

Techniques for Manufacturing Aiglets in Sixteenth-Century England: Comparisons and Conjecture

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www.livingstonjewelers.com/aiglets.html



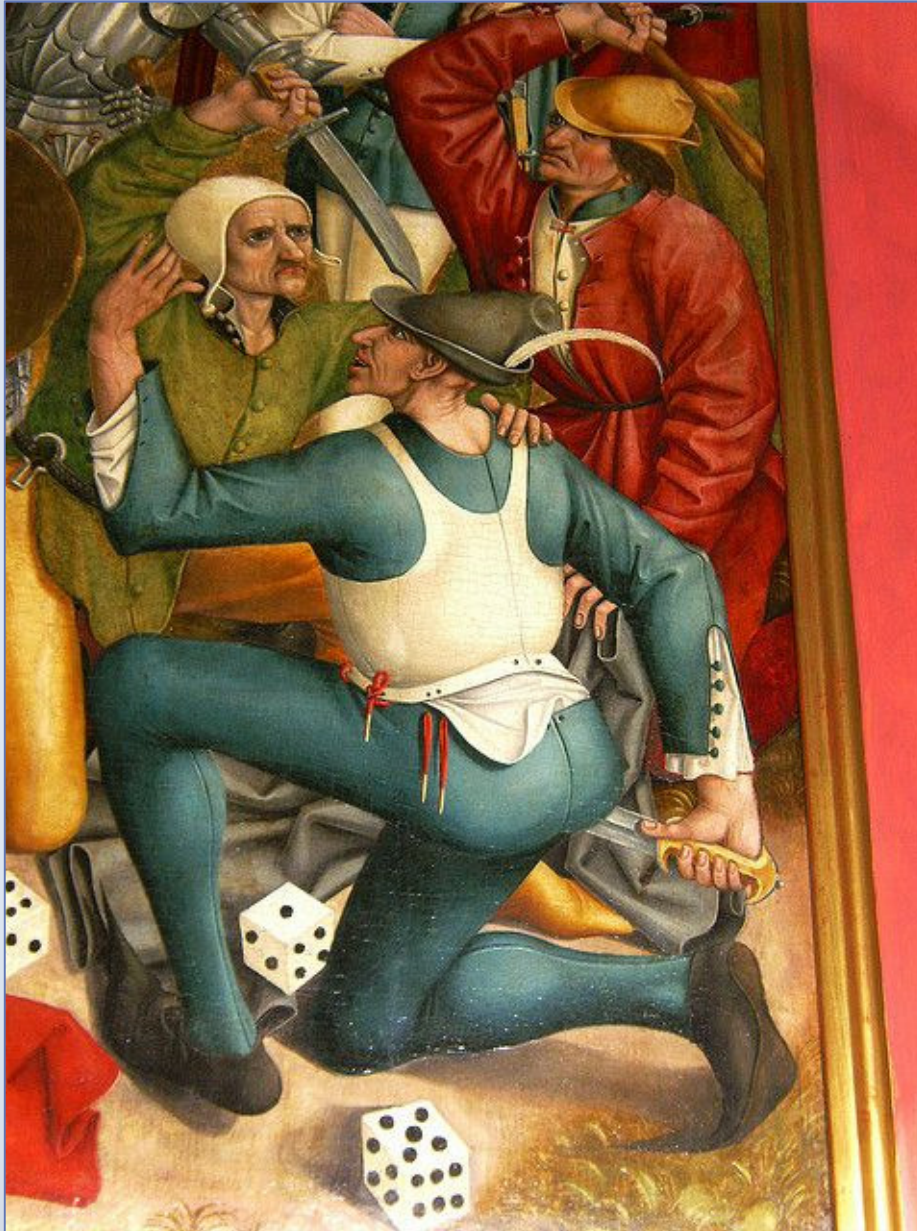
What I will cover

- What are aiglets
- How and when they were used
- Aiglet types
(With proposed additions to the system of classification)
- Manufacturing Aiglets



What are aiglets

Aiglets are small, usually metallic, cones that are used to finish the end of laces, thongs or cords. These cords were then used to hold your clothing together.



How and when aiglets were used

- An aiglet was placed on both ends of a cord making what is called a “point”. The modern equivalent today would be a shoelace.
- From approximately the 9th to the 16th centuries, these points were used to help hold clothing together.
- Aiglets were attached in many different ways

Aiglet types

- The current definition of aiglet types used by scholars today:
- Type 1 aiglets have a seam defined by the edge of the metal butting against each other along the majority of the seam. The edges may overlap for a short distance at the base and/or the top of the aiglet.
- Type 2 aiglets have both sides of the seam folding inward to grip the cord or lace along the majority (75% or more) of the seam.
- Type 3 aiglets have an overlapping seam where one side of the aiglet overlaps the other side along the majority (75% or more) of the seam. One side of the seam may, or may not, be bent in to hold the cord or lace.



proposed additions to the system of classification

- Type 4 aiglets are cast, forged, or are made from solid metallic materials other than sheet.
- Type 5 aiglets are manufactured from non-metallic materials. (bone, horn, stone, pottery, amber, etc.)
- Type 6 aiglets are purely decorative and are not functional. They may be similar to any other style of aiglet in manufacturing.

Manufacturing Aiglets

- There are several ways to make aiglets
- The type of aiglet being made dictates the process
- Type 1 aiglets are manufactured before they are attached to a cord or lace.

Manufacturing Aiglets

- Type 2 and 3 aiglets are formed around the cord material. One or both edges are folded in to hold the cord and the aiglet may be riveted as well.



http://www.wenner.net/suche/G/Nestler_Holzrahmen_Stuck_Leder_Holzschnitt_Jost_Amman;00021229.jpg

Manufacturing Aiglets

- A detail of a type 2 aiglet fragment that shows marks consistent with those left by pliers.

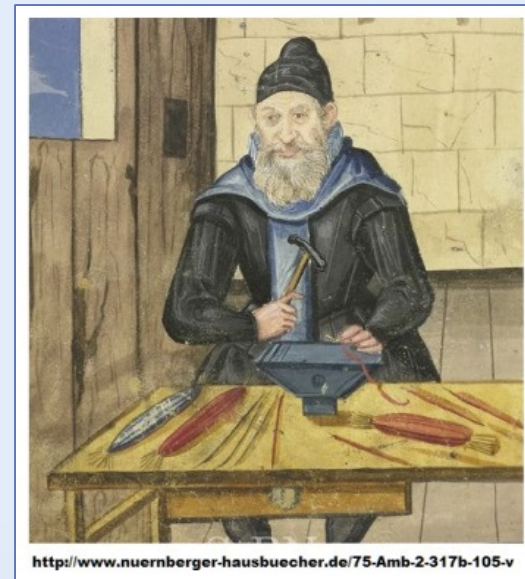


Manufacturing Aiglets

- Most of the illustrations surviving that show manufacturing of aiglets do not show the manufacturing of type 1 aiglets,
- There are illustrations showing what seems to be type 2 and 3 aiglets being made and attached to cords.



Amb. 279.2^o Folio 25 recto (Landauer I) (Detail of anvil)



<http://www.nuernberger-hausbuecher.de/75-Amb-2-317b-105-v>

Manufacturing Aiglets

- The tools to make aiglets are quite varied depending on the type being manufactured.
- These are some of the tools to make aiglets



Manufacturing Aiglets

- Regulations of guilds in Paris in the 15th century show that woman can and did work making aiglets.
- “1422, February 7. - Judgment of the Parliament allowing for widows of doers of aiguillette, remarried to a man of another profession, to continue the business of her first husband.” (Translated from the original French)

Manufacturing aiglets

- Technical skills needed to make aiglets.
- difficulties of reconstructing how they were made
- Explanation of how modern reconstruction can help you understand medieval methods.

Summary

- Aiglets: A small item, they were something that pretty much everyone owned. Then and now...
- Tools: The tools to make aiglets are very similar to those used by jewelers of the past and today.
- Techniques for making aiglets vary a slight bit but are fairly uniform due to them being similar in use. Function drives form.

Download Link

Download this presentation, the paper “Aiglets: Medieval, Post Medieval, and Modern” (With proposed additions to the system of classification) and additional resources by visiting this webpage:

www.livingstonjewelers.com/aiglets.html