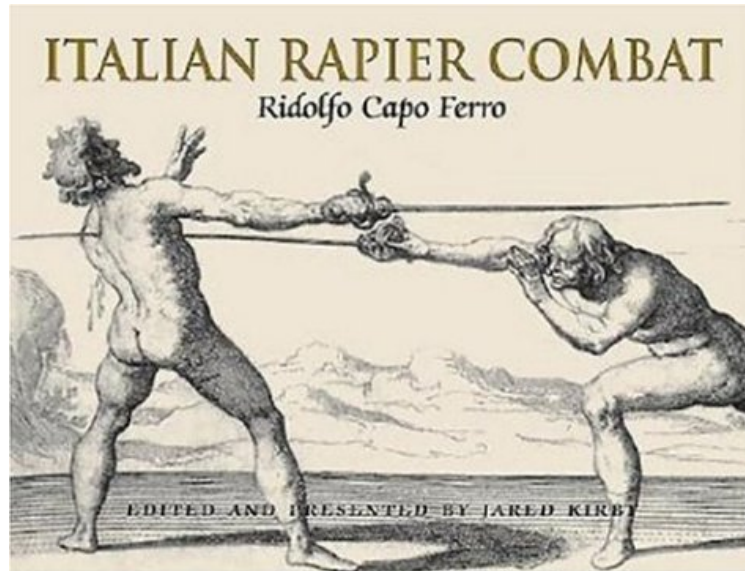


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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Italian Rapier Combat:
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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. italian rapier combatBy silatmanJust freakin' incredible!!! the whole thing has been translated in such a way as to make the whole text perfectly clear and still retains the flavoure of the original instruction, seems very old but understandable.Like reading a historical text in old english without the slow disemation from old to new english.A monumental work by an outstanding author. My highest recommendations, if you do not have this manual, and you fence, you are in trouble from those that have it.

Salute!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A must have for the renaissance martial artistBy SomyunguyThe translation is straightforward, retaining the original terms, and the original artwork is some of the best, leaving little room for error and omitting any dubious modern interpretation or commentary by any self proclaimed masters. It is also a good work for beginning students of the rapier. Master Capo Ferro includes his basic guards and stances, and explanation of many basic concepts. The techniques are also viciously effective and economical, and well described. Many of the plates include a grid on the floor for even more exact interpretation of the techniques. Definitely a must have for anyone interested in this deadly and inovative western weapon.11 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Hard to ReadBy HooliatorOkay, I agree with the others who rave about Capo Ferro. And yes, translating anything out of another language is difficult, and even more so when it was written 400 years ago.I have used both this (Kirby) translation and the Swanger\Wilson translation. I find the S\W translation to much more usable. The Kirby translation seems to have been done with the goal of impressing academics and NOT with the goal of being readable and usable by non-academic fencers. (by non-academic I mean "not a researcher")It is very difficult to follow for one simple reason. And that is because the Kirby translation leaves almost all key terms in Italian. Even if there is a perfectly equivalent English term, Kirby left it in Italian. By comparison, S\W tranlated all

but a few key terms. I cannot cite a specific example, because I don't have it anymore. But imagine reading a book, and every few words there's a foreign word stuck in. And even though you know what that word means, it still stops you cold. It's the mental equivalent of going for a run and having to stop every 20 feet to tie your shoes. The solution? Use different shoes. So I wonder, what is the point of translating something if you are going to leave every 7th word in the original language? On the positive side, the pictures are very very clear, and big. Mind you, you can't do the techniques without the pictures. There are a few of them which in the S\W translation can't be made out as to whether someone is striking above or below the sword, or in 2nd or 4th. But the Kirby pictures can clear that right up. So to sum up: Translation bad, unless you like memorizing new words that you don't know how to pronounce. Pictures good, very clear (this is important). I recommend having one Kirby book for every rapier GROUP so that you have good clear illustrations. And then use the Swanger/Wilson translation for learning the techniques. I am sure that a bunch of the other historical fencers are going to lambaste me for daring to criticize a translation of a fencing master. But I found this book so difficult to use, I sold it after only two weeks.

This beautifully-illustrated and detailed book presents one of the world's most influential fencing treatises. Ridolfo Capo Ferro was a legend in his own lifetime and his intricate and exact instructions were copied and emulated throughout a Europe bewitched by this Italian's grace and style. The manual, illustrated with 43 striking illustrations, gives a very real flavour of the panache of this expert in swordsmanship and mastery of that most lethal of weapons - the rapier. Ferro examines different kinds of swords, their component parts and their suitability, before going on to discuss their actual use. There he expounds his theory as to the timing and direction of thrusts, the essential distances and the need for complete control. He also looks at defensive measures, guards, parries, the need for quick footwork. Capo Ferro's text is a practical guide to fighting and one which builds on the theory to show exactly how a superior form of swordsmanship could be learned by Europe's elite. His illustrations clearly show the best methods and also show how a rapier could be lethally effective when used with a dagger or with a cloak. Translated into English for the first time, and presented by fencing expert Jared Kirby, this handsome volume is not only attractive to look at its also a vital historical record. It is essential reading for any historical swordfighter, student of martial arts and student of 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 sport.

About the Author Ridolfo Capo Ferro was a legend in his own lifetime and his intricate and exact instructions were copied and emulated throughout a Europe bewitched by this Italian's grace and style.