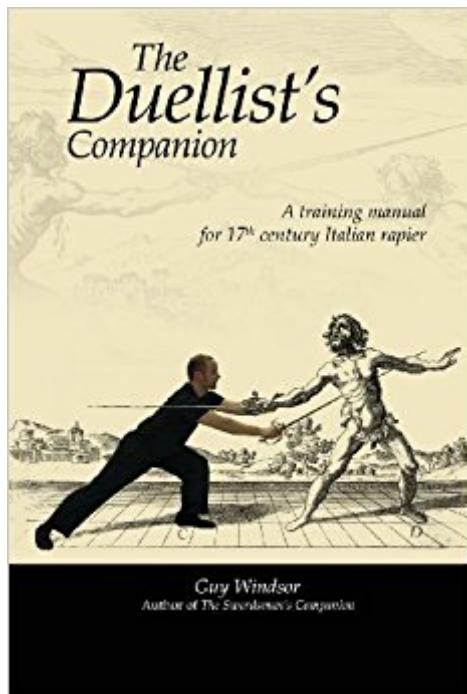


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The Duellist's Companion



Synopsis

A complete training guide to 17th century Italian rapier fencing, and a thorough interpretation of the style of legendary swordsman Ridolfo Capoferro, author of the most famous fencing book in history, his Gran Simulacro, published in 1610. First published in 2006, this guide is the standard work on the subject.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #524,986 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Fencing #1180 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Martial Arts #6781 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness

Customer Reviews

Born in Cambridge, England in 1973, Mr Windsor has studied many forms of European fencing. He has also studied Aikido, T'ai Chi Chuan, and Okinawan Kobudo. Together with Paul MacDonald he is a founder of the Dawn Duellists Society and is the founder and director of the Helsinki School of European Swordsmanship. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Perhaps the best interpretation for Capoferro's rapier treatise. Every concepts and moves were interpreted very well and explained the reasons behind them. The attention to detail is concerned, and the writing attitude is very honest. However there are some serious draw backs. First the illustrations are pretty unclear and for me, most of the time they don't really help. Usually it's impossible to see relative positions of rapiers of the two person, and it's hard to figure out who's the trainer and who's the master. The illustrations are pretty small and lack of contrast. (They might be improved if they're in colors instead of in monotonies.) Additionally, it only interprets some of the capoferro's techniques. Besides rapier+bare hand and rapier+dagger, capoferro also included rapier+buckler and rapier+cloak in his treatise and these were not included in this book.

Excellent book, very good in its presentation and the logical order in which the study of the rapier is introduced. The exercises to develop skills specific to the rapier are also excellent and of use to anyone who teaches medieval swordsmanship.

A great intermediate follow up read to The Swordsman's Companion that deals with slightly more advanced techniques and partner drills.

This book is modern WMA teacher Guy Windsor's interpretation of Italian 17th century rapier combat. I highly recommend it because the book is directed at creating a complete system in the modern context. There are guards, thrusts, several footwork plays all with a good explanation and step by step visual instruction. On top of that there are plenty of drills for solo or group work and plenty of advice on core concepts. For a beginner, or instructor the book is very useful as both something to learn from, but also teach from. For those who like historical manuals, Windsor's 'catch all' Italian makes a great complimentary resource. Where the book falls a little flat is in the concept of gaining the blade, or stringere. Windsor does his best to explain the concept and show many pictures to elaborate, but the photography is not up to the challenge of clearly depicting what rapier blades are up to, creating a sense of many images that appear (but are not) the same. A minor issue, for the rest of the book is clearly photographed and easy to understand.

Very well explained, thoroughly enjoying the simple instructions

Great book when used with Guy's videos on YouTube.

Very informative

As someone who enjoys historical weaponry, I found Windsor's book to be of particular use, and his update and translation into a modern day training guide of Ferro's work is wonderful. The descriptions of techniques are easy to follow, and the illustrations are both plentiful and helpful. All in all, I would definitely recommend this book to any enthusiast out there.

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