

## The Sword & Buckler of Paulus Hector Mair

Paulus Hector Mair was an avid collector of Fechtbucher/Fencing Manuals. He eventually undertook the task of producing a large Fechtbuch of his own that brought together material from various sources in his collection. Several variations of this work were made. This was an expensive undertaking, since each one was hand-made and heavily illustrated by talented artists of the day. Mair was employed as a government official by the city of Augsburg and was driven to embezzle municipal funds in order to bankroll his projects and his lavish lifestyle. He was hung for this in 1579.

The material you see here are my translations from the edition of Mair's Fechtbuch that is in the collection of the Sächsische Landesbibliothek in Dresden Germany. It is dated to 1540 and is in two volumes, labeled as C93 and C94. It is one of the most artistically illustrated Fechtbucher known. You can find the SLUB's scan of C94 with the Sword & Buckler section online here:

[http://www.slub-dresden.de/sammlungen/digitale-sammlungen/werkansicht/cache.off?tx\\_dlf\[id\]=51335](http://www.slub-dresden.de/sammlungen/digitale-sammlungen/werkansicht/cache.off?tx_dlf[id]=51335)

There is a theory that Mair had access to illustrations of a folio that was removed from the I.33 manuscript early on, and that the images in his Fechtbuch are copies of this lost section of I.33. The I.33 manuscript is our oldest known text on historical European martial arts, so if true this section of Mair's work is of particular significance. It also brings into question whether the Sword & Buckler methods shown in Mair's work were from a living tradition, or were a reconstruction of an older method preserved only as illustrations. For more on this theory go here:

[http://wiktenauer.com/wiki/Clerus\\_Lutegerus](http://wiktenauer.com/wiki/Clerus_Lutegerus)

Throughout the text accompanying the illustrations in Mair's work, the weapons are referred to as "Rappier" and "Rundellun". I have chosen to translate this as "Sword" and "Buckler" for convenience of reading.

The page numbers reflect the numbering of the plates in the PDF scan of the Sword & Buckler section of the Dresden version of Mair's Fechtbuch. Mair groups this with his Rappier, and thus it immediately follows his Rappier section in numbering beginning as plate #17.

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It happens like this with these fencings in the Sword: stand with your right foot forward and strike him to his right side. Then immediately spring in with your left foot and thrust to his right thigh.

If he has thrust to your forward set thigh like this, then yank it back, spring in quickly again with your left and thrust him with your Sword to his throat with your Buckler in your left hand.

If he then thrusts to you, parry this with your Buckler, at the same time thrust in with your Sword under your left arm to his body and spring with your right foot on his right side. With that thrust into his chest under your Buckler.

If he thrust to you like this, then spring back with your left foot and parry the thrust. Then immediately thrust to his groin. If he parries this with his Buckler, then pull your thrust back again and with that strike to his right arm.



Hold yourself like this with these techniques in the Sword: stand with your left foot forward, your left arm outstretched with your Buckler so that your Sword stands at your right chest with your cross under the point opposite the opponent with your blade on your left arm (shown in illustration). Thus you can thrust to his left side. Then immediately spring in with your right foot and strike to his right arm. If he parries this with his Buckler, then thrust quickly to his groin.

If he thrusts towards you like this and you stand with your left foot forward, then spring back with both feet together and set his thrust aside with your Buckler. Then immediately spring in quickly with your right foot against his right side with another thrust. If he parries this with his Sword, then strike him quickly to his forward set leg.

If he strikes like this to your foot, then yank it back and thrust immediately to his face.



It happens like this with these techniques in the Sword: stand with your right foot forward, your blade on your left shoulder, the Buckler in your left hand (as in illustration). Then immediately spring in with your left foot and strike him from below inward to his right arm. If he parries this, then thrust him with your Sword behind your head in towards his face.

If he thrusts you like this to your face and you stand with your left foot forward, parry this with your Buckler in your left hand, then immediately spring with your left leg well to his left side and thrust to his right. Should he perceive the thrust and parry it, then strike his forward set leg and with that spring back and wind the point double to his face.



It happens like this in this technique: spring in with both feet and thrust to his face or chest. If he parries this with his Buckler, then set your left leg to the rear and strike to his left arm. Then immediately spring in with your left foot and thrust to his right side. If he sets this aside with his Buckler, then strike inward from below to his left arm. Then immediately follow outward with your right leg and wind the thrust to his face or chest.

If he fires the thrust and strike at you like this, then parry him with your Buckler and immediately spring in with your right foot and thrust him powerfully under your left arm to his right side. Should he perceive this thrust, strike his Sword away with an Oberhaw, immediately let your Sword fall, step with your left leg between both of his legs, and grab with your right hand over and around his left shoulder and with your left under his right shoulder and also around his body (shown in illustration). Thus you have him in the Wag and can throw him wherever you want.



When you go together hold yourself like this in this technique: step in with your left leg and thrust under and through with your Sword to his left shoulder, with your Buckler under your right arm (as in illustration).

If he thrusts towards you like this, then take this away with your Buckler and immediately strike to his head.

If he strikes to your head like this, then drive up with your Buckler in front of your head and parry him with that. Then immediately pull your Sword up above you and thrust him from below to his chest.

If he thrusts towards you like this, then take this away with your Buckler from above down towards the ground. Then immediately step in with your left leg and thrust him again from below to his left side.

If he thrusts towards your left side like this, then drop your Buckler on his Sword and take it away with that, then immediately strike to his head and with that yank yourself back from him.



Hold yourself like this when you come together in this technique: step in with your left leg and thrust with your Sword to his face.

If he thrusts to your face like this and you stand with your right foot opposite him, then take this away with your Buckler on your left side and at the same time thrust him with your sword extended to his face (as in illustration). If he likewise takes this away with his Buckler, then step in with your left leg and thrust high over his Buckler with an extended arm to his face such that the short edge is directed downwards.

If he thrusts high to your face like this, then drive your Buckler upwards and displace his thrust. Then immediately step back with your left leg and strike to his left arm.

If he strikes you like this, then set this aside with your long edge and at the same time hit him in the chest with your Buckler. Then yank yourself back from him with an Oberhaw.



It happens like this when you come for the opponent in this technique: stand with your right foot forward and do an extended thrust to his chest.

If he then thrusts towards you like this and you likewise stand with your right foot opposite him, then drop your Buckler downward and displace his thrust with that and at the same time snap from below to thrust to his chest such that your long edge is turned upwards. If he displaces this with his Buckler, then spring with your left foot in front of his right and strike his right arm.

If he strikes you like this, then step with your left leg in the triangle and take it away with your Buckler. Then immediately yank your Sword towards you and thrust from below to his chest.

If he thrust towards you from below like this, then drop onto his sword with your Sword and Buckler so that this is taken away. Then immediately wind behind your head and forward to thrust to his face. With that yank yourself away from him to the rear.



Note this technique when you go together and the opponent has you in the bind: stand with your left foot forward and he stands opposite you with his right. Hold your Sword to your Buckler in your left hand and catch his sword blade well forward near the point with your right. With that snatch it out of his hand (as in illustration).

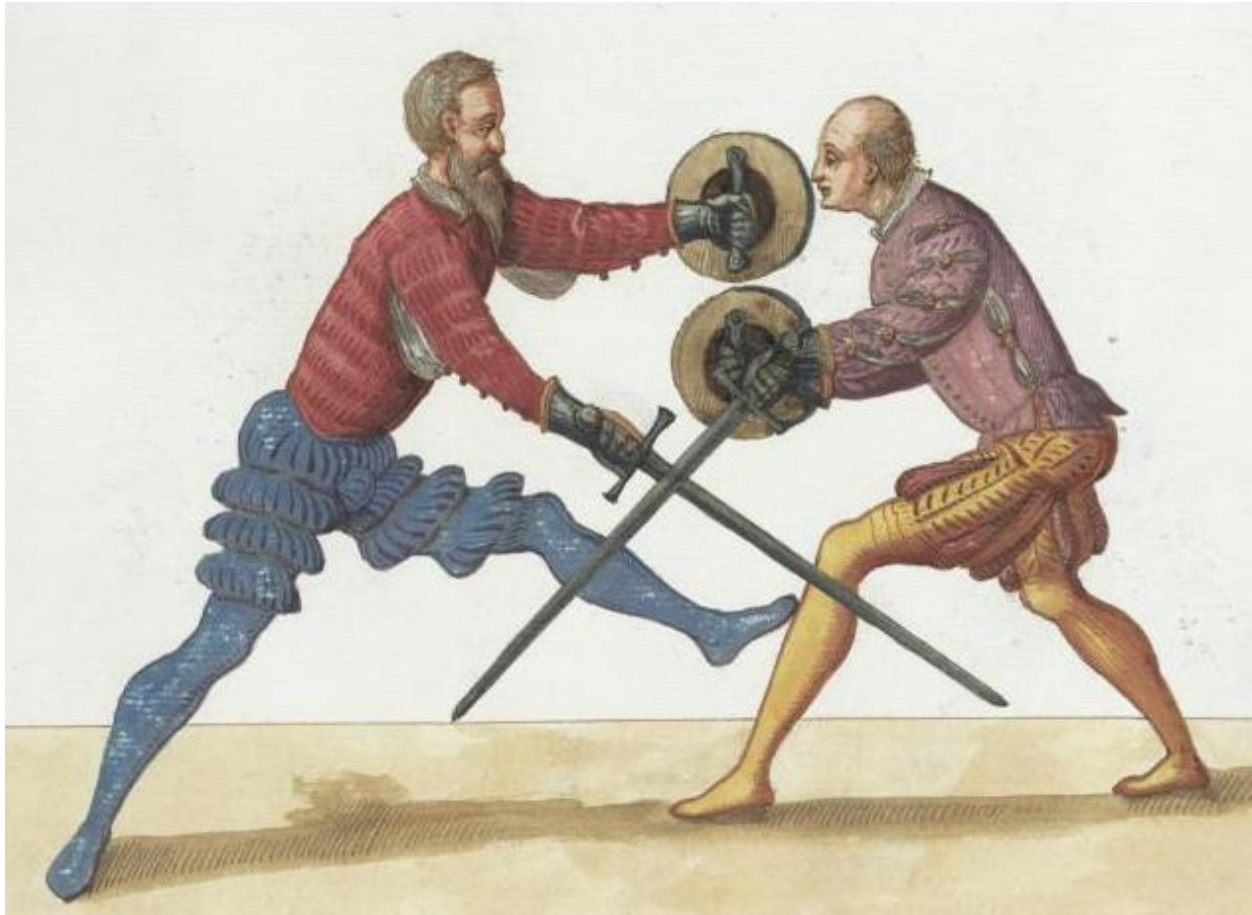
If he has grabbed your sword out of your hand like this, then step in with your left leg and catch his sword that is in his left hand and thrust your buckler high onto his left arm so that he must release his sword. If he then strikes at you with pommel and cross, drive high with your Buckler and displace this. Then step back twice as you take your sword in your hand again. If he then travels after you, quickly go in again onto his blade and wind your point to his face.



It happens like this when you go together: stand with your left leg forward and bind on his blade such that your long edge is turned upward near the point and opposite his chest.

If you then also stand with your right foot opposite him and likewise have him in the bind, hold your Sword and Buckler together in your left hand and then immediately step in with your left leg, catch his sword and snatch it out of his hand.

If he has taken your Sword like this then thrust with the spike of your Buckler into his face and at the same time catch his left leg with your right hand and pull upward so that he must fall backwards (as in illustration).



It happens like this with this technique when you go together: step in with your left leg and strike low to his left leg such that you have your Buckler in your left hand crosswise over your right.

If he strikes like this to your forward leg, then thrust to his left so that you displace him and immediately thrust with your left foot to his left as you stab him in the face with the spike of your Buckler (as in illustration).

If he stabs you like this, displace it with your Buckler and at the same time step back with your left leg as you yank your sword back and then thrust to his side.

If he thrusts you like this, then displace it with your Sword from your left side to your right and then immediately strike from above to his head. With that yank yourself back.



It happens like this when you go together in this technique: stand with your right foot forward and thrust from your left side to his right chest with a winding thrust.

If he thrusts towards you like this and you stand with your right foot forward, then take your Sword to your Buckler in your left hand and immediately grab his sword blade with your right hand (as in illustration).

If he has grabbed your sword like this, then set your left hand with your Buckler over your right and with that step back with your right leg. Thus he must release your sword to you. Then immediately travel after him and thrust to his face.

If he travels after you like this and thrusts to your face, displace this with your Buckler and at the same time step back with your right leg and then thrust from below to his chest. If he displaces this, then strike from above with a winding strike to his head. With that yank yourself back away from him.



Hold yourself like this when you go together with this technique: step in with your right leg and hold the Buckler extended over your Sword with the point opposite the opponent.

If he then likewise is in the bind with you and you stand with your right leg opposite him, hold your Sword together with the Buckler in your left hand during the bind and then immediately grab his sword blade with your right hand and yank towards yourself (as in illustration).

If he holds your Sword like this and yanks you towards him, then grab your blade near the hilt with your left hand and yank strongly towards you. Thus he must release your sword. Then immediately thrust quickly from below to his groin. If he displaces this with his sword, step outward with your left leg and thrust with the spike of your Buckler to his face.

If he thrusts towards you from above like this, then displace him with your Sword and immediately strike from above to his head. With that yank yourself back away from him.



Hold yourself like this when you go together: step in with your left leg and do a low extended thrust to his groin such that you have your Buckler in your left hand near your hilt.

If he has stepped in towards you like this and thrusts to your groin, then displace this with your Sword and immediately step outside of his right leg (should be left) with your right leg, hold your Sword together with your Buckler in your left hand, and immediately grab over both of this arms with your right hand and pull towards you (as in illustration).

If he is grabbing over you like this, then hold your Buckler to your Sword in your right hand and immediately set your left hand under his right shoulder and throw the Hacken (leg hook) with your right foot (should be left) around his right and with that shove him away from you from above. Thus you throw him backwards.



It happens like this with this technique: step in with your left leg and bind on his sword blade. He then likewise stands with his left foot opposite you and binds similarly on your blade. Then hold your sword together with your Buckler in your left hand and immediately drop your right hand onto his beard.

If he has grabbed you like this and holds you by your beard and intends to drop his left hand over his right so that he can snatch your beard downward powerfully, then drop your left hand on his right arm and wind his hand off of your beard (as in illustration). Then strike to his head.

If he has wound himself from you like this and strikes towards your head, then once again quickly take your sword in your right hand and displace his strike with your Buckler. Then immediately step back and thrust to his chest. If he takes your thrust away with his Buckler, then strike with a Zwirchhaw as you move back away from him.



It happens like this when you go together with this technique: step in with your right leg and do an extended thrust high to his face.

If he thrusts towards you like this and you stand with your left foot opposite him, then drive against both of his hands with your Buckler and shove his Sword and Buckler away from you to your left side. At the same time thrust with your sword to his front leg (as in illustration).

If he thrusts low like this to your right foot, then yank it back and strike his thrust away with an Oberhaw. Then immediately seek him with a winding thrust behind your head and forward to his face or chest.

If he thrusts like this to your face, then set this aside with your Buckler and thrust from below to his chest.

If he thrusts towards you from below like this, then drop your Buckler on his Sword to displace him and thrust him again from below to his groin. Then immediately yank yourself back away from him with a Zwirchhaw.



When you go together hold yourself like this in this technique: step in with your right leg and thrust from below to his chest.

If you then stand with your left foot opposite him and he thrusts towards you like this, then drop your Buckler over both of his arms from above and with that force his Sword and Buckler downward towards the ground. At the same time cut with the short edge through his neck (as in illustration).

If he has set upon you low and high like this and intends to cut you, then drive your Sword and Buckler upwards very high and with that take his high cut away. Then immediately step in with your left leg, yank your back Sword towards you and then thrust from below to his chest.

If he thrusts from below towards you like this, drop your Buckler onto his Sword and with that take his thrust away and then cut through his right arm.

If he intends to cut you like this, then set this aside at your left side and immediately yank yourself back away from him with a Creizhaw (crossing strike).



It happens like this when you go together with this technique: step in with your right leg and cut to the right side of his neck.

If he cuts high towards you like this and you stand with your left leg opposite him, then likewise cut to the left side of his head. If he displaces this with his Buckler then yank your Sword over towards you and thrust from below to his groin.

If he thrusts from below towards you like this, then set this aside with your Buckler, immediately yank your sword back towards you and thrust from behind your head forward to his face.

If he thrusts towards you like this, displace it with your long edge and Buckler, strike his sword to his right side and immediately thrust from below to his chest. If he displaces this with his Buckler, then strike him double to his forward set leg.



It happens like this with this technique when you go together: step in with your right leg and thrust low to his left leg.

If you then stand like this with the left leg opposite him and he thrusts afterwards, drop your Sword on his blade and push downward so that you displace his thrust (as in illustration). Then immediately strike to the left side of his head. If he displaces this with his Buckler, then take a winding thrust behind your head forward to his face or chest.

If he winds towards your face like this, then take this away with your long edge and with the short drop over his Sword blade and thrust to his chest.

If he intends to thrust to your body like this, then step back with your left leg so that you move away from his thrust. Then immediately strike with a Creizhaw double to his left arm.



When you go together with this technique hold yourself like this: step in with your left leg and thrust to his groin.

If he thrusts low towards you like this and you stand with your right leg opposite him, then drop your Sword and Buckler on his Sword blade well over near the hilt and push downward to set this aside (as in illustration). Then immediately step in with your left leg and strike with your Buckler to his face. If he displaces this with his Buckler, then yank your Sword back towards you and thrust from below towards his chest.

If he has set upon you low and high like this, then spring back with your left foot and thrust to his face. If he displaces this with his Sword, then step in again quickly with your left leg and strike an Oberhaw double to his head. Then immediately with that yank yourself back from him.



Hold yourself like this when you go together in this technique: step in with your left leg and strike him with an Oberhaw to his head. If he displaces this, then wind the short edge on his long and with that thrust to his face.

If he thrusts towards you like this, then set it aside with your Buckler, then immediately step in with your right leg and thrust from below to his chest or groin. If he displaces this, then strike to his head from above.

If he strikes towards you like this, then displace it with your long edge, immediately step inward with your left leg between both of his, drop your right arm from above over both of his, and with that press towards you as you fall over him with your left arm over his chest and around his body from his right side. Then lift upwards with your left leg so that you throw him onto his face at your left side.  
(illustration does not match)



It happens like this when you come to the opponent with this technique: step in with your right leg and strike with a doubled Creizhaw to his right arm. If he sets this aside with his Sword, then step in with your left leg and set your Buckler at his blade. With that press away from you to your left side and then immediately thrust from below to his body.

If he thrusts from below towards you like this and you stand with your right foot opposite him, then set this aside with your Buckler and immediately likewise thrust from below to his left side. If he displaces this with his Buckler, then strike with a Zwirchhaw to his right arm.

If he strikes towards you like this, then displace it with your long edge and immediately thrust to his groin.

If he thrusts low towards you like this, then step with your right foot onto his Sword and Buckler, hold your Sword in your left hand at the middle of the blade next to your Buckler, and immediately drive with that around his neck so that you have his head between your arms (as in illustration). Then with that shove away from you low and yank towards you high so that you throw him forwards onto the face.



It happens like this when you come together with this technique: step in with your right leg and thrust to his face.

If you then stand with your left leg opposite him and he thrusts upon you like this, drive against him with your Buckler and displace his thrust with that (as in illustration). Then immediately strike quickly with an Oberhaw to his left arm. If he displaces this with his Buckler, then wind in between his Sword and the Buckler with a thrust to his throat.

If he thrusts towards your throat like this, then spring back with your right leg and strike to his right arm. If he displaces this with his Sword, then step in again quickly with your right leg and thrust to his face or chest.

If he thrusts towards you like this, then spring back with your left leg and strike to his forward set foot. If he displaces this with his Sword, then do a winding thrust to his face and with that yank yourself back.



When you go together in this technique hold yourself like this: step in with your right leg and thrust with your Sword to his groin.

If he thrusts low towards you like this and you likewise stand with your right leg opposite him, take this away with your Sword to your left side and at the same time thrust your Buckler into his face (as in illustration). If he then fires out with his Buckler and takes this away, step in with your left leg and drive out with your Sword and immediately thrust from below to his chest.

If he thrusts from below towards you like this, then step back with your right leg and displace this with your Sword. Then immediately spring in once again with your right leg to his right side and strike with a Zwirchhaw to his right arm. If he displaces this with his Sword, then strike with an Oberhaw to his head. Then immediately yank yourself back from him.



When you go together with this technique then hold yourself like this: step in with your left leg and thrust from behind your Buckler forward to his face.

If he thrusts towards you like this and you stand with your right foot opposite him, then drive against him with your Buckler and displace it. Then immediately step in with your left leg and strike with an Oberhaw to his head. If he displaces this to his left side with his Sword, then spring with your left leg to his right side in the triangle and thrust behind your head forward to his chest.

If he thrusts towards you like this, then displace it with your long edge and immediately strike him to his forward set leg. If he displaces this with his Sword, then strike with a Doppelhaw (doubled strike) to his head.

If he strikes towards you double like this, then displace this with your Buckler and at the same time thrust from below to his face. With that yank yourself back from him.



It happens like this when you go together with this technique: step in with your (right) leg and bind upon his Sword.

If he then likewise stands with his right foot opposite you and has you in the bind, then yank your Sword to you and thrust from below to his chest.

If he thrusts from below towards you like this, then displace this with your Buckler and strike with a Zwirchhaw to the right side of his face. Then immediately yank your left leg back and thrust to the left side of his chest.

If he thrusts towards you like this, then take it away with your Buckler and at the same time wind with a thrust to his face.

If he thrusts towards you like this, then take it away and immediately hold your Sword to your Buckler in your left hand, catch him by his right arm with your right hand and with that yank it over your left shoulder as you turn to your right side. Thus you break the arm or throw him (as in illustration).

If he intends to break your arm or throw you like this, then drop your Buckler and grab behind to his body. Thus you can hold on and he must fall with you.



It happens like this with this technique when you go together: step in with your left leg and stab with your Buckler to his chest.

If he stabs at you like this, then drop your right hand onto his Buckler and with that take it downward and away. Then immediately hold your Sword to your Buckler together in your left hand and thrust from above to his groin. At the same time step with your right leg onto his left knee and with that thrust away from you (as in illustration).

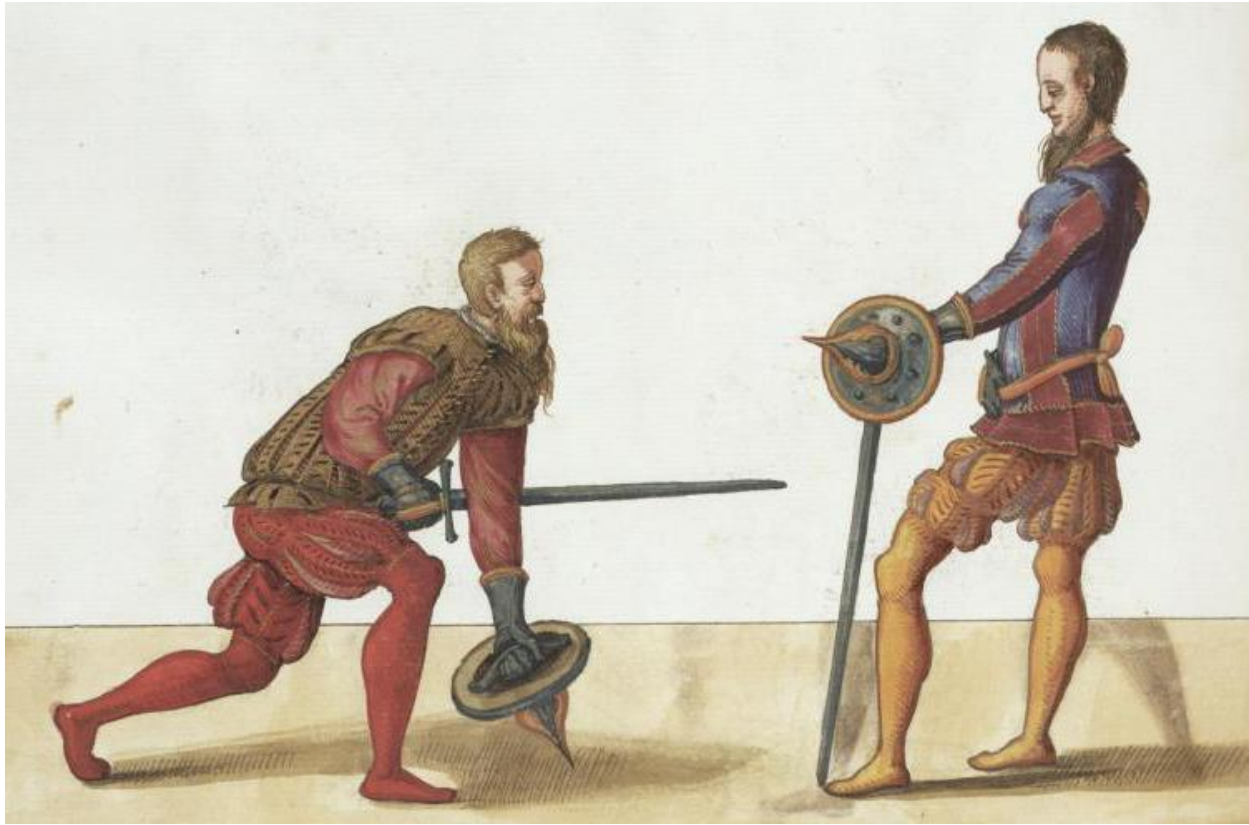
If he has set upon you like this low and high, yank your Buckler towards you as you step back with your left leg and wind with a thrust to his face. If he displaces this with his Sword, then step quickly with your left leg to his right side and strike with a Zwirchhaw to his head. Then with that immediately yank yourself back away from twice.



When you go together with this technique hold yourself like this: step in with your right leg and thrust with an extended Sword to his face.

If he thrusts towards you like this and you stand with your right foot opposite him, then take this away with your Buckler to your left side (as in illustration). At the same time yank your Sword to you and then thrust through below his Buckler to his left side. If he displaces this with his Buckler, then spring with your left foot well to his right side and thrust to his face.

If he thrusts towards your face like this, then displace this with your long edge, immediately step with your right leg double to his right side and strike to his right arm. If he displaces your strike, then yank your Sword to you and thrust to his face. With that yank yourself back away from him.



Hold yourself like this when you go together in this technique: step in with your left leg and keep your right well near in the Wag (balanced position) such that you have your Buckler against the ground and your sword between your left arm and your chest. Then immediately thrust to his forward set left leg.

If the thrusts low towards you like this, take it away with your Sword blade, then immediately go out with your Sword and thrust from below to his groin.

If he thrusts low towards you like this, then drive with your Buckler up from the ground to displace him. Then immediately yank your Sword to you again and wind behind your head and forward to thrust to his face. If he displaces this with his Sword, then take his Sword away on your left side and strike from above to his head. Then immediately with that yank yourself back from him.



It happens like this with this technique when you go together: step in with your right leg and do an extended thrust to his forward set right leg.

If he thrusts towards you like this, then set your right leg in the triangle and thrust to his throat (as in illustration).

If he thrusts high towards you like this, then go upwards with your Buckler and with that take his thrust away. At the same time yank your Sword to you and thrust from below to his chest.

If he thrusts from below towards you like this, then take this away with your Buckler and immediately thrust double to his face or chest. If he sets this aside with his Sword or Buckler, then immediately quickly strike to his forward set leg.

If he strikes towards your forward set foot like this, then yank it back and at the same time strike and thrust high to his head.



Hold yourself like this with this technique when you go together: step in with your left leg and hold your Buckler extended in his face. At the same time yank your sword up high and strike strongly to his head.

If he strikes towards you from above like this and you likewise stand opposite him with your left leg, drive against his strike with your Buckler to take it away. Then immediately cut with your Sword through his face (as in illustration).

If he cuts towards your face like this, step back with your left leg and set this aside with your long edge. Then immediately spring in once again with your left leg and wind behind your head and forward to thrust to his face.

If he winds towards your face like this, set this aside with your long edge and immediately strike and thrust. With that wind yourself back from him.