

Behind the Scenes of History Fencing Masters and their Shitposts

MRMCD 2025 – Volle Transparenz

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Historical Fencing and Myself

Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA)

- reconstructing and practising the fencing^a styles of 14th-16th century^b Europe^c
- HEMA has in some forms always existed, but in its current form roughly since the 80s

^aalso other martial arts

^bmainly, but any source up to 1918 is fair game

^cand cultures strongly influenced by Europe

me :3

- I've been doing sword and buckler fencing with Hammaborg in Hamburg for 2.5 years
- I'm a maths PhD student, so excuse the $\text{\LaTeX}$ slides

MS I.33



MS I.33, Folio 11v

some info

- text on sword & buckler fencing
- written around the 1320s
- oldest surviving fencing manual
- author is an anonymous priest
- produced at a monastery somewhere in Franconia
- was probably written as a reference, not as a manual



16v

Hic sacerdos deprehendit siue docet deprehendere gladium obsidentis; nota quod gladius ipsius obsidentis non potest absolui nisi mediante schiltslac, vbi sacerdotis manus percutiet cum scuto, vt infra exemplo proximo.

Here the priest grasps, or teaches how to grasp, the opposer's sword. And note that the opposer's sword cannot be freed except through a Shield-Strike, where he strikes the Priest's hand with his shield, as below in the next illustration.

transcription and translation by Jeffrey L. Forgeng



32v

Hic e[run]t ligaciones [superiores] & inferiores que [superbius ta]cte sun[t sepius.] Vnde versus: Ligans ligati, & ce[te]ra[rum].

Ex hiis super[ioribus] allegacionibus Walpurgis recipit schiltslac, quia erat superior & prius parata.

Here are the bindings above and below which have often been discussed above; hence the verse: 'The one who binds and the one who is bound', etc.

From the abovementioned bindings Walpurgis gets a Shield-Strike, because she was above and the first to be ready.

transcription and translation by Jeffrey L. Forgeng

Gladiatoria

some info

- a series of 15th century texts on armored fencing
- currently five known versions
- from around the 1430s
- anonymous author

Gladiatoria

the pommel throw



Wolfenbüttel Picture Book (Cod. Guelf. 78.2 Aug. 29),
Folio 35r

35r

Merckch daz zwolffte stuck ob du wilt reschlich mit ym entten So nym deinen spies vnd swert zu sammen an den arm vnd schrawb ab den knopff von deinem swert vnd würff hertigleichen in yn vnd lauff nach dem wurff mit ym ein vnd nütz daz swert oder den spies welchs dir eben sey.

ab er also auff dich würff mit dem knopf. so nym dein tartschen für dich vnd vach darauff den wurff vnd nym den spies für dich yn dye recht handt zu dem stich vnd rett dich das er dir nicht einlawff als er daz yn dem synne hat

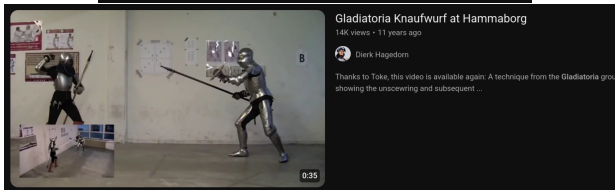
Note the twelfth play. If you want to end him quickly, hold your spear and sword together on your arm, unscrew the pommel of your sword and throw it at him vigorously. Close in with the throw and use your sword or spear, whatever suits you best.

When he throws his pommel at you, keep your buckler close to you and watch out for the throw. Hold your spear in your right hand and prepare to thrust, to stop him from closing in if it is his intention.

Gladiatoria (MS Germ.Quart.16), Folio 7r
transcription by Kristian Babic, Robert Brunner, Marion Freundl, Alexandra Giebl, Barbara Kappelmayr, Julia Lorbeer, Carsten Lorbeer, Andreas Meier, Marita Wiedner
draft translation by Benedict Haefeli

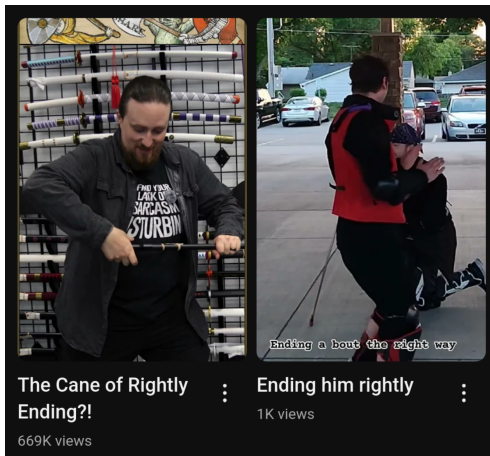
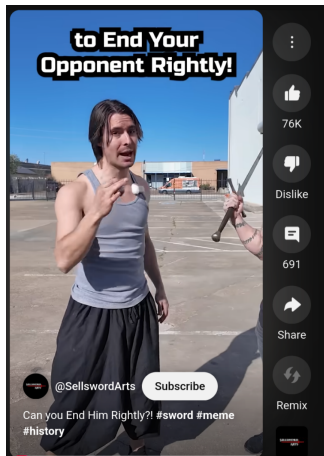
Gladiatoria

"end him rightly"



Gladiatoria

"end him rightly"



Johannes Lecküchner



Kunst des Messerfechtens (Cgm 582),
Folio 4r

some info

- born 1430 near Nuremberg
- became a priest sometime before 1478
- finished his book on Langes Messer fencing and died in 1482

Johannes Lecküchner



91v

*Item So du zu dem man kumbst so faß In wye Ee
geschriben stett vnd So du In also gefast hast So fall
Indes neben In auff deyn ars vnd Im fall wendt deynen
ruck an seyn rechte seyten vnd hallt In vest auch magstu
Im pretspilen Essen vnd Trincken das er nicht auff mag
stan denne du lost In gerne auff Sunst must er vntter dir
erfaulen etc*

*Then, if you come to the man, grab him as it is stated
before, and as you have grabbed him, fall
"simultaneously" close to him on your arse, and as you
fall, turn your back on his right side and hold him firmly.
You can also play board games, eat and drink, so that he
cannot stand up unless you let him cordially up,
otherwise he has to rot under you.*

transcription by Carsten Loorbeer, Julia Loorbeer, Johann
Heim, Robert Brunner, Alex Kiermayer
draft translation by Grzegorz Żabiński, Russell A.
Mitchell, Falko Fritz

Johannes Lecküchner



92r

Item wiltu In Inn eynen Sack schyben mit dem Eegemelten stuck So pestell heymlich Etlich dy Eynen sack verporgen pey In haben auff der schull Dy hintter dem volck stenn vnd faß In als Ee gemelt ist vnd So du In Inn dy wag gepricht hast So für In mit gewallt Da dye mit dem sack stenn vnd hayß In dar Eyn krychen will er das nicht willklich thun So denn dy den sack auff halten So greyff mit deyner rechten handt In seyn rechteß peyn nohent bey dem knochen außbendigs vnd heb In da mit auff auff deyn rechte seyten vnd schreytt mit deyнем lincken fuß fur seyn lincken vnd wurff In In nammen gottes In den sack vnd Thu Im darnach wye du wilt etc

Then, if you want to throw him into a bag with the element announced before, so secretly appoint some men who have a hidden bag with them at the swordsmanship competitions and stand behind the people. Then, grab him as it is depicted before, and as you have brought him in the scale, lead him with force to these who stand with the bag and make him crawl to it. If he does not want to do it voluntarily, when they hold the bag open, grab with your right hand at his right leg close at the bone on the outside and lift him with it high to your right side and step with your left foot in front of his left one and throw him in the name of God into the bag and then do to him what you want.

Paulus Hector Mair



Geschlechterbuch der Stadt Augsburg (BSB
Cod.icon. 312 b), Folio 64v

some info

- German aristocrat, civil servant, and (historical) fencer
- born 1517 in Augsburg
- spent his family's wealth on collecting fencing manuals and his lavish lifestyle
- embezzled public funds to collect fencing manuals and support his lavish lifestyle
- arrested, tried, and hanged as a thief in 1579 for the above
- produced the extraordinarily expensive *Opus Amplissimum de Arte Athletica*
- unofficial patron saint of HEMA for all of the above



Opus Amplissimum de Arte Athletica (MSS Dresd.C.93), Folio 236v

236v

Item wann Ir zusammen Gond so
halt dich also mit disem stuckh.
stand mit gleichen fuossen
aufrecht vnnd halts dein Sichel Inn
deiner rechten hand wol Inn der
hoch mit gestracktem arm hinter
deinem Haupt. dein lincke auf
deiner lincken huff. Inndem tritt
mit deinem rechten schenckel
hinnein vnnd schneid Im mit
deiner Sichel nach seinem haupt.
Schneidt er dir also oben zu. vnnd
du mit deinem rechten fuosz
gögen Im steest. vnnd helst dein
Sichel Inn deiner rechten hand
neben deinnem furgesetzen
schenckel. dein lincke auf deiner
lincken huff...

Paulus Hector Mair

how could I fence with this?



214r

Item schickh dich also In Disen stuckh. wann Ir zusamen gond. stannd mit deinem lincken fuosz vor. vnnnd hallt dein Seges mit deiner lincken hand Inn deinem vndern hefft. dein rechten Inn deinem mitlen auf deiner rechten seiten Indes schneid Im mit deiner Seges auff seiner lincken seiten hinnumb nach seinem rechten Arm schneidt Er dir also zu. vnnnd du auch mit deinnem lincken fuosz gögen Im steest. vnnnd helst dein Seges auch mit deiner linckhen hand Inn deinem vndern hefft. dein rechte Inn deinem mitlen auf deiner rechten seiten. . . .

Have I peaked your Interest?

How to start with HEMA

- You can find scans, transcriptions and translations of most fencing manuals on [Wiktenauer](#).
- If you're in a city in Germany, there's probably a HEMA group near you.
- The [Deutscher Dachverband für historisches Fechten](#) has a map of all their member clubs.
- There are HEMA clubs in most larger European cities.
- Feel free to talk to me. There's much more I can talk about. :3

