



European battle shirts from the Iron Age through the Early

Knihovna Archeologického ústavu AV ČR, Praha

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PŘEDNÁŠKA | MARTIJN WIJNHOVEN

CLAD IN RINGS European battle shirts from the Iron Age through the Early Middle Ages

Mail armour, often mislabelled as 'chainmail' has a history spanning over two millennia on the battlefield. Invented during the Iron Age, it quickly spread across Europe and beyond. The Roman army, always eager to adopt innovative military technologies, embraced mail armour early on, utilising it effectively for centuries. Its significance extended well beyond antiquity, playing a crucial role in warfare during the Middle Ages. Despite its long history and widespread use, mail armour remains surprisingly under-documented. This lecture offers the first systematic exploration of its archaeological, iconographic, and textual evidence, enriched by technical insights into the chaîne opératoire of mail production.

