

Wisby Gauntlet

History:

Several gauntlets were found from the 1361 Battle of Wisby in Sweden. The gauntlet shown here is based primarily on the first picture. The pattern has been somewhat simplified and modified to fit my hand in particular.

Construction:

As with all finger gauntlets, this one starts with a custom made glove. The main difference between a modern glove and a 14th C glove seems to be the way the thumb is set into the glove. The triangular gore is not found on modern gloves. This project was kind of an experiment to see how low tech I could get away with and still have a useable gauntlet. I had planned on making a generic pair as a prize, but decided almost immediately that I should make one that fit me as a trial. After finishing this piece, there will not be any prize gauntlets in the foreseeable future.

This piece is intended for rapier cut and thrust use. The only tools used were shears, a file, a cold chisel, a hammer, a hole punch, an anvil and 2 pieces of wood (one for dishing and one for the veining). The metal plates are all stainless steel that I had on hand. The gloves are deerskin and the red leather is cowhide I had on hand. The plates were formed and attached to the red leather. Modifications were made to the pattern to fit my hand. The number of plates was reduced to simplify construction, but are in keeping with the other gautlets found at the site. After the plates were attached, the gloves were sewn on. The plates do not sit well unless the the hand is grasping the sword handle. Then they sit fine and provide the required protection.

Bibliography:

Armor from the Battle of Wisby 1361, Vol. 1 Bengt Thordeman, 1939.

Material Culture in London in the Age of Transition, Geoff Egan, 2005.

