

## Wieldability Assessments of Viking Age Swords

In closely examining the many swords included in *Swords of the Viking Age*, author Ian Peirce had the opportunity to 'get the feel' of several of the swords 'in-hand' and has recorded his observations briefly in the table below. Further definition and discussion of *wieldability* is included in the preface of *Swords of the Viking Age* on p. vii.

| page | collection | accession       | wieldability assessment  |
|------|------------|-----------------|--|
| 28   | Dublin     | WK-25           | excellent  |
| 34   | Private    |                 | good   |
| 36   | Oslo       | C777            | poor   |
| 38   | London     | 1873, 12-19 233 | very good  |
| 40   | Oslo       | C24217          | almost certainly excellent due to an unusually narrow blade and hefty pommel; the pommel is presently detached |
| 44   | Copenhagen | C1572           | not applicable, but the heavy pommel would have commanded excellent wieldability                               |
| 48   | Copenhagen | C24554          | reasonable, marginally better than C24550  |
| 50   | Copenhagen | C24550          | poor   |
| 52   | Paris      | JPO 2249        | fair to good   |
| 54   | Helsinki   | NM 18402:1      | excellent, due to blade shape and pommel size  |
| 56   | Dublin     | WK-24           | Excellent; may be wielded most effectively. As it happens, a perfect fit for my own hand                       |
| 60   | Helsinki   | NM 6245A:1      | in present state excellent and would have been even better with pommel in place                                |
| 63   | Dublin     | 1928:382        | excellent due to the broad blade at the cross, pushing the center of gravity towards the hand                  |
| 68   | Oslo       | C25576b         | difficult to assess due to bend in blade   |

|     |            |                |   |
|-----|------------|----------------|---|
| 70  | Paris      | J1             | good  |
| 72  | Oslo       | C11014         | excellent   |
| 74  | Paris      | JPO 2262       | not good  |
| 76  | London     | 1912, 7-23 1   | poor due to the unusually thick blade                     |
| 77  | London     | 1848, 10-21 1  | excellent   |
| 80  | London     | 1856, 7-1 1404 | excellent   |
| 82  | Dublin     | 1936:3763      | very good   |
| 84  | Paris      | J3             | not very good, as the pommel is so small                  |
| 94  | Oslo       | C19763         | fairly good   |
| 95  | London     | 1864, 1-27 3   | good  |
| 98  | Chertsey   | CHYMS 2465     | excellent   |
| 100 | Copenhagen | 780-4          | excellent and much enhanced by the massive hilt           |
| 106 | Copenhagen | 16430          | excellent, although some 2 cm of the blade tip is missing |
| 109 | Dublin     | E122:94        | fair  |
| 115 | Copenhagen | C8727          | excellent   |
| 116 | Oslo       | C26494         | excellent   |
| 118 | Paris      | JPO2253        | good  |
| 120 | Paris      | JPO2251        | good  |
| 122 | Helsinki   | NM 2033:1      | good  |
| 124 | Private    |                | excellent   |
| 128 | Paris      | JPO2242        | fairly good; fitted my hand snugly                        |
| 131 | Paris      | JPO2241        | fairly good   |
| 132 | Helsinki   | NM 11840       | excellent   |
| 134 | Helsinki   | NM 3631:1      | excellent   |
| 136 | Helsinki   | NM 704         | excellent   |
| 138 | Helsinki   | NM 1174        | poor  |
| 142 | Paris      | J4             | good  |

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