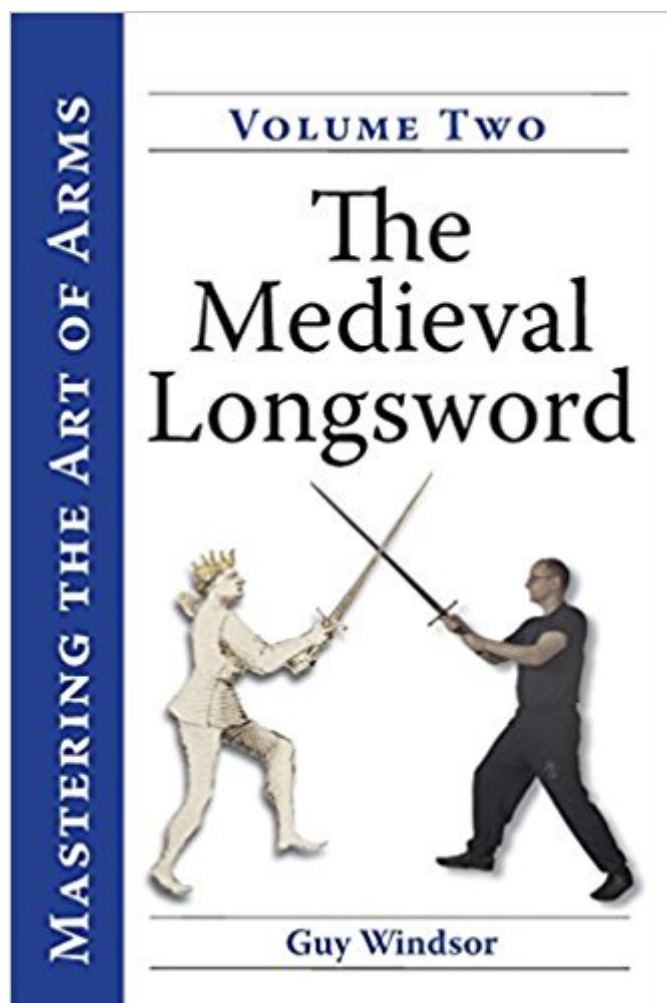


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# Mastering The Art Of Arms, Vol. 2: The Medieval Longsword



## Synopsis

Do you like swords? Do you want to know how to use them? Then this book is for you. Featuring an introduction by novelist Christian Cameron, in this book renowned swordsman and author Guy Windsor will take you through the principles and practice of medieval knightly combat with the longsword. The tactics and techniques come from *Il Fior di Battaglia*, written in 1410 by Fiore dei Liberi, one of the greatest trainers of knights in the Middle Ages. In this book Guy covers everything you need to get started, including principles of swordsmanship, training mindset, and choosing equipment; as well as a complete system of physical practice, from basic footwork all the way up through sword handling and pair drills to free fencing. Beginners will find this a complete and approachable guide to taking up the Art of Arms; experienced swordsmen will also find many tips and tricks for developing their skills. Guy Windsor has been training martial arts for almost 30 years, and teaching professionally since 2001, when he founded The School of European Swordsmanship. The School now has branches and study groups on all over the world. Guy's other books include *The Swordsman's Companion*, *The Duellist's Companion*, *Veni Vadi Vici*, and *Mastering the Art of Arms vol 1: The Medieval Dagger*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book for those beginning or furthering their practice of Medieval Longsword. I've been practicing HEMA Longsword for a year as of the writing of this review, I refer back to this book frequently for insight on techniques and for drills and material for new students. I highly recommend

this book for anyone who is beginning or wants to further their practice of longsword. Guy Windsor is a great writer and presents the material in the order that someone just starting can follow and be successful. It covers conditioning and stretching, the basics of footwork, strikes and parries, then goes into more situations and techniques that build off of the basics. Guy is intimately familiar with the writings of Fiore Dei Liberi and his interpretation of Fiore's work is the most complete and accurate that I've encountered. I recommended this book for anyone that is learning on their own, anyone who already belongs to a club, instructors and new students alike. Great material from a great source!

In the second volume of "Mastering the Art of Arms", Guy Windsor provides an excellent introductory on the medieval longsword for the Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) enthusiast. This book focuses on basic longsword tactics and techniques of the fencing master Fiore dei Liberi from "Il Fior di Battaglia" (the Flower of Battle), an early 14th century Italian fencing treatise. Windsor has an objective writing style that is also fun to read and his explanations are easy to follow. Unfortunately, the original 15th-century artwork of fencing plays was not reproduced; however, Windsor illustrates fencing plays with step-by-step photographs captioned by detailed descriptions. He provides sound interpretations of Fiore's fencing plays and includes a solid set of exercises and drills rooted in the Italian master's style. It would have been nice if Windsor waited and combined the Fiore dagger plays with this volume, providing a much more comprehensive edition centering around the Italian tradition. Regardless, this book is a great introductory guide for any HEMA enthusiast seeking to understand Italian longsword basics!

Guy has a methodical approach to Fiore's system that is unique in its approach to fundamentals. Structure, positioning, and footwork are discussed in great detail as they are the foundation of the arts. What's better is there is no physical skill mentioned in the book that Guy does not give some sort of exercise for, which means that as a training manual there is no equal to the Mastering the Art of Arms series. There is a growing number of secondary interpretations of Fiore's work out there but none stand out so much as Guy's in clarity, accessibility, and simplicity. As someone without access to a great deal of HEMA training in my area I can say that before I discovered the Mastering the Art of Arms series and Guy's work generally I was floundering a bit, but Guy has given me and my study group a curriculum with all the nuts and bolts exposed and highlighted, and for that I am infinitely grateful.

Excellent material from a true practitioner and scholar. Great manual for beginners and old hands alike. Would have given five stars if it wasn't black and white. This and the size of the images made some of the sequences difficult to follow. I would also like to know how much different this is from his two editions of *Swordsmans Companion*.

This book presently has half a dozen bookmarks in it. Very helpful if you're starting down the path of Historical European combat. Clearly written, well organized and definitely my best assistant when it comes to understanding the basics of sword combat laid out in *Il Fior di Battaglia*

This is my first reading and I was very pleased. However, I am also unclear on a number of points, particularly in the section that discusses the bind. The wiki videos were helpful, but in some cases a closer look at the action in the video is needed to see what actions are being applied. This is still a very helpful book. Hopefully my second reading will clarify my confusion. I highly recommend this book.

This is what broke me into the world of HEMA, and is an all around great book. You will not become a swordmaster after reading (any book), but Guy does a wonderful job easing your into the mindset necessary to understand how actual sword fighting works. A note for us U.S. folks: Guy and his school are based in Europe, so some of his gear recommendations are not as easily recommended to someone on this side of the world.

good book to pick up the beginning ideas for longsword

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