

Hanko Döbringer Worksheet 1

Jan. 2012

Source Manual: Cod.HS.3227a, aka "Hanko Döbringer's Fechtbuch," 1389

<http://www.thearma.org/Manuals/dobringer.html>

Assignment: Read pg. 1-21 (up to section 22V) for discussion next week.

Text for discussion & practice this week: pg. 22-27

23R

This is the text where the five strikes and other pieces are mentioned. Five strikes learn to do from the right side against the defence. Rage strike [Zornhaw], crooked [Krump], cross [Twere], squinting [Schiler], with the scalp strike [Scheitlere]. The Fool [Alber] counters [Vorsatz], attack after [Nochreist], and run over [Ueberlawft] hurt the strokes last. Change through [Durchwechselt], withdraw [Zuckt], running through [Durchlawft], cutting away [Abesneit], pressing the hands [Hende drukt]. Hanging [Henge], turning [Wind] with the openings [Blossen], strike, grasp thrust with thrusts.

This is regarding the Rage strike [Zornhaw] When someone strikes at you from above, strike a rage strike [Zornhaw] and draw (or slide?) the point at him, and you shall also step towards the right side. If he notices this, take away from above without fear, be stronger, turn [Wind] against it, and take it down. If he notices this, then go down. Note this; strike [Hewe], thrust [Stiche], guards [Leger], soft [Weich] or hard [Herte]. At once [Indes] and the before [Vor] the after [Nach]— do not haste into war, what the war strikes from above, is ashamed from below. In all turnings [Winden], strikes, thrusts and cuts learn to find. You shall also try strikes, thrusts or cuts in all meetings with the masters if you wish to fool them. Do not strike at the sword, but always to the openings, to the head, the body if you wish to remain unharmed. If you hit or miss, always search for the openings, in all teachings turn the point to the openings. He who strikes widely around, he will often become seriously shamed. Always strike and thrust at the closest openings.

Glossa. Here note that Liechtenauer strikes an upper strike [Oberhaw] from the shoulder, it is called the rage strike [Czornhaw].

23V

When you are angry and raging, then no strike is as ready as this upper strike [Oberhaw] struck from the shoulder at the opponent. That is why Liechtenauer means that when someone strikes an upper strike [Oberhaw] against you, then you shall strike a rage strike [Czornhaw] at him; that is you move quickly in towards him with your point leading. If he defends against your point, then go quickly up and over to the other side of his sword. If he defends against that as well, then be hard and strong in your sword and turn [Wind] quickly and skilfully. If he defends against your thrust then throw and strike quickly below and you will hit him in the legs. That is you should always try one after the other so that he never has a chance to come to blows himself. And the aforesaid words – Before [Vor] after [Noch] at once [Indes] weak [Swach], Strong [Stark], strike [Hewe], thrust [Stiche] and Cut [Snete], these you should think on well and never forget in your swordplay. And you should not rush into war, since if you fail above were you aim, then you will hit below as you will hear how to do one out of the other according to the true art, regardless if it is a strike, thrust or cut. And you shall not strike at the sword, but at the man himself, to the head or the body anywhere you can. One can also understand the first passage so that when you strike from above with the rage strike [Czornhaw], then you are also using the point of the rage strike. Just act according to this teaching, and always be in motion, whether you hit him or not, so that he cannot come to blows. And always step well out to the side with the strikes. And also know that from two strikes alone come all other strikes that are possible to name:

24R

These are the upper strike [Oberhaw] and the lower strike [Unterhaw] from both sides. These are the main strikes and form the foundation for all other strikes. They are in themselves basic and come from the point of the sword, which is the centre and core of all other pieces that is well described to you. And from these strikes come the four displacements from each side with which all strikes or thrusts are broken and also all guards, and from them you come into the four

hangings and from these one can do fine art as you will hear later. No matter how you fence always aim the point at the opponent's face or breast, then he will always have to worry that you will be faster since you will have a shorter way to go in to him than he has to you. And if it happens that the opponent wins the first strike [Vorschlag] then you must be sure, precise and quick in the turning [Wenden] and as soon as you have turned in to him you shall move at once with speed and your point should always desire his breast and turn [Winden] and seek its way there as you shall hear later on. And as soon as the opponent binds your sword then your point should not be more than half an ell [30-40cm] from the opponent's breast or face. You shall be careful and note if you can get in behind [his sword] and always go the nearest way and never too wide, so that the opponent does not come before you in case you hesitated and again find yourself to be left hanging or that you defended too weakly or defended too wide and with too much force.

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25R

This is on the four openings. If you know how to seek the four openings [Blossen], then you should strike true and without any danger, without concern for what he intends to do. Note here that Liechtenauer divides a man into four parts. That is as if a line was drawn from his forehead to his groin down the body and the other line along his belt. Thus you will have four openings in quarters. A left and right opening above the belt and the same openings below the belt. These are the four openings and each has its own fencing. Always seek these and never the sword. How to break the four openings; If you wish to take revenge, then artfully break the four openings. Above double [Duplier] and below rightfully change [Mutier]. I say truly that no man can defend himself without danger and if you have understood this then he cannot come to blows.

25V

This is on the Crooked strike [Krumphawe] Go crooked [Krump] with skill and throw the point at the hands, strike crooked [Krump] at he who sets well, with steps you will hurt many strokes. Strike crooked [Krum] to the flat of the master when you wish to weaken him. When it flashes above step away that I will applaud. Do not crooked [Krum] short strikes, changing through [Durchwechsel] and then do a crooked strike [Krum], whoever wishes to deceive you the noble war will confuse him, so that he does not know if he is out of danger.

Glossa. Here note that the crooked strike [Krumphaw] is an upper strike [Oberhaw] that goes out well to the side with a step, and then goes in a crooked manner to one [the other] side. Therefore Liechtenauer means that if you wish to do this strike well, you shall step well out to the right side as you strike. And you shall throw or shoot your point in over the cross guard at the (opponent's) hands. And you shall strike with your flat, and when you hit the flat (of the opponent's sword?) you shall remain on it with strength and push firmly and see where you can easiest and straightest hit him with strikes or thrusts or cuts and you shall not strike too short and not forget the changing through [Durchwechsel], were it is suitable to do it.

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26V

A strike is called the feint/error [Veller] and it comes from the crooked strike [Krumphaw] and it is described after the cross strike [Zwerchhaw] which is described firstly and it shall be before the cross strike. And it goes crooked [Krumt] from below and is shot in over the cross guard at him by shooting the point just as the [Krumphaw] from above and down.