

# Face to Face with the Longsword

(Zogho Stretto Decision Tree From Fiore dei Liberi's  
Il Fior di Battaglia)



Lord John Biggeheved  
Master Llwyd Aldrydd  
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# Lessons of the Sword in Two Hands

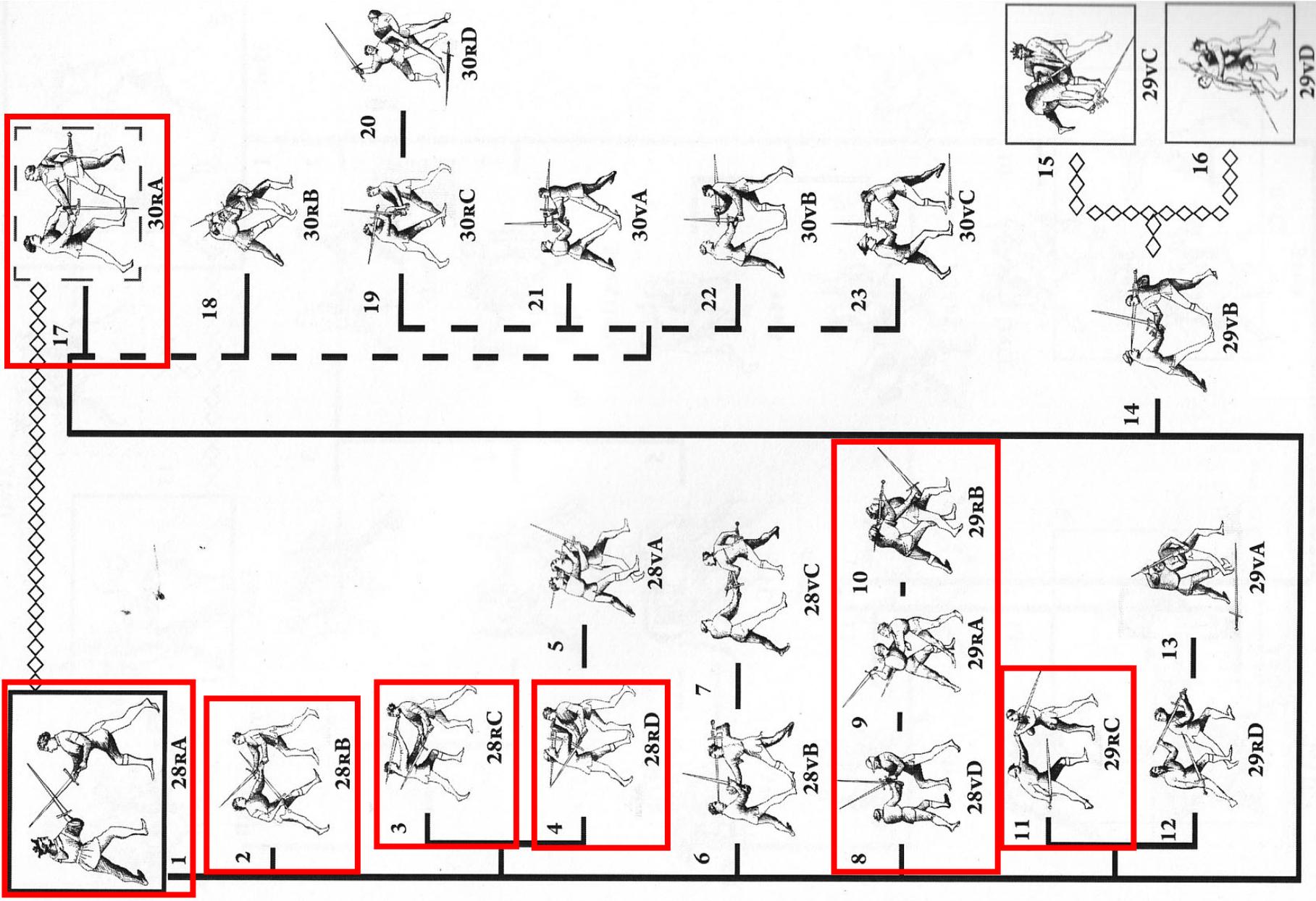
## Zogho Stretto Decision Tree

*“We will now start the close play of the two-handed sword. We will see every kind of parry, strike, entering and exiting binds, grapples, disarms and throws. We will also see the remedies and the counters to each action needed to attack and defend.” -Fiore*

# Zogho Stretto (Close plays)

## SWORD IN TWO HANDS: ZOGHO STRETTO ORGANIZATION

### CROSSED AT MEZZA SPADA



# Zogho Stretto, Mezza Spada

(Close plays, mid-sword)

- Mini Intro

- TyD Fiore study group
- LearnFiore.org
- 1409 system
  - Empty hand, dagger, sword, pole arm, spear, lances, even mounted grappling
  - Lots of crossover between dagger and Longsword zhogo stretto
- This class focus
  - 2H sword
  - Unarmored
  - Grappling range
- Fiore's focus

- counter-tempo (stealing the init.)
- grappling
- voids
- weak parries
- binds
- throws
- pommel strikes

- SCA Applications

- Grappling – generally bad in SCA combat, some exceptions
- Throws – Not in SCA rules of combat



# Zogho Stretto, Mezza Spada (Close plays, mid-sword)

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Player	When	Then
Master	attacked...	Cross at the middle

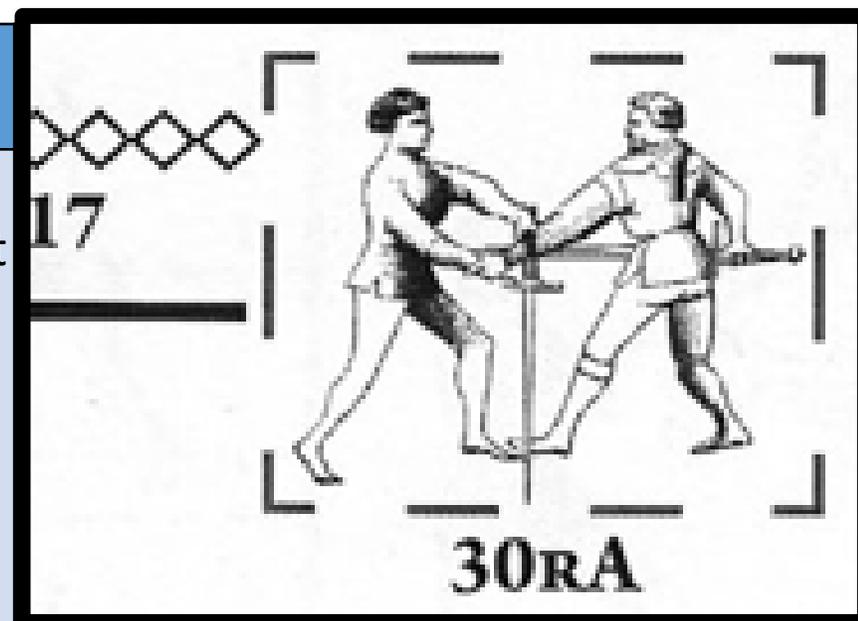
Either Player or Opponent could perform these plays.  
"We have crossed our swords; this is the crossing from which we can make all of the plays that follow."  
The master is shown with right foot forward. Is ready to step in closer with left foot, as is shown in most scholars' plays.  
This is generally countered in the 17<sup>th</sup> play.



# General Counter to the Master of Zogho Stretto

17

Player	When	Then
Sixteenth scholar	You cross into close play...	Immediately grapple; Reach under his sword with your left hand and grab his right wrist. Step in and rotate your hand as though you were starting a dagger disarm. While he struggles cut or thrust him.
Rationale	The pressure of your arm against his handle, supported by your body as you step, forces his sword wide.	



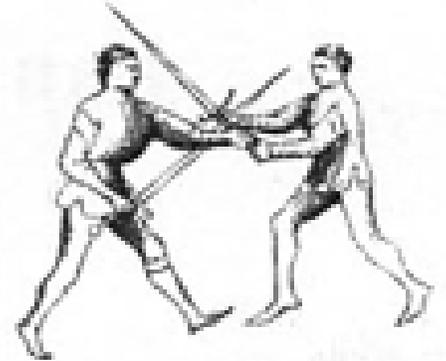
In the Morgan and Pisani-Dossi copies this is a Counter Master, while in the Getty copy it is a scholar.

# First Scholar of Zogho Stretto

2

Player	When	Then
First Scholar	Opp. is weak in the bind or shifting to your left...	Pass with left foot, reach with your left hand over your right arm and grasp his sword handle between his hands. Then strike with cut or thrust.
Rationale	With his sword controlled, you can strike him as you wish. The scholar thrusts beneath his own arm.	

2

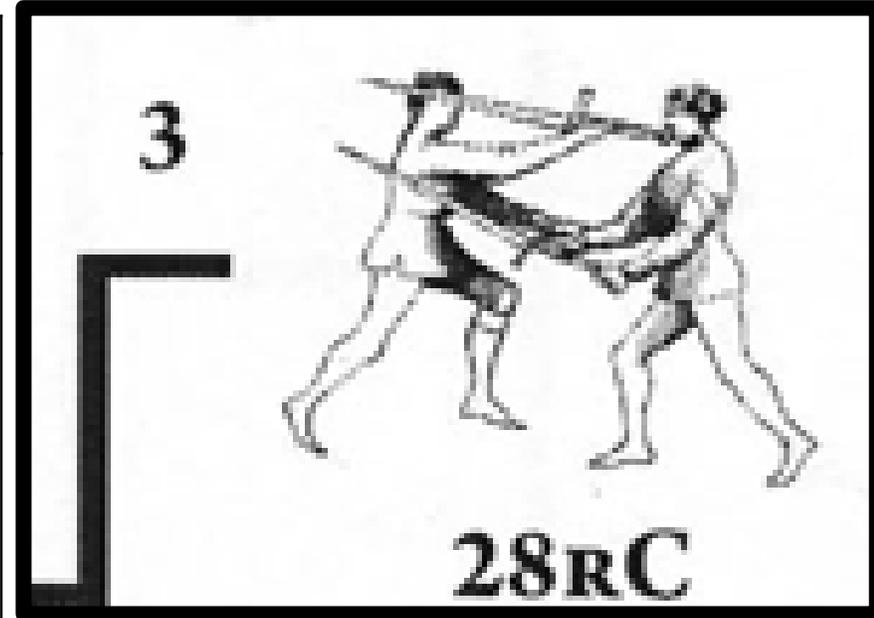


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# Second Scholar of Zogho Stretto

3

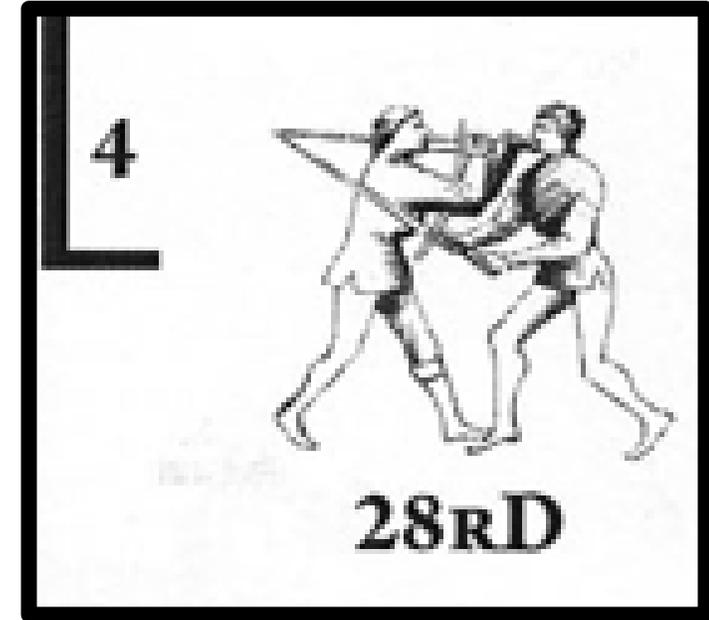
Player	When	Then
Second Scholar	Opp. stays in the center with pressure...	Grasp the opponent as shown and strike him in the face with your pommel. You can also cut from above to his head before he can parry.
Rationale	Use the blade contact point as a pivot, raise your sword hilt beside his blade. Your left hand goes to his arm to control his sword. Shove your pommel into his face as you step forward.	



# Third Scholar of Zogho Stretto

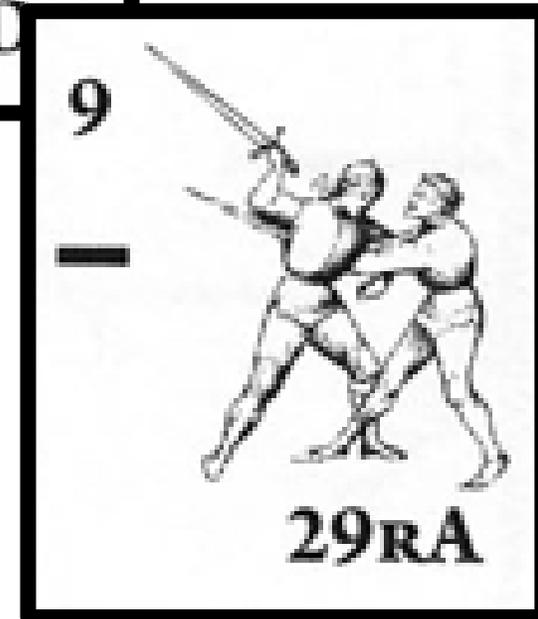
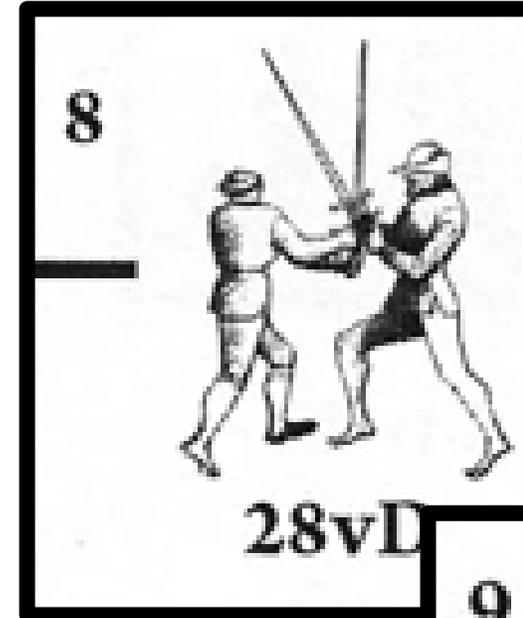
4

Player	When	Then
Third Scholar	Opp. is strong in the bind or shifting to your right...	Pass with left foot, double handed pommel strike.
Rationale	Use the blade contact point as a pivot, raise your sword hilt beside his blade to let it pass. Similar to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Scholar.	



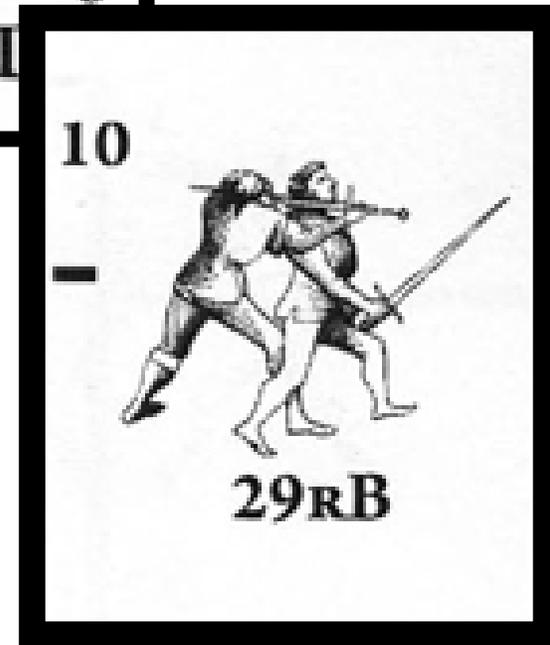
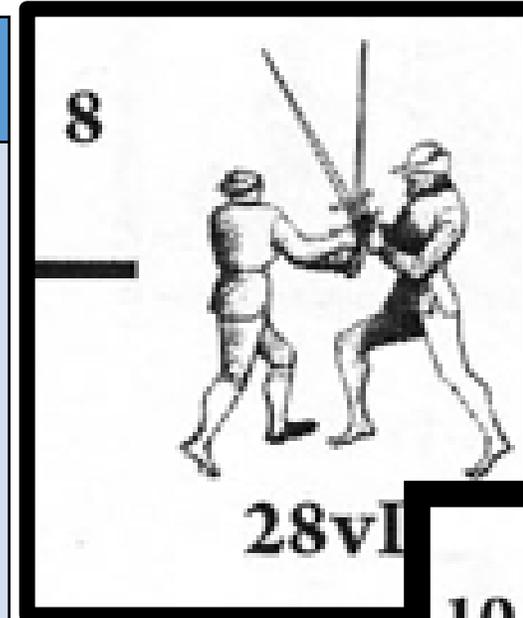
# Seventh and Eighth Scholars of Zogho Stretto

Player	When	Then
8 9	Crossed at the middle and Opp. lifts his sword...	Put your hilt between his hands, lift his arms with his point high. Reach your left arm under his left and then over his arms, to your left.
Rationale	With his sword under your left arm you are free to strike.	



# Seventh and Ninth Scholars of Zogho Stretto

8	When	Then
10	Crossed at the middle and Opp. lifts his sword...	Put your hilt between his hands, lift his arms with his point high. Reach your left arm over his arms, pinning his arms to your chest. Pass on the left with your right foot, place your sword at his neck and push while you release your left and grasp half-sword.
Rationale	Your opp. is off balance from the pin so the push will spin and throw the opp. to the ground.	



# Tenth Scholar of Zogho Stretto

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Player	When	Then
Tenth Scholar	Lifts his hilt in the bind, to your left...	Grasp his left hand and his whole pommel with your hand and push him backward; Then strike him with thrusts or cuts.
Rationale	If someone parries on the left side...	

