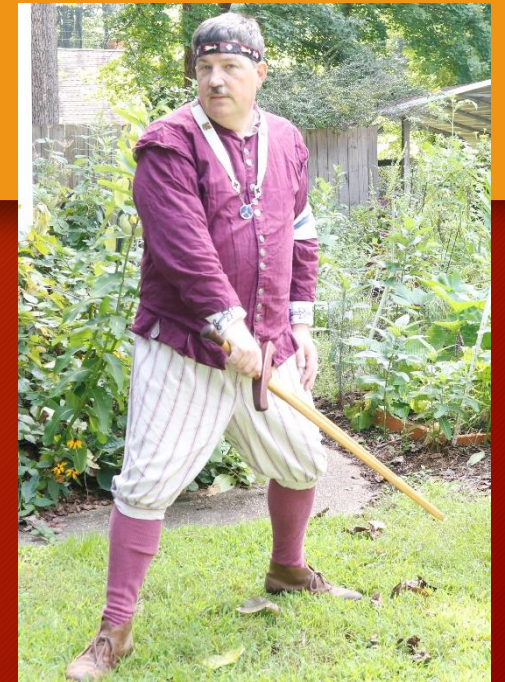


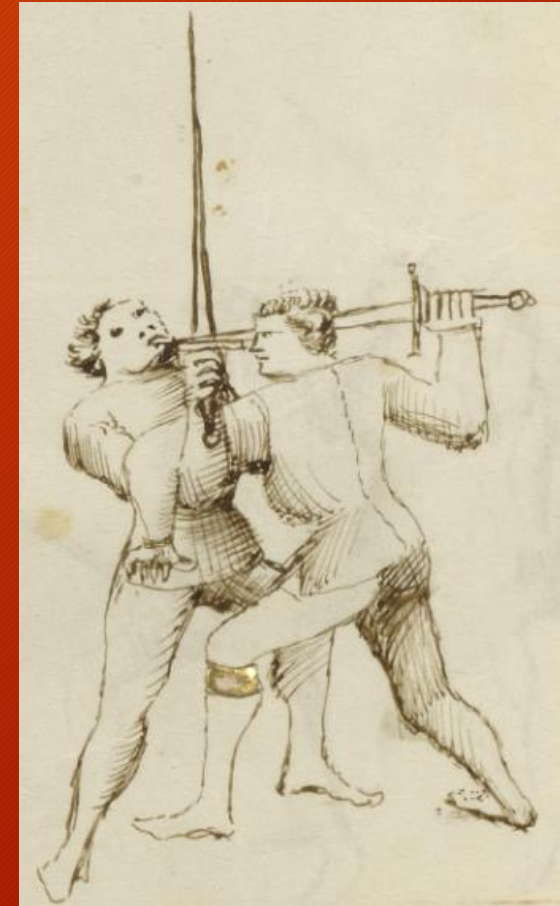
Fiore's Sword in One Hand

Master Llwyd Aldrydd, OP, OD
BaronLlwyd.org
LearnFiore.org



Outline

- Background
- 13 Plates - as time permits
 - Examine illustration and text
 - Discuss implementation as described
 - Discuss application to SCA combat rulesets
- Bibliography



Tir-y-Don Fiore Study Group


Website: [LearnFiore.org](https://www.learnfiore.org)

YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm_ZYLv4GLH4deU5NXXhUWQ

Learn Fiore

Using Fiore del Liberi's Combat techniques in the SCA



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Virtual Pennsic University

Posted on [July 18, 2020](#) by [LearnFiore](#)

With the SCA's largest annual gathering, Pennsic, canceled for 2020 due to Covid-19, various virtual partial replacements are being set up.

Pennsic University is being virtualized as a temporary YouTube channel that people can submit videos to. We have submitted a merged version of our Applying Fiore to SCA Combat videos (our group's channel has it in two parts, VPU will have it in one part). There should be lots and lots of other cool classes on all areas of interest to the SCA. [You can find VPU on YouTube here.](#)

Quote The Master:
"I am the sword and I am lethal against any weapon; lances, axes and dagger are worthless against me.... Come against me and feel the pain."


Recent Posts

- [Virtual Pennsic University](#)
- [New Videos on Fiore Fundamentals Posted!](#)
- [Happy New Year!](#)
- [University, Feb 2, 2019](#)
- [Using Fiore in SCA Combat video posted](#)


Introduction to Learn Fiore

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Some introductory videos explaining our purpose, our sources, our tools, and some safety issues. Some introductory videos explaining our purpose, our sources, our tools, and some safety issues.




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Using Fiore

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Videos on analyzing Fiore's approach and drilling skills to use that approach. Videos on analyzing Fiore's approach and drilling skills to use that approach.



Practice and Drills
4:14



Using Fiore in SCA Combat
3:13



Using Fiore in SCA Combat
16:17

Sources

- Images from Getty Museum

<http://www.getty.edu/art/collection/objects/1443/unknown-fiore-furlan-dei-liberi-da-premariacco-il-fior-di-battaglia-italian-about-1410/>

- Translations by Colin Hatcher

The Flower of Battle: MS Ludwig XV13 by Colin Hatcher (Translator), Tracy Mellow (Designer), ISBN-13: 978-0984771684

or: https://wiktenauer.com/wiki/Fiore_de%27i_Liberi

Quick Background

- 1409 publication
- Earliest known complete European combat system
- Sections include wrestling, dagger, swords, armored combat, pikes, spears, and mounted combat
- 4 copies known to survive, the Getty copy is the most complete, each is different
- Page numbering
 - Each sheet of paper/vellum is numbered
 - Front of each sheet is called “recto” or abbreviated “r”
 - Back of each sheet is called “verso” or “v”



Image source: wikipedia

The Sword in One Hand

- One of the shortest sections in the manual
- 13 figures with corresponding text
- References a dagger play when fighters are close
- Plays are fairly similar to each other

Common Concepts

- Cover
 - Having your sword between their sword and your body.
- Measure
 - Distance between two fighters
 - Directly related to the time you have to react
 - For these plays, the closer you are, the more oblique the movement will need to be and the faster the initial cover has to be.
 - Demo videos are at fairly long measure, so movement is less oblique and more linear.

Plate 1 (page 20 recto)



Here are three opponents who all want to kill this Master. The first aims to kill him with a thrust. The second intends a cut. The third will throw his sword at the master like a spear. If the Master can perform a mighty deed and avoid being killed, then God will have indeed blessed him with great skill.

Attacker can thrust, cut, or throw



- Each of the plays to come will work regardless of the type of attack being used.
- We'll demonstrate against thrusts and show one example against a cut as well.

Plate 2 (page 20 recto)



You are cowards and know little of this art. You are all words without any deeds. I challenge you to come at me one after another, if you dare, and even if there are a hundred of you, I will destroy all of you from this powerful guard. I will advance my front foot a little off the line, and with my left foot I will step crosswise, and as I do so I will cross your swords, beating them aside and leaving you unprotected. I will then strike you without fail. And even if you throw your spear or sword at me, I will beat them all aside in the same manner I described above, stepping off the line as you will see me demonstrate in the plays that follow, and which you would do well to study. And even though I am only holding the sword in one hand, I can still perform all of my art, as you will see demonstrated in this book.

Initial Position



Where is the opponent?

- What direction?
- What distance?

Plates 1 and 2 (page 20 recto)



Layout of Plates 1 and 2 may give us some hints

Plate 3 (page 20 verso)



I've done what my teacher told me to do. That is to say, I stepped off the line making a strong cover. Having rendered my opponent unprotected I now easily place a thrust into his face. And with my left hand I'll demonstrate that I can take his sword and send it to the ground.

Plate 3



Plate 4 (page 20 verso)



I have rendered you completely unprotected, and now I will easily strike you in the head. And if I choose to pass forward with my rear foot, I can perform close range techniques against you, such as locks, dislocations and grapples.

Plate 4



Plate 5 (page 20 verso)



From this position I can easily strike or stab you. And if I advance my front foot forward, I can lock you in the middle bind, as shown in the third play of the first Remedy Master of the dagger. Alternately I can do the play shown next, and strike and lock you as shown there.

Plate 5



Dagger middle bind (page 10 verso, plate 3)



I will lock your arm in the middle bind, and I will do it in such a way that you will not be able to give me any trouble. And if I wish to put you to the ground I will do so with little effort, and you will have no chance of escaping.

Version with bind

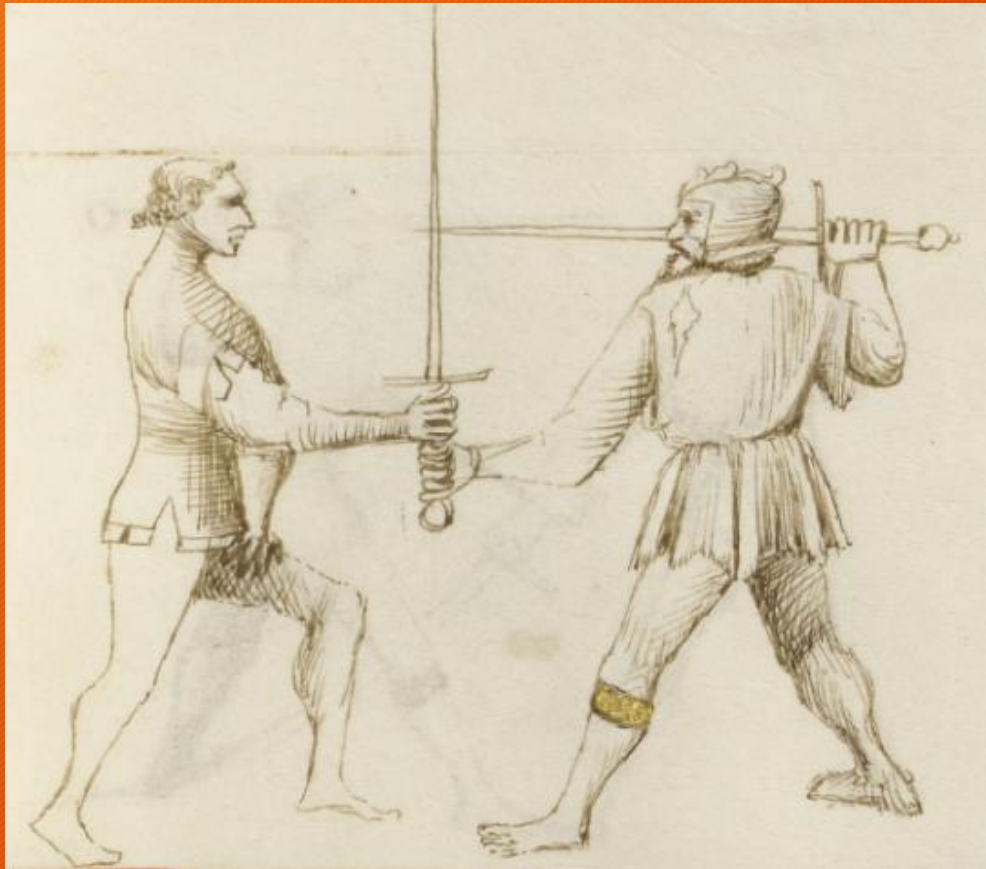


Plate 6 (page 20 verso)



Here both your sword and your arm are effectively trapped, and you will not be able to escape before I strike you as described, because you have shown you know nothing of this play.

Plate 7 (page 21 recto)



Here I can easily strike you while taking your sword, and **by rotating it in your hand I will make you drop it** as the only way to prevent yourself being thrown to the ground.

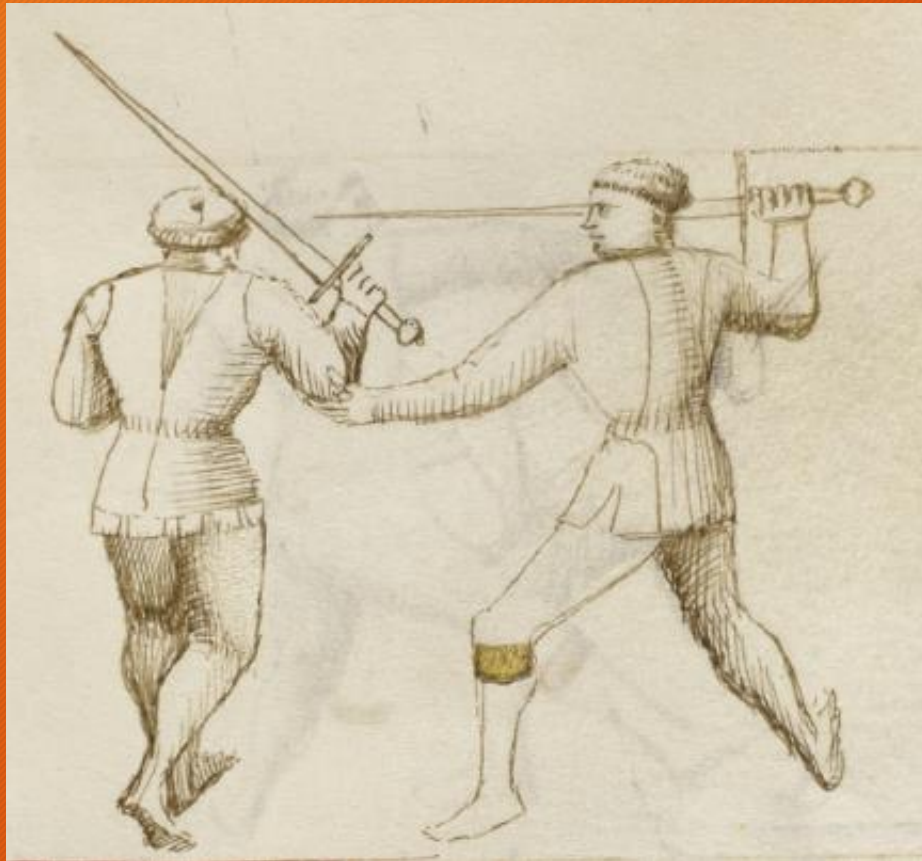
Plate 7



Plate 7 - Responding to a cut



Plate 8 (page 21 recto)



Here I can strike you from the front, but this is not enough. By gripping your elbow I make you turn away, then I wrap my sword around your neck from behind, and you will have no defense to this.

Plate 8



Plate 9 (page 21 recto)



In the previous drawing I told you I would turn you and then **quickly wrap my sword around your neck**, as shown here. And if now I fail to cut your throat, then I am a pathetic fool.

Plate 9



Plate 10 (page 21 recto)



You aimed a thrust at me and I beat it to the ground. Do you see how you are now unprotected and can be struck? And I can also turn you and do you even more harm, by striking you from behind.

Plate 10



Plate 11 (page 21 verso)



Because I turned you by pushing your elbow, I have quickly come to this position and from here I can throw you to the ground, where you will no longer be able to fight me or anyone else.

Plate 11



Plate 12 (page 21 verso)



This opponent struck at my head, and I beat his sword to the ground, coming to the position you see depicted here. Now **after forcing you to turn away I will aggressively wrap my sword around your neck.**

Plate 12



Plate 13 (page 21 verso)



This is a play where if you wish to make this kind of thrust, you should be armoured. If your opponent strikes at you with a thrust or a cut, you first make your cover, and then quickly counter attack as shown.

Plate 13

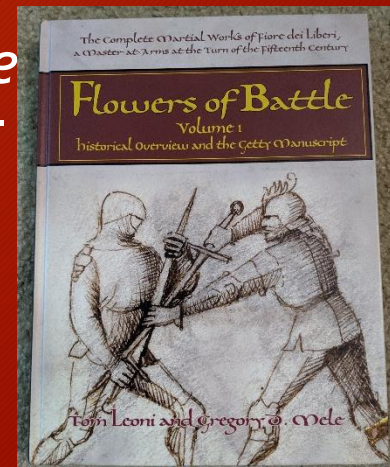
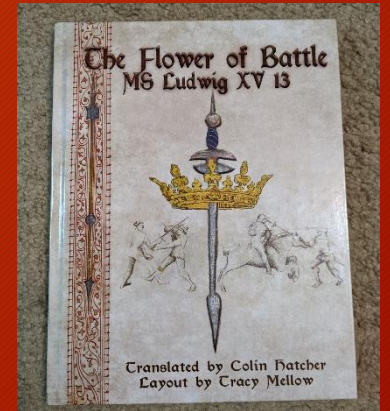


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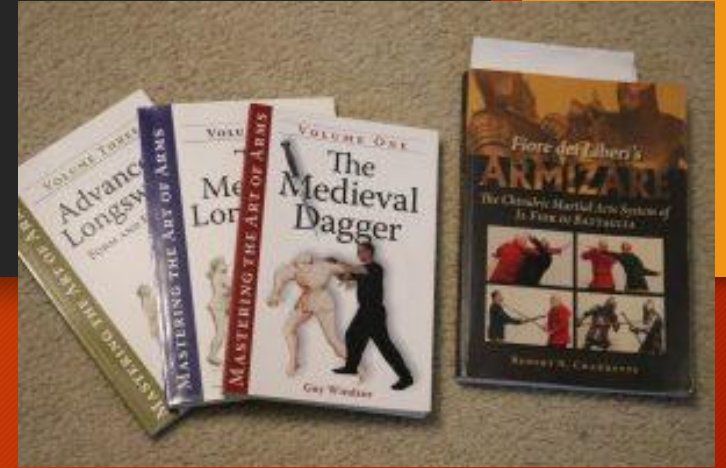
Il Fior Di Battaglia: MS Ludwig XV 13, Fiore Dei Liberi, ISBN 978-9527157114, \$30. [Buy it on Amazon](#) Facsimile of book with Original Italian

The Flower of Battle: MS Ludwig XV13, Hatcher, Colin and Mellow, Tracy, ISBN 978-0984771684, \$40. [Buy it on Amazon](#) Fiore's manual with text replaced by typed English in similar font.

Flowers of Battle: The Complete Martial Works of Fiore dei Liberi Volume One: The Getty Manuscript and Historical Context, ISBN: 978-1-937439-18-7, \$125. [freelanceacademypress.com](#) Each page presented as a facimile with translation on opposite page, plus lots of background information



Bibliography - Interpretations



Fiore dei Liberi's Armizare: The Chivalric Martial Arts System of Il Fior Di Battaglia, Charrette, Robert N., ISBN: 978-0-9825911-7-8, \$40. [Buy it on Amazon](#)

Mastering the Art of Arms Series by Guy Windsor

Vol. 1: *The Medieval Dagger*, ISBN: 978-1937439033, \$24. [Buy it on Amazon](#)

Vol. 2: *The Medieval Longsword*, ISBN: 978-9526819327, \$30. [Buy it on Amazon](#)

Vol. 3: *Advanced Longsword: Form and Function*, ISBN: 978-9527157060, \$30. [Buy it on Amazon](#)