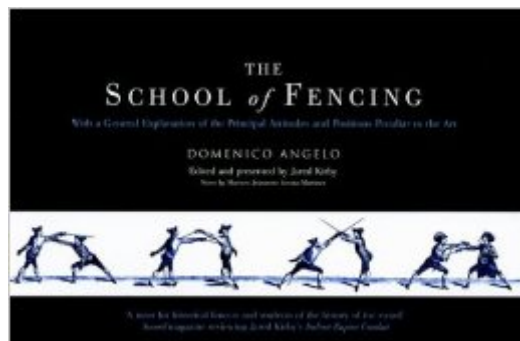


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The School Of Fencing: With A General Explanation Of The Principal Attitudes And Positions Peculiar To The Art



Synopsis

The School of Fencing was first presented in 1763 by Domenico Angelo in French as *L'Ecole des armes*. It remained the most popular book on fencing for more than fifty years, being translated and republished five times in two decades. Before taking the throne as King George III, a young Edward, Duke of York and his brother, George the Prince of Wales, were both students of Domenico Angelo. His text was so influential that it was chosen to appear under the subject of Fencing in the famous *Encyclopédie* edited by Diderot and d'Alembert. Angelo opens the treatise by discussing how to choose an appropriate blade and gives advice on mounting it. He then goes into his system of fencing, starting with drawing the sword then teaching the guards before going into the attacks. He covers the smallsword as well as smallsword and dagger, smallsword vs. smallsword and dagger, smallsword and lantern, and finally smallsword vs. broadsword. He covers how to fence against the German, Italian and Spanish guards. The School of Fencing is essential reading for any historical swordfighter or student of martial arts or military history as it allows the reader to access the knowledge of one of the masters of the art. The book is also sure to give the modern fencer new insights in technique and a greater appreciation of the history of this exciting art.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1763, Domenico Angelo penned the definitive text on the combative use of the smallsword. The work is specialized, it is only about the use of a thrusting (point only) sword with a blade of 30 to 35 inches (75 to 88cm) in length. The work is dated, inhabitants of the soi-disant civilized world allowed themselves to be disarmed about 150 years ago, and this style of sword was the last type to be

routinely worn by civilians. Given this, the book is only of interest to historians, classical fencers, sport fencers looking for their roots, and other martial artists interested in expanding their repertoire. But it is of great interest to these groups. Mr. Jared Kirby and Ms. Jeannette Acosta-Martinez outdid themselves. They offered commentary and additional information that compliments Angelo, while restraining the editorial urge and leaving the original work complete and untampered with.

Outstanding job! Angelo wrote a thorough text on all aspects of the use of this arm, at the height of the development of the technique of combat with the small sword. A modern example of the sword being discussed is the Cold Steel Small Sword. Every thing that is required is covered, while there is no material that was not of use in the time it was written. Of special contemporary interest, particularly to martial artists, is the section on disarming. The illustrations make the leverage and other aspects of the sword disarms very clear. The smallsword is a superior arm, but not an egalitarian one. In close combat, it is without peer, but it takes hundreds of hours of diligent practice to gain even a basic competence.

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