

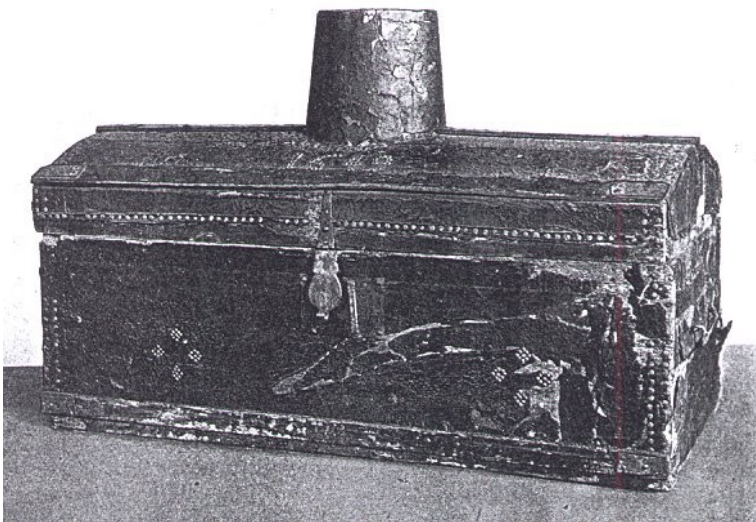
## Chapter 6 — Travel Goods and Campware

### Luggage

Trunks intended for travel were often covered with leather to provide a waterproof, abrasion resistant layer that also extended the life of the trunk.



English travelling trunk of pinewood covered with cowhide, ornamented with brass studs. Second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. (Waterer)



Travelling trunk of wood covered with hide, dated 1649. The projection in the lid is to fit the traditional “Puritan” hat. (Waterer)



Ornamental trunk of wood covered with hide dated 1666. The stand is modern. (Waterer)

# Campware

## Tents

While no extant tents survive in England from the seventeenth century, it is a different story on the continent. While the styles of tents are different, it is highly likely similar construction techniques would have been used either side of the pond.

An existing pavilion is on display at the Historical Museum (*Barfüsserkirche*) in Basel, Switzerland. According to the museum, the tent was made in the first half of the seventeenth century, (some time before 1655 because records from 1655 indicate it being in existence for several years), but they are not sure of the exact year of creation.

The grommets shown in the pictures below<sup>1</sup> are oval in shape, folded over the edge of the canvas and are stitched in place using a double running stitch.



**The roof cap dated 1661, made of studded leather has a metal band with attachment points for four storm guys.**



**Left: Close-up showing leather grommets for stake loops, as well as a repair to the canvas, probably where a grommet tore out.**

**Right: Rope attachment eyelets on the lower edge of the roof. The metal hooks attach to ropes.**

**All tent photos Greydragon**

## ***Buckets***

Leather buckets of two shapes are known. Both have a double or triple stitched base, a single side seam and a reinforcing strip along the top.

No record exists of leather buckets being used to hold drinking water.



**Above: Leather fire buckets were kept in every City church, and metal squirts, containing less than a gallon of water were used with mobile water-engines or tanks**

**MoL**



**Left: Two alleged Stuart period leather fire buckets from the collection of the MoL. I suspect the lower one to be a powder bucket.**

**Unstead**

A number of leather buckets have been found in the wreck of either the Grafton or Invincible, dating from the 1750s. I have reproduced the salient parts of the website publishing the find below. Although not of Tudor or Stuart date, the buckets are virtually identical to the upper one on the left above.



## Leather Fire Buckets<sup>2</sup>

Handle – rope bound in leather made up the handle, approximately 13-mm diameter. This was then attached to the bucket by two steel or iron rings attached to the bucket by two leather lugs that were then stitched to the top edge of the bucket.

Around the top edge was a piece of hazel or wicker held in place by a thin piece of leather stitched over the hazel and on to the rim of the bucket. Also shown in this image you can clearly see the leather hoop that originally retained an iron ring. There was one of these opposite each other on the top rim of the bucket. The handle was a piece of hemp rope that was covered in a thin leather sheath and sewn in place. The rope/leather handle was attached to the iron rings. Every bucket was lined with tar to make it waterproof.



The base panel is in the form of a shallow leather dish and was sewn into the upper part around the edge. In addition, sewn into the base of most buckets in the form of a cross, were two pieces of stiff heavy leather (approximately 5mm thick). These acted as supports.

The upper was, in the majority of cases, one piece of heavy leather (approximately 5mm thick) simply wrapped round into a tapered funnel shape with the ends sewn together. The sewing is butt-stitched to avoid any holes on the inside of the bucket.



## Balls

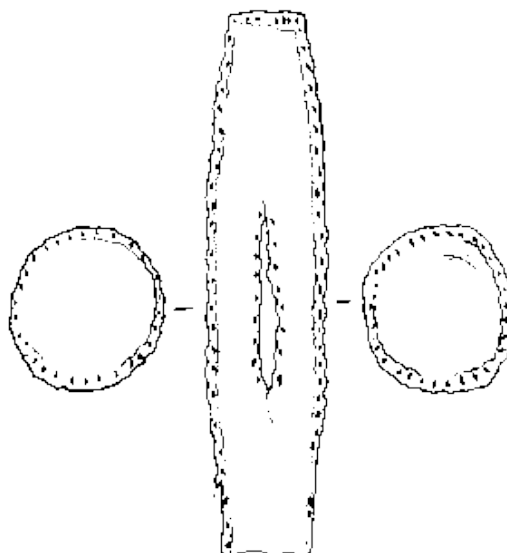
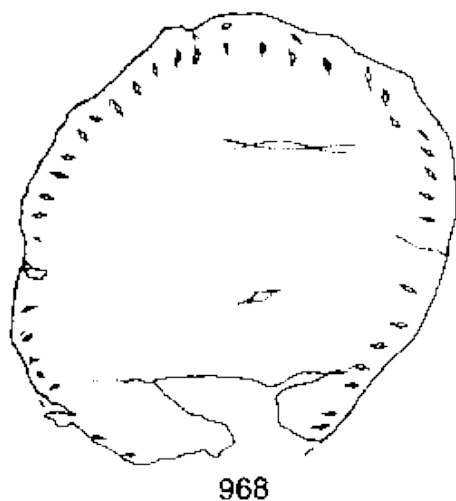


This ball was found lobbed up into the hammer beam roof of Westminster Hall during repairs in the 1920s.<sup>3</sup>

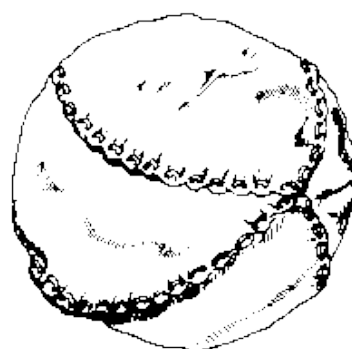
16<sup>th</sup> cent. Type

Dog leather, with a core of packed hair, 50mm diameter. Hereinafter known as “dog balls”. A23502. Museum of London (Starkey)

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969



“968 ... Incomplete; ?sheep/goat leather roughly circular piece; d c.60mm; stitch holes around perimeter.

Two such circles and a strip would have made up a ball ... which would have been stuffed with moss etc.”

“969 ... Incomplete and distorted; present dimensions c.42× c.34mm; cattle leather; three surviving pieces, each a quarter sphere... from the original four; core of tightly packed moss survives.”<sup>4</sup>

Egan, pp295-6

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## Notes for Chapter 6

<sup>1</sup> Graydragon

<sup>2</sup> This page is an extract from *Leather Fire Buckets*, <http://www.wgarrett.demon.co.uk/leather.htm>, accessed 5/09/2002

<sup>3</sup> Starkey, p170

<sup>4</sup> Egan, pp295-6