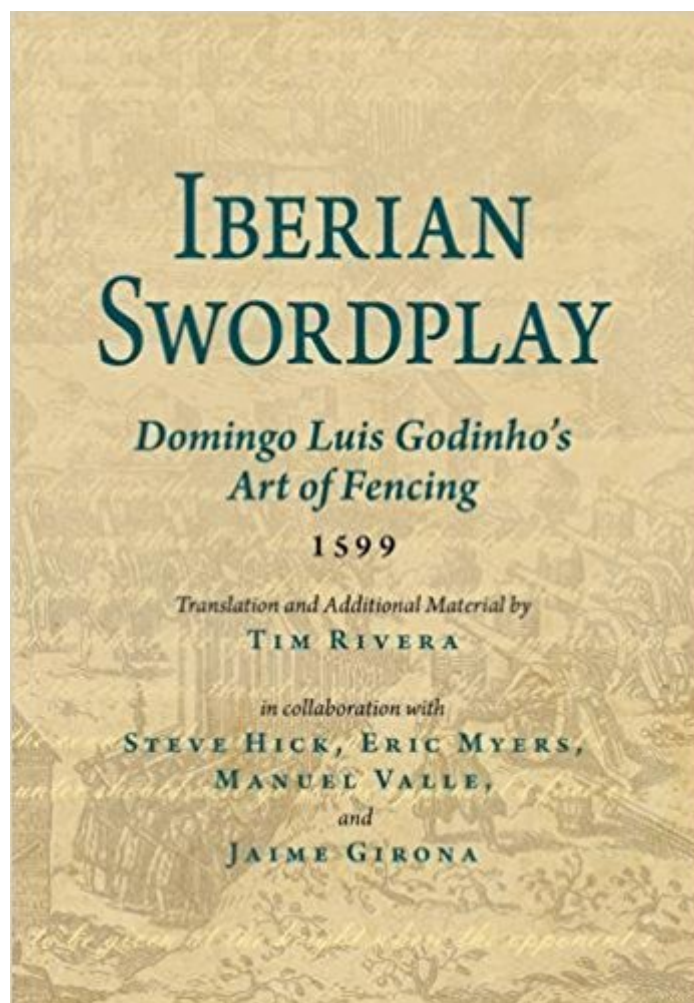


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Iberian Swordplay: Domingo Luis Godinho's Art Of Fencing (1599)



Synopsis

In 1599, during the period when the Portuguese crown was united to the crowns of Castile and Aragon, a Portuguese master-at-arms called Domingo Luis Godinho wrote a manuscript in Spanish entitled *Arte de Esgrima* (The Art of Fencing). Although Godinho's life is largely a mystery and his text was never published, today his manuscript of utmost relevance in the study of Renaissance Iberian fencing, since it is the only complete treatise discovered so far describing the "Common" or "Vulgar" style of Iberian fencing, first documented in the 15th century, but by Godinho's day, displaced by the new system of *La Verdadera Destreza*. The work includes instructions for the single sword, a long-bladed, cut & thrust weapon taught alone and with the use of the shield, buckler, dagger, and cape, as well as paired with a second sword. Godinho's instructions also includes the longest known text on the use of the *montante*, or two-handed sword, a devastating weapon that was used by soldiers and body-guards, in duels and battlefields, in crowded streets and aboard galleys. Translator Tim Rivera provides a detailed introduction that explains Godinho's relationship to earlier masters of the "Common School" of swordsmanship, and a short primer on the various weapons, guards, parries, footwork and terminology of the tradition.

Book Information

Paperback: 165 pages

Publisher: Freelance Academy Press (August 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 193743933X

ISBN-13: 978-1937439330

Shipping Weight: 8.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #192,803 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Fencing #301 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > History of Sports #360 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Martial Arts

Customer Reviews

A seminal and excellent translation of an oft-neglected tradition. Rivera does an excellent job of keeping the original meaning of the text, even when the original meaning can take some deciphering even in translation. The addition of a brief introductory section to prevent too much flipping back and forth on the very basics of the tradition, along with a section on Pacheco's tricks of the vulgar fencer helps greatly in making sense of both the text and the larger tradition of which it is

the only completely extant part.

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