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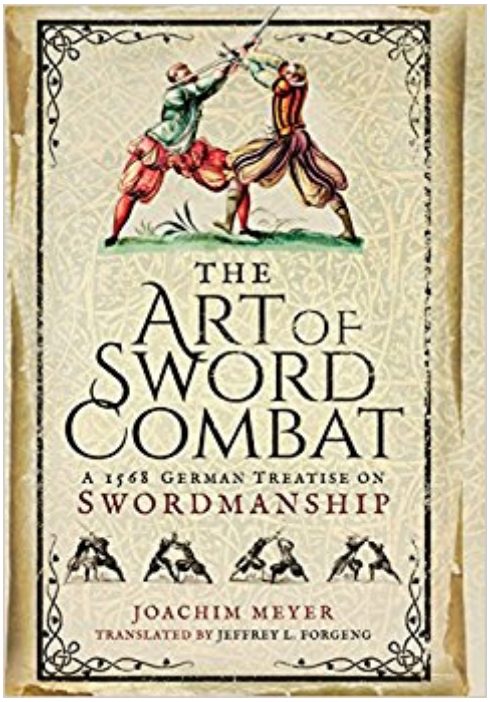
The Art Of Sword Combat: A 1568 German Treatise On Swordmanship



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Synopsis

Following the success of Jeffrey L. ForgengÃ¢â ¬â„¢s translation of Joachim MeyerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Art of Sword Combat the author was alerted to an earlier recension of the work which was discovered in Lund University Library in Sweden. The manuscript, produced in Strassburg around 1568, is illustrated with thirty watercolor images and seven ink diagrams. The text covers combat with the long sword (hand-and-a-half sword), dusack (a one-handed practice weapon comparable to a saber), and rapier. The manuscriptÃ¢â ¬â„¢s theoretical discussion of guards is one of the most critical passages to understanding this key feature of the historical practice, not just in relation to Meyer but in relation to the medieval combat systems in general.The manuscript offers an extensive repertoire of training drills for both the dusack and the rapier, a feature largely lacking in treatises of the period as a whole but critical to modern reconstructions of the practice. The translation also includes a biography of Meyer, much of which has only recently come to light, as well as technical terminology, and other essential information for understanding and contextualizing the work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the most in-depth account of sword technique we've seen, and military history buffs will find an awful lot to enjoy here. If you're interested in learning more about what many would call a lost art, then this translated work is an excellent place to start (History Of Royals)If youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re interested in how people actually fought in the Early Modern Age, or just want to be able to visualize the duel between Romeo and Tybalt, The Art of Sword Combat is a book that will tell you everything you need to know. (Medievalists.net)

Jeffrey L. Forgeng is curator of the Worcester Art MuseumÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Higgins Collection, the second largest collection of arms and armour in the Americas, and also teaches as Adjunct Professor of History at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. His academic work specialises in European treatises on the use of arms and armour.Jeffrey L Forgeng is curator of the Worcester Art MuseumÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Higgins Collection, the second largest collection of arms and armor in the Americas, and also teaches as Adjunct Professor of History at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. His academic work specializes in European treatises on the use of arms and armor.

This can be viewed as a "rough draft" of Joachim Meyer's work that would be published later on in 1570. This includes watercolor images of the various movements, but his "The Art of Combat" is far more complete and detailed I think.This would make an excellent addition to any HEMA library, but one might want to invest in "The Art of Combat" first.

I practice HEMA, specifically the sword plays from this very book with my sword club. This is the updated/revised version of Meyer. The pictures are in line with the text now, instead of gathered up at the end of the chapters.

Excellent read! Although I would loved it more if I didn't have to flip trough the book to find the images that were talked about in the text. Including them after the section of the text connected to them would be great! Still a must buy for all HEMA enthusiasts.

A fantastic new look on Meyer's work, including even a glimpse on the man itself. A obligatory text for those who study the longsword school of fencing.

Forgeng at his best. Meyer at his most convoluted. But what do you want? This seems to be for him rather than for us.

Bought the fencing manual because I practice HEMA, but it's definitely not for the feint of heart. It's challenging to read and interpret, especially if you're doing it solo. For the casual practioners, I wouldn't recommend starting with this, despite what you might read from other HEMAists (they would probably recommend the 1570 edition anyway). The treatise's terminology is difficult, and the archaic language makes figuring out the instructions painful.Start with YouTube videos first. If you

have access to instructors and/or study groups, go with them as well. Only then should you consider reading the treatise.I don’t regret the purchase as it’s the actual translation of a historical manual. But it will take a while before I try to go through it again.

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