

Arte dell' Armi Books One & Two

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This manuscript is a work in progress and is a compilation of translated chapters from Marozzo's book *Arte dell' Armi*. The translations consist of material gleaned from Egerton Castle's book *Schools and Masters of Fence*, from private translation provided by Maestro Andrea Lupo-Sinclair, from *The History of Fencing* by William Gaugler, with translation help from Tom Leoni and from my own translation of the bulk of the material.

In this translation I will leave a number of types of Italian terms intact. Specifically the guard positions and attack types will be in Italian. A glossary will be provided for these terms.

One of the failings that I see in Marozzo's book is that he does not detail certain pieces of information that are crucial for understanding his system. To help with this I am including here the guard descriptions as outlined by Manciolino.

Guardia alta [High guard]

The first guard is called *alta* because it necessitates a graceful posture of the body and requires holding the sword with the arm as high as possible. In this manner, the sword is pointing backwards. The buckler-arm has to be well extended against the opponent, stretching out as much as possible. The right foot should be placed about three or four inches in front of the left, with the heel slightly off the ground. Both knees should be straight and not bent.

This guard can be performed in two alternative manners. One is by placing the right foot forward in wide step, and the other is by standing left-foot-forward, also in wide step. But in both these instances, the arms should still be held as explained above: the sword should always be held high in the air with the arm extended, no matter how the feet are positioned. This guard is called *alta* after the manner in which the sword is positioned (not by the placement of the feet).

Guardia di testa [Head guard]

The second guard is called *guardia di testa*, and is executed by stretching both arms towards the opponent. The outstretched arms should be positioned so that the fists are about shoulder-height; the only difference being that the sword-hand should be slightly lower than the buckler-hand. As far as the feet, they can be positioned right-forward or left-forward with a wide step; in both instances the guard is the same for the above-mentioned reasons.

Guardia di faccia [Face guard]

The third guard is called *guardia di faccia*, and it has two things in common with the preceding one as well as one conspicuous difference. Common with the previous guard are the placement of the feet (with the option of being right-foot or left-foot forward) and the height of the hands. The big difference is that in the previous guard the sword was held sideways, whereas in this one the sword is pointing directly towards the opponent's face. The buckler-hand is held above the sword-hand.

Guardia di sopra il braccio [Over-the-arm guard]

The fourth guard is called *guardia di sopra il braccio* because the sword-hand forms a cross by laying over the left arm, with the tip of the sword pointing backwards. The buckler-arm should be completely stretched out towards the opponent. As far as the feet, the first method is to place the right in front of the left with just enough space between the two that they do not touch. The same guard, though, can be performed by placing the right foot a large step before the left and by curving [the knee] with the utmost grace. In this posture, although the right hand does not change its position (being placed in the middle of

the other arm, otherwise the guard would change its name for the above-mentioned reasons), the arms would be held slightly wider, as opposed to previously when they were closer. The right shoulder comes to be positioned directly against the opponent, so that you can attack him wherever you feel best.

Guardia sotto il braccio {Under-the-arm guard}

The fifth guard is called sotto il braccio because the sword-hand is held under the buckler-arm (in the underarm area), with the sword tip facing backward. The buckler-arm is well extended against the opponent. The right foot should be placed just in front of the left in the manner described in the previous guard, or alternatively ahead of it by a great step. But if you place it ahead by a great step, your right shoulder should be facing straight towards the opponent as described in the previous guard.

Guardia porta di ferro stretta [Narrow iron door guard]

The sixth guard is called porta di ferro stretta. The posture of the body is sideways in such a way that the right shoulder faces the opponent, as described above. The arms should also be stretched towards the opponent, but in such a manner that the sword-arm is extended downward in defense of the right knee. The right fist should be close and in the center of the right knee. The buckler-arm should be stretched towards the opponent, pointing neither up nor down, in defense of the head. The right foot should be [forward] in wide step, with the knee facing the opponent, defended as described above and quite bent. The left foot should be placed sideways, with the left knee also bent. This guard is called porta di ferro stretta because it is safer than the others, and as strong as iron. It is different from the wide guard (coming next) in the fact that it places the sword close to the opponent while keeping a tight defense of the knee.

Guardia porta di ferro larga [Wide iron door guard]

The seventh guard is the porta di ferro larga, originating from the previous, as the feet and the body are positioned in a similar manner. The difference is that the sword-hand moves away from the knee and points the sword towards the ground to the inside of the said knee. This is why it is called "wide": by moving away from the knee, the sword leaves the body more uncovered than in the previous guard.

Guardia cinghiara porta di ferro [Boar iron-door guard]

The eighth guard is called cinghiara porta di ferro. The left foot is placed sideways and the left knee is slightly bent; the right leg, though, should be straight. The sword-arm should be held with the fist forward of the left knee (in a similar manner to the porta di ferro, hence the part of the name); the left arm should be extended with the buckler defending the head, as said before [in the sixth guard]. This guard is named after the boar because it is believed that this animal, when attacked, places the head and the teeth sideways (as in this guard) in order to wound his enemy.

Guardia di coda lunga e alta [Long and high tail guard]

The ninth guard is called coda lunga alta and is performed with the left foot forward and the knee slightly bent, with the toes pointing towards the opponent. The step is wide. The right arm should be well extended towards the opponent, with the sword tightly gripped and held sideways, [but in such a manner that] that the tip covers the opponent. The buckler arm should also be extended towards the opponent's face.

This guard, as well as the following one, originates from a guard called coda lunga alta in which the feet are positioned in the same manner as in this, but the sword-arm is extended backwards. This name was given to it by paraphrasing the old proverb that "one should never mess with great masters because they have a long tail"; meaning that they have the power to harm you with their numerous followers. So, that guard had the same name as our ninth and the next (tenth), as it is very capable to wound your partner [opponent?] and has therefore the name of coda lunga e alta.

Guardia di coda lunga stretta [Long and narrow tail guard]

The tenth guard, called coda lunga e stretta, is performed with the right foot forward in a wide step. The knee should be slightly bent sideways, and the arms are held in the exact same position as in the previous guard; except that the sword-arm is a little lower.

Capitula 1

“To the Great and Glorious God omnipotent, and the Mother Saintly Virgin Mary, and of Saint Sebastiano and Saint Roco and the Knight Saint Georgio and of all the others Known as Saints of God, in this book will I give more things to you of the art of fencing, for you should reduce to memory all that you have learned from me: and this I write in case you did not exercise such mysteries, then you should remember. And in this way have I written in this book a little of my intentions, but you, and those people that have learned well from me, and also with great hard work will be able to do it: they will be vanquished who have not exercised as you have; nevertheless I advise you in this, some have no stamina to read it and take part in practical exercising with the sword in hand; but with a little hard work you can do this with imagination. The practical principles of playing and honor I give to you for your comfort so you do not make such a mystery of this art: for this is of great danger: but in order to say to you if fortune allows me to give this art to you, that you may know this, that of doing it: and therefore I will show you the way to teach your students, and foremost in the name of God, that you put the sword in hand and tell them what you want from them in this instruction of arms. Again in the name of God, and the Mother, and of Saint Georgio you will put the sword in hand, and you will show what it means. What is filo dritto, and filo falso. And such training you will use with this segno that is marked on the wall, for this segno is like the letters of the alphabet, to demonstrate all the main blows that are made with the sword, with two hands as with one. What is mandritto tondo, mandritto fendente, mandritto sguaembrato, mandritto redoppio, and falso dritto and montante and you know that from this begins all these attacks. And from the left demonstrate roverso tondo and roverso sguaembrato, roverso fendente, and roverso redoppio, and falso manco, and falso, and dritto, and falso roverso; which in principle you will give them meaning. And of what is dritto and roverso, making every one against said segno. This segno I outline in this book in order that you do not forget. But he who watches this segno is just, like the alphabet, for you know that when one goes to the school to read the drawings, then they learn first the alphabet, for of that comes all letters and like this from the segno comes all the attacks. It is imperative that you make them do all the attacks (ferire) forward and backward in order that they may practice the discussion of the botte and play at long distance with the arm for finally they will know to give you the names of these botte. And when it appears to you that they know how to make these botte and their names then you have started them playing. Then they will want to learn. Know that when you will give such principles, over half, or all, in the room where no others are except those of the same school, then you will not watch each other and will learn better one from the other and they do not have to be ashamed. Some may be ashamed in learning some of the greater principles publicly, and in truth it is natural to fear of learning publicly. They do not have the heart to adhere to the standards of the master: With this, than they will always fear it are not mocked from that they are to see, and for this you must respect the secret teachings and still I say that when you have taught them the botte I advise you to go to play and return back. I want you to practice the things that you have taught, four, or five days with your student so they know the attacks (feriri) that you have taught to them. Then I want you to begin to examine them in all guards. Especially the porta di ferro larga, and porta di ferro stretta and alta and coda lunga e alta and coda lunga e stretta and also cinghiara porta di ferro and in guardia alta and coda lunga e distesa and when you will make such examination make sure no one else is in the room but some of your old scholars, because it is alright if they watch you.”

Capitula 2

“And I tell you again that you must never attack without defending, nor defend without attacking, and if you do this you shall not fail...”

Capitula 3

“And still I say to you, that when you have made the examination and given them the pros and cons of what you have taught, I want you to make them practice with you several days and amend where they have failed and make good strong attacks in order that they may practice defense: Finally when you have done this, have one of your old scholars who is a good & pleasant player

and have them play with said student in order to make a brotherhood one to the other.“

Capitula 4

“Still I say, that you must never let any of the company’s new scholars play if you are not present so that you will be able to amend their mistakes. For in playing with others other than with the master they will learn bad habits which are hard to amend. Do not forget that they should not practice with different scholars who are not your students. This makes it more difficult. So, practice for more days that they may learn good practice that comes from God that has much theory, therefore I give it to you.“

Capitula 5

“Again I say to you, that in teaching your students the principles of the edged weapons, that with the targa, & rotella, & brochiero larga, & single sword, & sword and cape, sword & dagger, & of two swords, & of many other strong weapons that you use, remember always the standards of movement, from guard to guard, forward, as behind, & from the side, & for deviousness, & in every way that it is possible, & to teach them to accompany the hand with the foot, & the foot with the hand, otherwise you would not do well, so that if you that teach walk over such a sign you will teach it in place, where others are not that you did not teach. Otherwise, you upset the foundation with those you teach.”

Capitula 6

“Still I say to you, that when you will want to begin, you will say it to them in this way: here my children and brothers: I want you to swear on this sword which is the cross of God, to do nothing counter to your Master and not to teach any other person that which you have learned without my licence: Do this before starting.”

Idem.

“To the said examination of precepts that you will show to them, & their playing and making of good attacks that do not go however in guard, explain everything, pro and con of what is done.”

Capitula 7

“And know that such oath is made alone, for he is sure, as they know to hold the sword in hand, go demonstrate to others and listen then to your scholars on what you have shown and taught to them. And you hearing then some of your students, yea, he makes you never amend those that do it, when he played with some. And to this way come punishing, and believing they of knowing much and with this weary ago, than masters son it becomes to you; that being masters they not will never be able complains king of you; for when they said, that you had to teach to it, then you will answer them saying: I embarrassed to teach itself to whom master is: for this reason to other people's you go teaching: You do not have shame to want to learn from others that have to say them ago your these scholars that to such gives them such answer.”

Capitula 8

“Also, for your usefulness & for your students, never allow them to wrestle as this would not be useful: But when they would use close-quarter wrestling or half-sword, have them do it in a proper bout. This way they will learn them through proper practice. Remember that one can perform all the wrestling (prese) or blows when they are plainly tried, but if a student faces another from the opposite side of the class and try these they will learn: I want you to know that it is a beautiful mystery to know how to teach people well, more than to just play; for a man, if he knows how to play well and does not know how to teach, is not good (he is single): but one that knows how to teach well, is good for many people; and know that when he knows the one and the other, he is of double virtue and is a double master.”

Capitula 9

“Note now, do not at present give more training, for I am forced to give principally many different

games of arms from one to the other and in this you have much to see: First I will give the principle of the art of the brochiero piccolo and then we will talk of the hand in hand with the graciousness of God & the Mother Madonna Saint Maria, everlasting are they praised.”

Capitula 10

“Now I will begin the first assault of the spada and brochiero stretta, which is very beautiful and useful for playing and for teaching. Note, before going to play you must find a companion/partner; but I want you to take a side of the room with your brochiero, below to the left side, that is on your upper thigh, and your right foot close by the left in good form and with the sword in the coda lunga e larga with the arm extended and the body upright and as courteous as possible. Here I want you to advance your right foot forward and at the same time cut with the false edge at the copula of the brochiero and bring the copula near your face. Then make a gran passo with the left foot, forward and to the right and then strike the sword with the brochiero. End in the guardia di testa with the arm extended and then bring the point towards the ground, that is with the false edge of your sword towards your brochiero and strike your brochiero with the false edge. Then throw a high upwards cut with a mandritta and in this cut you do a molinello by making a gran passo forward with the right foot towards the left. Then make another with the left foot and go over the brochiero and strike the brochiero with the pommel of the sword on the side inside the rim. Bring the sword hand forward and place the sword point towards the ground and then bring the right foot forward and cut with a montante. Again, with the foot towards the left and ending in the guardia alta and your brochiero extended. Now cut with a fendente against the rim of the brochiero with your right foot back and the blow to the left against the right. End in the coda lunga e distesa. Finally make a gran passo forward to the right, punching the sword with the brochiero and going into a guardia di testa. Then bring the false edge of the sword towards the copula del brochiero making a gran passo with the right foot towards the left and immediately cut with a montante as the right foot comes left. End in a guardia alta with your arm extended. Your left thigh will be guarded from your enemy and your right foot will be extended. You will have reached close to your enemy being agente or patiente. But I suggest that you be agente, that is you are the one attacking. You should be in guardia alta with the right foot forward. You should attack with a mandritto sgualebratto that goes over the arm with your buckler extended towards your enemy. Step with the said foot towards the left and at the same time make a cut to the head. Or, cut to the leg with a mandritto; or a roverso, or thrust, or tramazzone. I want you to do them in the same time as you make a gran passo with the right foot. And you will throw a roverso sgualebrato against the rim of the brochiero and you will end in the coda lunga e stretta. Cut then at the enemy's head. Then I want you to bring the point under the buckler and then cut with two tramazzoni at the face of your enemy. End in the porta di ferro stretta. Now, when in the porta di ferro stretta, your enemy may attack to the head. So I want you to bring up your sword accompanied by the brochiero into the guardia di testa and parry the cut. Straightway on parrying I want you to throw a mandritto tondo at the legs while stepping with the right foot to the left. Then throw a roverso sgualebrato montando immediately and end in the guardia alta with both arms extended. Next make a gran passo taking the right foot behind the left and cut with a fendente. Lastly you will return a cut with the left foot forward. Then punch the sword with the brochiero and in said punching I want you to do a half turn of the fist, that is to move the point of the sword towards the ground and touch the copula of the brochiero with the false edge of the sword and pass with the right foot into a gran passo towards the left. Cut with a montante and end in guardia alta with the brochiero as extended as possible.”

Second Part

“Being in the guardia alta I want you to make a gran passo with the right foot. Now throw a mandritto above the arm and pull the right foot close by the left. I want you to pass the said left opposite the right side of the enemy. In this passing step give a roverso in the right temple. Your sword should not pass into the guardia di testa. In one time throw your right foot opposite his left side and give a fendente with a tramazzone to his head. Your left foot will follow the right to the rear and your sword will not pass into a porta di ferro alta. For your enemy may attack your head.

In this attack I want you to bring your sword and buckler forward together, that is in the guardia di testa with the arms well extended. With this you will parry the attack of your enemy and issue immediately a mandritto tondo to the leg that goes under the arm, throwing in one true time a roverso sgualebrato. And when you have thrown said roverso cut with a high montante and in this cut pull your right foot close by the left. Now for embellishing the play. Make a gran passo with the right foot behind the left and cut with a fendente at the rim of the brochiero. The arm should be well extended and in one time pull the left foot close to the right. Immediately throw said left foot forward and in this step punch with the brochiero. That is with the pommel of the sword against the brochiero and your sword will go in the guardia di testa with the arm well extended. Countering, move the point of the sword towards the ground. Now you will touch the false edge of the sword to the high outside of the brochiero. Pass in this touching with your right foot into a gran passo forward of the left. In this passing step cut with a montante at the rim of the brochiero. You will now be in the guardia alta with the right foot close to the left and the arm with the brochiero well extended. The wrist is watching high and swordarm well formed and extended in the guardia alta. That is the pommel of the sword watches the face of the enemy and your right foot is tight.”

Part Three

“Remaining in the guardia alta I want you to throw a tramazzone to a cinghiara porta di ferro. That is with your left foot forward. Do this with a little traverse opposite the right side of your enemy and wait for said enemy who will throw a mandritto, or a roverso, or a punta or tramazzone to the head or leg. When he does this I want you to throw your right foot forward in a gran passo to the left and parry the attack with the false edge of the sword and give a roverso or go with a mandritto to the leg ending in the coda lunga e stretta. When you have completed a falso and dritto of your sword it will go to a porta di ferro larga. Now if your enemy throws a mandritto tondo at the head, or a fendente, or a tramazzone, I want you to parry with the true edge of the sword and accompany the sword hand with the hand of the brochiero. Keep your sword point looking to the face of your enemy. On parrying with the right edge of the sword follow with a roverso to his right temple or to his leg with your right foot forward. Nevertheless, if he throws a new cut to your head, I want you to accompany the sword with your brochiero in the guardia di testa with your arms well extended and in this parry throw a mandritto tondo at the leg going into the guardia di sotto braccio. Do not stay firm here but throw a roverso sgualebrato montando immediately past the rim of the buckler taking your right foot close to the left. Your sword will now be in the guardia alta. Next throw the right foot behind the left and cut with a fendente at the rim of the brochiero and your sword will move into the coda lunga e distesa. In the same time bring the left foot close by the right. Raise immediately said left and punch with the brochiero. Having made the punch bring your sword point to the ground and you will beat the copula of the brochiero with the false edge of the sword and mount a montante with the right foot forward of the left. The right foot should now be close by the left and your sword will be in the guardia alta with your arm and legs well formed and tight.”

Part Four

“Being in the guardia alta, I want you to pass forward with a gran passo with your right foot. At this time throw a mandritto tondo and go into the guardia di sopra braccio. Immediately bring your right foot close to the left, keeping the buckler well, and in the time that you enter this guard if your enemy is low or high or in the guardia alta I want you to move your right foot forward and thrust at the outside right of your enemy’s face. In fear of said thrust he will strike with the false edge of the sword on the outside and he will uncover the left side. Then you will turn a roverso in falso to his left temple and if he covers turn a roverso to his right thigh. Do not move. Not your foot. Neither your leg. But for your defense return a falso traversato to his right arm. In this time make a half turn of the fist and cut with a fendente to the rim of the brochiero with your right foot forward. Make a gran passo behind the left, that is with the left foot forward of the right and your sword will go into the coda lunga e distesa. Now move into the guardia di testa with your arms well extended. Make a half turn of the hand, that is taking the point of the sword towards the

ground and beating in one time the false edge of the sword on the copula of the brochiero pass your right foot forward and mount a montante to the rim of the brochiero and go into the guardia di testa with the feet close together and your arms and legs extended. Your hip will be opposite the enemy and the hand with the brochiero will have the wrist upwards. If your enemy is in the guardia alta, I want you to make a gran passo with the right foot forward and throw a mandritto to the arm and if in this cut your enemy throws a cut to the head or leg I want you to make a traverse opposite the right side of the enemy and make a roverso, catching the head. This to his arms and feet to his right side and your sword into the coda lunga e alta. Now if said enemy throws a shot to the head or legs I want you to throw your right foot forward to the left putting the sword aside with your buckler and sword together. Then do a mandritto to the legs and return immediately the right foot close by the left and in one time move said to the right and throw a roverso sgualebrato, a montante, and then your sword will go into the guardia alta with your right foot close by the left. You may now embellish your play in any mode you want. That is with montare, cuts, and with touching of the brochiero. And now, you will have cuts, touchings of the brochiero and montato, your sword will go into the guardia di testa with the arms well extended.”

Part Five

“Being in the guardia di testa and your enemy in guardia alta or guardia di testa or porta di ferro, I now want you to cut with a tramazzone into a porta di ferro larga. If your enemy throws a fendente, roverso, tramazzone or thrust at the face I want you in the same time to strike the attack with the false edge of your sword and slice his face with a filo dritto traversato. Your left foot should pass opposite the right side of him. In one time you should throw two tramazzoni with a passing of your right foot opposite the enemy. Your sword will go into the porta di ferro stretta. Now if your enemy attacks the head I want you to counter with your sword and buckler together in the guardia do testa. In parrying this attack make a mandritto tondo to his leg and go into the guardia di sotto braccio. Your right foot should be close by the left. In one time throwing a roverso sgualebrato that engages the head to the arm precisely. For until to the feet of his right side. Mounting a montante your right foot should be close by the left and your sword will go into the guardia di testa. Now, embellishing the play you have tagliare (cuts), toccare di brochiero (touching of the buckler), and mostrare di montante (upwards cuts). With these your sword will go into the guardia di testa and your right foot will be close by the left and your arms well extended with the person to the right.”

Part Six

“Being in the guardia di testa, immediately lower your sword to the porta di ferro alta and if your enemy is in the same guard, or if he is where he wants with the right foot forward, then thrust his face to the outside with the left foot passing his right side. And if he in fear of the thrust uncovers his left side then you will throw your sword to his right and shove your buckler against his sword hand in one time moving your right foot opposite the left side of the enemy and shove another punta to his right temple or go to his flank with the left foot following the right to the rear. And in this you will throw two tramazzoni to the head. Your sword will fall into the porta di ferro stretta. If in the same time your enemy throws a shot at your head then thrust to his face with the sword hand covered below your brochiero. You will parry with the right edge of the sword. That is, in the guardia di faccia. You will then throw a roverso to the thigh. Not moving. Not the foot. Neither the legs. Your sword will fall into the coda lunga e stretta and if he throws anew to the aforementioned parts then close the sword with the brochiero and parry the attack and make a mandritto tondo to the leg and go into a sotto braccio. Throwing a roverso sgualebrato that engages the head and ends with the point at the feet. Mount a montante and your sword will go into a guardia alta. Here there is need to make beautiful the play. That is in tagliare, and in chioccare di brochiero, and in montare and when you raise your sword do not pass into guardia di testa and your arm is well extended and formed.”

Part Seven.

“And here you return back to play, making a gran passo with the right foot to the rear of the left.

You will throw under the arm a mandritto throwing immediately a rising ridoppio roverso. In this attack move the left foot strongly to the rear. Renew an attack under the arm with a mandritto upon moving the right foot behind the left and that attack should be close to the right attacking the arm of the brochiero on the inside of the sword arm. In this mode your sword will be outside of the left arm. You will then do two (rising) molinelli, forward to the right of your left foot and ultimately it will go up, beating above your right sword. That is turning the shoulder to him you play with. Move the right foot close to the left and make a gran passo with said right foot doing in this pass three molinelli with one to the outside and two to the inside. After the last go above the left arm hitting the pommel against the inside rim of the brochiero and throwing the left leg close to the right. Keeping them well formed and tight when possible. You will return to the play in the rear and finish the first assault.”

Capitula 11 Seconda Assalta

“Now here I will begin the second assault of the said brochiero stretta which I want you to go strongly with narrow half swording. I do not put other play at present for it is too much to write. However, you will go to play with one of those that you have learned from me. Note, first you will be in a well formed guardia alta.”

“Then, being in said guardia alta and your enemy being in guardia di sopra braccio, here I want you to hurl your right foot strongly forward and in this movement thrust at the face of your enemy to the outside right side. If in fear of the thrust he defends high, you will strike below with a roverso to the right thigh keeping the buckler at the head, throwing immediately for your parry a rising falso to the sword arm of your enemy, and then cutting with a fendente to the brochiero. In this manner you will embellish the play in the manner employed. That is, retiring to the said guardia alta.”

Second Part

“Being on guard, as aforementioned, or being sopra braccio, or in the same guard as your enemy, then throw a fendente to the head. However, do not pass into the guardia di faccia. Immediately throw a ridoppio roverso which strikes strongly at the enemy’s sword. In this manner for fear of the ridoppio he will uncover the part above the right side. Then throw two tramazzoni with a fendente dritto and your sword will go into the porta di ferro stretta. If your enemy attacks your head, then you will give a thrust to the face accompanied with your brochiero to your inside and block the attack with the right edge of the sword. That is in the guardia di faccia. Step with the left foot opposite his right side during this parry and give a roverso to his temple. Your right leg will now follow the left behind and your sword will end in the coda lunga e alta. Then if your enemy attacks your head or your leg immediately hurl your left foot opposite your right side and put a falso under that of your enemy’s sword stepping in this time with your right foot strongly to the left side of the same. Throw then a mandritta going into the sotto braccio and the left leg following the right to the rear throwing in this exact time a roverso, montando del montante, following to the rear, throwing the right leg close by the left with your sword going into the guardia alta embellishing the play. Then the manner to exercise, that is with tagliare, giocare, montare di montante, passeggiando, and throwing your leg as usual. In this manner your sword will return to the guardia alta with your arms and legs well formed.”

Part Three

“Being in the guardia alta and your enemy being where he wishes, I want you to advance forward with your right foot and throw a fendente to the rim of the brochiero going into the porta di ferro stretta. Do not stop with said fendente but throw a tramazzone at your enemy’s sword that pushes into a thrust to the face accompanied with the brochiero and your left leg. Passing and thrusting to the right side of your enemy. Then for fear of the punta dritta he will uncover the left side and you will give a fendente to the head stepping with your right foot in such time to the right of your enemy, following, and throwing a roverso with your right foot behind the left. In this manner you will be in the guardia di coda lunga e alta and in the time that your enemy throws a tramazzone or

a mandritta I want you to pass forward with the right foot and in this passing you will thrust at the face of your enemy accompanied with your brochiere and going to the guardia di faccia. And in parrying you will give a roverso to the leg and cut with a fendente behind the rim of the brochiere with the right foot being hurled behind the left, then embellish the play. That is chiocarre di brochiere, and montare in a useful manner, with you returning to the guardia alta with well formed arms as I have said before.”

Part Four

“Now, being in the guardia alta as before mentioned, I want you to pass forward with the right foot and throw a fendente and a rising falso and a roverso at the same time at the rim of the brochiere. Your sword will fall into the coda lunga e stretta. If your enemy cuts at your head or leg I want you to parry with a rising falso and with two tramazzoni at the head, finally coming into the porta di ferro stretta. And if he responds in a similar manner I want you to strike with a falso and pass the left foot toward the right side of your enemy and cut with a roverso to the rim of your brochiere which goes strongly to the face. Your left foot will go close by the right and you will strongly embellish the play. That is in the manner of chiocarre di brochiere, and going up again in the guardia alta as I trained you to do.”

Part Five

“Now, being in the guardia alta, there is a need that you issue a thrust in the manner of a montante, that is passing with your left foot to the right side of your enemy. The point will be shoved strongly to the left side of the face and in fear of said thrust he will cover said side. Then you will give a mandritta di falso to the head between the sword and buckler passing in this cut with your right foot against his left side and the left leg following the right to the rear. Your sword should not pass into the guardia di intrare stretto. Then there is need that he attacks you above taking and attacking you will engage the attack with the right edge of your sword. Then give a reverse thrust to the right temple. In this manner do not pass into the guardia di coda lunga alta. Then throwing the right foot close to the left embellish the play in a useful manner. That is, chiocarre, and montare di montante with his passing yet returning to the guardia alta as I have before said with the arms and legs extended in a useful manner and well formed.”

Part Six

“Now note and remain attentive that when you go about deceiving one at play, I want you to cover, that if he does a montante that you are first to cover and immediately covering you will cut to the face in the rim of your buckler with a fendente and with the right foot forward. Do not go into the porta di ferro alta. Then if your enemy throws low or high or with a punta, a mandritto, or tramazone and also a roverso, at this attack you will throw a rising falso with the sword and with your brochiere together accompanied with the same to the temple followed with your foot. That is, the left doing a pass to his right side with a tramazone and end in the porta di ferro stretta. Reverse thrust if your enemy cuts to your head and in this cut parry with a falso and a mandritto and a roverso tondo still cutting with another roverso spinto at the rim of the brochiere, hurling in the same time the right foot behind the left and throwing the left close by the right. Here you will embellish the play. That is, in chioccare and montare in a useful manner as aforementioned. You will go into a well formed guardia alta with your arms and legs well extended.”

Part Seven

“Now, remaining in the guardia alta, there is need that you throw a mandritto tondo below the arm. That is to say he will answer you as in all the parts above, but answering you in the aforementioned parts, in this attack, hurl your left foot opposite his right side you will engage your sword with the hand of the brochiere in the style of a spada in armi and parry the attack of your enemy, thrusting at the face and with a fendente mandritto to the head between the sword and buckler. With your right foot in the same time pass to the right in the porta di ferro alta. Then at the response of your enemy you will thrust to his face accompanied with your brochiere and give him a roverso to his right thigh. At the same time cut with another reverse thrust at the

rim of the brochiero following with the right foot behind the left. In this manner said left will be close by the right and it is strong. You will then embellish the play with *chioccare* and *montare* in a useful manner returning to the *guardia alta* as aforementioned.”

Part Eight

“Now, being still in the said *guardia alta*, you will throw two *mandritti toni* at the face passing in the same time the right foot forward. After the final *mandritta* do not stop, but push a *ponta* outside his sword, high on the right side, going strongly to the left temple. Then for his fear of the *ponta dritta* he will open forward. In this you will strike with your hilt his sword and you will attack him with a *mezo mandritto* in *falso* and your sword will be low with the right foot forward passing to his left side. In the same time strike anew with said hilt and give a *mezo roverso spinto* to his right temple passing with your left foot to his right side and immediately for your defense hurl the right foot behind the left with a *ponta* in the *guardia di faccia*. You will embellish your play with *tagliare*, *montare*, and *chioccare di brochiero* in a useful manner. Here now you will return to play behind this of which I have imparted. And in this manner is the finish of the second assault.”

Capitula 12 Del Prologo del Terzo Assalto

“In the name of Jesus Christ, I will here talk about the third assault, which will show the art of the half sword. I will do so because, if you wish to teach, you should know that the art of the half sword is the best part of swordplay; therefore, those who teach or who consider themselves good fencers but do not know this art, cannot really be called proficient. Therefore, I want you to know that this is the foundation of the art of fencing. Not so much with the small *brochiero* than with all other sorts of arms, such as staff and edged weapons. In light of this, I advise you to teach these techniques to those who have courage, because they will try them without a second thought: these will also be the ones who will do you honor. But to those others who you will judge as lacking courage, you should give instructions about the first assault, because should you teach them about the second or third, these lessons would be lost upon them, since they would not have the necessary courage (now or at any other time).”

Capitula 13

“I also advise you that as you start teaching someone, you should not begin with something difficult, since that would seem too hard to them; doing so would turn them away and would cause them to not learn as eagerly as those who start with something more gradual. Anyway, I will expand your mind later. Now, I want to start with the first part of said third assault. However, I wish to give you a lesson about teaching.”

“Please note that if you wish to teach, I advise you not to teach all the painstaking details of the third assault in public, in order to avoid others trying to copy it. In other words, you should make sure that others do not see your principles. Also, you should avoid this for another reason. If you teach them such play and close techniques, you cannot step to the next level since there is a difference between wide and close play. Besides, a beginner would be confused by all the half-swording techniques. Therefore, they would not be satisfied, but would always expect you to move on to something better, not appreciating the good instruction you are giving. It is for these reasons that you should start with other things. That is, teach them the fundamental things; once they have learned the said fundamentals, I want you to give them the principles of this third assault. In this manner, you will make them happy. Please know that I exhort you to teach these things so that you do not forget them; also, sometimes you will have to re-read this book so that you will not forget. Do as the proverb says: he who pays well learns well, and he who pays poorly learns poorly. Therefore, teach well those who pay well, because you will conscientiously repay them. It is a great sin of the soul not to teach well those who pay their debt to their teacher.

This is equally true for the rich and for the poor, since a “ducato¹” is worth to a poor man what two are worth to a rich one.”

Prima parte del terzo assalto

“Please note that it is needful that you go to find your enemy with one of those, going to play that has an opinion of you. When you are close by to him, you will get into the porta di ferro alta and he will be as you or in sopra braccio, or guardia alta. Then you will push a punta in falsa at him to the outside of his sword going strongly against his left temple with left foot stepping forward with the attack. In this manner you will with your right foot kick to his “peteneccchio” (groin?) with a fendente to the head returning the said right foot to the rear. For your defense you will hurl your left foot back and throw a roverso scannato (a roverso that cuts the throat) to the head and arm in the manner that the sword goes into the coda lunga e stretta. Then if your enemy responds to your head or to the leg you will defend with a rising falso traversato accompanied with the brochiero. In a time you will slice with a roverso to the right leg and for your defense hurl the right foot behind the left. You will then cut with a fendente roverso at the rim of the brochiero with the left foot coming close by the right. Here you will embellish your play in a useful manner with chioccare e montare with a punta in the act of a montante that does not pass into said porta di ferro alta as aforementioned.”

Capitula 14

“If you were in the said porta di ferro alta, and the opponent attacked you with a thrust, in that tempo you will perform an elsa e fugge; your sword should end up in porta di ferro larga. Without stopping, you will turn a roverso in coda lunga e distesa and in this manner you will frustrate his design and cause him some harm. After the said roverso, you will withdraw the left leg behind the right, embellishing the play in the usual fashion. In case you don't know what "elza e fugie" is, I will explain it to you presently. Elza e fugie is when your opponent delivers you a dangerous blow as you are in porta di ferro alta or stretta or larga, or sopra il braccio, or in coda lunga e stretta, or in chinghiara porta di ferro - no matter what posture you are in, as long as it is a low guard. In the time that he delivers the blow, you will give a strong upward falso [to his sword] followed by a mandritto fendente [to his body], at the same time pulling your right leg behind the left. This is called elza e fugie. Please know that this technique is a good counter against one who wants to penetrate your guard therefore make a note of it and be careful.”

Second Part

“As you are in the said porta di ferro alta and if your opponent is right-foot forward (no matter in what high guard), you should pass with the left foot toward his right side and while you step you should feint a tramazzone, then push a thrust to his face, as you cover [your blow] with the brochiero. As he draws his sword to the outside in order to parry your thrust, you should pull your sword under his and push another thrust between his sword and his buckler. This thrust should be done upward toward his face. For your defense, you should cut with a roverso fendente to the rim of the buckler, at the same time pulling your right foot behind the left, then pulling the left again behind the right. Here, you will embellish the play in the usual fashion, that is by means of chioccare [striking the hub of the buckler with a cut as he describes in another chapter?] and thrusting upward in montante fashion (which thrust will not go past the position of a porta di ferro alta). In this manner, you will return in the same position described above.”

Capitula 15

“Being in said porta di ferro alta as he is, take notice and guard the sword hand as he will want to pass with the left foot with the look of making a tramazzon in order to push a thrust at you. Then you will escape with your right leg going behind the left with a traverse. In this escape you will

¹ A unit of currency from the time period that the book was written.

throw two, strong, tramazzoni at his sword hand and in this manner you will lower your guard into the cinghiara porta di ferro. For your defense when he then attacks you, immediately step forward with the right foot and throw a rising falso with a mandritto tondo under the arm together with a roverso. Here you will embellish your play, that is you will cut with another roverso to the rim of the brochiero throwing the right foot behind the left, the left being close by the right. Then you will use a chioccare di brochiero or you will rise a thrust as aforementioned and you will go into the porta di ferro alta with your arm and legs well formed.”

Terza Parte

“If you are in the said porta di ferro and your enemy is in the guardia alta as you, or else he attacks upwards, in this time that he raises then pretend to thrust at his face with the left foot passing forward. In this passing step you will engage the sword with the hand of your brochiero in the style of a spada in armi. In the same time you will give a calzo (kick) with the right foot to the peteneccio (groin) or return again behind the left not stopping the left but giving a fendente to his head. In this manner your sword will go into the porta di ferro stretta. Then if your enemy responds with an attack you will strike said with a rising falso followed with a mandritta to the leg and a roverso to the face stepping in this attack a little forward with the right foot. For your defense you will step back with the right foot and you will cut with a fendente roverso at the rim of the brochiero and throwing the left leg close by the right and in this manner you will embellish your play. That is in chioccare and thrusting upward as aforementioned. You will end in the porta di ferro alta. If you do not forget and always keep ordered, countering your enemy’s braveness with good boldness without fear, and having the same order, your enemy will not be able to engage you overboldly and you will always have honor.”

Capitula 16

“If your opponent feints at you with the said thrust as you are in the guardia alta (or if your sword has reached a high position after you performed a montante), I advise that you are especially careful never to take your eye away from his sword-hand. This way, you will not move as a consequence of his feint. If he tried to kick you with his right foot, you can counter his move in two ways. Firstly, as he lifted his right leg to kick you, you could strike him in the shin of the said right leg with the rim of your buckler, as your sword parries his fendente to the head. This is one of the counters you could perform. The other is that if he intended to pass with his left foot as he feinted a push, or if he actually intended to push, with that motion you would hurl your right foot behind the left (as he pushes). At the same time, you would thrust at him in montante fashion. This will proceed upwards towards his face, and your sword will end in cinghiara porta di ferro alta. From here, you will embellish the play. You will withdraw your left foot near the right, then you will be able to step out with said left foot and strike your brochiero and go up in the usual fashion to porta di ferro alta.“

Quarte Parte

“Being as aforementioned in said porta di ferro alta and your enemy being as you, then you will approach him close by and you will throw a tramazzon to his head. However, do not pass into the guardia di faccia. In this manner your enemy will defend with the sword and brochiero at the right side of the head. Then during his defense you will abandon your sword and brochiero (dropping them to the ground) and you will grab with your right hand his brochiero and with the left you will grab his sword. That is to the inside of the brochiero. You will then turn your hand to a roversa. In this mode you will draw out his weapons from his hands without failing.”

Capitula 17

“Now being in the porta di ferro alta as is said, and your enemy throws a tramazzon to make you parry, I want you to defend with your sword and brochiero together with your arms extended out forward. And when he has hurled his sword and brochiero down for engaging you by hand, you will remain on your guard for he will throw his hands and your right leg will move with a gran passo behind the left and you will throw a fendente to the head. You will then be in the cinghiara

porta di ferro stretta and in this manner your enemy will be amazed without a weapon and you will have given him a hit to the head and note this.”

Quinta Parte

“If you are in porta di ferro alta, or stretta or are in coda lunga e stretta, here I want you to push a thrust with the left foot forward to the outside of his sword to his face with the intention that he is in the porta di ferro alta or sopra braccie. And this he will do in order to get outside with a falso to the sword as to parry your thrust. Then as your falso touches his you will engage his sword with the hand of your brochiero on the inside. In this manner you will give a twist downwards and you will have the sword in hand. And giving it with power you will know that you will not fail.”

Capitula 18

“If you are in the porta di ferro alta or in the sopra braccie and your enemy pushes a thrust to the outside of your face with his left foot going to presa, I want you in this push that you accompany the false edge of your sword with his while not moving the feet. When he hurls the hand of his brochiero to engage the sword you will in the same time slice a cut at his face and together with a tramazzon your right foot will follow in a manner that you end in porta di ferro cinghiara stretta. In this manner do not go to presa and you will have cut his face, and the tramazzon will strike his right hand. With this you will embellish the play in the manner aforementioned.”

Sesta Parte

“Being still in the porta di ferro alta or stretta and if your enemy throws a cut to your head, I want you to throw your left foot strongly forward to the right and take the attack on the sword with your brochiero accompanying it. And in this parry you will turn the hand to the inside and engage his sword with your hand of your buckler and give a turn downwards to take his sword from his hand and give a thrust to his chest or to the face. And in this you will not fail as I said before.”

Capitula 19

“If you are in the guardia alta or in the porta di ferro and being agente, that is the principal one to attack with mandritti or tramazzoni, in this I want to warn you that when you do such edge cuts or tramazzoni that he will want to come to grips with you. Know for certain when you throw a right edge cut follow it quickly with a roverso with the right foot following behind the left. In this you will end in the coda lunga e alta. In this manner he will not be able to come to grips. Then when you throw a tramazzon at someone, I would exhort you to not throw just one, but always two or three. Do not remain still for you always throw another one following and so end in the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta. This thing do so you will not be griped and you will be certain.”

Settima Parte

“If you are in the coda lunga e stretta or in the porta di ferro alta as aforementioned, or in the guardia alta and your enemy is moving into the guardia alta, in the same time regains the guardia alta then you will pass your left foot forward and push a thrust in falso to his right temple. In the same time you will feint with a mandritto to his left side with your right foot opposite his left side and then you will give a roverso to the right thigh. For your defense you will hurl your right foot behind the left and cut a roverso fendente to the rim of the your brochiero and here you will embellish the play in a useful manner.”

Capitula 20

“Now I want to give you a beautiful counter to one who attacks you with a tramazzon when you are in the porta di ferro larga, or stretta or alta with the intention of counterstepping with the left foot traversing against your right side and beating your sword or head. Watch well for when he countersteps with the left foot and throws the tramazzon you will withdraw your right leg a little and your sword arm. More when considering that said tramazzon is not able to hit you. And immediately upon the passing of the tramazzon step with your right foot and give a roverso tondo

to the face, cutting in said roverso a fendente roverso to the rim of the buckler and the right foot will go behind the left. In this manner you will embellish the play as aforementioned.”

Capitula 21

“Again, I want to give you another counter for one who throws a roverso at the leg. When you take up the sopra braccio and one attacks, you will move your left foot opposite the right side of your enemy and put the flat of your sword under his roverso and then you will give a roverso to his neck or head and settle into the coda lunga e alta and you will be in order to parry his attack.”

“And still in said roverso to the leg, step with the right leg over the left and you leaving will let the roverso pass. And you will move the right leg forward and give a roverso to his right temple and your sword will go into the coda lunga e stretta and you will settle in a well formed manner with the arms extended.”

“You should know that in this roverso to the leg, I want you to pull your right foot close by the left and said roverso will pass and in passing you will put the left foot forward opposite his right side and you will give a roverso spinto to his right temple. In this manner you will return to the coda lunga e alta. Know this for pulling the right foot where the left is in such time, putting forward if it demands a disguising of the feet, then note for another turn.”

Ottava Parte

“When you come into the porta di ferro alta and your enemy is in the same guard, I want you to strongly touch the false edge to his false edge. Then you will pass your left foot strongly opposite his right side and push a thrust strongly to his face turning the wrist downwards and your right edge will be against his false edge and your hand will rise strongly. In this manner you will raise his sword hand and you will then come to grips with the hand of the buckler on the inside as aforementioned. You will then remove the sword from the hand as you wish.”

Capitula 22

“You should know when you are in the porta di ferro alta and your enemy is in the same, and you are being patiente, that is to see what your enemy may want to do, I want you to remain attentive. For when you touch false edge to false edge you should watch his sword hand well. You should do this for the reason of said presa or another attack. Seeing the pass of said right foot to the outside with the sword thrusting to disconcert you and to make follie of your right arm: here he gives consideration on giving you said presa or another attack. When he makes the pass, you will throw your right foot in a gran passo to the rear of the left and you will make a half turn of the hand in the manner that you place your true edge to his false edge and you will be in the coda lunga e alta. In this manner he will not displease you and you will do well.”

Capitula 23 Della diffinitione di filo falso con filo falso

“Please note that everything you see written from here on (that is, starting from the third assault) pertains to the half-sword. It is nonetheless true that these things can only be performed false edge against false edge. Some of them can be performed from a greater distance [from the opponent], others closer. However, they all pertain to the half sword or to the close [measure] as said. I also wish you to know that all this pushing of the half-sword (of which I will speak from here on in the third assault) can only be performed with the part of the sword between the tip and the false edge. For this reason, these techniques are called false-edge stretti. [Likewise] please note that I will associate true edge with true edge.”

Capitula 24

“You know from the third assault (as well as from other things I showed you) what can be done with the false edge against false edge. However, please note that, to be true to the rule, I have only included teachings that are effective, concise and useful to your students. I am well aware that, were one to include absolutely everything, ten books bigger than this one would not suffice.”

Although, as you know, the art of writing is not established by those who understand our discipline and who are willing to stir their step! Anyway, for now I will say no more. I want to start the section about true edge against true edge, so now please be patient [and hear me out]. “

Capitula 25

“Know that wanting to go and find the true edge to true edge, there is a need that you be in a low guard, preferably the porta di ferro stretta or alta, or in the coda lunga e alta. Also in the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta or larga or even if you go with him in the guardia distesa; nevertheless if in one of these guards, you will see here what is written: The first need for going true-edge to true-edge is that you go into a porta di ferro alta or stretta, in coda lunga e stretta and in some other posture that you know. And this I will say, that in this manner you will enter into the coda lunga e alta for it guards well. Still if he does the same thing with other arms, especially two handed sword or single sword, or sword and large brochiero or targa or rotella. I am not saying that you can use all these techniques, but the major part of them, both with the true and the false edge. Therefore, let me suggest to you that, even though I have taught you these things personally, I have disposed things so that should you not practice this art for a while, you can go back to this book, and you will remember everything by reading it. But let me reassure you that even if you keep practicing this art of fencing, you may sometimes want to read this book for your edification while you exercise and become a good practitioner. For I want you to know that at times, good practice is worth as much as good knowledge, so do not be surprised [by my advice].”

Capitula 26 Della prima parte del filo dritto

“In the name of God I will commence the first part of the true edge² with the true edge. You will regain the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward. But I will put you in this guard for a little bit for it is not very appropriate for the brochiero stretto. Now watch well for being in this coda lunga e alta and your enemy comes to where you are, here you will push a thrust inside his sword and brochiero that will go to the face. He, in his parry, will uncover his right side. Then you will pass your left foot forward opposite his right side and will feint with a roverso but still being close to his sword. And in this feint of a roverso you will lower the sword with the point towards the earth in the fashion of a molinello and you will lower yours and engage his in the manner that you raise his hand. That is you give a downwards twist. In this manner he will be without his sword...”

Capitula 27

“If you are in a low guard with your right foot forward and your enemy wants to enter countering with the right edge, that is with half sword, then you will want to deceive him by raising while he is entering confidently, but guard against his sword hand for when he passes with the left foot with the feint you will not move. But when he throws his sword towards the earth then you will lift your sword hand and go into the guardia alta followed by moving your right foot behind the left. You will then give a fendente to his head and in this manner your sword will go into the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta...”

Seconda Parte

“If you remain in the cinghiara porta di ferro to counter this first narrow right edge to right edge, I want you to be agent. That is you will do the first entrance into the said right edge. You will pass your right foot forward finding him in the porta di ferro alta, or stretta, or larga and you will enter with said right edge in the style of a guardia di faccia...”

² The true edge is also called the right edge. This if filo dritto in Italian.

Capitula 28

You will immediately do a half turn of the hand downwards and in this manner the false edge will be against your enemy's true edge. Raise your right hand a little so that your sword point goes to the face and he for fear of the thrust will push your right arm to his weak side. You will in the same time pass your left foot opposite his right side and you will engage his sword arm with the hand of your buckler. You will then give a roverso to the head or a thrust to the neck. If you do not want to do this presa, you will be able to give the rim of the brochiero to the outside of said arm (right) and in the time you will give a roverso to the head. Know that this is a great blow. For your defense you will remain with the sword and brochiero in the coda lunga e alta. When you do this said roverso you will counterpass the left foot following it with the right to the rear always.

Terza Parte

"If you are in the porta di ferro alta, stretta or larga and your enemy wants to enter into true-edge to true-edge, I want you to know that you will want him not to come, keeping all in order that I have taught you. But still, you will want to be patiente and allow said engagement in the true-edge. As soon as he enters, guard the hands for the occurrence of these prese. If he turns his false-edge to your true-edge with his hand high, you will not move. But as he passes his left foot (forward) to do a presa or give the brochiero to the sword arm, then you will hurl your right foot strongly behind the left and you will feign a roverso to his right arm or neck and slicing you will make said roverso more for defense to escape with the left foot behind the right. You will then put your sword in the guardia di faccia accompanying your sword arm with that of the brochiero. Your arms will be well extended to the right of your enemy's face."

Capitula 29

"If you are here in the coda lunga e alta or the porta di ferro stretta or alta, or you are in the coda lunga e stretta and your enemy is in the porta di ferro alta or stretta, here you will enter in quickly to the true-edge to true-edge, with the right foot forward and strong to the right. Doing this you will hurl your left (foot) opposite his right side: making it look like you will give a roverso to the head. In this feint you will hurl your sword behind your shoulder and you will thrust the head under his right "lesina" and with the right arm you will engage the right leg with the intension of thrusting said arm between his legs. In this manner you will hurl him behind your shoulder or carry him away. And in this you will not fail."

Quarte Parte

"You being in the porta di ferro alta or stretta and your enemy engaging you true-edge to true-edge, have courage that you wanting to be patiente, you will need to guard the hands. For this reason I want you to know that guarding the hands, he will not be able to do this thing to you without seeing. When he passes his left foot to your right side do not move until he hurls his sword away. Then when he has moved the sword so that he may thrust his head under your "lesina" and you will quickly hurl the right strongly behind the left while throwing a roverso redoppio to the leading leg. And this he will not be able to fail. Still, I want you to know that you can hit him in the head with the rim of your brochiero."

Capitula 30

"Now watch well for being in the porta di ferro alta or in the coda lunga e alta or coda lunga e stretta, and in consideration that you want to be agente. That is you will be the first to enter the half sword and in the utmost true-edge to true-edge. You will need to go safely that you find the guardia alta or porta di ferro alta. Then finding him in said two guards you will enter in quickly to true-edge to true-edge. This with your sword hand above your brochiero and this I would do that if he is in the guardia alta he will not be able to strike your right hand. Immediately on coming to the true-edge you will turn the false edge of the sword to his true edge in the manner that you will slice his face with a roverso. Then in his fear of the roverso he will raise his right arm and you will in the same moment do a dritto redoppio inside his right arm with a traversato of the leading

leg to the outside of his right arm. For your defense you will embellish your play in a useful manner and you will return to the porta di ferro alta with your brochiero well formed.”

Quinta Parte

“If you return to the guardia alta or porta di ferro alta, know that here is the consideration that you will be able to be agente or patiente. But still, you seeing your enemy in one of these aforementioned guards, thinking he has a large imagination of coming to you true-edge to true-edge, watch well, for when he comes turning his false edge to your true-edge to slice your face you will throw your right foot behind the left and then throw a large tramazon to his sword arm or hand. In this manner your sword will return to the porta di ferro cinghiara and in this manner you will have broken his intention. He will also not be able to do a roverso to your leg or a mandritto redoppio. Still, he will not have a roverso to the leading leg. In this manner I will be able in the same turn, being patiente, to prove the man as you will be forward and behind.”

Capitula 31

“Watch well, for being led to true-edge to true-edge with your enemy, here you will strike his sword with your hilt to the inside in the manner that you will give a roverso to the right temple. During this you will pass your left foot opposite his right side and placing your brochiero against his sword arm. For your defense you will throw your right foot behind the left and you will put your sword and brochiero into the guardia di faccia.”

Sesta Parte

“Watch well for when you lead to said true-edge and your enemy waits to strike your sword with his hilt so as to give you a roverso to the temple, I want you to know there is a need in this strike for you to throw your right foot behind your enemy and to make a half turn of the hand to your right side and engage your sword with the brochiero in the style of an arming sword. At the same time you will throw the right foot behind the left and make a fendente to the head. In this way your sword will be in the porta di ferro stretta.”

Capitula 32

“Know that when you lead to said true-edge you will push strongly with the hilt against your enemy’s sword to the inside. That is against his left side. In this strike you will throw your left leg overlapping the outside of his right and your hand of your brochiero feeling his arm and you will put a traverso to his throat to the inside side. In this way you will in said arm in the outside strongly. And your left leg inside in the style of a gambarola, still you will drop him backwards to the ground and feeling in this passing of the leg and arms put you in the aforementioned place that you do not abandon your sword from his.”

Capitula 33

“Being led to said true-edge and your enemy striking his hilt against your sword, when he passes his left foot to do the gambarola with his right arm to your throat, and to throw you back, then on seeing the pass of his left leg to your right side, quickly throw your right leg behind the left and in this manner you will give a roverso to the leg. In this manner you will dupe him. Do not pass into the guardia di coda lunga e alta but stay narrow with the sword and brochiero. But guard for when you are leading true-edge to true-edge, here it is considered if you are quick of hand or not. If you are quick, that is, your hand strikes rising with the hilt to his sword and you will give him a roverso to the thigh while not moving. Neither foot or leg. Quickly for your defense you will return above as in the arming sword and know that this is a clean attack that is pleasing to one who has quickness of hand and for one who is lazy is good for nothing.”

Capitula 34

“Then knowing that when you will be in said true-edge with your enemy, you will need to remain wary. If he has quickness of hand you must attack without him perceiving you. But remaining attentive of him, that when he strikes to your sword to go to the roverso, then do a roverso to the

rising leg, to the neck or to the sword arm. In this I would not fail. That is to say you know that this is a roverso to the leg; I will specify to you here. I want you to throw a roverso traversato, following your right leg back and not putting to earth until the said roverso is thrown. When you escape you will throw in the manner a “calzo” behind and this will demand a roverso as aforementioned.”

Capitula 35

“Please know that being in said true-edge or wanting to be in false-edge, you will be able to do more prese of the sword and many feigns, and turns of the wrist, and feigns of roverso, and striking of the true edge, and feigns of the true edge and striking of roverso: and also feigns of roversi and strikes of the falsi. Therefore do not be amazed when one resorts to the two modes of the half sword, if I will be able to do many things. But I will tell you well that he that has come to knowledge when is it this half sword. I intend and I will know enter and strike all said two modes of the half sword. I want you to know how excellent that is and perfect play. I know the time and those that do not do such art and who are not able to understand time, more half time and who are not able to be true players; Being God, that when I play with other players that I still turn to touch, but not touching upon what he knows, but touching on strength. This is because he is not founded in the art of half sword. Because I say to you, that when you teach your students for your honor, and for usefulness of the principles when you have given the forward eighth or ninth play. You will divide some of these half sword between half and other botte. And in this manner you will make good practices and strong players and remain in strong botte, doing but for that learning of skirmishing. Because gioco largo (wide play) teaches skirmishing and narrow teaches to remain strong in all botte and make good courage to said students. Because first you must have habits and in this manner he will do well and be a firm player. I comfort you that keep these orders. But not to watch, that these narrow or botte are in the small brochiero that still is very much able to do with the single sword as I have said. And in the two handed sword, the sword and targa and large brochiero. And also in the sword and rotella as well as hafted weapons as I have done, as you will do, if you do not forget.”

Capitula 36 Spada e Pugnale

“This is a perfect combat for wounding. That is, the sword and Bolonese dagger. Note when teaching someone this art of wounding that it is more natural. That is mandritti, roversi or stoccate. But I will say more of other attacks. Now note that I have a good imagination and I have harvested the parries more brief and more useful for one who must combat.”

Capitula 37

“First you will be settled with the left foot forward and your dagger in your left hand in the porta di ferro stretta. In your right hand hold your sword in the coda lunga e alta. Keep your arms extended and tight. Note that whenever possible, I want you to be the first to attack. But do not let him be the first to attack you. I want you to take this order: that is throw a rising falso at his sword hand or to the dagger, yet remain with your left foot forward. One foot following the other. In this manner you will be strong against an attack to the head or leg. If he attacks to the leg you will put the right edge of your dagger to the attack. That is turn the point of the dagger towards the ground and parry the mandritto of the enemy. In a single time pass with the right leg (into a gran passo) opposite his left side and give a mandritto to his leg going into a porta di ferro larga with your dagger in the guardia di testa. Then if your enemy throws a mandritto or a roverso at the head, or even a stoccata, I want you to make a rising strike with the false edge of your sword against his sword and follow it with a mandritto to the leg. With this cut you will move the right foot a little forward and immediately throw a roverso. Follow this with moving the right foot in a gran passo to the rear of the left. The roverso should go to the sword arm of your enemy. Then the dagger will return to the porta di ferro and your sword will be in the coda lunga e alta. In this manner you have returned to the same guard as used at first and await another turn to attack.”

Capitula 38

“Being in the coda lunga e alta with your sword and dagger as aforementioned, if your enemy throws a mandritta at your head, you will move your right foot strongly forward parrying with the sword and you will attack his side with your dagger. When you make this parry the sword hand should be extended and the point guarding towards the earth and for your defense throw a mandritto fendente with your right foot flying back and in this manner your sword will be in the cinghiara porta di ferro and your dagger in the guardia di testa. When you are like this if your enemy another attack, high or low, move your right foot opposite the left side of your enemy and strike a falso at the attack and give a roverso to the leg. Then throw a rising falso followed by right for back for the hand you will make a half turn of the fist on both hands and you will be in the coda lunga e alta with the sword and porta di ferro alta with the dagger. This with both arms extended.”

Capitula 39

“Having your sword in the coda lunga e alta and your dagger in the porta di ferro, I want you to feel out your enemy with a stoccadella that makes a draw. But prepare if he does not make an attack. Then throw the right foot opposite his left side and throw a rising falso dritto to the dagger hand and in this manner you be in the coda lunga a stretta again with your dagger in the guardia di testa. Then if your enemy throws a mandritto or a roverso at the head or leg or a thrust to the face, at all of these attacks you will throw a mandritto traversato with the right leg going to the rear with a traverse. In this manner the sword will go into the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta with your dagger in the guardia di testa. Then if your enemy responds to this attacks pass your right foot forward and strike with a rising falso at the attack. You will be in the porta di ferro stretta with your dagger in the guardia di testa. Your arms will be extended to the right side of your enemy and you will stop in this guard.”

Capitula 40

“As you go into this third part you will have your sword in the porta di ferro stretta and your dagger in the guardia di testa. But I want you to employ in this term, that is you will go to one foot hunting the other. Maximally the left will shove the right forward, nevertheless knocking the falso and slicing the right of the arm or the leg or the face, demands an elza e tira”. Going in this manner, he will gather strength to take any attack. Low or high, but supposing he attacks with a fendente or a mandritto tondo to the head, or a mandritto sgualebrato, against these mandritti you will hurl the right foot a little opposite his right side and parry the attack in the guardia di faccia with the point of your sword to the right of the face of your enemy, in the same time, passing left and give a mandritto with the dagger and a roverso with the sword. In this manner your sword will end in the coda lunga e distesa with your left leg forward and your dagger in the porta di ferro alta and formed well. Here you will stop with the eye fixed on the two hands of your enemy. For he is in need of the other part where you make it strong. That is to say he strongly strikes with a punta, or a mandritto imbroccata that one waits for well.”

Capitula 41

“Being in the coda lunga e distesa as in part four and your dagger in the porta di ferro stretta, there is a need to keep this order, that is to feel out with a falso to the hand of the dagger or the sword and to overcome him you will give him a strong attack. Know that when you attack with a falso the right foot hunts out the left and having such order goes strongly attached to this thing. Now being counter to the right hand, to the leg, or to the head or a stoccata, in such time that he attacks, you will hurl the right foot opposite the left part of your enemy and throw a rising falso traversato at the arm or the hand with a roverso turning under in the fashion of a molinello and your left leg follows the right to the rear. You will wait in the coda lunga e stretta with your dagger in the guardia di testa. You will embellish this with your arms and legs being well formed.”

Capitula 42

“Being in the coda lunga e stretta and with your dagger in the guardia di testa, here I want you to throw a half mandritta at his dagger hand. Do this because your enemy attacks you. But guard

well and throw a shot to the head stepping forward four or six inches with your right foot opposite his right side and give a roverso to his right leg. Parry his attack with your dagger and hurl the right foot behind the left. In this retreat make a stoccata at his face under your dagger. In this manner you will go into the coda lunga e alta with your dagger in the porta di ferro stretta. Your left foot will be forward and you will settle in this guard well.”

Capitula 43

“Now look well to the sixth part and remember to remain in the coda lunga and your dagger in the porta di ferro stretta. Here you will be attentive, waiting for your enemy so you may throw a mandritto at the head or the leg. But first I will say that if he throws the mandritto you will parry with the right edge of your dagger and with the parry you will hurl your right foot opposite the left side of your enemy. Then you will give a strong punta to his flank. Or you will issue a half mandritto at the leg. But watch carefully when you issue the punta for you should for your defense give a roverso tramazzone in your flying back with your left leg behind the right. You will throw the roverso with a molinello going outside your right leg and your sword should not pass into the coda lunga e alta. Your dagger should go into the porta di ferro stretta.”

Capitula 44

“Note now that if he threw a mandritto to your leg it is necessary in your parry you issue a roverso while pulling back your right foot and with the roverso you will throw with your left side. That is you will throw it from the left hip. This demands a roverso sgualebrato and watch that your sword goes not into the coda lunga e alta. Your dagger will go into the porta do ferro stretta with the arm and leg well formed.”

Capitula 45

“It is good that you remember to remain with the dagger in the porta do ferro stretta. But with the sword in the coda lunga e alta as aforementioned. If your enemy throws a mandritto at your left leg, I want you to know more about parrying in this manner. You will that that in parrying with the said edge of the dagger turning it to the outside of the left leg with a half turn of the fist. Then you will parry with the false and in this parry you will pass the right foot forward and thrust with a punta or throw a mandritto at the head or leg. And then with this mandritta you will throw a mandritto traversato at the sword arm with the right foot moving behind the left and traversing a little. In this manner your sword will move into the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta with your dagger in the guardia di testa. You should know that in all these parries and attacks that for your defense you should take two or three steps to the rear. Then make a half turn of the first and settle into the coda lunga e alta with the dagger in the porta di ferro. Wait for your enemy who will attack to the leg where I want you to give an alternate parry than the above.”

Capitula 46

“Now watch that you are in this guard that I said in part four. You will be attentive for going to attack wit this mandritto to the leg I want you to defend in this manner. Know that when he throws a mandritto you will give a falso to the sword under his mandritto and you will slice with a roverso to the right thigh with the dagger going into the guardia di testa. For your defense you will throw a rising falso. Escape with your right foot behind and you will settle as said in part eight.”

Capitula 47

“At this same mandritto to the leg that your enemy throws, I want you to give a falso to him, that is with the right edge. And in that same giving of the falso you will throw a fendente to the head with your right foot passing forward. In this manner your sword will end in the porta di ferro stretta and your dagger in the guardia di testa. For your defense you will hurl your right foot back and throw out a rising punta to the face under your dagger and you will make a half turn of the fist and settle in the porta di ferro alta waiting for your enemy who will throw a roverso to the head or leg.”

Capitula 48

“Now watch that you are in the coda lunga e alta with your dagger in the porta di ferro alta as previously mentioned in part nine. Here it is considered that if your enemy throws a roverso to the head or leg, on this roverso have courage for I want you to in the time he throws the roverso to throw your left foot close by the right and you will do a pass to his roverso and passing said roverso he will not be able to harm you. Then you will move your right foot strongly forward and throw a roverso to the leg and your sword will not pass into the guardia di coda lunga e stretta. Your dagger will go into the guardia di testa. For your defense you will throw a stocata to the face of your enemy, under the dagger, following with the right foot to the rear. In this manner you will return to the aforementioned guard, mastering it, that is with your left foot forward and with your sword and dagger useable in this manner. And you will set yourself with your legs and arms as well formed as possible.”

Capitula 49

“Know that being in the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward as said before, here you will be well formed and you will press your opponent in this manner. That is you will throw rising falsi with your sword in this manner for strength if he throws a roversa to the head or leg. Know that in this roversi you will parry with the right edge of the dagger turning the point of the dagger to the ground. That is the inside of your person. And you will move your right foot forward opposite the left side of your enemy and you will give another roverso sgualebrato to his head. In this manner your sword will go in the coda lunga e distesa and your dagger in the guardia di testa. For your defense you will throw a falso or a stocata following with your right foot to the rear of the left. In this manner you will keep your sword and dagger as aforementioned well settled.”

Capitula 50

“Being in the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward and your dagger in porta di ferro you will be in harmony. For if your enemy throws a falso at your dagger hand I want you to make a half turn of the fist downwards and it will go into the coda lunga e stretta and you will defend the falso with the right edge of the dagger. In this defense you will move the right foot forward and make a rising thrust to his chest or make a half mandritta to his leg that he has forward. And for your defense you will throw two or three steps to the rear and you will settle in the coda lunga e alta with your arm and legs well formed and the dagger in the porta di ferro stretta.”

Capitula 51

“Know that in this place you should take three or four steps back. This I would do for reason that when you attack with a cut your enemy may very well want to withstand a second blow so he can, in his fury, deliver one to you. But if you pull back by the said number of steps, in that time his anger will diminish and he will not assault you with the same fury. Therefore do not forget.”

Capitula 52 Del modo che debbe tenere un combattendo di pugnale solo da persona a persona

“Know now that I will give you a combat of the single dagger, that is a thing most useful and short. Thi is the same for one who comes against he who has a reading of arms. I will give you the manner to do this more strongly than another when you come to prese. Note and do not forget.”

Capitula 53

“First you will settle with the right foot forward in the coda lunga e stretta. The left foot will be set in order close to the right, and never move the eyes from the dagger hand of your enemy. In this manner you will first give a thrust to the uncovered glove to the right side with your right hand. If he will have or not have much worse for him, you will turn with that a thrust in mezzo mandritta for the same manner. Your dagger will end in the porta di ferro alta and then you will attack the enemy’s head. You will hurl your right foot a little towards his right side. You will find in this pas his attack with the right edge of the dagger in the guardia di intrare and parrying

the same you will hurl the left foot strongly to his right side and engage his right arm with your left hand on the outside. In this manner you will be able to give a roverso to his head or a thrust to his chest. But watch that he does not throw his left hand to your dagger arm. When you have done this you will retreat four or five steps back and settle in the aforementioned guard.”

Capitula 54

“If you are in the coda longa e stretta and your enemy thrusts to your dagger hand, in the said thrust you will raise your hand and pass by the thrust. In the same time you will give a roverso traversato to his upper dagger arm and if he throws a mandritto to your head you will parry with the true edge of the dagger and give a fendente to his head. You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into a well formed coda longa e stretta, keeping order first.”

Capitula 55

“Remaining in the coda longa e stretta with the dagger, I want you to keep this useful manner, that is, that your left foot follows the right, not ever moving the eyes from the right hand of the enemy. Because, if he throws a mandritto or roverso to the leg, I want you to move your leg a little so it is not possible for him to offend you. Then you will hurl said right foot forward and give a roverso to his face and having thrown said roverso you will take four or five steps back and settle in a well formed coda longa e stretta whenever possible. Always watch the hand as aforementioned.”

Capitula 56

“While in the coda longa e stretta if your enemy throws a mandritto to the head, in this mandritto you will throw your left foot to his right side in the manner that you put the same time for your true edge of your dagger to his mandritto and at the same time for your defense you will throw your left hand inside his arm as aforementioned. You will then give a twist to the outside and in this manner you will be able to give a thrust to his chest. But there is a great need that the pass that you give does not gather the dagger or that he does not turn his shoulder to you. But watch well that when you make this presa that you put your left hand under your dagger. But when you have left your enemy take four or five steps back and settle into a well formed and gallant coda longa e stretta.”

Capitula 57

“Note now that being in the coda longa e stretta, if your enemy gives you a rising thrust with the dagger, I want you to (in the same time) give a mezzo mandritto to his upper right arm. Follow this with a reverse thrust to his chest. In this do not move your feet or leg. When you have done these two turns you will take four or five steps back and settle as I have previously taught you.”

Capitula 58 Dell'abbattimento di pugnale e cappa

“Here I will give you a fight of dagger and cape that is very singular for one who has come to the list of combat, or one who must fight with a dagger sans the sword but with the dagger and cape on the arm. But watch well for there is a need that you keep your eyes on the dagger hand of your companion. For that is more courageous and I want you to know that this is more perilous.”

Capitula 59

“You should know that with the dagger in hand, when you put yourself in a well formed coda longa e stretta, you should keep the cape low. That is to say if your enemy attacks your head with a fendente or a mandritto tondo, here I want you to remain steady, always watching his dagger hand as a principle that I have said to you. For when he raises his arm to give you a hit to your head with a fendente or mandritto tondo, in such time that he raises said arm you will hurl your left foot in a grand passo forward to his right side and you will put your cape under said arm and you will thrust him in the right flank. You will then step with your right foot strongly behind the left and for your defense you will take three of four steps back. You will then settle into the same guard that I have shown you. Your right foot will be forward and your dagger arm extended to the right of your enemy and cape also extended. In this manner your enemy will not be able to

come to your dagger hand ...”

Capitula 60

“If you are in the coda longa e stretta and your enemy is in the same as you, I want you to step with a gran passo with the left foot to the outside of his left leg and thrust forth your cape to the dagger arm of your enemy. In this manner he will not be able to move said arm. You will then give a thrust or a roverso to the neck and for your defense you will take two or three steps back and you will settle in this same guard as I have before told you.”

Capitula 61

“Remaining in the coda longa e stretta as in the second part I want you to keep the cape low. In the manner that your enemy will have cause to throw a high fendente, thrust or dritto tondo. Now watch well as there is a need to remain attentive for when he throws said attack you will give a mezzo mandritto to the inside of his dagger arm while not moving the feet or legs. For safety your left foot will go behind the right and then you will hurl the right foot behind the left making a half turn of the hand and going into the coda longa e alta. That is you will make your left foot forward and remain with your arms and legs well formed.”

Capitula 62

“If you remain in the coda longa e alta as in the third part, I want you to give your uncovered left side to your enemy. That is bring the cape inside towards your right side. And this you will do to cause your enemy to attack you in this uncovering. You must have courage for if he throws a thrust with his right foot to your face or a rising thrust to your flank you must strike strongly with the cape and in this manner you will give a roverso traversato to his face. Know that when you strike you must step forward strongly with your right foot and your left leg will follow behind the right. Having done this you will take three or four steps back and settle into a well formed coda longa e stretta.”

Capitula 63

“If you remain in the coda longa e stretta and your enemy is in the same guard or any other that he wants, I want you to keep this order always with the you stiffling the hand or dagger arm with thrusts or half mandritti and roversi that do not pass ever into the coda longa e stretta, porta di ferro alta, always pressing, that one foot thrusts forth the other and always having the right foot forward. If you do this he will not be able to attack and you will be able to harm him. If you do not forget to keep this way, for throwing some attacks, I have given you all these remedies that you will be able to do. For you must remain warned that he does not dupe you with some of the same for keeping these orders you will not be taken in.”

Capitula 64 Dichiara il modo, che hai a tenere ad insegnare il giuoco, overo combatter di spada & cappa

“In the name of God do I here give the principles and a play most gentile and useful that is of sword and cape for one who must combat man to man.”

Capitula 65

“You will watch well that first you settle yourself in the coda longa e alta with your left foot forward and well formed. The cape you will make turned in the manner of a “tortione” and that hanging to the left side between you and him.

Capitula 66

“Being in the coda lunga et alta, your enemy is where he wants in the porta di ferro in fuore, I want you to thrust with a punta roversa to his face and a roverso sgualebrato. This, stepping forward with the right foot in the manner that your sword is in the coda lunga e stretta. Then if your enemy responds with a similar attack, you will hurl your right foot behind the left in a traverse and you will give a mandritto traversato to his sword arm. In this manner your sword will be in the cinghiara porta di ferro and you will make a half turn of the hand and settle into a

well formed coda lunga e stretta with the cape extended forward.”

Capitula 67

“Remaining in the coda lunga e stretta, if your enemy throws a stoccata to the face, I want you to strike it to the outside with your cape and all in one time you will strike, stepping strongly forward. In stepping forward you will thrust him in the flank. Your left foot will follow the right to the rear and for your defense you will take two or three steps back. You will settle in the porta di ferro stretta and then make a good throw of the cape. Take note.”

Capitula 68

“You know that in the second part you were in the porta di ferro stretta. Here you will push a thrust to the face of your enemy while stepping forward four inches with the right foot with the intention of thrusting to the inside side. In this manner he will then in fear of said thrust strike with his true edge to the inside towards his left side. He will then uncover his right side and you will step with the left foot to his right side and you will hurl your cape at his face, not letting go of the part wrapped around the left arm. You know that if you do not throw said cape you will not be able to thrust him in the chest. For your defense you will hurl the left leg strongly behind the right and you will pull said cape and take three or four steps back. At the same time you will envelope your arm with the cape and settle into a well formed coda longa e alta whenever possible.”

Capitula 69

“If you are in the coda longa e alta and your enemy throws a fendente to the head or a mandritto sgualebrato you must have courage for when he attacks you will hurl the right foot strongly forward and place the cape to his sword arm. At the same time you will step and push a thrust to his right arm and a slicing roverso to his throat. But when you throw the roverso you will hurl the right foot behind the left and thrust with a punta roversa to the enemy’s face. In this manner you will return to the coda longa e alta with the left foot forward and the arms and legs well formed.”

Capitula 70

“You know that in the fourth part you were in the coda longa e alta with the left foot forward. Here you will give the left leg. That is to say he will have reason to throw a roverso at said leg. But know that when he attacks you will do a fooling of the feet, that is you will throw the left foot close by the right so the roverso passes. When his roverso passes you will step forward with the right foot and thrust with a punta roversa at his face between his sword and cape. Together with the thrust you will make a reverse slice at the legs. In this manner you will end in the coda longa e stretta. For your defense you will hurl the leg behind the right and push a thrust to the face. In the thrust you will hurl the left leg behind the right and return to the coda longa e stretta with the arms extended to the right of your enemy. Here you will make a half turn of the hand to the inside and go into a porta di ferro stretta.”

Capitula 71

“Remaining in the porta di ferro stretta, you make a rising strike with a falso to the sword hand of your enemy. This I would do because you should give a “bagha”. That is to say he will have reason to attend to said falsi and you then seeing the time will step forward strongly with the left leg to the outside opposite his right side and throw the cape in a turn. In this manner you will be able to give that which you will want. You know that wanting to do this attack there is a need to put the cape to his arm roughly, not totally enveloping it. That is to say it is possible for you to abandon it when you want. This attack with the cape is different than the first in that in the first you do not abandon the cape but in this you do. But still I say to you that that this attack that is here made is the principle assault of your enemy.”

Capitula 72

“Know that I want you to settle in the coda lunga e stretta. I want you to do this because if your

enemy is in the same guard or in the porta di ferro alta I want you to step forward strongly with the left foot to the right side of the enemy and give him a mandritto to the sword hand. In this you will go into the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta. Then if your enemy attacks the head in a similar attack you will strike in that time that he raises the arm and steps. You will then put the cape to his aforementioned arm and at the same time thrust him in the chest with a punta roversa. For your defense you will slice with a roverso putting your right leg behind and thrusting at his face. In this manner you will be in the coda lunga e alta and you will remain attentive because if your enemy attacks your head or leg I want you to counter him well.”

Capitula 73

“You know that in the preceding part you were in the coda lunga e alta. Know that if your enemy attacks with a stoccata to the face or a mandritta to the head or leg, in all of these attacks I want you to in the same time as the attack step forward with the right foot in a traverse to his left side and throw a mandritto traversato to his head that ends at his sword arm. Your left leg will follow behind the right in this so you end in the porta di ferro larga. Then if he throws a similar attack, high or low, you will give a rising falso to his sword arm together with a mandritto that engages his face on the left side that comes to the chest on the right side. In the time of your attack you will step a little forward with the right foot and make a punta roversa to his face for your defense. Follow this with your right foot going behind the left and in this manner you will return to the coda lunga e alta and settle with your arms and legs well formed.”

Capitula 74

“Remaining in the coda lunga e alta, here you will engage the cape with the left hand not too tightly and you will approach your enemy. Not moving this guard because in another guard it will not be possible for you to do this throwing of the cape that I want you to do. Being as I said before, you will throw one or two stoccate so that he does not realize what you are doing. But when you see the time you will put the point of the sword to your cape and you will throw it forward to his face stepping with the right foot and in this manner he will become entangled (?) And you then will give him that which you please.”

Capitula 75

“Watch well now in this final part. You will settle in a well formed coda lunga e alta because if your enemy attacks your leg or head, I want you to do this, that is to attack his left side. You will throw the left leg opposite his right side and put the true edge to the enemy’s attack. You will then in the same time as the parry throw the right foot strongly forward and give a fendente in the style of a tramazzone to his head. In this manner you will end in the porta di ferro larga. Then being in this guard, if your enemy attacks high with a similar attack you will strike the attack with a rising falso and give a roverso segato to his right thigh stepping opposite his right side with the left foot. For your defense you will throw the left foot behind the right and push a thrust to his face. In that attack you will take three or four steps back and settle into a well formed and gallant coda lunga e alta whenever possible.”

Capitula 76 Due Spade

“I will compose for you a play of case of swords that makes an excellent affair and one that is strong for one who finds a little of what I know of operating. But I will not put you with another who goes to play when they are not of one side of the school or of the fence. You will brandish your right sword and you will go forward leaping two or three steps to such an extent that you arrive close by your enemy and you will settle in the coda lunga e alta with the right sword and with the left in the porta di ferro with the left foot forward.”

Capitula 77

“You know that I tell you that you will remain with the right sword in the coda lunga e alta and that the left sword will be in the porta di ferro alta. Here there is a need that you are agent to make a strike at your enemy and for this reason you will put your left sword under the one that he

has forward. With the right you throw a rising falso to his sword hand. Do not move your feet at all or return to the first guard. But know that if your enemy throws a stoccata or a punta to the face that I want you to (in each of these) issue a falso with the left sword to the outside. In this manner you will step forward with the right foot and thrust to the chest. For your defense you will throw the right foot behind the left and cross your swords together. You will then settle in the same guard as at first. Here I want you to be patiente, that is to allow your companion to attack you.”

Capitula 78

“Remaining in those two same guards that I taught you at first, here I want you to make a target of your left leg for your opponent. That is to say he will have reason to attack you with a dritto or a roverso. Note now that if he throws a mandritto you will parry with the false edge of your left sword. That is throwing the hand high in the guardia di fianco and having parried said mandritto you will step forward with the right foot. You will then give a mandritto to the head or leg or thrust between the flanks. For your defense you will throw the right foot behind the left and cross your swords in the manner that you return to those same guards as at first. You will wait on your opponent to throw a roverso at the head or leg.”

Capitula 79

“Know that if your enemy throws a roverso, high or low, you will throw your right foot forward to his left side and parry the roverso with the true edge of your left sword turning the point to the ground and the pommel rising. Together with your parry you will throw a roverso sgualebrato with the right sword that engages the head and ends at the feet. For your defense you will throw the right foot behind the left and cross your swords together and make a half turn of the hands to return to the initial guards that I first taught. The arms will be extended to the right side of your enemy.”

Capitula 80

“With you remaining with the left sword in the porta di ferro alta and the right in the coda lunga e alta as I first said to you, here you will throw a rising falso to the sword hand with your right sword. When you have thrown said falso you will uncover the upper body a little so that he has reason to attack you. But know that if he attacks with a stoccata, roverso or punta, for each of these attacks, when he attacks, you will throw your right leg strongly forward and meet the attack with a rising strike to your left. In this way you will be crossed and you may give him a roverso in the forward leg with the right sword. In this manner your right sword will be in the coda lunga e stretta and the left in the coda lunga e alta. Then if your enemy attacks your head you will throw the right foot forward towards his right side and parry with the true edge of your left sword. With the right you will give a mandritto sgualebrato commencing at the head and ending at the feet. Not stopping at all you will return the right foot behind and throw a mandritto sgualebrato with the left hand ending in the cinghiara porta di ferro and the right in the coda lunga e stretta. And you will remain well formed and gallant.”

Capitula 81

“You know that remaining in the cinghiara porta di ferro with the left sword and the right in the coda lunga e stretta with the right foot forward that here you will strike with the left sword in a rising falso to the right hand of your enemy while stepping forward with the left leg. With the right sword you will give a mandritto to the leg. In this manner your right sword goes into a cinghiara porta di ferro and your left into the coda lunga e stretta with the left foot forward. Know that when you make this attack there is a need that you find your enemy in the porta di ferro alta and the coda lunga e stretta or with his swords crossed. In this way you will be able to be secure. Being in these guards if your enemy attacks the head or leg throw the right leg forward and cross your swords and having parried give a roverso with the right sword to the legs. Supposing you are in the coda lunga e stretta and the cinghiara porta di ferro with the left foot forward and your enemy does not attack with a similar attack, with the left sword I want you to

thrust between the middle of his swords with the right foot stepping forward. You will do this with the intention of cutting his left arm or leg with a mandritto as he cover his left side by moving into the porta di ferro on the left and the coda lunga e stretta. If he attacks you, for your defense you will cross your swords together, not moving the feet, and give a roverso to the legs. When you have made said roverso you will throw the right leg behind the left and cross your swords. In this manner you will be in the porta di ferro alta on the left and the coda lunga e alta on the right and you will settle well formed with the arms and legs.”

Capitula 82

“When you remain with the left sword in the porta di ferro and the right sword in the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward, there is a need that you find your enemy in the same guard as you. Then on finding him in these guards as I have said, with the left sword you will give a strong roverso to his left sword hand and at the same time step strongly with the right foot to his left side. In this you will also thrust him firmly in the “frinchi” or give him a mandritto to the left leg. For your defense you will throw the right foot behind the left and cross your swords. You will then make a half turn of the hands and return to the porta di ferro on the left and the coda lunga e alta on the right with the left foot forward. You will settle with your arms and legs well formed.”

Capitula 83

“Being in the porta di ferro with the left sword and the coda lunga e alta with the right, here you will put the true edge of the left sword to the outside of your enemy’s left sword. That is to his false edge with the intention that he is in the same stance as you and you will in the same time thrust with a falso impuntato to his left temple while stepping to his left with your right foot. In this manner your left sword will go into the guardia di testa and the right into the porta di ferro larga. Here, if your enemy makes a similar attack, high or low, or even if he does not attack, you will step four inches to his right side with your right foot and strike his swords with a rising falso and make a roverso with the right sword. With the left sword you will make a falso and a mandritto. In this you will step forward with the left leg to his right side and then cross your swords together. For your defense you will immediately throw the left leg behind the right and make a half turn of the hands so that the right sword goes back to the coda lunga e stretta and the left into the coda lunga e alta and you will settle with the arms and legs well formed.”

Capitula 84

“Being still in the coda lunga e stretta on the right and the coda lunga e alta on the left, I want you to throw a rising falso at your enemy’s left sword hand with the left sword so that he will parry to cover. This so he has reason to attack you in the upper body. Or even low. You must remain alert for when he makes the attack you will put the edge of your right sword to his attack turning the point of your sword down and with the left sword you will thrust him in the chest. In this you must not step forward with the left foot to the right. For your defense you will throw the left leg behind the right and attack his head with a fendente in the style of a tramazzone. In this manner your right sword will be in the porta di ferro larga and the left in the coda lunga e alta with the right foot forward. You will settle with the arms and legs well formed and in this manner I want you to make a half turn of the hands. Know that having having done this your right sword will go into the coda lunga e stretta and the left into the cinghiera porta di ferro. Now you will make a falso and roverso with the left hand and a falso mandritto with the right with the right leg going behind the left. In this manner your right sword will go into the cinghiera porta di ferro and the left into the coda lunga e stretta with the left foot forward. Having doen this throw the left leg in a gran passo behind the right with the right sword doing a falso and roverso and the right doing a falso and dritto. Then you will throw the left foot forward and go into a punta di terra with the left sword and the guardia alta with the right. Here your right foot will be ordered with the knee to the point of your left foot and your arms and legs will be extended and well formed and in this mode you will return back to play.”

Capitula 85

“Here I will arrange a combat of spada da filo with brocchiero largo that makes an excellent and very useful thing for teaching, for one who must make attacks. Take note and stay attentive.”

“When you have the spada da filo in hand with the brocchiero largo, I want you to settle into the coda longa e alta, that is with the left foot forward. Keep the sword close by together with the brocchiero. This do because you will be patiente, that is you will wait for your enemy to attack you first. The intention is that when a man attacks another, it is natural for one to make three types of attacks; that is mandritto, roverso and stoccata. But I will tell you of others than these three aforementioned attacks. I confirm to you that in being able to make these, that is, more various attacks that one wants, if you make an attack, I say to you that in principle it is not possible to make other than these three aforementioned attacks. In principle if he makes the first thrust, in making said stoccata, I want you to step forward with the right foot to his left side. During this advance you will strike his stocatta with a rising falso. You will then give him a roverso segato to the legs. Your brocchiero will go below your sword and for your defense you will bring the right foot behind the left. At the same time you will give a mandritto sgualebrato to his sword arm. Your sword will go into the cinghiara porta di ferro and immediately you will bring the left foot behind the right. You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda longa e stretta with the arms and legs extended and the sword to the outside. Here you will be agente. That is you will attack first.”

Capitula 86

“Remaining in the coda longa e stretta, I want you to thrust with a stocatta with the left foot forward and with the right you will throw a mandritto to the legs. You will step in this time to the left side of your enemy and your sword will go into the porta di ferro larga. You will wait for said enemy to attack your head or leg. But I suggest that when he attacks with what he wants: (mandritto, roverso, or stoccata) that you fall out with each of these attacks and strike with a rising falso to his sword. In this attack you will hurl the left foot forward to his right side and give a mandritto to his legs, putting your brocchiero to his sword hand and following in this time with your right leg going behind the left. Having done this you will throw a roverso and move the leg to the rear of the right and in this manner you will be in the coda longa e stretta. For your defense you will throw the right foot in a gran passo behind the left and settle into the coda longa e alta as I first taught with the left foot forward. You will now wait for your enemy to throw a mandritto to the head or legs and waiting with graciousness and not moving the eyes from his sword and you will make it so he cannot deceive you. So stay attentive.”

Capitula 87

“You will be able to remain in the coda longa e alta, waiting for your enemy to throw a mandritto to the head or leg. In throwing said mandritto I want you to in this time to throw your right foot opposite his left side and you will give a mandritto fendente to the head or the sword arm with the intention that in attacking the head you will parry with the brocchiero. Your left foot will follow the right to the rear and you will end in the porta di ferro larga. And if in this retreat your enemy throws a stoccata, mandritto or a roverso, in each of these attacks I want you to strike with a rising falso, stepping in this strike to the his left side with your right foot. During this step you will give a roverso to the legs and your sword will end in the coda longa e stretta. For your defense you will throw the right leg behind the left and throw a mandritto traversato to the sword arm of your enemy. You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda longa e alta and wait for your enemy to throw a roverso to the head or leg. So do not forget.”

Capitula 88

“You know that in principle being the first to attack, I have said that each person has the spada da filo and brocchiero largo in hand and that it is not possible to make more than three attacks naturally. That is the mandritto, roverso and stoccata. At first you have seen the stoccata, second against the mandritto, and third you saw the counter to the roverso. Now note that always being in the coda longa e alta, if your enemy throws a roverso you will make in his attack a step of the

left foot close by the right and you will let his roverso pass. You will then step immediately with the right foot and throw a roverso to the legs or thrust the chest. Immediately you will throw a rising falso to his hands with a strong roverso tramazzon and for your defense you will throw the right foot behind the left and throw a mandritto traversato ending in the cinghiara porta di ferro. You will not move at all because this guard is a good guard for being patiente. That is, when you wait for your companion to attack first. In this good guard thrusting to the chest, there is a need that your right foot follows the left in a gran passo. In this time you will push a rising thrust to the face of your enemy accompanied with the brocciero. Immediately you will settle into the coda longa e distesa and wait for said enemy to attack you first.”

Capitula 89

“Being in coda lunga e distesa, and your enemy has thrown a mandritto, or roverso, or stoccata, to each of these botte I want you hurl your right foot towards the left part of the enemy, and in this step, you throw an ascending falso to the sword arm of your opponent and a slicing roverso at the legs, and for your shelter you will throw your right foot back and to the left and you will cut with a mandritto traversato and end in the porta di ferro cinghiara. If then your enemy cuts for your head or leg, you will hit with an ascending falso at the sword followed by a roverso at the legs of the said enemy, and you will return a thrust at the face of the same, accompanied by your brocciero, not moving the legs, and you settle in coda longa e stretta and with the right foot forward.”

Capitula 90

“If you remain in the coda longa e stretta I want you to raise your sword arm, that is into the guardia alta while not moving your feet or legs. You will then throw a roverso sguaembrato, that is to the inside, and you will immediately be able to return a rising falso with a roverso tramazzon turning up and this because if he parries said falso you must give the roverso tramazzon to the head or sword arm. For your defense you will hurl the right foot behind the left and make a rising thrust to your enemy’s face or a mandritto traversato. You will then be in the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta at the end of this attack. Then you will make a half turn of the hand and you will settle into the coda longa e alta. That is with the left foot forward, well formed and settled.”

Capitula 91

“Remaining in the coda longa e alta I want you to go into the coda longa e distesa. That is with the left foot forward and your brocciero extended towards the right side of your enemy. I want you now to give a good, rising falso to his sword hand and if he doesn’t move I want you to feign another falso and in this return you will cancel the attack of your sword over his. That is you will move your right foot towards his right side and thrust in the same time to his face as aforementioned. Then for fear of your thrust his will raise his sword to the outside and you will then give a roverso to his legs and for your defense you will throw the right foot behind the left and at the same time throw a mandritto traversato to bring you into the cinghiara porta do ferro. You may give a rising thrust accompanied with the mandritto below your brocciero. You will then give a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda longa e alta with your left foot forward. Note that this attack may be done in three ways: that is when in the coda longa e stretta, the coda longa e alta and in the porta di ferro stretta. So if in one of these three guards you may do the aforementioned attack.

Capitula 92

“You know that remaining in the coda longa e alta there is a need for you to consider what guard your enemy is in. Now I will suggest that you find yourself in the porta di ferro stretta or alta and I want you to be agente. That is, you will make the first attack finding yourself in one of the aforementioned guards. You will thrust with the right foot passing forward so the thrust goes to the outside of your enemy. That is false to false and the point going strongly to the left side of his face. In fear of the thrust he will widen his sword arm and then you will give a fendente between his sword and brocciero that will strongly cut his head. Your guard should not pass into the

guardia di faccia fo rit is natural for him to responbd to a head cut and if he responds to your head cut then I want you to turn the point of your sword to his face accompanied with your brochiero and give in the guardia di intrare and in one time you will pass your left foot towards his right side and give a roverso to his right temple. This roverso should not pass into a coda longa e alta and for your defense you will make a gran passo eith your left foot behind the right and throw a mandritto that will take you into the porta do ferro larga. You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda longa e stretta with the right foot forward and your arms and legs extended and well formed and the sword narrow and together with the brochiero.”

Capitula 93

“Being in the coda longa e stretta, I want you to step with the left foot towards your enemy’s left side. During this step you will thrust with a falso impuntato to the left temple of your enemy as aforementioned. In this manner he will uncover his lower parts for fear of the thrust. You will then give a mandritto to the legs. That is while passing the right foot forward you will cut and you will end in the porta di ferro larga. If in this your enemy attacks or even does not attack I want you to pass the left foot to the right side of your enemy and in the same time thrust with a pinta infalsata: that is turning the wrist of your right hand upwards and cutting (slicing) with a roverso to the leg as aforementioned. When you cut I want you to move your sword hand, that is to take the point to your enemy’s face acompanyed with your brochiero. With this attack you will hurl the left foot behind the right (in a gran passo) and you will turn a roverso in the style of a molinello: that is a roverso tramazon to his right arm. You will not move your right leg forward of the left. In this manner you will remain in the coda longa e stretta with your arms and legs well formed.”

Capitula 94 Dello abbattimento di spada sola

“This is the attack of the single sword which is an excellant thing for teaching for everyone that has to practice combat with a spada da filo in hand. What occurs to you, I exhort you to teach the same said combat of single sword. You will resort to on this thing written in this book. Now look, for I want you to settle in the coda lunga e stretta with the right foot forward of the left, arranging the right correctly. The left hand at the back and the sword arm extended strongly towards the right of your enemy. You will strike with the false edge horizontally at the face of your enemy and with a mandritta fendente at the same time. The fendente will end in the porta di ferro larga. In the attack, advance your right foot to the front and now if your enemy cuts at your head or leg you will in the same time attack with an ascending falso at the hand of said enemy. Then redouble the attack with a fendente traversato at the face. That is you throw two in the same time the left leg will go forward of the right and you will end up in the porta di ferro larga. While in this guard if your enemy throws a stoccata or a mandritta at the head, or a roverso, to each of these attacks I want you to strike with the flase edge of your sword and in the attack in the same strike make a passing step in a gran passo with your left foot towards the right part of your enemy and in this pass make a roverso sgualebrato that engages the head as the foot points. For your parry you make a gran passo with your left foot to the rear of your right and in this move you make a mandritto traversato at the sword arm and end in the porta di ferro stretta. Then do a half turn of the fist and settle in the coda lunga e stretta as aforementioned with your sword arm extended at the right of said enemy and your left leg arranged as above mentioned.”

Capitula 95

“Now being in the coda lunga e stretta and your enemy is in the same guard or the coda lunga e alta. I want you to advance the left foot and in this advancing you will do a falso impartato: clip with the sword at said enemy on the inside in the mode that you cut with a roverso tondo at the face. Advance at the same time your right foot. But know that you will throw the right foot to the rear and at the same time cut at the raised leg ending in a coda lunga e alta. In this you will be patiente. That is you will wait for said enemy. Take note.”

Capitula 96

“I want to demonstrate that being in this coda lunga e alta that on your enemy thrusting at your face, you have four perfect and safe counters. First, advance your right foot strongly towards the left side of your enemy. In this advancing place the right edge of the sword against his and attack with a punta roversa at the face. Or cut with a roverso. Or make a rising cut with the falseas you advance said foot and pass your feet towards the left side of your enemy. In this passing throw a roverso traversato and seize the sword arm. Now note that when doing these four parries with narrow attacks, one is strong and when you parry said thrust and you have made the punta roversa do not go into the guardia di faccia because he may make a mandritto tondo, or a fendente, or a stoccata or a punta. I want you to parry these with the sword edge in the guardia di intrare and in the time of the parry pass the left foot against the right side of your enemy. Your sword will not pass into the guardia dio coda lunga e alta. Thus you will return to a perfect guard. Having parried said thrust I want you to return by putting your right foot behind the left and throw another roverso sgualembrato at the rising left and your sword will come into the coda lunga e alta. That is with the left foot forward. In parrying the stoccata with the rising false edge of the sword follow with a roverso segato at the leg. With this throw the right foot back behind the left and make a rising falso traversato at his sword arm and with a fendente segandoli at the face and your sword will return to said guard.”

Capitula 97

“Being yet in the coda lunga e alta and your enemy having thrown a stoccata, you will pass the right foot forward towards the left part of your enemy. Throw in this passing a roverso traversato then hurl the right foot behind the left and throw a mandritto to the sword arm. In this mandritto move into a porta di ferro cinghiara. Do a half turn of the wrist and you will be master, that is in the coda lunga e alta.”

Capitula 98

“Now again, being in the coda lunga e alta and a stoccata is thrown at you, I want you in the same time to pass your right foot strongly against the left side of your enemy. In this passing thrust at the enemy’s side and half turn the fist. You will then settle in the coda lunga e stretta with the right foot forward and the sword arm extended and pointing at the right side of your enemy.”

Capitula 99

“Being in the coda lunga e stretta and your enemy in the coda lunga e alta overo stretta, I want you to hurl your left foot against the right side of your enemy and in this movement make a mandritto traversato at the sword hand and end in the cinghiara porta di ferro stretta. Immediately advance the right foot forward and do a roverso at the leg. Remove your right foot behind the left and throw another roverso sgualembrato at the rising leg. Now you will be in the coda lunga e alta. Move the right foot forward and settle into the porta di ferro stretta.”

Capitula 100

“Having gone into the porta di ferro stretta and your enemy coming at you, now I want you to move the right foot forward and cut with a rising falso at your enemy’s sword. Here it will be false edge to false edge so put your leg outside his right so as to keep him from kicking you. In this movement you will make said with your left foot. Make a half turn of the fist and fling a punta dritta at the face with your hand above so that for parrying said punta he keeps his sword arm to the outside. Now throw the left hand to his sword or go to the arm of said sword arm. Then do a presa. Do not do this presa in the same time unless you pass your right foot against his left side. In this passing do a mandritto traversato to his sword arm or to the head redoub ling. That is two attacks in one time. If your enemy makes another attack you will make a rising cut with the false edge at his sword and then do a roverso at his head passing the left foot to his right side followed by hurling the right foot behind the left. Make a stoccata sopramano at his face and then move into the porta di ferro. Make a half turn of the fist and settle in the coda lunga e stretta with your right foot forward.”

Capitula 101

"Now here will I impart unto you a combat of rotella and sword that is very gentile and useful but first I will start with the first part. I want you to settle with the left foot forward close by the right. The rotella will be turned with it leveled upwards and the sword below the rotella. It goes below the left armpit well formed to go find the enemy. Here you will throw your sword outside from under your rotella and will go into the coda lunga e stretta. With the left foot you will throw a stoccata and with the right a mandritto that goes into a porta di ferro larga. Then you will make a falso with the right foot opposite your left side and with the left foot you will throw a roverso that goes into a coda lunga e alta and you will wait."

Capitula 102

"Being in the coda lunga e alta and your enemy throws a stoccata, a mandritta or a roverso, at this attack I want you to hurl your right foot opposite his left side and you will throw a rising falso to his sword hand. In throwing the falso the left foot follows the right to the rear, following with a roverso to his right leg. Having done this throw the right foot to the left and throw a roverso spinto to his right side. You will then settle into that guard as at first, that is the coda lunga e alta and you will wait on another turn of the enemy with the rotella stretta and the sword together."

Capitula 103

"Being in the coda lunga e alta, if the enemy is in the porta di ferro stretta, then I want you to push a thrust to the face with the right foot forward to his right side. Then he in fear of that thrust will raise the sword and you in one time will step with a gran passo with the left foot opposite his right side and you will put the rotella under his right arm, that is in that of the guard. In putting the rotella you will give a mandritto to his right leg and the right foot will follow the left to the rear. For your defense you will hurl the left foot in a gran passo behind the right. In this you will throw a roverso spinto with a punta under your rotella following the right foot behind and the left goes into a coda lunga e stretta that is well formed and gallant whenever possible."

Capitula 104

"Remaining in the coda lunga e stretta as in the first part with the right foot forward, I want you to step with the left foot and attack with a stoccata to the face of your enemy under your rotella. Presently you will throw the left foot close by the right and in that time you will hurl said left in a gran passo opposite the left side of your enemy. IN this you will hunt out a falso impuntato to his left temple above the rotella. With your right foot you will make it look like you are to give a mandritto and you will throw a roverso to his legs. In the time of the feint your right leg will go forward of the left and the left will follow in place and for your defense you will hurl the right foot in a gran passo behind the left and you will throw a roverso spinto of the rising leg to said face. Your sword will go into the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward and you will wait for your enemy to attack you."

Capitula 105

"You know that remaining in the coda lunga e alta to wait for your enemy to attack that here I want you to remain attentive because if he throws a stoccata to the face, in this stoccata I want you to throw a mandritto to the sword hand and a roverso to the leg. When you throw said mandritto I want you to step forward with the right foot and for your defense you will hurl the right foot behind the left while throwing a roverso to your enemy's sword arm. In one time throw a punta under your rotella to your enemy's face and push the thrust followed by the left foot behind the right in a gran passo. You will settle in the coda lunga e stretta with the right foot forward and the arms and legs extended and well formed and useful."

Capitula 106

"Now being in the coda lunga e stretta I want you to here make a gran passo with the left foot forward in a traverse to his left side and in this step throw a mandritto to his sword hand and your

sword will go into the porta di ferro cinghiara. If your enemy attacks your head I want you to throw your right foot forward to his left side and give a roverso tondo to the leg and your rotella will parry the attack. Extend the left arm forward and for your defense throw a roverso spinto to the rising leg following with the right foot behind the left and in doing this throw a mandritto fendente following with the left foot behind the right and your sword will go into the porta di ferro stretta where you will wait for your enemy to attack first."

Capitula 107

"Remain in the porta di ferro stretta and when your enemy throws a mandritto, a roverso or a stoccata, in this attack I want you to make a falso and a roverso with the left leg going close by the right. In this time you will strike the roverso and step forward with the right and when you have made the falso and roverso you will make a rising falso to the enemy's hand under your rotella. Immediately for your defense you will throw a roverso spinto to the right side of his rising leg following the right foot in a gran passo behind the left. Your sword will go into the coda lunga e alta and you will wait for your enemy to attack and in this manner you will be patiente."

Capitula 108

"Now remaining in the coda lunga e alta, here I suggest that if your enemy throws a mandritto to the leg or head, a roverso, or a stoccata, in all of these attacks I want you to step with a gran passo forward albeit in a little traverse to his left side with your right foot. In this step you will throw a roverso squalibrato attraverso to the sword arm. Having made said roverso you will turn a rising falso under your rotella. The falso will go to the sword hand. For your defense you will throw a roverso spinto to the rising leg for the right temple of the enemy. Following this roverso the right foot in a gran passo behind the left. Immediately push a rising thrust under your rotella which will go to the face of your enemy following the left foot behind the right and you will settle in the coda lunga e stretta; very well settled and narrow with the sword and rotella and now I want you to be agente."

Capitula 109

"Remaining in the coda lunga e stretta I want you to step forward with the left foot and throw a stoccata at your enemy's face. Immediately throw the left foot close by the right and if your enemy attacks your head I want you to step with the left foot opposite the right side and in this step accompany the sword with the rotella in the guardia di testa with which you will parry the attack. Immediately throw the right foot forward opposite his left side and give a mandritto to the leg and your sword will go into the porta di ferro larga. If he throws in that time at the head I want you to parry with the sword edge accompanied by the rotella. Your sword will go into the guardia di faccia. In the parry you will put your right foot a little towards your left side and immediately step with the left foot to his right side and give a roverso to the leg or head. Your sword will go into the coda lunga e alta and you will throw a rising falso at his sword hand accompanied with your rotella following the left foot to the rear of the right. You will make a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda lunga e stretta, gallantly, whenever possible."

Capitula 110

"You knowing that remaining in the coda lunga e stretta you will be able to be agente or patiente. But at first you will be patiente for if your enemy throws a stoccata, or a mandritto to the head or leg, I want you to throw a mandritto traversato across his sword arm and your right foot following in a gran passo behind the left. Your sword will go into the porta di ferro cinghiara and you will wait for your enemy to attack. I suggest that if he attacks with a mandritto, a roverso or a stoccata, in each of these attacks I want you to make a gran passo forward with the right foot opposite his left side. In this step you will make a falso and give a roverso to the leg, throwing a rising falso to the sword hand of the enemy. For your defense hurl the right foot behind the left and throw a roverso spinto to the right side of his rising leg. Your sword will go into the coda lunga e alta and you will wait for your enemy to attack. Keep the eye on the sword hand in that."

Capitula 111

:Now being in the coda lunga e alta I want you to uncover your left leg a little. That is to say your enemy will attack the aforementioned left leg with a mandritto or a roverso. But I suggest that if the attack is first a mandritto, I want you to step forward with the right foot in a gran passo to the right side of the enemy and in this step lower the point of the sword to the enemy's thigh. That is the falso of your sword is turned against the cut of the enemy. Accompany your sword hand under the rotella with the arms extended forward. In this manner you will parry his mandritto and immediately when you have parried I want you to cut with a roverso at his legs. And in this you will hurl the right leg behind the left in a gran passo and throw a roverso spinto at the right side of the enemy's right leg. Immediately throw the left foot behind the right and make a half turn of the wrist and settle into the coda lunga e stretta. I suggest that is he throws a roverso to the leg or head that you in such time that he throws the roverso that you make a "camusso di piedi", that is I want you to throw the left foot close by the right in the manner that his roverso will pass by not offending you. And passing you will throw your right foot forward in a gran passo and give him a roverso to the right leg. Immediately turn a rising falso under your rotella and with the feet having done said falso, throw the right foot in a gran passo behind the left and then throw a roverso spinto to the right temple of the enemy. You will be able to step with the left foot behind the right and make a half turn of the wrist and settle into the coda lunga e stretta with the arms extended and well formed."

Capitula 112

"Now I want you to turen back to play. That is you hurl the right foot in a gran passo behind the left. And you will make a falso and a mandritto under the rotella and a falso and a roverso with the keft foot behind. And a falso and a mandritto with the right foot behind. And a falso and a roverso with the left foot behind. That is the right foot will go into the coda lunga e stretta, well formed, and you will be able to throw the left foot in a gran passo forward of the right and in this step make a tramazzone that ends in the cinghiara porta di ferro. And you will be able to hurl the right foot close by the left and put your rotella under his left armpit, that is turn with the imbraciatuura of the rotella rising and your sword will go into the guardia alta with the arms and legs extended and well formed."

Capitula 113 Dello abbattimento primo di spada & targa da persona a persona, & pro e contra, con il modo dello assettare

"I want first to have you settle in the coda lunga e alta with your arms extended to the right of your enemy. The point of your targa will be above and turned a bit at your front. Here you will wait for your enemy to throw to the leg or the head; but I suggest that if he throws to the head, in the same time you will throw your right foot forward of the left towards the right side of your enemy. In this you will thrust at his face³ as abovementioned accompanied together with the targa. That is the sword will be in the guardia di faccia. Immediately make a gran passo with the left foot to the right side of your enemy. In this passing step extend or open your arms. That is put your targa to his hand and make a rising thrust to his belly. While doing the thrust make a gran passo with the right foot to his left side. You will then do a mandritto to the leg with a roverso below your targa with your right foot firm and then when you have made the mandritto and roverso you will throw the right foot behind the left. You will then thrust at his face accompanied with the targa beow and immediately open your arms a little and you will settle into the coda lunga e alta."

Cap 114

"Being still in the same guard and your enemy attacks you low and some also high, I want you to

³ The word in Italian used here is mostaccio which signifies an ugly face or mug.

pass your right foot opposite (away) the left side of your enemy. During this you will throw a roverso traversato to his sword arm. And your left foot will follow the right to the rear. You will also throw a rising falso to your enemy's targa with a strong roverso tramazon to your right foot. Without restraint you will have made said falso and roverso. You will then throw your right foot behind the left for your defense. In this you will thrust to his face accompanying the attack with the targa below your hand. You will then throw your right foot forward and settle into a well formed coda lunga e stretta with your arms extended and tight."

Cap 115

"While in the coda lunga e stretta, if your enemy attacks your head or leg with a mandritta or a roverso, or a stoccata, throwing what he wants, you will throw a mandritto roverso together with a sgualebrato to his sword arm; not moving the feet or legs. When you have made this said mandritto and roverso I want you to throw a mandritto traversato with the right leg following behind the left a little on the traverse. Your sword will then go into the porta di ferro cinghiara. Being in this guard if he attacks the head or leg with a mandritto or a roverso or a thrust, I want you to pass forward with your right foot in the same time and make a falso to the sword and a roverso to his leg. After which you will throw a gran passo of the right foot behind the left with a rising thrust to his face (accompanied below with the targa). You will then make a half turn of the hand and you will settle into the coda lunga e alta as well formed as possible."

Capitula 116

"Being still in the coda lunga e alta, here I want you to put your sword over your targa almost like in a sopra braccio. You will then push a falso impontato to the face of your enemy. That is over your targa and his and the writst will do a turn below and it will be made in this attack. You will then pass the right foot forward opposite his left side and turning well the right hip to the right side. In his fear of the said falso he will lift the targa and you then will do a roverso to the leg or you will want to turn a mandritto. Know that in this attack you will be able to it in whatever guard he wants to be in. When you have made said roverso or mandritto throw your right foot behind the left and make a rising thrust to your enemy's face. That is accompanying your sword hand with your targa. You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into this same guard, that is the coda lunga e alta."

Capitula 117

"If you are in the coda lunga e alta and your enemy attacks your head or leg I want you to make a gran passo with the right foot forward (this at the same time as he throws a mandritto tondo or mandritto fendente). You will then thrust under your targa That is with your true-edge turned down and the pommel looking to your face. And when you have made said thrust you will slice with a roverso to his legs and for your defense you will throw the right foot in a gran passo behind the left. You will then make a rising thrust to his face with your hand below covering with the targa. You will then immediately throw your right foot forward albeit a little on the traverse and settle into the coda lunga e stretta as well formed as possible with the arms extended."

Capitula 118

"Now being in the coda lunga e stretta you will thrust with the left foot forward at the face of your enemy. I also want you to immediately step forward in a gran passo to his left side. You will with this extend your arms, that is putting your targa to his hand and you will throw your sword below his and then thrust to his left temple followed by a mandritto to his legs. Your sword will end in the porta di ferro larga and your left leg will follow the left to the rear. And with this if he attacks you I want you to make a gran passo with the left foot opposite his right side and hunt out his sword arm below your left "lesina" and you will give a roverso sgualebrato to his right side. For your defense you will throw the left foot behind the right and make a rising thrust to his face accompanying the sword hand with the targa. You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda lunga e stretta with your arms extended and well formed."

Capitula 119

“If you are in the coda lunga e strewtta and your enemy is in the coda lunga e alta you will pass your left foot forward a little towards his right side and give a strong mandritta to his sword. In this manner you will put it to the outside, that is to his right side. You will then throw your right foot towards his left side and you will give a roverso to his leg or you will thrust him to the belly. That is with a punta roversa between his sword and targa. When you have made the punta roversa you will for your defense throw the right foot behind the left and rising thrust at his face while your targa covers. Making a half turn of the hand you will wait in the coda lunga (e alta) with the arms and legs extended and well formed. Keep the sword and targa narrow and together and put to order your enemy who will attack you first.”

Capitula 120

“Note that being in the coda lunga e alta and awaiting your enemy to attack with a stocata to the face or a mandritto to the leg, or a fendente to the head, you will remain steady. That is you will look to the sword hand for when he issues the stocata you need to take the hand back and if he attacks the head or leg you need to lift the hand a little. Note always, that watching the hand what he does with it. Principally first that if he throws a stocata you will move the targa to the outside and with your right foot you will give a mandritto to the leg or a thrust to his left hip and your left leg will follow the right behind. For your defense you will throw the right foot behind the left and with a half turn of the hand you will settle into the coda lunga e alta. Having returned to the coda lunga e alta if your enemy throws a fendente to the head lifting the sword hand you will throw the right foot strongly below your enemy and put your targa against his sword arm. You will then thrust to his flank or slice with a mandritto to his arm together with a roverso to his chest. That is moving the right foot forward in these two attacks. Still you will be able to throw your left foot behind the right and giving a half mandritto traversato to the sword arm and then your sword will end in the porta di ferro stretta. Immediately having made these attacks you will throw that foot that moved with the attack behind the other. That is with a thrust below the targa for your defense. You will then do a half turn of the hand and return to the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward.”

Capitula 121

“If you are in the coda lunga e alta and your opponent in the porta di ferro alta or stretta, you will thrust with a punta roversa with the right foot forward. That is turn the wrist upwards and the point going to your enemy’s face. He for fear of the thrust will lift his right arm and you then will give a fendente to said arm or to the head. You will in this also put the targa against his sword hand. However, do not pass into the guardia di faccia for if your enemy attacks your head you will parry with the edge of your sword accompanied by the targa. You will then attack with a roverso to the thigh and having thrown said roverso you will throw your right foot behind the left and thrust (rising) at his face. Make a half turn of the hand and settle into that same guard, that is, the coda lunga e alta with your left foot forward.”

Capitula 122

“Remaining in this same guard with your enemy in the porta di ferro alta or stretta, you will still be able to do these two same attacks. That is thrusting with the right foot forward at his face as I have said here. In one time you will touch his sword and throw your left foot forward strongly to his right side. You will put your targa against his sword arm for rising in the manner that he will not be able to move. You will then give a mandritto to his right thigh and your right (foot) will follow the left behind. And you not wanting to do this will be able to push with said point and with the right foot forward and making a roverso, or mandritto, that I have before told you, you will for your defense throw your right foot behind the left. You will then make a rising thrust to his face accompanying below your sword hand with your targa. But should you have made a mandritto with the left leg forward to his thigh you should throw the said left behind the right thrusting awhile at the face as I have said before. You will immediately make a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda lunga e stretta with the arms and legs well formed.”

Capitula 123

“If you are in the coda lunga e stretta and your enemy in one of the following: porta di ferro alta, or stretta, coda lunga e alta, or stretta. You will throw your left foot forward and throw a rising falso dritto to his sword hand. You will end in the sotto il braccio. Your targa should be well extended. In one time you will throw the right foot forwards opposite his left side and give a roverso to the legs. You will then be in the coda lunga e stretta. But if your enemy responds with an attack to your head or leg you will throw the right foot behind the left and give a mandritto traversato to the sword arm and you will go into the cinghiara porta di ferro. If your enemy then attacks your head you will step forward with the right foot and with the targa accompanying the sword you will go to the guardia di testa and parrying said attack you will throw a mandritto and a roverso strongly under your targa and when you have given your two defenses you will throw your right foot behind the left with a rising thrust to the face (accompany the sword hand with the targa). You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into a well formed coda lunga e alta with your sword and targa extended and well formed.”

Capitula 124

“In this first assault, I do not want to put more things for I could fill more volumes. But behind the second you will find more instruction of the art of spada da filo with the targa. With the guards and with the pros and cons. This I have done so you will see the teaching is true and you will not be able to be fallible.”

Capitula 125 The Second Assault of Sword and Targa

“Watch now for I will impart another combat that is beautiful and useful in sword and targa. This I have made so you will be able to see more variation in things.”

Capitula 126

“You need to go and find your enemy with a brandishing of your sword. Jumping (?) to meet with him, even and so much that you are close by to him and you will settle in the coda lunga e stretta. Here I want you to be agente, that is you will be first to go and find said enemy with a punta roversa to his right side passing in such time with your left leg forward. In this manner the thrust goes strongly to the face of the aforementioned. Then your enemy in fear of the thrust will try to engage your sword false-edge to false-edge where you will pass your right foot to his left side and you will feint a roverso to the head. You will then give a mandritta to the head or leg and the left leg will follow the right to his place. In this manner you will be in the porta di ferro larga pushing the targa strongly to guard the head. Do not stop but thrust with a punta roversa to the face or to the flank, together with a slicing roverso to the leg. For your defense you will throw a roverso to the rising leg then you will throw your right leg behind the left stopping in the coda lunga and here I want you to be patiente.”

Capitula 127 Seconda Parte

“Being in the coda lunga e alta, if your enemy attacks your left leg with a mandritto, at the same time you will your right leg forward and thrust with a punta roversa under your targa that will go under his sword on the outside straight to his face. When you have made said parry you will slice his thigh that is forward with a roverso. For your defense you will throw a roverso at the rising leg. That is to the right leg that follows the left to the rear. In this manner you will return to the coda lunga e alta and I will say another counter to that mandritto to the leg.”

Capitula 128

“You will know in the previous second part that you will remain in the coda lunga e alta. Here I want you to uncover your left leg a little in order that your enemy will have cause to throw a mandritto as I have said in the second part. However in his attack you will throw your right leg strongly forward a little towards your right side and you will thrust under your targa and the false edge of your sword will touch the targa and your point will go to his right side following with such a parry your left leg behind the right. You will know when you feel you have taken

away a secure parry and you will turn your wrist upwards and in this manner your point will go to your enemy's face. He in fear of the point will cover above and you will then give a roverso underneath throwing and following for your defense your right leg behind the left with a roverso to his rising leg. Your sword will then return to the coda lunga e alta."

Capitula 129

"You know that if you pull a throwing of a mandritto to his right or left leg and he passes that leg to the rear to give you a slicing roverso to your right leg, and you then see this: You will throw the left leg strongly forward opposite his right side and will thrust your targa to his sword hand. In this manner he will not be able to move and you will be able to give this that you will want, and know that if you do not want to do this counter to his roverso you will follow the right leg behind the left in the time he has parried your mandritto knowing it is natural to slice at your right leg or to fail in that time that you follow said right leg you throw a roverso tramazzon in the style of a molinello to his right arm or head to his right side. You will return in this attack to the coda lunga e alta and here I want you to be agente."

Capitula 130

"Being in the coda lunga e alta you will know what I said before; you will be agente. That is, the first to attack. If you find your enemy with the left leg forward you will throw the left leg forward and close to the right with the intention that you thrust above hand at the face of your enemy over your targa at that same time that you pass the right leg forward. When you have thrown said thrust you will throw a mandritto to the leg but do not pass into the porta di ferro larga and do not stop but you will thrust with a roverso to his face or his flank on the right side. Cover your hand with your targa and when you have thrown said punta roversa you will give together a slicing roverso to the leg clearing with the point above the hand and a mandritto to the right leg. And when you have done these four attacks, for your defense you will throw a roverso to the rising leg with your right leg following behind the left in the manner that you return to the coda lunga e alta."

Capitula 131

"Returning to the coda lunga e alta in this sixth part of the second assault, Here I want you to pass your right foot forward. Your enemy can be in any guard. You will give in your passing a falso filo tondo to his sword and a mandritto tramazzon to his head between his sword and targa. You will end in the porta di ferro larga. If your enemy then throws a roverso to the head or leg you will throw your left leg opposite his right side and thrust below your targa to his chest or body with the intention of your sword going below his. In this manner you will have parried his roverso and will have made said thrust and knowing that taking away you have made said parry. You will then turn a roverso tramazzon to the right side of his head and throw a rising falso dritto to his hands under your targa. You will then make a half turn of the hand and settle into the coda lunga e stretta with your arms and legs well extended."

Capitula 132

"Remain in the coda lunga e stretta. First you will throw a stoccata to your enemy's face stepping with the leg forward and a little to the right, throwing immediately [the left] close by the right. You will then bring the sword up into the guardia alta and you will feign a mandritto and will with fury thrust quickly underhanded to his chest and passing at the same time your right leg strongly forward. Immediately turn a roverso with the point to the leg and quickly for your defense you will throw your right leg behind the left and in that time you will throw a roverso to the rising leg. In this manner your sword will go into the coda lunga e alta."

Capitula 133

"Watch well that you remember to remain in the coda lunga e alta. For if your enemy throws a mandritto or a roverso or thrust you will traverse with your right leg opposite his right side and you will throw a roverso traversato across his right in the manner that you go into a coda lunga e

stretta. Then I want you to throw a mandritto tondo to the feet that⁵ gives a turn with the punta roversa passing and thrusting strongly at the face with your left leg forward and to his left. You will then turn for your defense a roverso to the legs of said enemy followed by moving your left leg behind the right. In this manner your sword will return to the same guard as at first, that is when you started the mandritto, the coda lunga e stretta with the right foot forward. And doing all the attacks that you throw, you will be able to cover sword hand above the targa. And in this manner you will go securely throwing again, together with the roverso, a rising falso dritto to the hands of your enemy.”

Capitula 134

“Still being in the coda lunga e stretta you will lift the sword hand, that is into the guardia alta, extending the targa towards your enemy and keeping your sword agile knowing that this guard remains first for attacking and for parrying. If your enemy is agente or paziente you will throw a roverso sguaembrato between the sword and your buckler at said enemy together with a roverso tramazzon. Stop with the said right leg and when you have thrown the roverso tramazzon you will throw your right leg back with a rising falso dritto which will place you in the coda lunga e alta where you will settle well formed waiting for your enemy who will be agente and you paziente.”

Capitula 135

“Knowing that you in the other part remain in the coda lunga e alta to wait for your enemy who will attack with some low or high attacks, watch now as he attacks with these attacks for you will throw your left leg back with a mandritto traversato and end in the porta di ferro larga. Then if your enemy attacks high you will parry with your targa passing your right foot forward to his left side and thrusting to his chest or flank followed by a mandritto sguaembrato together with a roverso. You will then be in the coda lunga e stretta with the left leg following behind the right. Do not stop here in this place but for your defense you will throw a roverso at his rising leg with the right leg going behind the left at the same time. Your sword will then go returning a rising falso dritto to the hand of your enemy into the guardia alta. That is doing a half turn of the hand (sword hand) and here I want you to be agente, primarily the first to attack, finding your enemy not guarding low.”

Capitula 136

“Now know that in this last part I want you to throw a mandritto to the legs of your enemy with such intention that he parrying your mandritto with a falso below his targa in order to give you a roverso to your leg, when you touch the false edge of his sword with your true edge you will immediately do a half turn of your hand upwards so that you are false edge to false edge and you will give a slicing roverso to his leg. And so as to not be lacking: for with that half turn of the hand that you will have done, you will have put him outside considering you first always give the falso which is more useful to do it to know that some turning to a mandritto to the legs that you also throw a roverso tondo to the face followed by throwing a roverso to the rising leg for your defense. Your right leg will go behind the left and the left behind the right with a falso so you end in the coda lunga e stretta returning here behind the play. That is you will do a falso and a mandritto below the targa with your right leg behind the left and you will end in the cinghiara porta di ferro alta and here you will quickly do a falso and a roverso with the right leg behind the left. Your sword will go into a well formed coda lunga e stretta⁴. Putting the sword point to the inside or outside of the targa, in the same time turn your left leg to your left side and in this

⁴ This is what the Italian says in the Arte dell’Armi which is counter to how this guard is normally formed. The alta has the left foot forward.

manner your right leg goes behind the left in the style of “riverenza⁵” passing immediately and putting the right leg a little forward of the left. You will settle gallantly and with your targa resting at your left side dressing up your sword in the guardia alta. And in this manner the second assault of sword and targa is finished with the assistance of God.

Capitula 137

“This thou shalt do as in a combat with sword and target or shield or buckler, or with the sword alone. Let this indicate to thee that in teaching a scholar to play with any of the above weapons, thou must make him understand all these guards, one by one, step by step, with their attacks and parries and everything pro and contra. Thou shalt see in these writings, and in the figures therein to be found – and therefore do not fail to succeed in teaching the same – that I make no difference in the guards on account of the weapons. But, in order not to cover too much space and to avoid repetition, I explain them merely in connection with the sword alone, or with the sword and buckler.”

Capitula 138 Coda Lunga e Stretta

“Let thy scholar stand with the right leg foremost, with the sword and the target well out, and see that his right hand be well outside his right knee with the thumb turned downwards as may be seen in the figure. This is called the coda lunga e stretta, and is meant for striking and parrying. The scholar being in this guard, thou wilt show him how many attacks he can therefrom being agent, and how many parries with the shield he can perform as patient, from above and from below, and likewise their variations one from the other. Thou wilt also show him the parries against his own attacks. Then make thy scholar deliver a mandritta sgualemrato, and cross over sideways, with the left leg a little in front of the right, and inform him that his sword is now held on the guard of...”

Capitula 139 Cinghiara Porta di Ferro

“Thou shalt give thy scholar to understand that whenever he forms this guard, he must needs be patiente, because all the low guards are rather for the purpose of parrying than of striking. However, should he want to attack, thou knowest that this can only be done with the point, or the false edge; therefore thou wilt show the said scholar, being on that guard, if anyone deliver an attack of any kind, in what way he must parry and then strike, advising him rather to strike with the false edge, since thou knowest that the false edge can wound and parry at the same time. After this thou wilt make him pass his right leg forward, and lift his sword hand up; this new position is called...”

Cap 140 Guardia Alta

“Thy scholar being placed on that guard, thou wilt show him how many cuts are derived therefrom, carefully remarking that this guard is meant chiefly for the attack. Then show him the parries in a similar way, and make him pass his foot either forward or back, according to the occasion. Then thou wilt make him carry his left leg forward and lower his sword to about half his height; this guard is called...”

Capiula 141 Coda Lunga e Alta

“I wish thee to know that, when remaining patiente, this is a good guard, and most useful, and accordingly advise thee to tell thy pupil that he had better assume this guard on the defensive, and make him understand all that can be done on it, pro and contra. . . After some practice in this, thou wilt make thy scholar deliver a mandritta fendente, and pass with the right leg foremost, and he will come down to the guard of...”

⁵ A reverence or courtsey.

Capitula 142 Porta di Ferro Stretta Overo Larga

“All the “botte” that could be delivered in cinghiara porta di ferro, especially with the false edge, were possible from this guard. The passgae to the net was thus: Thou must cause thy pupil to remain with his left leg forward and lower his sword. He shall thus come to the guard of...”

Capitula 143 Coda Lunga e Distesa

“Being on this guard you will cause him to be agente, especially with dritti falsi, or with the point, with roversi, and such other attacks, as can be derived from the said guard. Thou must also teach him the parries thereto, since the art of striking is but little in comparison with a knowledge of the parries, which a fine and more useful thing. After giving him good practice in all the said parries and strokes, running from guard to guard, and from step to step, and always questioning him on the names of said guards, thou wilt cause him to pass his right leg forward in front of the left, and hold his sword-point lifted in the air; with his arm extended straight towards his adversary, as thou seest in the figure. This is called...”

Guardia di testa

“In this head guard one can be both agente and patiente, but I shall first speak of defense. If any one should cut at him with a mandritto fendente or sgualebrato, or a tramazone, thou wilt make him parry in head guard, and then from this guard to pass to the attack; he can do so with a thrust from the right over the hand, or a mandritto fendente, or tondo, or sgualebrato, or falso dritto. From this head guard, thou wilt make him proceed with a thrust from the left in his adversary’s face, and advance his left leg in front of the right, rather sideways to the left, and point his sword straight in his adversary’s face. He will thus find himself in the. . .”

Guardia d’intrare

“On this guard one must be patiente, as few attacks can be made from it. . . Thou wilt make thy pupil lead off with a roverso, and follow up the stroke by passing his right leg foremost, drawing back the arm at the same time, and extending his fist toward the ground; thou wilt then inform him that he is on the guard of.. “

Coda Lunga e larga

“Take notice that on this guard thou canst both assault and defend, for it is possible to use the false edge from the left, and to cut tramazone with both right or false edge, or tramazone roverso, or false filo tondo, or roverso sgualebrato, by turning the sword to its proper place. Likewise thou canst deliver thrusts from the right or left, with or without feints, and all the roversi that belong to them, &c. . . After this thou wilt make thy scholar move his left foot forward and drop his sword-point towards the ground, turning the pummel upwards, and thou wilt see that he extend his arm and turn the thumb under and towards the point of the sword. This done, thou wilt inform him that he is on the guard of...”

Becca Possa

“Having thus examined thy scholar in every guard, I am of the opinion that on his assuming the becca possa, thou shouldst advise him to oppose it to his adversary whenever the latter assumes that of porta di ferro larga, or stretta, or alta, and to follow him step by step, and from guard to guard. That is, if the adversary goes in coda lunga e distesa he must go into becca cesa; against coda lunga e larga, make him oppose coda lunga e stretta; against becca cesa, cinghiara porta di ferro alta; against guardia di intrare, guardia alta. Let him now advance the right leg forward and turn his point towards his adversary’s face, thumb upwards, arm fully extended, and then tell him he thus finds himself on...”

Guardia di Faccia

“Having made him assume this guardia di faccia, inform him that in this he can both assault and defend at the same time. On his adversary’s cutting mandritto tondo, or fendente dritto, he should

thrust at the same time at his face.”

Beca Cesa

“And the swordarm is held high and extended, turning the wrist outside and placing the point of the sword towards his face and the fist well extended; this is the becca cesa.”

Capitula 144. Esordio.

“Having considered the importance of knowing the names of these guards, which I have composed in this book naming through writing and pictures that I have made for the love that I carry for knights of arms, that delight in the intention of completing the art of arms. Because it is my opinion that many that teach other mistaken strengths are not giving the meanings of the manner of movement and in examining in all the guards of one on one, name in name, step in step, I am decisive in lasting still in this small effort. That is, in this it is said that others do not proceed and are not present as we are small masters that teach without virtue or art because they provide you with a little science. That is to say they teach more practice than the other, and in this they are certain, because I know that many if giving instruction for others to know, and it is not done. And this they set forward because we are not more like those in the time of the authentic ancient masters that if at first were not as other privileged masters with a license, were not able to take scholars. Now that make one a master and make scholars and in this they are not in a place to care for one. For this I intend to make each know of these things of great importance. Although having returned many young valiant and veteran men, that are beautiful and great players; but they are not excellent at instruction, that is they are not elevated as masters that have been endowed to teach others and for this reason: I see such errors occur, and so I love to arouse the intelligence and my art, for having such that delight in such virtues. If reading these letters do not have scorn because I am certain that the deceitful accusers and sladerers of other’s work and virtue will strongly denigrate fame and in all erase how these friends look for the meritorious place of Capitano S. Emilio Marscotto, and the captain Gioan Maria Gabiato, and the captain Battista Pellacano, with many other knights which for my industry and solitudine that culminates in the noble art and virtue. The which for graciousness if strongly extolled and with magnificence with sincerity and my candid disciples and in all places or if finding in presence and absentia giving all honor with all my intelligent effort knowing that when gathering and when giving my good praises in some part deceivers, the present opera demonstrates that in all errors are not taken. Follows the order of movement.”

Capitula 144 Del Passeggiare

“This is the sign where you will make your students walking, stepping back and forward, handling their weapons, turning around, putting their feet on the lines that cut the circle...”

Capitula 145

“Now, in order to remember the first training I told you, that in this book you drew the segno, which was drawn on the wall in order to put all the principles to the students, and this and that, with its letters, that demonstrates to you the right side remaining to meet, dritto fendente, dritto sgualebrato, dritto tondo, dritto ridoppio, and falso dritto; and know that said segno signifies a human body, and for these first feriri begin from the right side, because they are called these right ones, and from the left side the attacks are roversi fendente, roverso sgualebrato, roverso tondo, roverso riddoppio, and falso manco, and that edge where if he throws a rising fendente a montare he demands a montante, and all these attacks if demanding roversi, except the montare, for they all begin from the left side lack, that is from the side sinister.”

Capitula 146

“Here I want to give the manner and the way to fight against one who is left handed. And where one who is left handed fights with one who is right handed. That is with the single handed spada da filo and targa, brochiero largo or rotella.”

Capitula 147

“I want you to know that when you go to fight with one who is left handed. For your advantage you will be patiente . . .”

Capitula 148

“But know that if you want to be agente against a left hander you will step in finding him with your right leg forward (the one that goes with the sword). It should be a little towards his right and in this step you will give a thrust in falso to his face above his sword. He seeing this will in fear thrust outside towards your right side and in this you will make a mandritto to his right leg together with a roverso sgualebrato, throwing behind to its place your right leg. In this manner you will return to the guard as at first. Still to said left hander you will throw out a punta to his face between his sword and brochiero towards his left side stepping in such time with the right foot forward. But know for his fear of the thrust he will uncover his right side and you will then give a mandritto fendente to his head ending in a porta di ferro alta. But if he responds to this with an attack to your right you will strike his attack to your outside and slice his face. Here there is a need to move your left leg forward a little in a traverse and you will make a half turn of the sword hand and you will return to the coda longa e alta as at first.”

Capitula 149

“Being still in the coda longa e alta I want you to be patiente. That is to give a little uncovering of left upper side. That is to say he will have cause to attack you with a mandritto, stoccata or a roverso and for these attacks you will parry, moving your right leg with the targa or brochiero and you will be able to give a mandritto sgualebrato to his head with a roverso sgualebrato following and for your defense you will return your right leg behind where it was at first. You will settle galante and well formed. Know that when a left hander attacks you with a stoccata that you will throw at him in stesso tempo a rising falso drittostrongly to his sword hand. Or you will want to step with a traverse with your right foot to your right side and if he is forward and attacks you with a falso you will engage it with your targa and you will be able to step quickly with your right leg and thrust to the face. You will stop in the coda longa e stretta with the left foot close by the right, touching always with the hand below the sword.”

Capitula 150

“If you are in the coda longa e stretta against a left hander I want you in this fourth and last section to keep this order, that is when you want to attack when he attacks you you attack against him with a roverso accompanied always with your targa or brochiero. But if he attacks you with a roverso you will always throw a mandritto going as before always covering. This you will do in this manner, giving a good account and not offering him a chance to offend you.”

Capitula 151 Del ditto mancino contra il dritto

“Know that in this play of a left hander against a right hander, I say that the left hander does not have an advantage over the right hander...”

Capitula 152 Dello abattimento di spada e imbracciatura

“Fighting person to person with the sword and imbracciatura requires these principles that you settle into the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward pushing your sword and imbracciatura together but the point of said imbracciatura you will hold extended strongly to the right of your enemy. Here you will be patiente in waiting on your enemy who attacks first with a stoccata, a punta, a mandritto, or a roverso and in all those attacks you will pass your right leg to his left side at the same time. You will then give a thrust to his face or his flank and the left leg follows the right in its place. Having done this for your defense you will circle two passes against his imbracciatura quickly. You will then settle into a well formed coda lunga e stretta.

Capitula 153

“Being in the coda longa e stretta for this part, I want you to be agente. That is you will find your

enemy with a strong roverso traversato and having thrown the roverso you will thrust to his right side with your left and in the same time passing forward. Immediately thrust at the same time with a punta roversa and give the rim of your imbracciatura strongly to the side and in that when your enemy passes in the giving of the imbracciatura your right leg will go strongly to his left side. In the time of this pass you will make a falso impuntato to his face with a mandritto to his legs. Your sword will end in the porta di ferro larga and the left leg going behind the right to its place. And in the porta di ferro larga your enemy will attack high and you will parry with a falso passing your left leg to his right side and you will attack his sword arm with your imbracciatura. In this manner you will be able to give a mandritto to his legs or a thrust to his flank. For your defense in this you will take two or three steps back after parrying and being pleased you will settle in the coda lunga e alta with the left foot forward, well formed, and tight.

Capitula 154

“Here you will be patiente in the coda lunga e alta for if he throws a stoccata to the face you will strike with the imbracciatura passing the right foot strongly forward. In this pass you will pull down his imbracciatura with your right hand or the pommel that you engage with above and you throwing it a bit strongly in the manner that with a little effort you will make it fall because the lower rim points to the shin of his left leg and in this manner he will not be able to retain his feet but watch if he throws back as you will not be able to do this presa. But you will give a roverso tondo to his face with a mandritto traversato and escaping you will for your defense move your right leg strongly behind the left and then the left behind the right and you will settle into the coda lunga e stretta. As well formed and gallant as possible.”

Capitula 155

“As you know, you ended the last part of the latter [chapter] in coda lunga e stretta. From here, you will be the first to attack. You will push a fine stoccata to your opponent's face from underneath, stepping with your left foot ahead of the right. Once this is completed, you will draw the left foot again behind the right. As you pull back with your left foot, you will tilt the bottom half of your shield towards your right side, thus leaving your left leg exposed. The goal of this maneuver is to invite your opponent to attack you with a mandritto or roverso to the said leg. If he performs the attack (with a mandritto or roverso), you will parry with your shield, positively extending it downwards towards the ground. As you execute this parry, you will step forward with your right foot towards his left side; at the same time, push a thrust to his right leg or to his face, holding your sword tightly. If you did not wish to perform this thrust, you could attack him with a roverso traversato to the right arm. Your left foot will proceed in the usual fashion, straight opposite your opponent's right foot. You will flurry in good and tight form toward your opponent's shield, also worrying his sword-hand by means of repeated thrusts and half-mandritti to his openings. Sometimes you will rest by pivoting [pirlare=Lombardic for "pivoting", "spinning"] on your left foot, following your opponent in any direction he may turn. In this manner, you will rest when you want to do so. If you follow this form, you will not tire and you will have a great deal of endurance with your weapons in hand. “

Capitula 156

“Look now for with a person that is armed with a pole arm that is a partesana, lanciotto or gianetta that you parry always with roversi traversati now firmly with the left foot and in any turn you will pass your right foot in a traverse to his left side so you will be able to return to your place with the left foot forward. Here you will attack said enemy with a roverso to the face passing with the right foot to your right side and you will give a mandritto traversato traversing past his weapon. You then return to your place and in this manner you will have this order so you will not perish.”

Capitula 157

“To know that finding yourself with the sword and the rotella or targa against one having an arme inastata, you will arrange yourself with your left leg forward, that is in coda lunga e alta, and being patiente always keep your eye on the head of the weapon of your enemy, for knowing that

with the arme inaste naturally not to take the point away, or high, or low, so when your enemy throws a point you must pass your right leg to the left side of your enemy and make a mandritta traversato followed by a roverso tondo to the face. Follow with your left leg to the right and behind and do not abandon your enemy if possible. Presently dash your rotella While waiting go two or three passes back and wait as I said before with the rotella or targa together with the sword.”

Capitula 158

“Now guarding with the point of the arme inastata, in throwing high or low you will parry with your rotella or targa striking it to the outside. With this you must pass your right leg to the left side of the enemy and thrust to his flank or make a mandritto to the head or the arms and if he throws the point back or cuts to your parry you must take two or three passes back. Settle anew with the left leg forward, waiting. And now is the third and final part where you will be patiente.”

Capitula 159

“Being the third and final part of the preceding and settled in the coda lunga e alta with the left leg forward, check that said weapon for your benefit in throwing down the pole arm point. Give a little uncovering with your rotella or targa so as to give him cause to attack. You will then parry with a falso mandritto stepping during the strike with your right leg to his left side and returning but not waiting but taking two or three steps back. But waiting on him do not abandon him if he follows or raises the arma inhastata. Still to the point of the weapon throw the point to the side and you will parry to the outside left with a falso and then with a roverso segato to his legs, your right leg stepping to the right of your enemy. The left will follow said right to the rear. And in this manner against all holding an arma inhastata will not be able to perish and will not be displeased in following what I have written.

Capitula 160

“This is to inform you that if you have the misfortune to go hand and foot against one who is on horseback, it is important that you have the sword and cape over all other arms with the intention that keeping the order written below you will not fail, you will have honor and because you are shrewd at that which I will say. First you will put your cape on your left arm so that you are able to throw it. Settle into a well formed cinghiara porta di ferro alta and here when the horse comes at you, I want you wait and then throw the cape at the face of the horse. In this you will step with your right leg to its left side throwing a roverso tondo to its forward legs together with a mandritto to the reins or the left leg of your enemy. Your sword will go into the porta di ferro larga. Then you will throw your left leg to the left side of the horse and with the left hand reach out and take the bridle and with the sword thrust to his flank or to the horse. For your defense, you will [get your horse to] perform a backward leap, and you will place yourself with the sword in coda lunga & alta. That is if you do not grab the said bridle of the [opponent's] horse; if you grabbed it, you should not let go of it until you have either killed or wounded him or his horse, so that he could not harm you. Always offend him or his horse on the left side knowing that in doing this there is no need to fear and you will always be secure. Follow always the left side striking his horse in the head, the flank or the legs knowing that giving one or two attacks to the horse's head or to the legs, he will not be secure in coming at you. In such a dispute you will go without fear, because having fear he will not come to you doing a similar thing that you desire. Doing other curious things to you is not possible. That is, that you want. Therefore, please heed my advice. Do not think that I would give you too long a discourse, because I am a man of few words; for this reason, I here conclude this section about how to fight someone on horseback from afoot.”