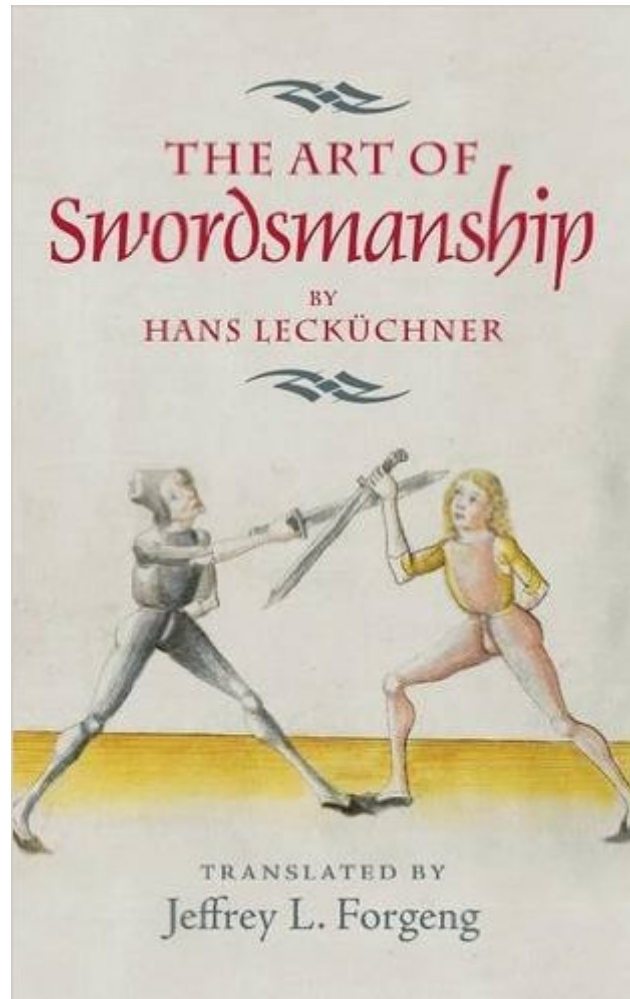


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The Art Of Swordsmanship By Hans Lecküchner (Armour And Weapons)



Synopsis

Completed in 1482, Johannes Leckmüller's Art of Combat with the "Langes Messer" (Messerfechtkunst) is among the most important documents on the combat arts of the Middle Ages. The Messer was a single-edged, one-handed utility sword peculiar to central Europe, but Leckmüller's techniques apply to cut-and-thrust swords in general: not only is this treatise the single most substantial work on the use of one-handed swords to survive from this period, but it is the most detailed explanation of the two-handed sword techniques of the German "Liechtenauer" school dating back to the 1300s. Leckmüller's lavish manuscript consists of over four hundred illustrations with explanatory text, in which the author, a parish priest, rings the changes on bladework, deceptions, and grappling, with techniques ranging from life-or-death escapes from an armed assailant to slapstick moves designed to please the crowd in public fencing matches. This translation, complete with all illustrations from the manuscript, makes the treatise accessible for the first time since the author's untimely death less than a year after its completion left his major work to be lost for generations. An extensive introduction, notes, and glossary analyze and contextualize the work and clarify its technical content. Jeffrey L. Forgeng is curator of Arms and Armor and Medieval Art at the Worcester Art Museum, and teaches as Adjunct Professor of History at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Book Information

Series: Armour and Weapons

Hardcover: 481 pages

Publisher: Boydell Press (July 16, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1783270284

ISBN-13: 978-1783270286

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,007,879 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in [Books & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Fencing](#) #21333 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History](#) #127094 in [Books > History](#)

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