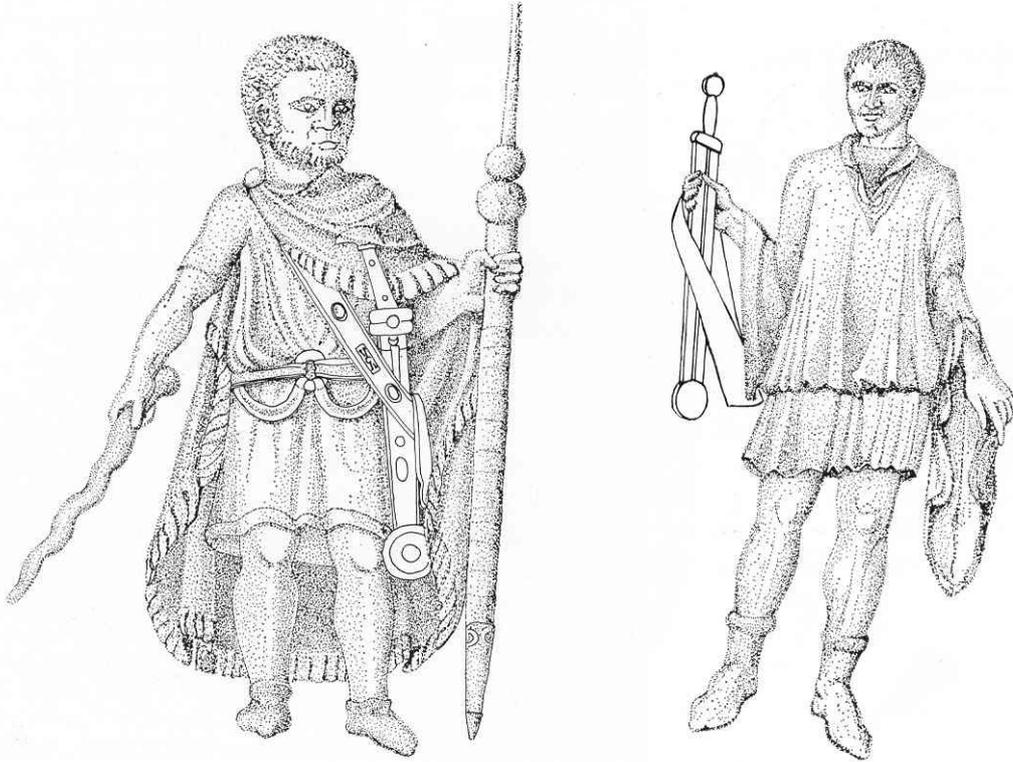
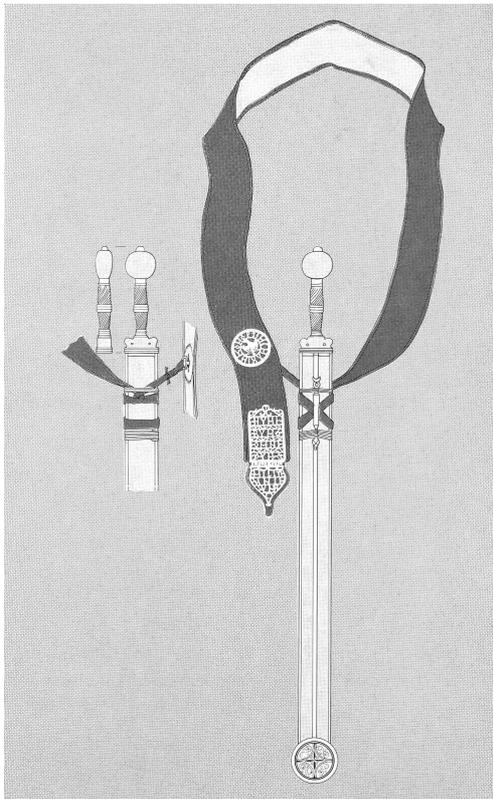


Baldrics

A legionary of the republic or the early empire would have carried his *gladius* (a short sword) on the right side of his body. The longer *spatha*, however, was carried on the left, not fixed to the belt but suspended with a special baldric, the *balteus*, which ran over the right shoulder.

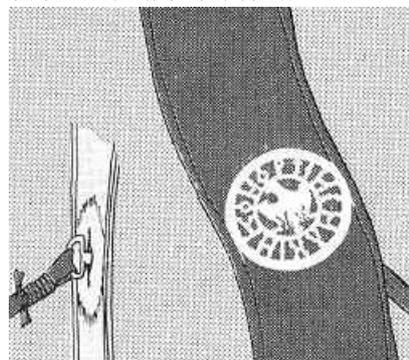


(tombstones of M. Aurelius Lucianus and Tertiolus; both images from J. Oldenstein)



(reconstruction by Oldenstein)

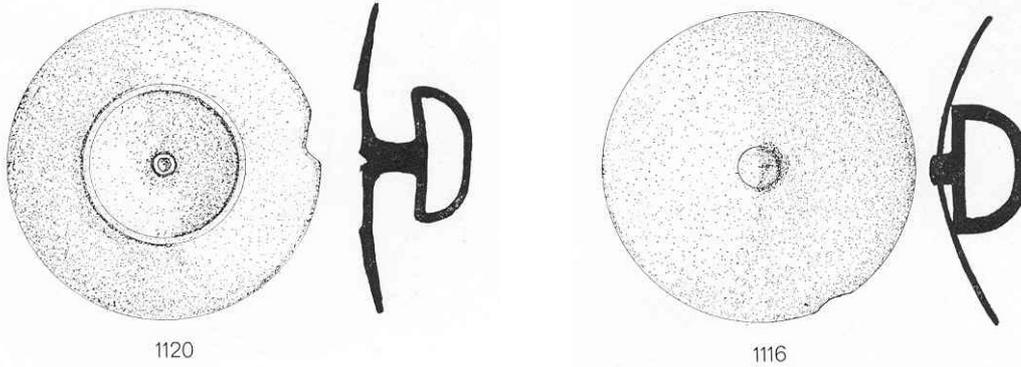
A typical *balteus* consisted of a broad strip of leather with a narrow strip attached to it. The narrow part was led through the scabbard of the *spatha* and then either tied or sewn to an oval or semicircular eye of a baldric mount fixed to the broad part of the baldric. The baldric fastener was often a very elaborately decorated disc, sometimes even with a short text:



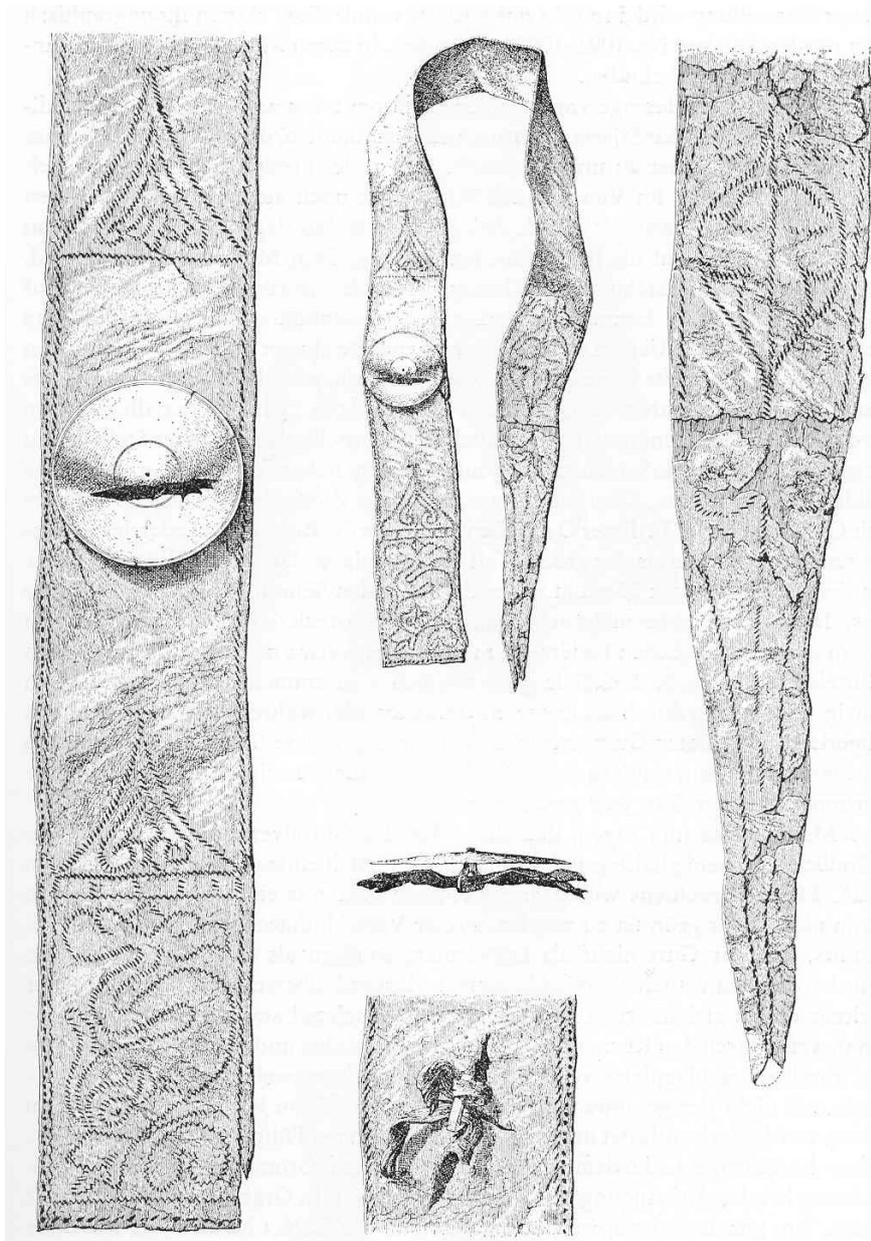
(detail)

A large number of examples found in Britain and Germany shows they were mass-produced.

More often the baldric fastener was just a dished sheet of thin brass:

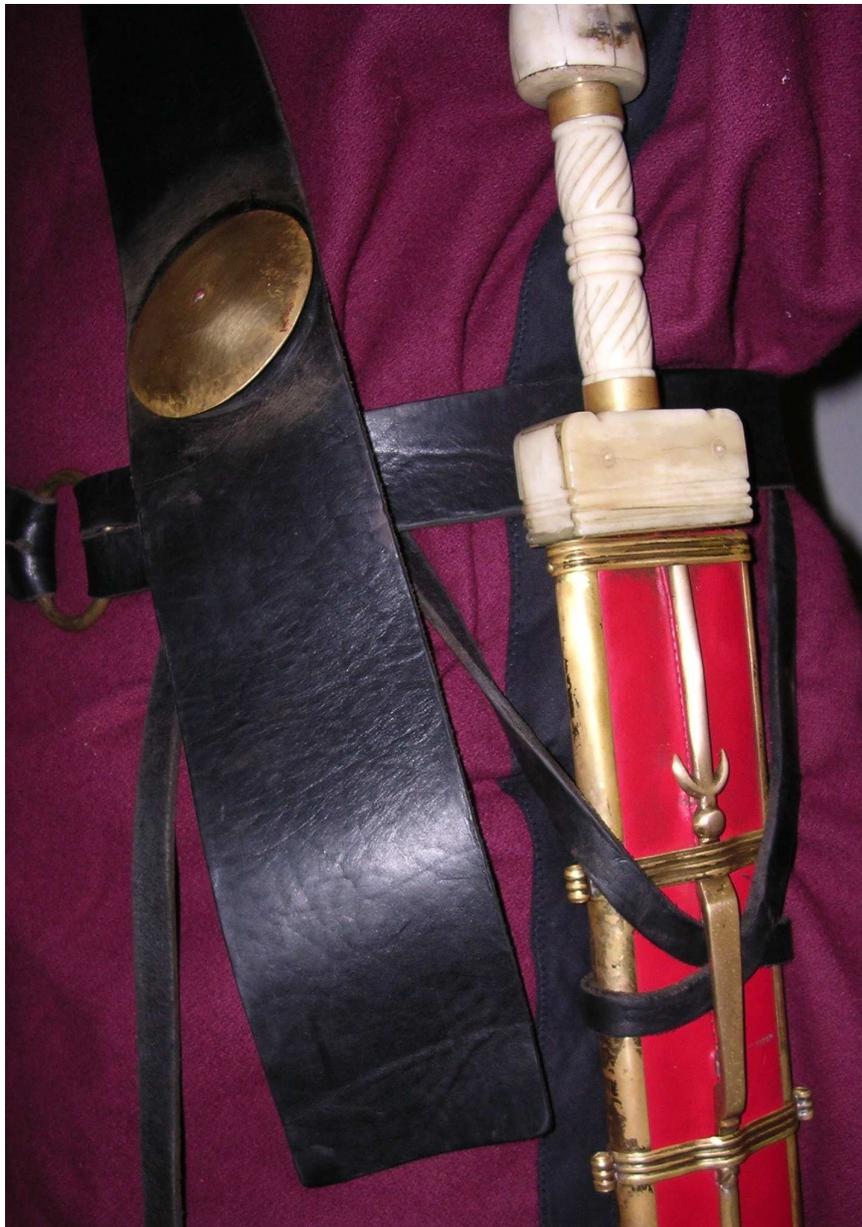


(two baldric mounts found at the Saalburg; both images from J. Oldenstein)



(the *balteus* from Vimose with a rather flat baldric mount image from J. Oldenstein)

Roughly a dozen baldric mounts were made with tools and expertise provided by a local school (Bischof Whitmann Schule at Regensburg):



It was planned to decorate the *baltei* with fancywork, e.g. with a stitching (like on the Vimose *balteus*), but the preparations consumed too much time for this.