

Jousting Tournaments during the Middle Ages



jousting

The martial meeting of the joust was considered a duel which was not limited to the weapon of the joust. The weapons used in tournaments were the same as those used in war. Lances, axes, lances with sockets which produced ring-like punches rather than points. Sometimes the knights used a shorter range of weapons when the distance was closed off to two parties and particularly after one or both of the parties had been unhorsed. Generally, there were four courses, and the bout ended after the first knight was unhorsed.

By the age of Edward I of England, blunted knives and swords were used. The costumed knights and horses were a delightful visual for observers. The blanket over the steed was called a comparison and embroidered with a coat of arms. Its usage was primarily a decoration and to protect the horse. Knights wore armour evolved from mail and a great helm made from solid plate armor. During the 15th century, knights wore a full suit of plate armour called harness. Today, the sport resembles the original meet, however, is presented more as "entertainment"