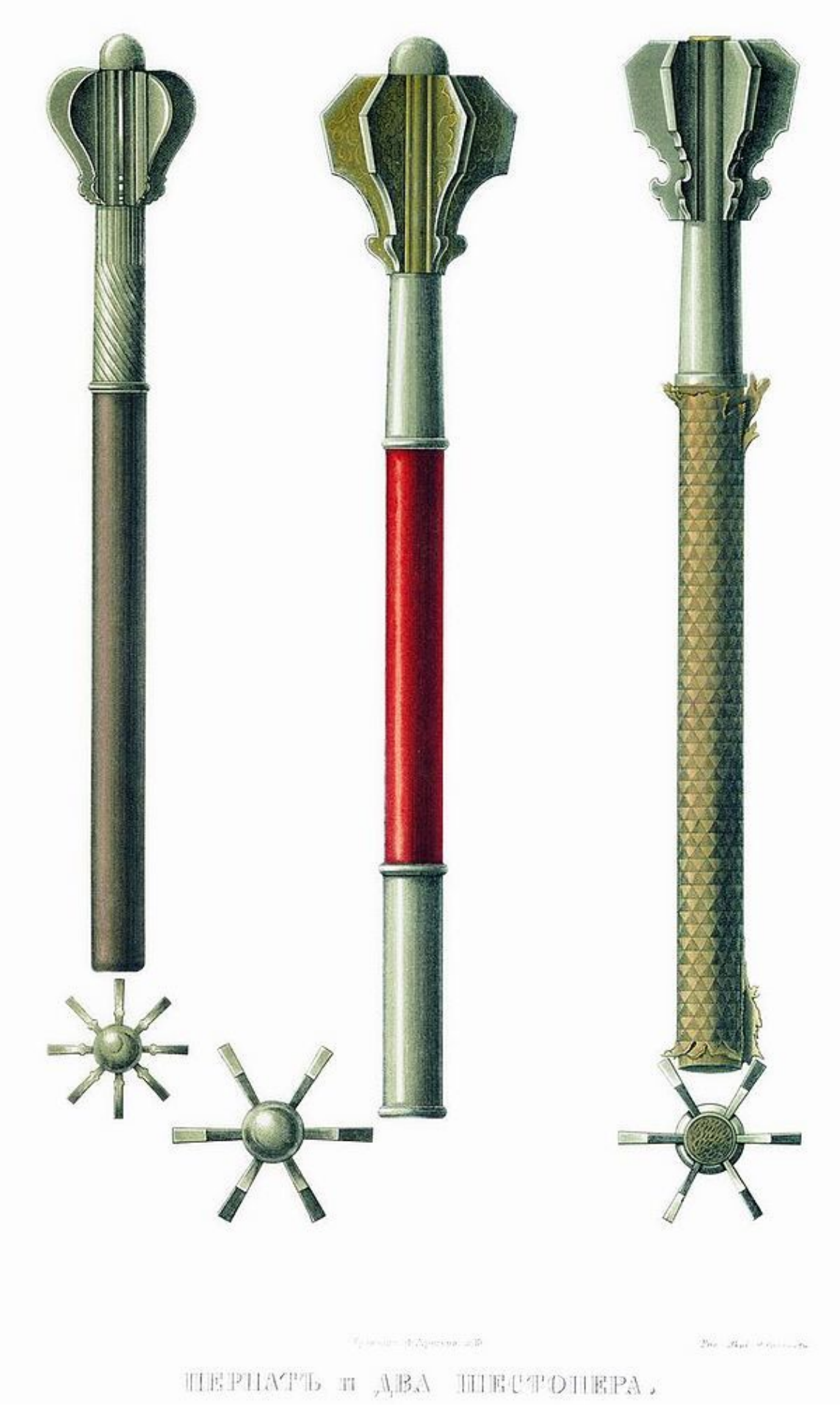
[7] "Mace of Evil". Daily Mirror. 27 March 1986. p. 1.

4.12 References

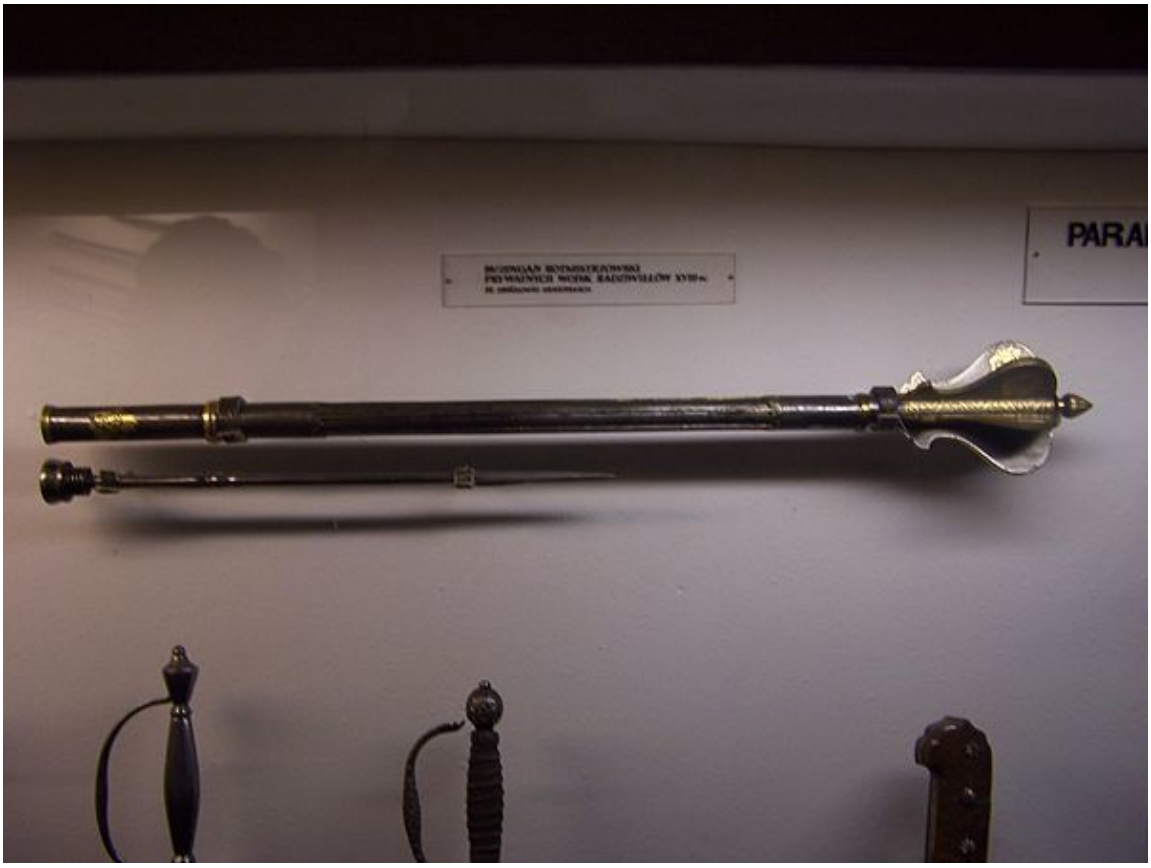
- *Dictionary of Medieval Knighthood and Chivalry* by Bradford Broughton (NY, Greenwood Press, 1986, ISBN 0-313-24552-5)
- *Hafted Weapons in Medieval and Renaissance Europe: The Evolution of European Staff Weapons Between 1200 and 1650* by John Waldman (Brill, 2005, ISBN 90-04-14409-9)
- *Medieval Military Technology* by Kelly DeVries (Broadview Press, 1998, 0-921149-74-3)

4.13 External links

- "Mace". *Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton Company. 1913.
- The Hunt Museum (enter "Mace" in Keyword in Description)
- Heraldica.org

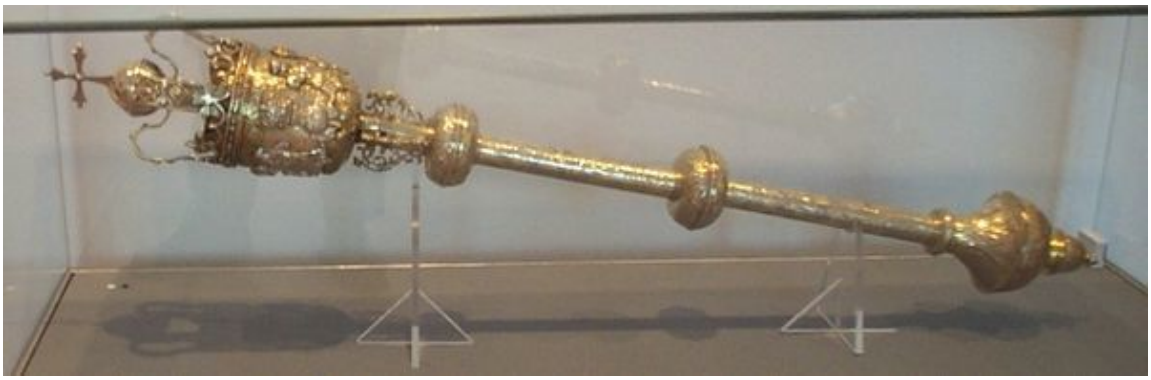


Pernach (left) and two shestopyors.



Shestopyor-type mace used by the rotmistrzs of the private army of the Radziwiłł family.

World War I trench raiding club



Mace of the Royal Society, granted by Charles II.

Marshal of Poland mace

17th Century Maces of the Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines.

Chapter 5

Pernach

This article is about pernach mace. For the Pernach pistol, see OTs-33 Pernach.

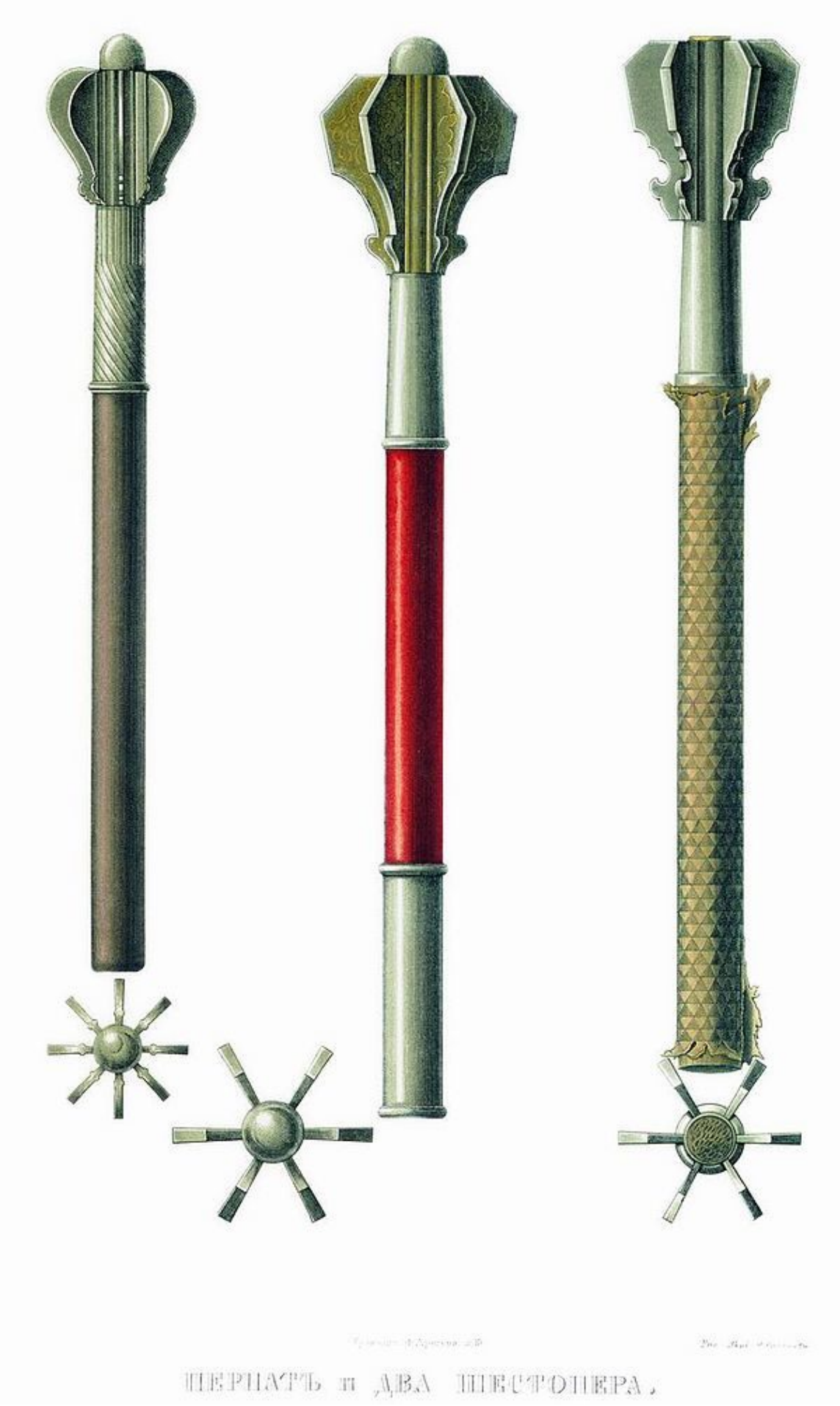
A **pernach** (Russian: пернáч, Ukrainian: пірнáч, Polish: *piernacz*) is a type of flanged mace originating in the 12th century in the region of Kievan Rus' and later widely used throughout Europe. The name comes from the Slavic word *перо* (*pero*) meaning feather, referring to a type of pernach resembling an arrow with feathering.

Among a variety of similar weapons developed in 12th-century Persian- and Turkic-dominated areas, the pernach became pre-eminent,[1] being capable of penetrating plate armour and plate mail.

A pernach or shestopyor (Russian: шестопёр — "six-feathered") was often carried as a ceremonial mace of rank by certain Eastern European military commanders, including Polish magnates, Ukrainian Cossack colonels and sotniks (cf. centurion).

5.1 References

[1] Caza, Shawn M. Medieval flanged maces



Pernachs, two of which are shestopyors (right)

Chapter 6

War hammer

For games, see Warhammer.

A **war hammer** is a late medieval weapon of war intended for close combat action, whose design resembles the hammer. Its appearance is similar to that of an ice axe.

6.1 Design

Detail of the head of a war hammer

The war hammer consists of a handle and a head. The handle may be of different lengths, the longest being roughly equivalent to the halberd, and the shortest about the same as a mace. Long war hammers were pole weapons (polearms) meant for use against riders, whereas short ones were used in closer quarters and from horseback.

War hammers were developed as a consequence of the prevalence of surface-hardened steel surfacing of wrought iron armours of the late medieval battlefields during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The surface of the armour was now as hard as the edge of a blade, so a blade tended to ricochet. Swords and battleaxes were likely to only give

a glancing blow, losing much of the impact, especially on the high curvature of the helmet. The war hammer could deliver the full force to the target.

War hammers, especially when mounted on a pole, could damage without penetrating the armour. In particular, they transmitted the impact through even the thickest helmet and caused concussions. Later war hammers often had a spike on one side of the head, making them more versatile weapons. A blade or spike tended to be used not against helmets but against other parts of the body where the armour was thinner and penetration was easier. The spike end could be used for grappling the target's armour, reins, or shield, or could be turned in the direction of the blow to pierce even heavy armour. Against mounted opponents, the weapon could also be directed at the legs of the horse, toppling the armoured foe to the ground where he could be more easily attacked.

6.2 Maul

The maul is a long-handled hammer with a heavy metal head, either of lead or iron. Similar in appearance and function to a modern sledgehammer, it is sometimes shown as having a spear-like spike on the fore-end of the haft.

The use of the maul as a weapon seems to date from the later 14th century. In 1382, rebellious citizens of Paris seized 3,000 mauls (French: *maillet*) from the city armoury, leading to the rebels being dubbed Maillotins.[1] Later in the same year, Froissart records French men-at-arms using mauls at the Battle of Roosebeke, demonstrating they were not simply weapons of the lower classes.[2]

A particular use of the maul was by archers in the 15th and 16th centuries. At the Battle of Agincourt, English longbowmen are recorded as using lead mauls, initially as a tool to drive in stakes but later as an improvised weapon.[3] Other references during the century (for example, in Charles the Bold's 1472 Ordinance) suggest continued use.[4] They are recorded as a weapon of Tudor archers as late as 1562.[5]

6.3 Related weapons

- Bec de corbin
- Horseman's pick
- Lucerne hammer

6.4 Gallery

- Bec de Corbin
- Maurice, Elector of Saxony wields a war hammer on a posthumous portrait
- Knight with war hammer (painting by Paolo Uccello)
- War hammer.
- This is a Raven's Beak or warhammer, exhibited in the Deutsches Historisches Museum in Berlin.
- Indian war hammer, 19th century, hard wood shaft with full length metal strip for re-enforcement, silver koft-gari decoration.

6.5 In popular culture

- Marvel Comics' Thor uses a gray square-headed war hammer named *Mjolnir*, which enhances his divine might, provides a variety of nature related powers and can only be lifted by whoever is worthy of the power of Thor. Anyone unworthy, no matter their level of strength, cannot lift it.[6]
- Shao Khan and Raiden of the *Mortal Kombat* video game series have both used a type of war hammer in battle. Shao Khan has a type of maul called the Wrath Hammer which he has used extensively since his debut. Raiden, the God of Thunder, uses the mystical weapon sparingly and it is simply titled War Hammer.[7]

- Robert Baratheon of *A Song of Ice and Fire* was known for using a war hammer in battles, with which he killed Prince Rhaegar in the Battle of the Trident.[8]
- Dwalin the dwarf from *The Hobbit* films wields a very large war hammer.

6.6 References

[1] Tuchman, Barbara (1979). *A distant Mirror*. London: Penguin. p. 380. ISBN 0140054073.

[2] Bourchier, John (1523). Macaulay, G.C., ed. *Chronicles of Froissart* (1924 edition ed.). London. p. 288. Archived from the original on 2012-02-23.

[3] Strickland, Matthew; Hardy,Robert (2005). *The Great Warbow*. Stroud: Sutton. p. 337. ISBN 0750931671.

[4] Strickland & Hardy (2005), p.364

[5] Strickland & Hardy (2005), p337

[6] *Journey Into Mystery* #83 (August 1962)

[7] *Mortal Kombat: Deception*

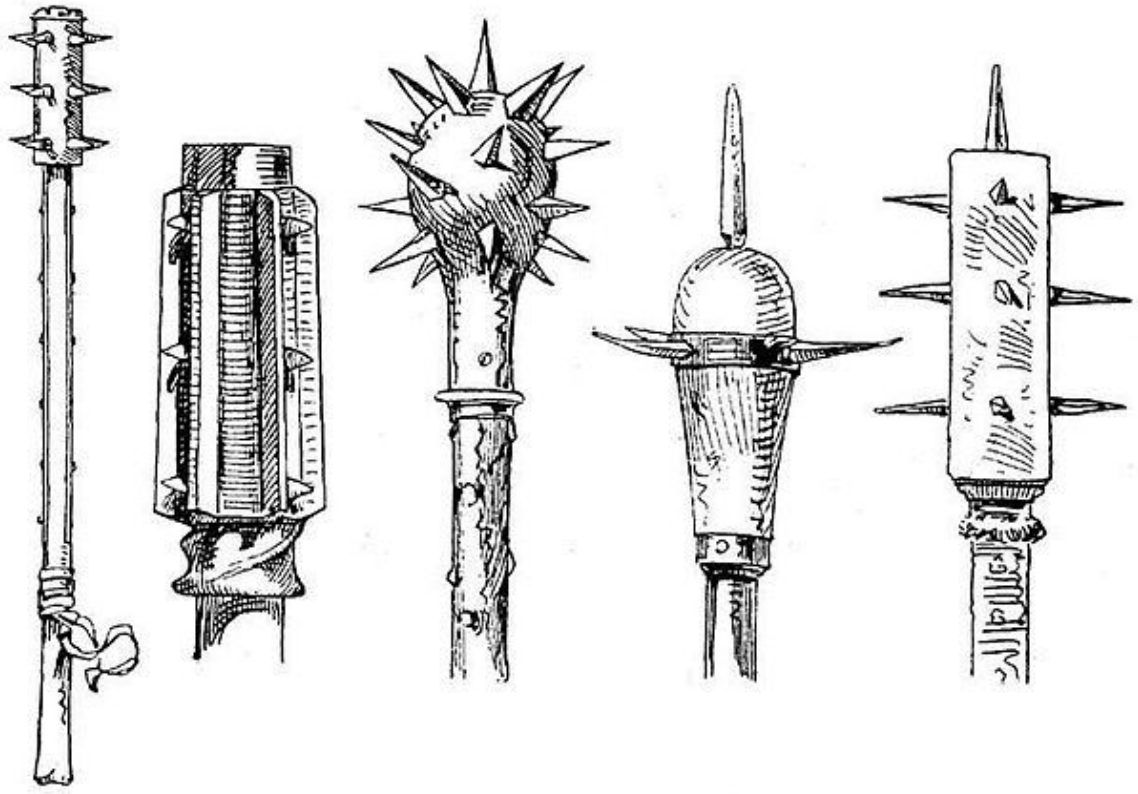
[8] Martin, George R. R. *A Game of Thrones.*

6.7 External links

- Skull from Battle of Towton (1461) showing war hammer wound
- Spotlight: The Medieval Poleaxe, by Alexi Goranov

Chapter 7

Morning star (weapon)



A morning star (middle) flanked by other club designs

A **morning star** is any of several medieval club-like weapons that included one or more spikes. Each used, to varying degrees, a combination of blunt-force and puncture attack to kill or wound the enemy.

7.1 Design

The morning star is a medieval weapon consisting of a spiked club resembling a mace, usually with a long spike extending straight from the top and many smaller spikes around the particle of the head.[1][2] The spikes distinguish it from a mace, which can have, at most, flanges or small knobs. It was used by both infantry and cavalry; the horseman's weapon had a shorter shaft.[1] The mace was a traditional knightly weapon that developed somewhat independently; as the mace transitioned to being constructed entirely of metal, the morning star retained its characteristic wooden shaft. Many surviving morning stars are of a longer two-handed form typically six feet in length, with some longer examples.

The morning star first came into widespread use around the beginning of the fourteenth century, particularly in Germany where it was known as *Morgenstern*.[2] The term is often confused with the military flail (*fléau d'armes* in French and *Kriegsflegel* in German), which consists of a wooden shaft joined by a length of chain to one or more iron-shod wooden bars (heavy sword pommels have also been used as weights).[3] However, there are few depictions of such a ball-and-chain flail from the period, so the weapon of this type appears to have been uncommon.[2]

Although it is often assumed that the morning star was a crude peasant weapon, that is not entirely correct. There were three types in existence, all differing in quality of workmanship. The first was the well crafted military type used by professional soldiers, made in series by expert weaponsmiths for stocking in town arsenals. The second and much simpler type would have been hand cut by peasant militia men, rather than turned on a lathe, from wood they had gathered themselves and fitted with nails and spikes by the local blacksmith. The shaft and head were usually of one piece but sometimes reinforced at the top with an iron band. The third type was decorative in nature, usually short hafted and made of metal, one sixteenth century example being of steel and damascened with inlaid gold and silver, in the Wallace Collection of London.[4]

Two impressive examples of the military type are housed in the museums of Vienna, both from the sixteenth century. The first measures 2.35 m (7' 9") in length including the top spike which is 54 cm (21"). The head is a separate wooden cylinder slipped over the top of the shaft and reinforced with steel bands, with five metal spikes in symmetrical arrangement. The second example has an all-steel head of complex craftsmanship with four V-shaped spikes mounted on a long shaft that measures slightly less than two metres in length. A twisted and braided steel bar joins the socket to the base of the top spike. There are also 183 surviving specimens in Graz, made in series and delivered to the arsenal in 1685. They are comparable in length to the previous examples and have three rows of spikes around the head. The wooden shafts of most morning stars of the military type are reinforced with metal langets extending down from the head. Still others can be found in the Swiss arsenals of Lucerne and Zurich.

These types of morning stars are also depicted in medieval art. For instance, one is shown being carried by an armored knight or soldier in the Caesar Tapestries in the Historical Museum of Bern, depicting Julius Caesar's battle against the Germanic leader Ariovistus. These tapestries were woven in Tournai between 1465 and 1470, and taken as plunder from Charles the Bold after one of his defeats during the Burgundian Wars against the Swiss. In the poem *Le Chevalier Délibéré* written by Olivier de la Marche and first published in 1486, there is an anonymous woodcut depicting a knight carrying a rather simple morning star with spikes mounted in an asymmetrical pattern as well as a flail equipped with a single spiked ball, known in German as a "Kettenmorgenstern" (literally *chain-morning star*) which is technically a military flail.

Another weapon, the holy water sprinkler (from its resemblance to the aspergillum used in the Catholic Mass) was a morning star used by the English army in the sixteenth century and made in series by professional smiths. One such weapon can be found in the Royal Armouries and has an all-steel head with six flanges forming three spikes each, reminiscent of a mace but with a short thick spike of square cross section extending from the top. The wooden shaft is reinforced with four langets and the overall length of the weapon is 74.5 inches (189.2 cm).[5]

The term holy water sprinkler is also used to describe a type of military flail, this being the name for the weapon in French (*goupillon*).[6] It was (according to popular legend) the favored weapon of King John of Bohemia, who was blind, and used to simply lay about himself on all sides.

7.1.1 Goedendag

Main article: Goedendag

The ***Goedendag*** (or variant spellings) was a Flemish weapon which is often described in modern sources as similar to the morning star. However, this is a misconception; it was an infantry weapon in the form of a thick wooden shaft between 1.2 m to 1.8 m (4 and 6 feet) in length, slightly thicker toward the top, topped with a stout iron spike. The weapon was used to great effect by the guildsmen of Flanders' wealthy cities against the French knights during the *Guldensporenslag* or Battle of the Golden Spurs near Kortrijk (Courtrai) on 11 July 1302; however, on account of superior but more expensive alternatives, it saw limited service from the fifteenth century on, being used exclusively by the Flemish "burgers."

The goedendag was used to spear horses or knights,[7] but little is certain about its precise mode of use.

7.2 See also

- Meteor hammer
- Sharur (mythological weapon)
- Flail (weapon)
- Henry VIII's Walking Staff

7.3 Notes

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7.5 External links

Chapter 8

Quarterstaff

This article is about the weapon. For the computer game, see Quarterstaff: The Tomb of Setmoth.

A **quarterstaff** (plural **quarterstaves**), also **short staff** or simply **staff** is a traditional European pole weapon and a technique of stick fighting,which was especially prominent in England during the Early Modern period.

The term is generally accepted to refer to a shaft of hardwood from 6 to 9 feet (1.8 to 2.7 m) long, sometimes with a metal tip, ferrule, or spike at one or both ends. The term “short staff” compares this to the “long staff” based on the pike with a length in excess of 11 to 12 feet (3.4 to 3.7 m).

8.1 Etymology

The name “quarterstaff” is first attested in the mid-16th century. The "quarter" probably refers to the means of production, the staff being made from hardwood of a tree split or sawed into quarters (as opposed to a staff of lower quality made from a tree branch).[1]

The possibility that the name derives from the way the staff is held, the right hand grasping it one-quarter of the distance from the lower end, is suggested in Encyclopædia Britannica. [2] While this interpretation may have given rise to such positions in 19th-century manuals, it probably arose by popular etymology. The OED in support of its explanation of the “quarter” in origin referring to the way the staff was made points to an early attestation of the term, dated to 1590, *Plodding through Aldersgate, all armed as I was, with a quarter Ashe staffe on my shoulder.*

George Silver, an English fencer who wrote two books (1599, 1605) including lengthy sections on staff fighting does not use the term “quarterstaff”, but instead calls it a “short staff” (as opposed to the “long staff”). Joseph Swetnam, writing in 1615, distinguishes between the “quarterstaff” of 7 or 8 feet (2.1 or 2.4 m) in length and the “long staff” of 12 feet (3.7 m).[3]

8.2 History

Stick fighting was prevalent throughout historical European martial arts and indeed worldwide. The oldest systematic descriptions of stick-fighting methods in Europe date to the 15th century. The oldest surviving English work giving technical information on staff combat dates from the 15th century - it is a brief listing of “strokes of the 2-hand staff”, which shares terminology with the preceding “strokes of the 2-hand sword” in the same manuscript.[4] George Silver (1599) explains techniques of short staff combat, and states that the use of other polearms and the two-handed sword are based on the same method. Later authors on the subject included Joseph Swetnam, Zachary Wylde, and Donald McBane. Silver,[5] Swetnam,[3] and Wylde[6] all agreed that the staff was among the best, if not the very best, of all hand weapons.

During the 16th century quarterstaves were favoured as weapons by the London Masters of Defence. Richard Peeke, in 1625, and Zachary Wylde, in 1711, refer to the quarterstaff as a national English weapon. By the 18th century the weapon became popularly associated with gladiatorial prize playing. A modified version of quarterstaff fencing, employing bamboo or ash staves and protective equipment adapted from fencing, boxing and cricket was revived as

a sport in some London fencing schools and at the Aldershot Military Training School during the later 19th century. Works on this style were published by Thomas McCarthy and by Allanson-Winn and Phillips-Wolley.

A simplified form of quarterstaff fencing and training was practised by members of the international Boy Scouts during the early decades of the 20th century; this was a tradition passed down to them from the military activities in the Victorian army. However, the Quarterstaff section was omitted from the Boy Scout Handbook in the 21st century due to health risks and reluctance to promote violence.

8.3 Historical practice

Paulus Hector Mair in his martial arts compendium (1540s) details techniques of fighting with the staff in the German school of fencing of the Renaissance (chapter 3).

There is some variation as to the proper way to hold a quarterstaff. According to the 16th to 18th century writings of Silver,[5] Swetnam[3] and Wylde,[6] the quarterstaff is held with the back hand at the butt end of the staff and the other hand about a foot to a foot and a half (30 to 45 cm) above it. According to the 14th and 16th century writings of Johannes Liechtenauer[7] and Paulus Hector Mair, the quarterstaff is held with the back hand a hand's breadth from the butt end of the staff, and the other hand up to the middle of the staff.[8] This is likely because of the transition of techniques from quarterstaves to polearms in Mair's compendium.

The body is turned so the forward hand and forward foot are both facing the opponent, the feet taking the same stance as is used in sword or rapier fighting. This basic position, according to Swetnam and Wylde, is known as the low guard. Assuming the butt is gripped with the left hand, moving the staff slightly to the right to defend blows is called the outside guard. Moving it slightly to the left is called the inside guard. Raising the butt end up and pointing the point of the staff at the opponent's face to parry a blow to the head is called the middle guard. Raising the staff directly back over the head letting the tip point back at the ground behind oneself and looking under the butt end of the staff in front of oneself is called the high or hanging guard. The level guard, according to Wylde, is formed by grasping the staff at the thirds and raising it horizontally overhead to ward a direct overhead downward blow. Holding the staff behind the back with the staff tucked into the elbow, the upper hand about forearm length from the butt, and the lower hand on the butt of the staff is called the level guard.

Of these the low guard is considered the central guard. Blows were primarily delivered downwards either directly or at angles. Parries of blows to the legs were done either by lifting the leg away from the line of attack or by thrusting one end of the staff into the ground and releasing the foremost hand which was in danger of being struck. Thrusts (called "darts" by Wylde) were often performed with the release of the forward hand and a step with the forward leg like a fencing lunge, stretching forward the back hand as far as possible. Longer thrusts were delivered with a full step forward with the back leg accompanying the back hand. It was recommended that when delivering a blow that at the end of it the back leg and foot should be compassed about so as to fall roughly into a line with the front foot and the point of the weapon. The same circling round of the back leg was applied to parries also. Singularly among the three authors, Swetnam recommends preference of thrusting over striking. Silver and Wylde describe striking and thrusting as equally valid attacks.

The position with one hand held at the quarter and the other at the middle of the staff is not found in these early modern manuals, but it is described in the quarterstaff manuals published in the late 19th century, e.g. McCarthy (1883): "both hands should be 2 feet 6 inches [76 cm] apart, and the same distance from each end".

The quarterstaff is also mentioned in England's legend of Robin Hood. In ballads and tales of the famed yeoman, the quarterstaff is often mentioned. For example, in "Robin Hood and the Tinker" and several other tales, the quarterstaff is the weapon in hand as the two engage in a duel, as the Tinker was apparently sent to bring Robin Hood to justice at the hands of the Sheriff of Nottingham. This implies that the quarterstaff was in use before and during the 16th and 17th centuries, as the tale of Robin Hood is mostly written of during that time frame.

8.4 See also

- Stick fighting
- Bō
- Paulus Hector Mair

- Joseph Swetnam Wylde
- Johannes Liechtenauer
- George Silver

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Chapter 9

Bec de corbin

A **bec de corbin** is a type of pole weapon that was popular in medieval Europe. The name is Old French for “crow’s beak”. Similar to the Lucerne hammer, it consists of a modified hammer’s head and spike mounted atop a long pole. Unlike the Lucerne hammer, the bec de corbin was used primarily with the 'beak' or fluke to attack instead of the hammer head. The hammer face balancing the beak was often blunt instead of the multi-pronged Lucerne, and the beak tended to be stouter; better designed for tearing armor. Also, the spike mounted on the top of head was not nearly as long and thin as in the Lucerne. Bec de corbin occasionally becomes a catchall for any type of warhammer, such as a maul or a horseman’s pick.

A similar name **bec de faucon** (meaning 'falcon’s beak') refers to a related weapon called a poleaxe or, more specifically, to the hook on its reverse side.

9.1 References

http://www.medievalwarfare.info/weapons.htm#becsdecorbin

9.2 External links

- Spotlight: The Medieval Poleaxe, by Alexi Goranov

Chapter 10

Horseman's pick

The **horseman's pick** was a weapon used by cavalry during the Middle Ages in Europe and Indo-Persia. This was a type of war hammer that had a very long spike on the reverse of the hammer head. Usually, this spike was slightly curved downwards, much like a miner's pickaxe. The term is sometimes used interchangeably with *war hammer*. A metal-made horseman's pick called "nadziak" was one of the main weapons of the famous Polish winged hussars. A weapon of late make, the horseman's pick was developed by the English and used by their heavy Billmen, a unit of heavy infantry. It was used with great success during the Hundred Years War. A use of the horseman's pick was to tear men from their mounts.

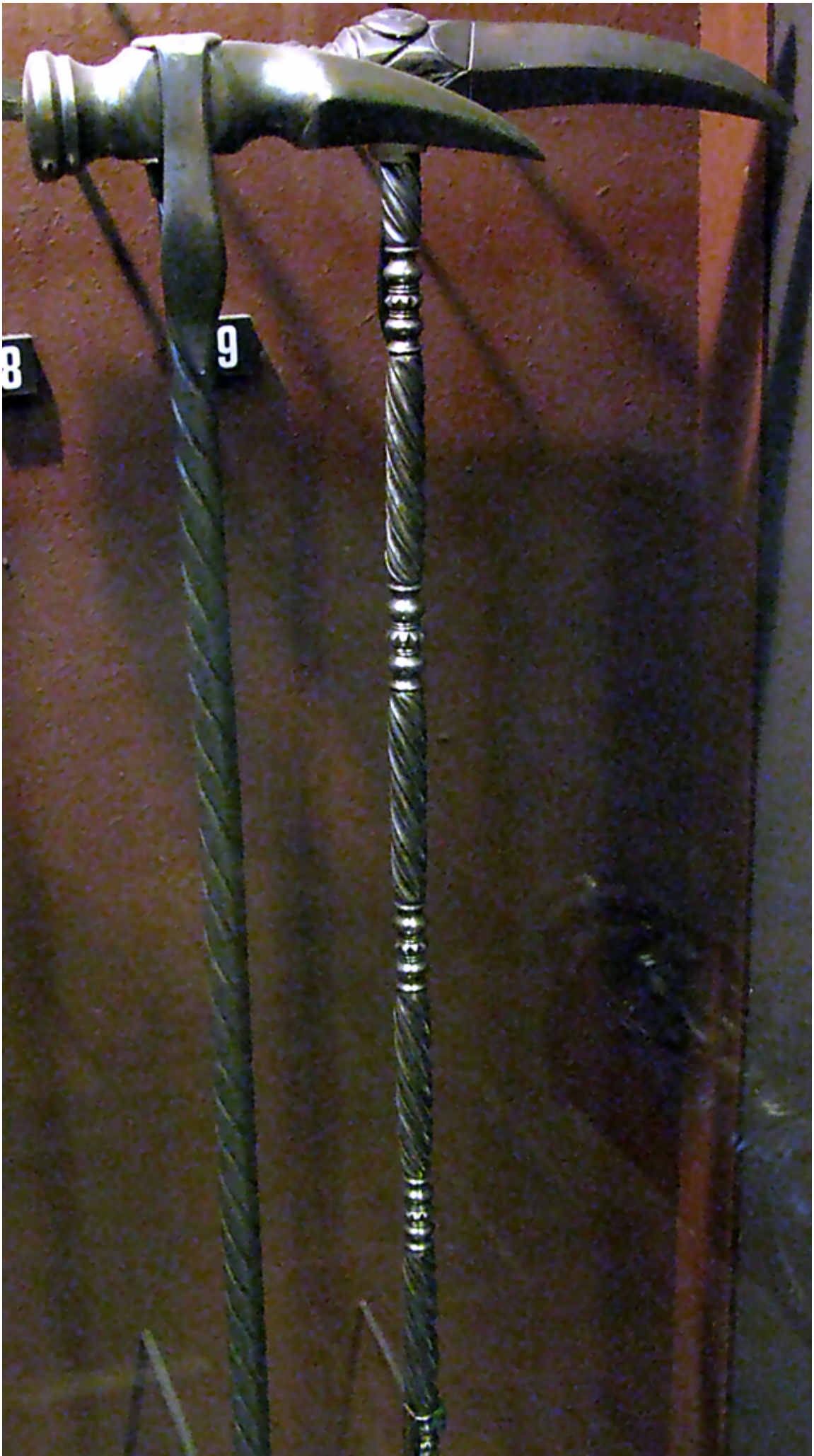
The horseman's pick was often used as a means to penetrate thick plate armour or mail which the standard sword could not. However, a number of drawbacks limited the weapon's effectiveness. Its relative heaviness made it unwieldy and, thus, easily avoided. The injury caused by the weapon was also small and rarely immediately fatal. Additionally, if swung too hard, the weapon often became embedded in the victim or their armour, making retrieval difficult.

10.1 Gallery

- A Polish hussar with a *nadziak* (17th century)

10.2 See also

- War hammer
- Shepherd's axe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10.3.1 Text

- **Battle axe** *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle%20axe?oldid=656596244 *Contributors:* Mdebets, CatherineMunro, Pollinator, Auric, Dbrukman, Alan Liefting, Apol0gies, Parasite, Oberiko, MathKnight, Utcursch, Dvavasour, SarekOfVulcan, Antandrus, Mrrhum, Acad Ronin, Mike Rosoft, Xezbeth, Kyknos, Dbachmann, Wolfman, MBisanz, Spearhead, Jpgordon, Bobo192, Leighkimmel, Harald Hansen, Smalljim, Hooperbloob, Alansohn, Ricky81682, Amorymeltzer, A D Monroe III, Woohookitty, Oliphaunt, Before My Ken, Tabletop, Twthmoses, Bluemoose, EvilOverlordX, GraemeLeggett, Magister Mathematicae, BD2412, Deadcorpse, Yurik, Nneonneo, MicTronic, Boccobrock, Sango123, Yamamoto Ichiro, FlaBot, Butros, Sherool, Therefore, Tone, YurikBot, DanMS, Charlieage, Nh3nh4, Wiki alf, Khaine, Adaxl, Jaxl, Mikix, Derex, Caiyu, Coderzombie, RUL3R, Paaskynen, Bronks, 2fort5r, SmackBot, Tbonnie, Kintetsubuffalo, Mike McGregor (Can), CPStapleton, Durova, Bluebot, Jprg1966, Thumperward, Moshe Constantine Hassan Al-Silverburg, Can't sleep, clown will eat me, Милан Јелисавчић, Gothmog.es, Flyguy649, Jaimie Henry, Zen611, Derek R Bullamore, Ryan Roos, Agent032125, Megalophias, The PIPE, SashatoBot, Carnby, Euchiasmus, BillFlis, Waggers, JMK, NativeForeigner, Loki Laufeyson, Erik Kennedy, Bakanov, SpK, Incitatus, Epbr123, AJN, S Marshall, The master of disguise, Natalie Erin, Oreo Priest, AntiVandalBot, Luna Santin, Golgofrinchian, Barek, Son of a Peach, Sen10nel, VoABot II, Viper168, MartinBot, Arjun01, The omniponent hedgehog, R'n'B, EdBever, Maurice Carbonaro, Dakirw8, MarceloB, ChristiCobb, L'Aquatique, KylieTastic, Juliancolton, Idioma-bot, TXiKiBoT, Gwinva, VenerableBeade, Melsaran, SwordSmurf, SmileToday, Brianga, EmxBot, SieBot, Antipoeten, Hzh, Gryphon044, Oxymoron83, Hobartimus, Georgette2, Randy Kryn, ClueBot, HammerHaines, Conan Chen, The Thing That Should Not Be, Kelving, Niceguyedc, VandalCruncher, Alexbot, PixelBot, Razorflame, Dekisugi, Zzany, SchreiberBike, Thehelpfulone, La Pianista, Fungusdookie, Aitias, BarretB, Gonzonoir, NellieBly, HibernianKnight, Addbot, Ronhjones, Cst17, Glane23, Tide rolls, مانی, Windward1, Luckas-bot, AnomieBOT, Rubinbot, Jim1138, Dwayne, Piano non troppo, Cossde, Materialscientist, Paulbrogan82, Stanislao Avogadro, LilHelpa, 78.26, FrescoBot, Borkumer, The Great Detective, Vincenzo80, Pinethicket, Monstrelet, Nate1054, NeuroJoystiq, Reaper Eternal, Crash1230, Shiftyfifty, Лобачев Владимир, Rv3016, Jaggedfire, RenamedUser01302013, Wikipelli, Camocon, Truballas, Azload, Matthewcgirling, L Kensington, Donner60, Orange Suede Sofa, ClueBot NG, Ptdtch, Primergrey, Youngrice123, Widr, Rurik the Varangian, Helpful Pixie Bot, Iste Praetor, Showtime34, Amp71, Caelte, Fylbecatulous, Aymankamelwiki, Numbermaniac, ZemplinTemplar, Pumpkinmuffie and Anonymous: 210
- **Club (weapon)** *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Club%20(weapon)?oldid=654948932 *Contributors:* Malcolm Farmer, Jel, Ewlloyd, Liftarn, Ihcoyc, Michael Reiter, Furrykef, Fibonacci, Jerzy, Robbot, Psmith, RedWolf, Altenmann, Sam Spade, Meelar, Sunray, Hadal, Xanzzibar, Gwalla, Orpheus, Binadot, Marcika, Tagishsimon, Ryanaxp, James Crippen, JoJan, Kilogulf59, Rdsmith4, Tyler McHenry, Darksun, Paulley, Chmod007, SoM, Discospinster, Brianhe, Rama, Dbachmann, Flapdragon, Mwanner, Aude, AreJay, RoyBoy, Afed, Naturenet, Polylerus, Grutness, Anthony Appleyard, Ahruman, MarkGallagher, PeteVerdon, SidP, Forteblast, SmthManly, Dismas, Siafu, Woohookitty, Nuggetboy, Sonelle, Kelisi, Wayward, Alan Canon, Graham87, DavidCane, BD2412, Josh Parris, Ketiltrout, Valentinejoesmith, Collins.mc, Wahkeenah, Billbaitsg, Radix, Winhunter, Mark83, Nabarry, Ahunt, Knife Knut, Ahpook, Roboto de Ajvol, YurikBot, Chanlyn, Hairy Dude, Michael Slone, TheDoober, Hede2000, Pigman, Bergsten, Netscott, Curuinor, Gaius Cornelius, Ihope127, Ugur Basak, Herbertxu, Chick Bowen, Mesolimbo, Irishguy, Thelanlegend, Alpha 4615, Gimmeahighfive, Janto, Rlove, Ash Crow, Pred, Bdve, Fastifex, Veinor, Ronin1, SmackBot, EvilCouch, Rex the first, McGeddon, Kfor, Commander Keane bot, Betacommand, RobertM525, Tyciol, DanMonkey, Rkitko, Boatman666, Thumperward, Snori, Hellfire83, Namangwari, KingAlanI, Tsca.bot, Danny13, KaiserbBot, JonHarder, Nahum Reduta, COMPFUNK2, Mytwocents, EVula, BrianRFSU, Chalybs, Ryan Roos, Andrew Dalby, Carnby, Arnoha, Pinoyartist99, Jpogi, Nj78, Steve Janke, Lachlancooper, Larry660, BranStark, OnBeyondZebrax, Iridescent, Rllbad, Tawkerbot2, Ozbrithian, Newyorkcityjay, CmdrObot, Nautilator, MaoMistikus, Neelix, Alton, KXL, Malamockq, Cydebot, Hydraton31, QRX, A Softer Answer, B, Christian75, GangstaEB, Aldis90, Smiteri, BetacommandBot, Mr kitehead, Barticus88, Akb4, MrFire, Dogaroon, Jedibob5, The Fat Man Who Never Came Back, Stephen Wilson, Chair789, MoogleDan, Cbs228, F-451, Bladestorm, RogueNinja, Wuselig, LibLord, Myanw, JAnDbot, Hello32020, Andonic, Matthew Husdon, Neil McCauley, Acroterion, VoABot II, Hasek is the best, Xb2u7Zjzc32, Dep. Garcia, Simonxag, Timothynolan, Pacificday, NJR ZA, EstebanF, JaGa, Valerius Tygart, DWShaw, MartinBot, Bissinger, Urselius, Williamabel, Hans Dunkelberg, Rrb1, Neotribal42, Belovedfreak, Robertgreer, Trackorack, Squids and Chips, Idioma-bot, Uyvsdi, FriendlyDalek, TXiKiBoT, Nice poa, To Catch a Thief, Nusandman, ETO Buff, Michaeldrayson, SQL, Michaelsbll, SieBot, TolkienGeek, Smsarmad, Dwane E Anderson, Targeman, ZH Evers, Philly jawn, Anchor Link Bot, ManOnPipes, Explicit, Martarius, Beeblebrox, ClueBot, CaptainJae, Niceguyedc, SamuelTheGhost, Nick19thind, Ellanow, Bryson98, 7, Feinoha, ChessA4, Harjk, Addbot, Download, Ws227, Luckas-bot, Yobot, TaBOT-zerem, Dunkalax, KamikazeBot, Pooface0o0, OllieFury, Jchthys, Tad Lincoln, Omnipaedista, F.Pavkovic, Jef4444, FrescoBot, Surv1v4l1st, MurfleMan, You555, Towel muppet, Trainmastercrc, Lotje, Felis domestica, Aoidh, Emeraldlight84, EmausBot, Samuraiantiqueworld, Y-barton, ChuispastonBot, ClueBot NG, Sladew, Widr, GuyHimGuy, BZTMPS, Gilbrilthor, PhnomPencil, AdventurousSquirrel, Ewikk, Khazar2, Aymankamelwiki, Lugia2453, SteenthIWbot, Growweblaar, Kaitlyn153, Crystallizedcarbon and Anonymous: 268
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