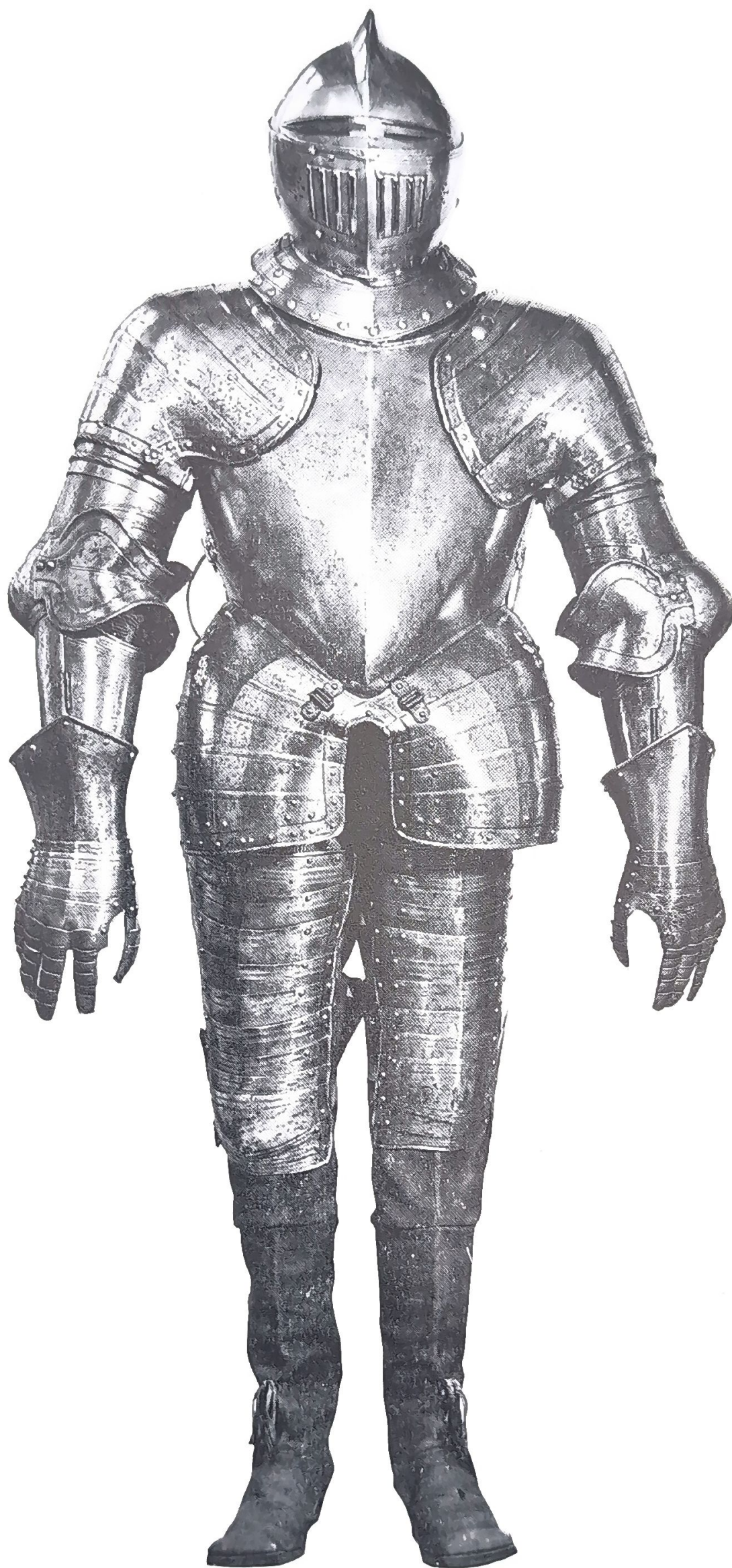


Arms and Armour in the Royal Scottish Museum

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*16 Cuirassier Armour

Of bright steel. It consists of close-helmet, gorget, a pair of gauntlets, a cuirass with breastplate of extreme peascod form, one lame skirt, short laminated tassets, laminated cuisses attached to poleyns, and a pair of pauldrons (the left one smaller for the lance) of five counter-tilewise lames, embossed over the breast fastening. The wings of the elbows were formerly attached by sneck hooks. The helmet is of very upright profile and the lower visor is pierced by vertical slots and circles of round holes. It is fitted with its own gorget plates. Double horizontal slits for sights in the upper visor. There is a brass plume holder on the right side of the back. Gauntlets of Greenwich type, both partially restored.

Wt. 22.284 kg (49 lb 2 oz)

Composite and partially restored but mainly English, about 1600

Reg. No. 1955.194

The pauldrons, arms, tassets and gauntlets were made in the English Royal workshop at Greenwich. The helmet and cuisses are also English but of rougher manufacture. The breastplate is of old metal remade to resemble a Greenwich breast. The absence of breast from this and other armours in English collections is probably due to their removal for use in the Civil Wars (cf. Clarendon, *History of the Rebellion*, Oxford 1898, Vol. II, p. 347). The original elements came from the collection of Lord Tollemache. The buffe from a burgonet probably of this armour remains in the possession of the family at Helmingham Hall, Suffolk. This form of armour was worn with knee boots in place of greaves.

Provenance: T. Gregory.

17 Archer's Bracer

Ivory, curved to fit the wrist and pierced for thongs by which it can be tied on. It is engraved with the arms of Gordon of Huntly (1) three boars' heads coupé for Gordon (2) three lions' heads erased for Badenoch (3) three crescents within a double tressure flory-counter-flory for Seton (4) three fraises for Fraser. Above on a scroll is the motto 'do weill And lett Them Say' and the initials A S G. On the left side is roughly engraved a later coat of arms.

Wt. .142 kg (5 oz)

Scottish, probably late 17th century

Reg. No. 1905.809

The bracer was worn on the archer's left wrist to protect it from the cut of the bow string. Roger Ascham in his *Toxophilus*, 1545, writes 'A bracer serveth for two causes, one to save his arme from the stryke of the stryng and his doublet from wearyng, and the other is, that the stryng glydyng sharpely and quickely of the bracer, may make the sharper shoote . . .'.
Provenance: Sir Noël Paton.

18 Targe

Circular, of embossed leather mounted with brass bosses and plaques set over red cloth. The design consists of a central circle set within four other circles. Each is outlined with brass dome-headed nails, and at the centre of each is a boss surrounded by four triangular rays of brass pierced at the centre to show the underlying red cloth. Between the outer circles are four small circles outlined by nails. A double row of nails surround the whole shield. The whole surface is covered with bold foliage embossed from the leather in the late Celtic style. One of the smallest circles encloses an animal identified as a lion and to the right of this is a fish and burlin. The backing of the shield is a modern restoration.

Diam. 49.6 cm (19½ in)

Scottish (Highland), probably early 18th century
Reg. No. 1905.1035

The cover of this shield was found at Inverkeithing about 1835. It had been removed from its board backing and rolled up presumably for ease of concealment. The lion (?), burlin and fish have been taken as the heraldic bearings of Macdonald of Keppoch, and the shield has been ascribed to the heroic chief, Alistair, 16th of his line, who fell at Culloden, 16th April 1746. These charges are, however, common to other branches of the Macdonalds and are not in fact confined to the race of the Princes of the Isles. The original backing would probably have been of two layers of thin oak or fir boards covered on the back with cowhide. The targe was held by a hand-grip with straps passing over the left forearm. According to tradition, the red cloth on this and similar targes is made, from the coats of regular soldiers of the British Army. In some cases, it is certainly very similar to the material of a coat in the Scottish United Services Museum, belonging to an unidentified dragoon regiment of the mid-eighteenth century.

This shield can be regarded as an offshoot of S. Maxwell's Type II ('The Highland Targe',