

Sword Duel

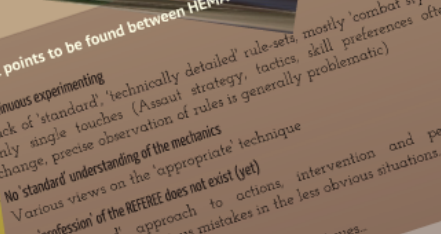
Fencing and dueling

A photograph of two fencers in white protective gear competing in a HEMA tournament. The fencer on the left is in a lunge, attacking with a rapier. The fencer on the right is in a parry position, blocking the attack. The background is dark, and the floor is blue. The text "HEMA tournaments and" is visible at the bottom right of the image.



Mutual points to be found between HEMA tournaments and sword dueling...?

- Experimenting
- technically detailed rule-sets, mostly 'combat style' -
- strategy, tactics skill preferences often
- generally problematic)



Mutual points to be found between HEMA tournaments

- Continuous experimenting
- Lack of 'standard', 'technically detailed' rule-sets, mostly 'combat style' - only single touches (Assault strategy, tactics, skill preferences often change, precise observation of rules is generally problematic)
- No 'standard' understanding of the mechanics
- Various views on the 'appropriate' technique
- The 'profession' of the REFEREE does not exist (yet)
- 'Standard' approach to actions, intervention and penalties - not yet serious mistakes in the less obvious situations...
- Live gear issues...

- **Working against what we know** (movement and internal calculations instead of the apparent and the situation is the key) (two opponents at once... but one might)
- **Finding the right approach is a dead against any kind of losses.**
 - *Against the outside world and the two opponents.* (It is the one phase where all movement is possible and the other is not)
- **Must only know to know after, first of all, we must be noncommittal...**
 - *weight in the moment, because we are not understanding what he is doing and he, we must remain instead of estimate, and estimate instead of misestimate*
- **More than necessary, powerful must never be applied, in order to achieve success**
 - *The words of power in past world, and it is really finding to bring success*
- **Know to know shows the strength with skill, and, when more skilled with strength than with, debiting ourselves only to be a loser in every way**
 - *strategies in the mind are our instructions, and more experienced a state, and even then, they only through a strategy rather than challenging for the opponent*

If there is someone who has never seemed ridiculous, the reason is that we have never looked well enough... similar is the case of the manly courage too - Fear is a natural, useful emotion... One may rule or serve it

Courage is, what resists the stronger.

- It takes much knowledge
- sometimes

- sometimes with little skill and education in fencing
- sometimes with more than little heroic patience!

A person may affect his own peace
 answers a calm opponent
 strikes on the head

A person may affect his own nerves with his own
 courage a calm opponent with his calm behavior
 evokes caution with open visage
 achieves mutual prudence with his own prudence
 which will result in calm struggle and beautiful outcome,
 so that critical outcome is mostly excluded

Don't we confuse the concepts of

[illegible]

Fencing and dueling - introduction

Felső-Eőry's treatise strives to give guidance to duelists haunted by confusion, fear and urban legends, to avoid serious, common mistakes and injuries. A rarely seen approach, and an interesting insight for us.

To benefit from his advices, we must first understand the relevance of dueling in fencing training and tournaments in general -



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- No 'standard' understanding of the mechanics
- Various views on the 'appropriate' technique
- The 'profession' of the REFEREE does not exist (yet)
- No 'standard' approach to actions, intervention and penalties. Unintentional yet serious mistakes in the less obvious situations...
- Considerable risk of INJURIES
- Powerful, heavy weapons, protective gear issues...

Consequences:

- You must not be touched! - an utterly careful style of fencing
- We shall make strategy and tactics part of 'the game' - psychology
- Understanding the reality of dueling - and its (ir)relevance in fencing rules

Duels

Fencing ≠ Dueling... 'Two hardly compatible worlds'

- 'social obligation', bloody recompense of insults/slanders, enforcement of rights, many connected crimes.
- opponents are random offenders or strangers, social/political enemies or abusers and victims + assistants, seconds and surgeons in utter CONTROL
- fair ground between offender and offended.
- preferably lessen the severity of the outcome
- strict formalities (ceremony, rests, order of events), safety measures and responsibility issues
- loser: pronounced unable to continue by the duel-surgeon, admits defeat or gets a predefined injury.
- injury is certain, high risk of severe injury or death of one/both parties - breaking rules/arrangements has serious legal consequences

function: Fencing tournaments

- a thorough, high level match of the most complex skills and intellectual insight in the art of fencing

participants:

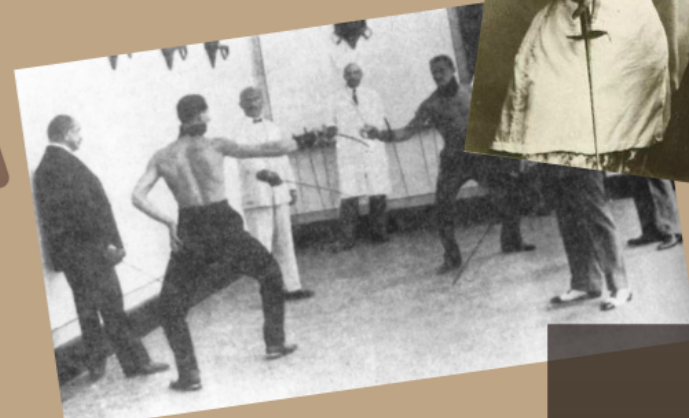
- sportsmen and coaches aiming for peak performance and permanent success.
- great investment, compete together for a long time + pro. referees in SERVICE

aims of regulations:

- rules support the highest quality of fencing and even increase the technical level over time

outcome:

- winner: more touches in set time, or set amount in shorter time - The more the touches, the greater role of skills and intellect. The opponents' relations develop from touch to touch, without injuries
- no injury, no legal relevance and consequences (preferably...)



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Sword Duel



Examining the opponent - Conclude!
 Being exposed with one's sword and sword abilities most of the opponent's abilities. The opponent's sword is not the strongest!
 The opponent's sword is not the strongest!
 The opponent's sword is not the strongest!

On Fear...

If there is someone who has never seemed ridiculous, the reason is that we have never looked well enough, similar is emotion... One may rule or serve it.

Courage is what resists the stronger.

It takes much knowledge and skill to be a fencer. It takes much knowledge and skill to be a fencer. It takes much knowledge and skill to be a fencer.



Halfway measures
 The halfway measure is a measure of the opponent's sword. The halfway measure is a measure of the opponent's sword. The halfway measure is a measure of the opponent's sword.

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Many come out as victorious!
 The opponent is not the strongest!
 The opponent is not the strongest!
 The opponent is not the strongest!



Sudden outcome of a duel usually bespeak vehement parties lacking knowledge of fencing
 Thrust or cut to a premeditated, most dangerous target
 without any feints, with the greatest vigor
 not paying any attention to the opponent's attack
 it regularly ends fast, with serious injury of both
 may end grievously even for a most insightful fencer

Facing a master of fencing in a duel
 Rashness, furious attack or immoderate effort in the cuts has no use.
 Can absolutely ready for getting injured - and make sure to parry the cuts as much as possible, giving chance to a quick escape
 A match of two good fencers or a good and a bad one - but even with alert souls - is usually awkwardly long.
 You better a fencer, the more patient and calculating. Facing such, you see them going to the end of the time and back several times without repeating or giving a back. They know their ground and carefully choose what risk they take in the poisonous But, be an opponent, ever so excellent a fencer, he even as much as a fencing master, if he doesn't possess the mental qualities, then any fencer with the commonsense described here can perfectly ensure advantage above him in a duel.



Common Sense and Presence of Mind.
 In a duel someone must, perhaps get injured.
 The opponent is not the strongest!
 The opponent is not the strongest!
 The opponent is not the strongest!

Alas, Sir, I cannot fence.
 The opponent is not the strongest!
 The opponent is not the strongest!
 The opponent is not the strongest!



The fencer in a duel...

• constantly provoking the opponent to attack
 • seemingly delivering our uncovered body to him, we shall, with the greatest dexterity, parry and riposte the cuts waivered off
 • use short feints, only in second intention, to place the opponent in a defenceless position
 • Not being surprised by the attack of the opponent, being prepared for every possible things, readiness to dodge in case of a swift attack, in one word: fighting with the greatest attention, extraordinary liveliness of the soul and body.

Skillful and spirited fencers

- interesting matchings
- psychological traits, advices
- practical advices
- @ duel-specific fencing
- sabre vocabulary

In duels... rarely does the good fencer come out as victorious

Over-educated for duels - in different strategy and tactics!

- The good fencer seems to get belittled in every case where his attention is solely focused on good fencing...
(Anyone can surprise with one first, decisive touch. The inexperienced often do miracles there... They don't have refined technical reactions and calculations that could take focus away from simply fighting for their lives.)
- Many excellent fencers have the misconception, that in duels, there is absolutely no place for parries
- Facing a sharp blade - There are more men of wit and fortitude than experienced fencers of the same qualities...

Sudden outcome of a duel usually bespeak vehement parties lacking knowledge of fencing

- thrust or cut to a premeditated, most dangerous target
- without any feints, with the greatest vigor
- not paying any attention to the opponent's attack
- it regularly ends fast, with serious injury of both
- may end grievously even for a most insightful fencer

It is easy disarm such opponents, with calm parries, smart behavior.
For, similar behavior will necessarily result in a double.

Facing a master of fencing in a duel

- **Rashness, furious attack or immoderate effort in the cuts has no use.**

Get absolutely ready for getting injured - and make sure to parry the cuts as well as possible, giving chance to a quick riposte.

- **A match of two good fencers or a good and a bad one, - but men with alert souls – is usually awkwardly long.**

'the better a fencer, the more patient and calculating. Facing each other, you see them going to the end of the piste and back several times without receiving or giving a touch.' They know their goals and carefully choose what risk they take in the pursuance.

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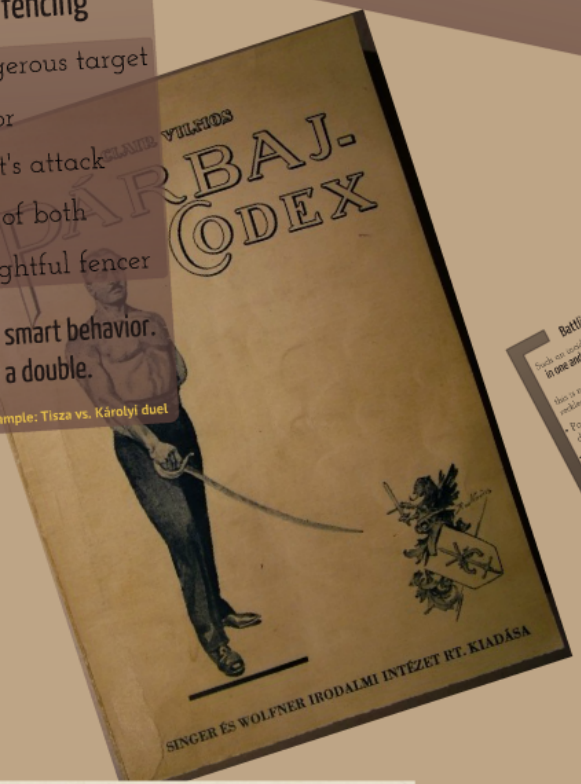
of both

ghtful fencer

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ample: Tisza vs. Károlyi duel



... qualities...

Examining the opponent - Conclusion
being occupied with one's own movements and internal calculations instead of the opponent and the situation, is like having two opponents at once... isn't one enough?

- Finding the right approach is a skill against any kind of fence.
- And using the methods suitable for that opponent - it is the one plus who can use the methods suitable for that opponent.
- We not only have to know others, first of all, we need our own personality... strength and will, delivering ourselves only to a fence in every way, who is smart, careful, logical, and experienced in the use of weapons.
- More than necessary physical power shall never be applied, in order to achieve success.

The results of points is a great success, as it is easily followed by fatigue.

active to force down the stronger with skill, and the more skilled with strength and will, delivering ourselves only to a fence in every way, who is smart, careful, logical, and experienced in the use of weapons, even then, only through a defense rather challenging for the opponent.



Battling according to will and reason
Such an opponent should not be left, but in one and the same duel one must have his arm amputated, and the other the eye operated.

then is on other than genuine competence of nerves.

- Position is what greatly dominates a person in all his deeds, and puts him into an abnormal, feverish state.
- Overcoming systems is the essence of the sword duel's rule, otherwise one just gets slaughtered.
- Your weapons should not be unsuitable, but used in the right way, every one of them is good, if we use others of them, and all is just if we become servants of them - tools.

On Fear...

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... qualities...

Courage is, what resists the stronger.

- It takes much knowledge and fortitude
- sometimes with little skill and education in fencing
- sometimes with more than little heroic patience!

A person may affect his own nerves with his soul, ensures a calm opponent with his calm behavior, evokes caution with open visage, achieves mutual prudence with his own prudence, which will result in calm struggle and beautiful outcome, so that critical outcome is mostly excluded

Don't we confuse the concepts of 'faint-hearted', 'coward' and 'cautious'?

- The cautious compensate the lack of strength with cunning
- The coward only believe themselves secured, when the one they are afraid of, got annihilated, the price doesn't matter
- We dare to state, that in duels, nervous people don't exist

The most nervous person, who shivers while raising his hand to his hat, might become sold to a critical moment, even if he has never held a sword before.

- Now if one is nervous through fear, thus one is not nervous any more, but frightened. Without controlling it, one either runs into his opponent's weapon with closed eyes, or involuntarily retreats from it - This is what is going to surmount the greatest threat and judgment!

Common Sense and Presence of Mind...
In a duel someone must, perform, get injured, our actual goal is to protect ourselves from all the dangerous cuts, not by all means to come out victorious.

- (In a fencing tournament: The goal is to become champion. One touch = one full duel. TOURNAMENT STRATEGY - a different kind of logic and psychology)

Presence of mind is essential for the success in both cases - only a person in possession of courage, aplomb and fortitude may have it.

The results of the presence of mind manifest in always keeping the eyes open

- which does not mean that we should stare at the opponent with gazing eyes, in a paralyzed manner, but that, listening the most sharply, we shall know about every single movement of our opponent.

Halfway measures
empty and empty use of good sense and knowledge, in fact more useful to one opposing each and both as for example, to give an idea with half heart.

A light hesitating and self-occasional person holds back his sword and his opponent's sword, and the result is a lethal outcome.

One, hesitating in halfhearted manner, may easily be surprised by the opponent's sword, and the result is a lethal outcome.

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Such an incident should not befall, that...

**in one and the same duel one must have his arm amputated,
and the other the eye operated,**

this is no other than grievous consequence of nerveless,
reckless countenance.

- Passion is what mostly dominates a person in all his deeds, and puts him into an abnormal, feverish state
- Overcoming passions is the essence of the sword duel's safe outcome - otherwise one just gets slaughtered
- **Your emotions should not be annihilated, but used in the right way...**
...every one of them is good, if we are arbiters of them,
and all is bad if we become servants of them - tools...

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just because we do not fear, we are not yet in courage, safety;

One ought to be smart and cunning as well...

- an attack executed recklessly, failing to fight off malevolence, even against a not completely experienced fencer, might have grievous outcome
- hatred is result of the greatest ignorance; it shall not advise us, as otherwise one vainly refers to any presence of mind, strength, skillfulness
- bravery easily turns into recklessness, moreover, proud courage itself is already recklessness.
- we have to beware of everything that might cause permanent threat upon momentary weakness

The background of the slide features a close-up of a sword hilt and a hand in a red glove, likely from a historical painting. A blue arrow points from the top left towards the title.

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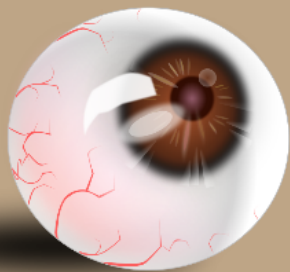
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Examining the opponent - Conclusion

'being occupied with one's own movement and internal calculations instead of the opponent and the situation, is like having two opponents at once... Isn't one enough?'

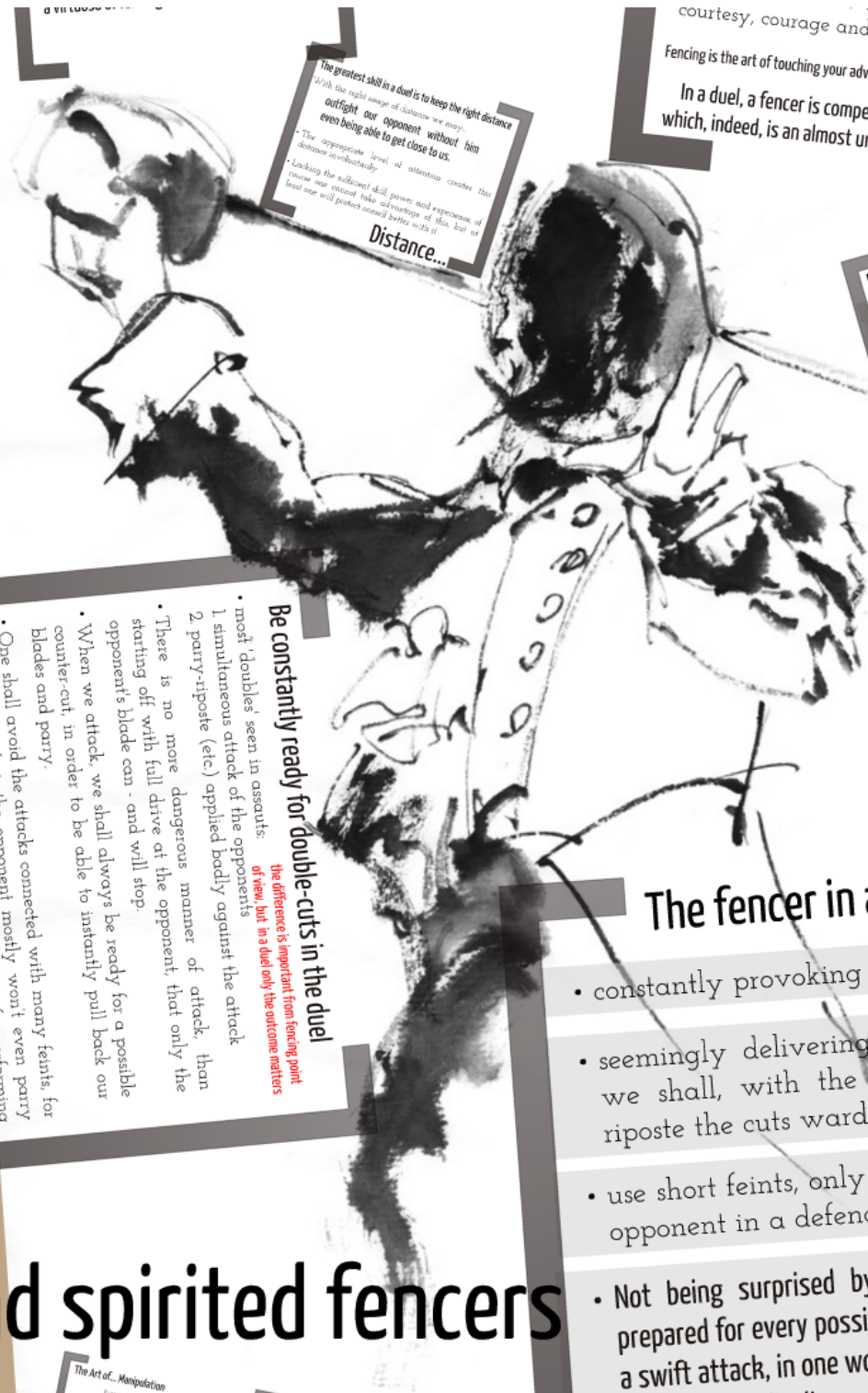
- **Finding the right approach in a duel against any kind of fencer,**
and using the methods suitable for that opponent, - it is the non plus ultra of composure, fortitude and determination.

- **We not only have to know others, first of all, we need our own personality...**
insight into human character and self-understanding make the real thinker, who is smart instead of optimist, and righteous instead of misanthrope

- **More than necessary physical power shall never be applied, in order to achieve success**
The waste of power is a great mistake, as it is easily followed by fatigue.

...strive to bear down the stronger with skill, and the more skillful with strength and wit, delivering ourselves only to a fencer in every way stronger in the mind and innervation, and more experienced alone, and even then, only through a defense rather challenging for the opponent...

Skillful and spirited fencers



The greatest skill in a duel is to keep the right distance
With the right usage of distance we may...
outfight our opponent without him
even being able to get close to us.
The appropriate level of attention creates this
distance involuntarily.
Looking the opponent skill, power and respectness of
distance one cannot take advantage of him, but at
least one will protect oneself better with it.

Distance...

courtesy, courage and skill.
Fencing is the art of touching your adversary without being touched, or of touching before being touched...
In a duel, a fencer is compelled to execute an ultra-careful form of fencing,
which, indeed, is an almost unworthy expression of the vast science he knows.

Protect Your Arms!
We can see in assaults, what precision is needed to protect the arms:
occasionally even through an appropriate parry, and dug (to
the deflection of the sword) we still sense the cut under the hand.
To counter, we've got a problem...
This is the most sensitive part of the body, through the injury of
which we expose ourselves to the most complicated dangers,
such as bleeding to death, and in case of cutting the tendons,
we are never going to have a healthy arm again.
To one who has not been able to learn parrying to the
necessary level the most expedient is never to attempt to parry
the blades delivered to the arm, but always to dodge those



The fencer in a duel...

- constantly provoking the opponent to attack
- seemingly delivering our uncovered body to him, we shall, with the greatest dexterity, parry and riposte the cuts warded off
- use short feints, only in second intention, to place the opponent in a defenceless position
- Not being surprised by the attack of the opponent, being prepared for every possible things, readiness to dodge in case of a swift attack, in one word: fighting with the greatest attention, extraordinary liveliness of the soul and body.

Be constantly ready for double-cuts in the duel
the difference is important from fencing point
of view, but in a duel only the outcome matters
most 'doubles' seen in assaults:
1 simultaneous attack of the opponents
2 parry-riposte (etc.) applied bodily against the attack
There is no more dangerous manner of attack, than
starting off with full drive at the opponent, that only the
opponent's blade can - and will stop
When we attack, we shall always be ready for a possible
counter-cut, in order to be able to instantly pull back our
counter-cut, in order to be able to instantly pull back our
counter-cut and parry.
One shall avoid the attacks connected with many feints, for
be it ever so fast, the opponent mostly won't even parry
them, but will utilize the slightest opportunity for performing
stop- or counter cut, which often results in a double cut.

The Art of... Manipulation
to prevent the effect of the duel in the hands
One always goes to the point of the duel, so that if such an occasion
occurs, the fencer is not surprised by the opponent's attack, but is
ready to counter-attack immediately and with force.
The fencer who is not prepared for the opponent's attack, but is
not ready to counter-attack immediately, will be defeated.
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Alas, sir, I cannot fence...

We can already see, that in a duel...

- fencing is indeed unavoidable in order to defend ourselves,
- but in order to come out of a duel victorious, being a virtuoso of fencing is not absolutely necessary.

Protect Your Arms!

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Tournament: just another touch :(
Duel: ...we've got a problem...

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- most 'doubles' seen in assaults: the difference is important from fencing point of view, but in a duel only the outcome matters
 1. simultaneous attack of the opponents
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- When we attack, we shall always be ready for a possible counter-cut, in order to be able to instantly pull back our blades and parry.
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S

Finally... an other point of view.

'Even the most expert of duelists, as well as the better fencer, can never be sure of going home alive'...

'No matter how superior he may be, there is no fencer in the world who can be absolutely sure of touching his adversary first.'

'Apart from the hazard and luck in one single pass of arms, the explanation lies in the fact that "on the ground" the element of courage may prove to be more important than the element of skill - and you just cannot know how courageous you are until the duel starts.'

In Europe, I had one exciting personal experience... I was young...

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Today the non-fencer is inclined to associate fencing with dueling. A fencer does not.

The former sees glamour in dueling, while the latter knows it is only a grim business. Furthermore, no one takes up fencing because of dueling. True, the same weapons are used in both. Yet, but for the technical foundations, they constitute two different worlds hardly compatible with each other. One is a world of hate, courage and blood; the other, one of courtesy, courage and skill.

Finally...an other point of view.
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"No matter how superior he may be, there is no fencer in the world who can be absolutely sure of touching his adversary first."
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In a duel, a fencer is compelled to execute an ultra-careful form of fencing, which, indeed, is an almost unworthy expression of the vast science he knows.



Sword Duel



Examining the opponent - Conclusions
 Being exposed with one's own material and mental abilities most of the opponent's qualities, the fencer is able to judge the opponent's level of skill and to determine the most effective way to attack and defend.

On Fear...

If there is someone who has never seemed ridiculous, the reason is that we have never looked well enough, similar is emotion... One may rule or serve it.

Courage is what resists the stronger.
 It takes much knowledge and practice to overcome with little skill and without it, the fencer is often defeated. The fencer who is not afraid of the stronger is the one who is not afraid of the stronger.

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 • without any feints, with the greatest vigor
 • not paying any attention to the opponent's attack
 • if regularly ends fast, with serious injury to both
 • may end grievously even for a most insignificant fencer

Facing a master of fencing in a duel has no use.
 • Rashness, furious attack or immoderate effort in the cuts
 • A match of two good fencers or a good and a bad one...
 • but even with alert souls... is usually awkwardly long.
 • You better a fencer, the more robust and calculating. Facing such, and carefully choose what risk they take in the parry.
 • But, be an opponent, ever so excellent a fencer, he is even as much as a fencing master. If he doesn't possess the mental qualities, then any fencer with the commonsense described here can perfectly ensure advantage above him in a duel.



Common Sense and Presence of Mind.
 In a duel someone must, perhaps, get injured. The fencer who is not afraid of the stronger is the one who is not afraid of the stronger.



The fencer in a duel...
 • constantly provoking the opponent to attack
 • seemingly delivering our uncovered body to him, we shall, with the greatest dexterity, parry and riposte the cuts waivered off
 • use short feints, only in second intention, to place the opponent in a defenseless position
 • Not being surprised by the attack of the opponent, being prepared for every possible thing, readiness to dodge in case of a swift attack, in one word: fighting with the greatest attention, extraordinary liveliness of the soul and body.

- interesting matchings
- psychological traits, advices
- practical advices
- @ duel-specific fencing
- sabre vocabulary

Skillful and spirited fencers

Thank You for Your attention!

- Felső-Eőry Cseresnyés István (Cavalry lieutenant)
 - Safe Outcome of the Sword Duel
- Mtro. László Szepesi PhD - 'remarks' on strategy
- Aldo Nadi - On Fencing
- Br. Chappon Samu - Duelling Code
- Clair Vilmos - Hungarian Duel
- Budapesti Hírlap 3. january 1913.
- 1934 Aldo Nadi at Salle la Caze - YouTube/schlager7

The complete translation of Felső-Eőry's book is available on the homepage of The Fencing Guild of Trnava:

<http://gesellschaft-lichtenawers.eu/tsc/sk/materialy.html>

Wish You a great time, fun and development in the weekend!

Nagy Krisztina