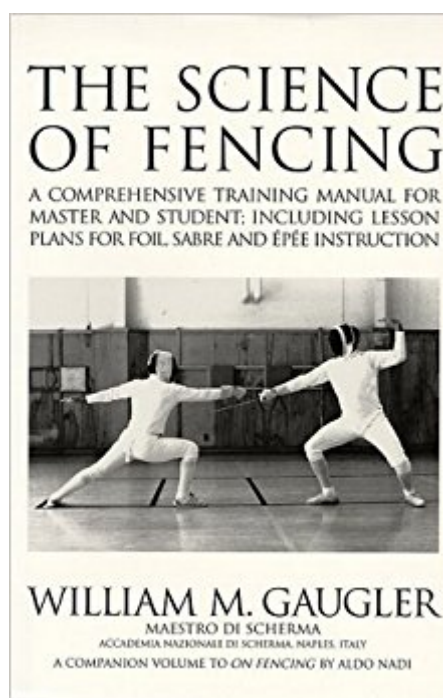


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The Science Of Fencing: A Comprehensive Training Manual For Master And Student: Including Lesson Plans For Foil, Sabre And Epee Instruction



Synopsis

The Science of Fencing. A Comprehensive Training Manual for Master and Student

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Science of Fencing. A Comprehensive Training Manual for Master and Student

Purchased for granddaughter who is fencing right now. She was greatly pleased.

great book from old days

Concise but brilliant. I wish I had bought this year's ago.

This is an amazingly complete work on Italian fencing actions and theory written for both student and instructor. It is clear Maestro Gaugler has done exhaustive work collecting and translating works from the last three to four centuries in order to write this compilation. The actions and theory presented here are still being taught in Italy and the U.S. For foil, sabre, and epee, information provided in this book includes: the classical guard and lunge, simple attacks, parry and riposting actions, compound and circular attacks, cut-overs, actions on the blade, counteroffensive actions, actions in time, and fencing tactics. Any serious fencer should be anchored to the foundations of fencing by exploring classical styles. This book may seem wordy, but it is necessary to describe the

actions correctly so that one can effectively practice what ultimately must be felt "in hand" on the strip. A number of the advanced actions revealed by Maestro Gaugler are particularly effective against sport fencers who have never been taught or exposed to this breadth of work. If you aren't a fencing instructor, you don't necessarily need to pour over the synoptic tables, but they do reveal how a fencing phrase can progress with your opponent from the given offensive action. For teachers, the tables and sample lessons provide a wealth of offensive, defensive, and counteroffensive actions that can be used to develop your own lessons.

A great technical manual for the swordsman. None of that fake how-can-we-dumb-down-fencing-enough-for-stupid-Americans-FIE/USFCA fencing stuff. This is the real deal if you want to know how to use the "classic" Italian weapons and understand how actual weapons need to be handled.

Books on fencing instruction typically fall into the genre "anatomy," in which every aspect of the subject is analyzed and catalogued. Gaugler's book clearly falls into this category, but seems to ignore the last 50 to 100 years of change in the sport. A fascination with the Italian handle (there are no commercially available Italian-handled epees any more) and a complete avoidance of electric fencing are typical of his approach. The sabre section contains a long catalog of blade-takings (binds, beats, transports, glides, etc.), but fails to mention that only the beat is typically used in modern competition, although the others are practised in lessons. In final analysis, the photographs in the book are emblematic of the text as a whole--Two older men, showing pretty, but static forms. I would hasten to add that this book does not reflect the state of modern Italian fencing--the Italians compete very successfully on the international scene--their technique may be grounded on the principles Gaugler espouses, but they have moved far beyond.

This book should be seen as a technical encyclopedia of modern fencing. Although it will seem dated to some "modern" fencers this book deals with all the fundamentals of modern fencing in a thorough manner. In some way it complements the author's book on the history of fencing. The only weakness might be that due to its technical nature it is less accessible for laymen.

To the gentleman who complained about Gaugler's old-fashioned approach: Gaugler is teaching the classical Italian style. This is Italian fencing as it was when it was a martial art/sport. It is not catering to the modern sport and should not be viewed as such.

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