

Modern Name: John Sawyer

SCA Name: Thomas Flamanc of Kelsale

Type of Item: Portable Pie Oven.

Country of Origin: Germany.

Period of origin: Late 15th Century.

Period Depictions.

I have found three period depictions of portable pie ovens from the late 15th Century.



Medieval portable pie oven 1465-1475

Illustration; wood fired baking oven from 1465-1475, "A pie-baker", Konzil von Konstanz ÖNB 3044, fol. 48v.

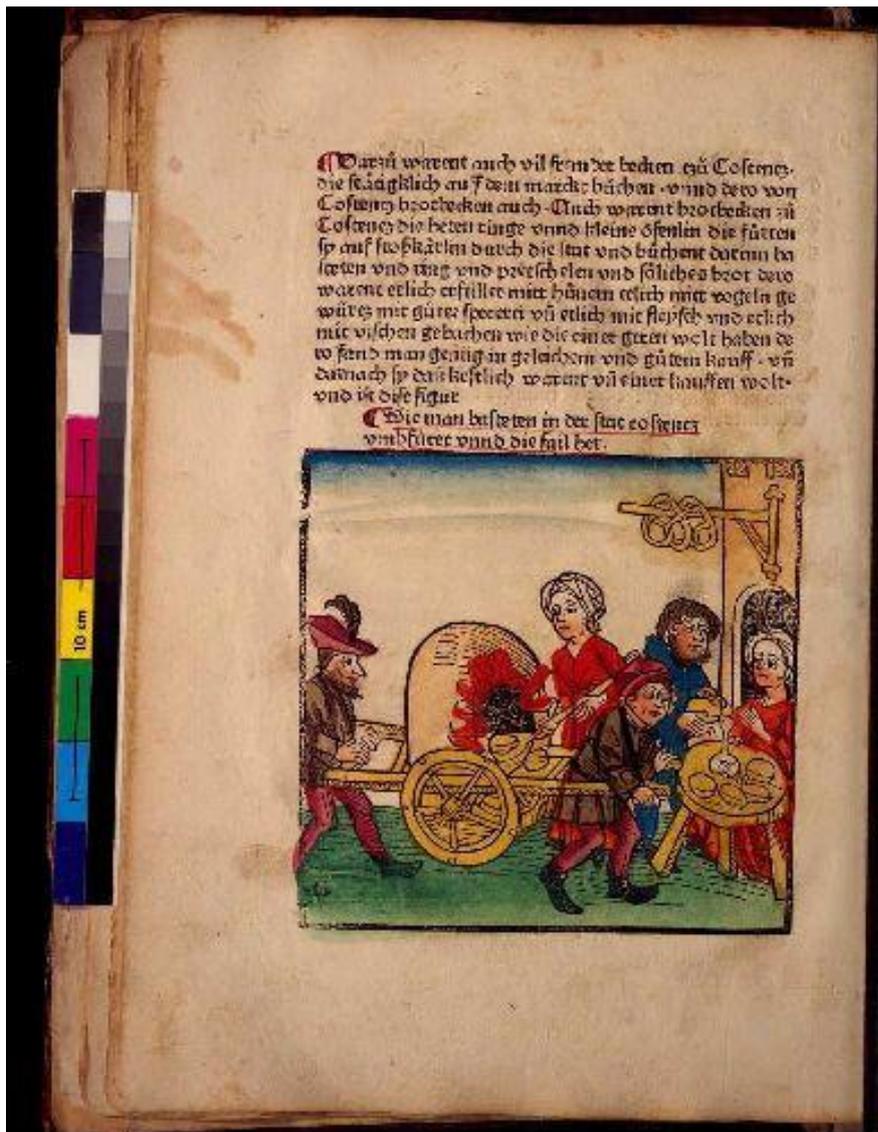
<https://secure.flickr.com/photos/vrangtantebrun/3364577573/>

And another



Mobile baker's oven, from 15th century Chronicle of Ulrico de Richental

<http://www.superstock.com/stock-photos-images/4069-3996>



http://inkunabeln.digitale-sammlungen.de/Seite_R-178,1,c5b.html

The images are from a Chronicle from Constance and originally written in 1420 by the son of a town clerk called Ulrich de Richental. All the images above seem to be from the same point in the chronicle. Further reading on the above website yields this;

Ulrich von Richental (ca. 1365-1437), Sohn eines Konstanzer Stadtschreibers, verfaßte um 1420 eine umfangreiche, illustrierte Chronik zum Konzil von Konstanz (1414-18), das er als Zeitzeuge miterlebt hatte. Die Chronik basiert auf gesammeltem statistischen Material wie Teilnehmerlisten oder Personenzählungen, auf städtischer Historiographie sowie auf mündlichen Quellen. Als Vorbilder dienten oberrheinische Bilderchroniken, Wappenbücher und Weltchroniken. Der annalistisch und thematisch organisierte Text orientiert sich am Kirchenjahr und den Feiern anlässlich des Konzils als Strukturelemente, die durch Schilderungen herausragender Geschehnisse (Prozeß gegen Johannes Hus, Absetzung Papst Johannes' XXIII., Belehungen, Konklave) unterbrochen werden. Einen breiten Raum nimmt die Darstellung der jurisdiktionellen Anstrengungen (Höchstpreise, Rechtsprechung) der Stadt Konstanz ein.

Die erhaltene deutschsprachige Überlieferung setzt ca. 1460 ein und gliedert sich in verschiedene Versionen. Die Holzschnitte des vorliegenden Erstdrucks illustrieren die Ereignisse während des Konstanzer Konzils und zeigen zahlreiche Wappendarstellungen.

Google translates this as;

Ulrich von Richental (ca. 1365-1437), son of Constance town clerk, wrote in 1420 a comprehensive, illustrated chronicle of the Council of Constance (1414-18), which he had witnessed as a witness. The chronicle is based on the collected statistical material such as lists of participants or people counting on urban historiography, as well as written sources. As models were upper Rhine images chronicles armorials and world chronicles. The annalistisch and thematically organized text is based on the liturgical year and the celebrations on the occasion of the council as structural elements, which are interrupted by descriptions of outstanding events (trial of John Huss, deposed Pope John XXIII., Investitures, conclave). Much space is occupied by the presentation of the jurisdictional efforts (maximum prices, law) of the city of Konstanz.

The resulting German-speaking tradition is about a 1460 and is divided into different versions. The woodcuts illustrate the first edition of this event during the Council of Constance and exhibit numerous coats of arms.

What I take this to mean is that there are a couple of different versions.

So I believe I have images from both versions however they show broadly similar items.

I am not aware of any actual finds from period.

Analysis of Depictions

The basic construction seems to be hollow dome of brownish material on a stretcher. This either has wheels or is mounted on a cart.

I have not created the cart or wheels part of the structure and mount it on trestles for use.

Based on what I have seen and from discussions with other re-enactors who have such items I have interpreted the brown dome material to be daub. This is a mixture of mud, horse manure and straw, much like that used to create walls during the period. However, this material is quite friable and would be damaged by the rigors of modern travel.

As a result I have replaced this material with brown plaster re-enforced with straw. This material should behave thermally very much like the daub, (this is a working object afterall) and has a similar appearance and as an added benefit is much more hygienic for cooking purposes.

There are two possible ways that I could imagine that you could create a dome like this. The first would be to create a form of something like straw and form the plaster over that. Let it set. Then remove the straw.

The second method, and the one that I used, is to utilise a ceramic liner and cover that with the plaster. The ceramic liner was sourced from Trinity Court Potteries a commercial potter supplying

the re-enactment market with items manufactured in a period manner. See the "how to" document attached for construction pictures. The reason I chose this was that I considered that it would be stronger and give a much better interior to cook in.

Although not shown in the pictures I have included a whole in the top to act as a chimney. This was on the advice of others who use ovens like this. It aids in lighting the fire in the oven and can be blocked if necessary.

The stretcher is made from oak using hand tools; chisel, hammer, saws and sand paper.

For safety the oven is wired onto the stretcher. There is no evidence for this in period but nobody really wants a red hot oven coming off the stretcher. Again see the attached "how to" document for construction pictures.

I have also built a wooden door which makes it much easier to keep the oven up to temperature. This was created after the first few uses of the oven.