

David Tétard's Sword #1



Make: **Kovex Ars – GB066**

Mass: **1.52 kg**
Blade length: **80 cm**
Overall length: **100 cm**
Fuller length: **46 cm**
Handle: **14 cm**
Blade shape: **lenticular**

Oakeshott Typology:

Blade type: **XII**
Cross style: **1**
Pommel type: **G**
Family: **A, possibly H.**

Assessment of sword:

Swords of Type XIII closely resemble swords of Type XII. The formers feature a blade whose edges are parallel for most of their length. My sword clearly show a strong profile tapering that exclude it from being of a Type XIII.

The sword is a bit heavy for a one-handed sword, ideally to be around 1.2 kg. The blade length is quite typical of a Type XII sword, although the fuller is a bit short (ideally 53 cm long) and the blade's tapering is also a little too acute when comparing with historical Type XII items. The handle is also a little long for a sword of Type XII (ideally 10 cm). Overall length is also a little long, considering the blade is not pointy compared to a real one, that would add as estimated 3-5cm to the blade.

Dating: Blades of Type XII were in use 13th and 14th century. Crossguards of Style 1 were in use from the Viking to the 17th century. Swords of Family A were in use 1050-1300, swords of family H are more difficult to date as they are rare. Swords of Type XII mainly consist of pommels of type I and crossguards of Style 3 but any other types and style are acceptable.

Conclusion: although not perfectly a Type XII, DT Sword #1 should be OK for our period.





Oakeshott Typology - Type XII

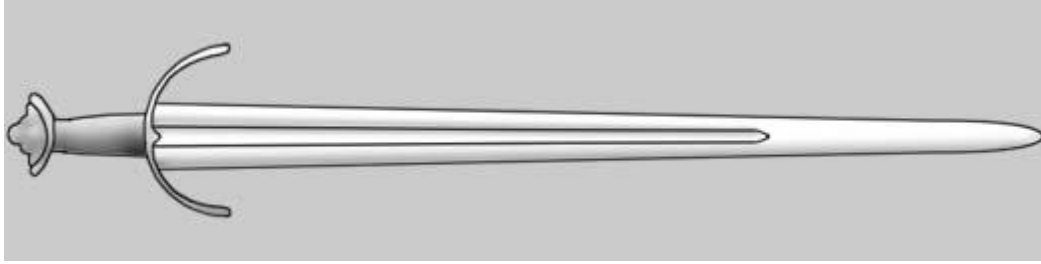
From [Albion-Swords](#):



Profile:	broad, flat and evenly tapering
Cross-section:	lenticular
Average Blade Length:	around 81 cm
Fuller:	2/3's of the length of the blade (54 cm)
Point:	acute
Grip:	single-hand, usually 9-10 cm
Average Weight:	-
Primary purpose:	cutting
Period:	13th and 14th c.

From [MyArmoury.com](#):

Type XII is the archetypical knightly single-handed sword. It is a well-balanced weapon to be used with a shield or without, mounted or on foot. This is probably the most common sword to be found during the high Middle Ages. These swords almost always exhibit the characteristic fuller and taper steadily to an acute point.



General Usage: **1170-1350**

Blade Length: **81-86 cm**

Fuller Length: **2/3 of blade length**

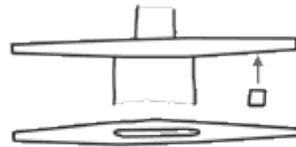
Tang: **Flat with almost parallel sides**

Cross-section: **Lenticular**

Pommel Type: **Any, but Type I (see appendix) is prominent**

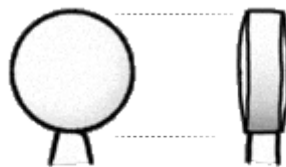
Cross Style: **Any, but Style 3 (see appendix) is prominent**

Crossguard Style 1



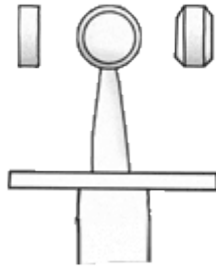
One of the simplest forms, this cross is simply a straight bar of metal which is tapered towards the ends. This is the famous "Gaddhjalt" (spike hilt) form which was in constant use from the Viking era through the 17th century. Cross-section is usually square but can be circular or even octagonal. Style 1a is a simplified form, being only a straight rod—square, circular, or octagonal—widening at the center to accommodate the tang.

Pommel Type G



Type G is disc-shaped, generally having rounded faces and being 1/2" to 1" inch thick. Some examples on swords dating after 1400 have concave faces.

Sword Family A



This short hilt has a disc or wheel pommel and a straight cross, often thick and of square cross-section. This family of swords saw use between circa 950-1550, but was most popular circa 1050-1300.

Historical Examples

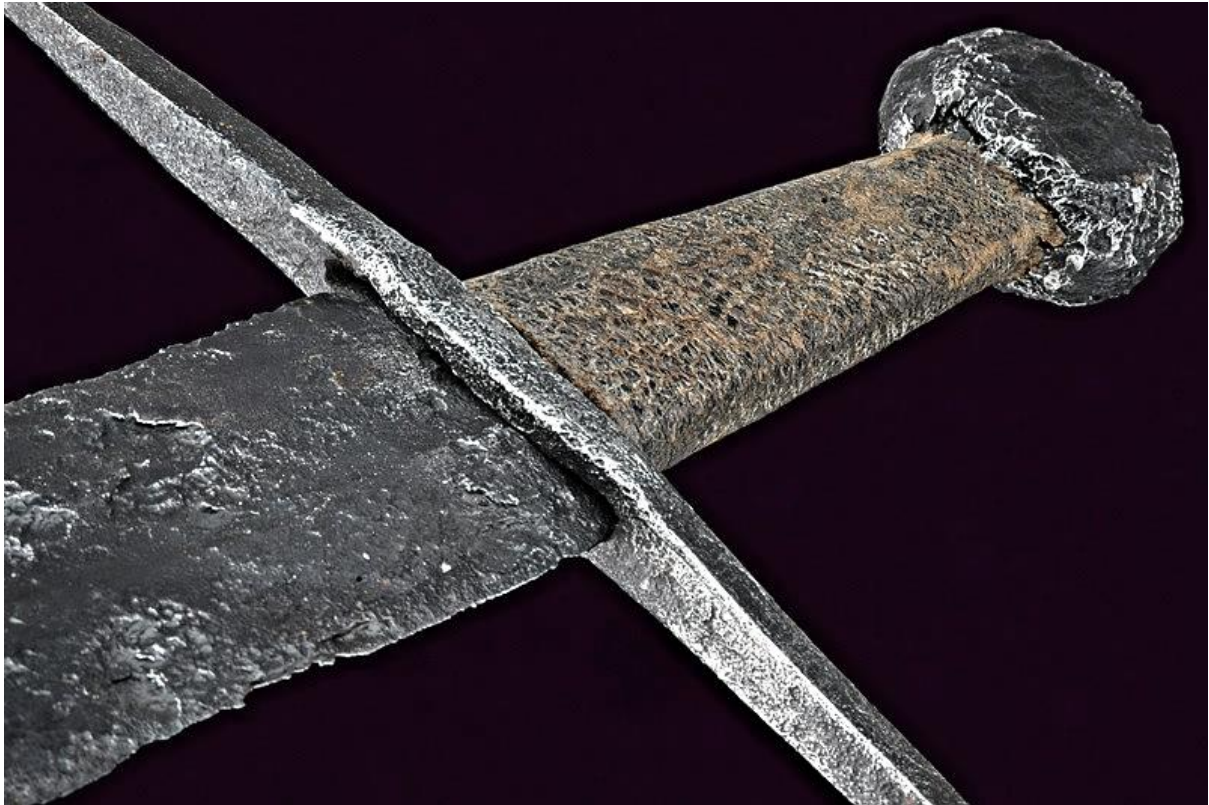
From the Nationalmuseet, Copenhagen



This sword, circa 1225-75, is river-found with very little pitting and is in very good condition overall. Its blade is 81 cm long.

German, 1st half of 13th Century





Double-edged blade with double-sided, long and shallow fuller, is on a page that is loaded in iron inscription "SEINIES", on the other an inlaid in copper orb mark.

Short quillons with square cross-section, slightly tapered tang with a resulting grip. Beautifully shaped Brazil nut pommel.

Length 96 cm

German around 1200



Double-edged on both sides about two-thirds blade with fullers. Widely extended to the ends tapered guard with rectangular cross section.

Length 96.5 cm.





Description: Large two-wire straight blade with central groove, broken during the period of use, and probably restored at a later time. Guard with arms straight square section, pommel nut Brazil.

See R. Oakeshot Ewart, *The Sword in the Age Chivalry*, Table 4, type "C".

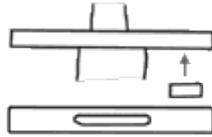
Length 97.5 cm.

Further examples of type XII swords at <http://sword-site.com/board/23/oakeshott-type-xii-xiia-swords> (accessed 2nd July 2016).

Appendix

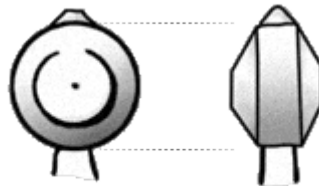
Most common (but not unique) pommel and crossguard of Type XII swords:

Cross Style 3



This style consists of a relatively short, rectangular-sectioned bar. This style enjoyed periods of popularity first in the 12th and 13th centuries (1150-1250) and then again in the 14th and 15th centuries (1380-1430).

Pommel Type I



Another of the disc forms, in this one the faces are smaller with broad chamfers that widen to the radius of the pommel. This type was popular in the middle of the 13th century, although there are earlier examples.