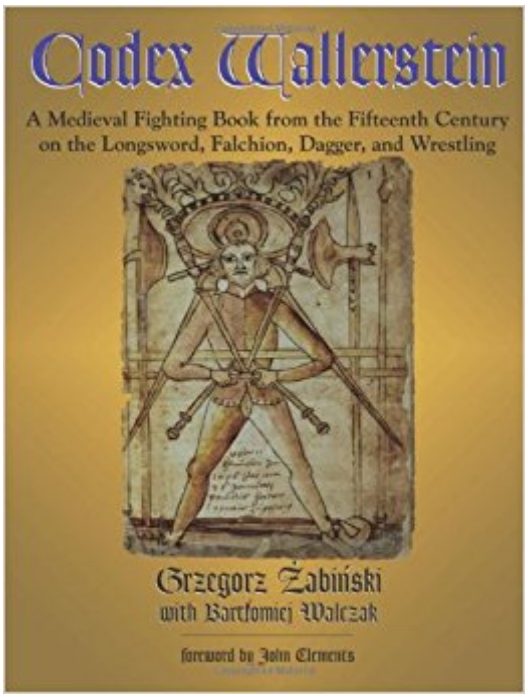
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Codex Wallerstein: A Medieval Fighting Book From The Fifteenth Century On The Longsword, Falchion, Dagger, And Wrestling



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Synopsis

The Codex Wallerstein is one of the best known of the late medieval fencing treatises still in existence. Though perhaps not as widely known as Talhoffer 1467 or Flos Duellatorum, it is just as important to students of the Western martial arts. Originally written in Middle High German during the late 14th and early 15th centuries, the Codex Wallerstein has long been available to scholars in microfilm format from Augusburg University. Now with the publication of this book, the text and drawings are available to scholars and martial artists in the original Middle High German, as well as in Modern German and English translations. The translations were provided by Grzegorz Zabinski, with assistance from Bartlomiej Walczak, two of the most esteemed interpreters of medieval combat in the world. The codex offers a series of fundamental counters to common attacks, using the longsword, falchion and dagger, as well as the complete system of wrestling techniques. In this work the reader will find a great deal of instruction on thrusting at or closing in against an opponent, expanding Master Johannes Liechtenauer's art of longsword combat. For martial artists, medievalists, historians or anyone with an interest in historical arms or self-defense, Codex Wallerstein is sure to become an invaluable reference.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grzegorz Zabinski is a medievalist from Upper Silesia in Poland. Apart from medieval and early Renaissance military history and martial arts, his fields of interest include problems of medieval social and economic history, with special reference to the Cistercian order. He is currently working on a Ph.D. dissertation on early 16th-century comments on the swordsmanship treatise of Johannes

Liechtenauer.Bartlomiej Walczak is a student of nuclear physics, but his real passion is the study of medieval martial arts, which he has been pursuing since 1997. He is the chief of the Brotherhood of the Eagles' Nests, a member of the Historical European Martial Arts Community and the director of Association for Renaissance Martial Arts in Poland. Currently, he is working on a training curriculum based on Johannes Liechtenauer's teachings.

Fascinating window into the past. My 10 year old son used some of his saved up money to buy this and spends hours reading it and looking at the pictures. I know he's young, but he's very impressed with this and says how very different it is to the other books he's seen. Great buy for our boy.

One of the great challenges of studying medieval forms of the martial arts is the fact that there is no school anywhere that preserves the actual fighting techniques of this era intact. While some of the techniques have survived, the decline of the necessity for a gentleman post Renaissance to be a man of arms as well as letters and learning has resulted in much knowledge being misplaced, lost and forgotten. As a result, modern schools of medieval martial arts can, and will, teach you basic techniques, but, as opposed to some of the better preserved Renaissance arts with the epÃƒÂ©e or rapier, most of the material tends to be appropriate for and focused on purely theatrical fighting. As such, this fighting manual of the late medieval period is invaluable, particularly due to the accessibility of the techniques contained therein.While others may find this volume a bit advanced for the novice of medieval swordsmanship, I find the pictures and descriptions eminently understandable (and I'm certainly a novice). Frankly, learning any martial art through a book is a bit of a challenge, but, in this case, the manual is extremely easy to follow, which accounts in large part for its popularity in the 15th Century. The text focuses on the REAL art of the fighting man, centering on applications of the long sword, dagger, falchion and unarmed combat, and it's neither "chivalrous" in the modern sense of the word, nor pretty. The techniques within are designed for the professional fighting man, and the full emphasis is on surviving a fight, and not looking pretty while you do it. As such, in using the techniques, you will get cut, without a doubt - some of the holds, particularly in unarmed versus armed combat, and such put your bare skin on the edge of the opponents blade. However, they do increase the likelihood of being the one to walk (or stagger, or stumble) away from the encounter.From the perspective of one only interested in the historical aspects, the book is fascinating in that it presents facsimiles of the original plates from the book, with a Latin alphabet version of the old German text on each plate, as well as modern German and English translations of the text. It's also fascinating, again, in that this was designed for the

professional warrior, and the presumed context in which it would be read, and intent and value system of the reader of the day, is vastly different from what many hold as misconceptions of the period.Highly recommended!

I’m giving it four stars because I was expecting a better quality material for the book to be printed in. Otherwise this book is a perfect Codex printed for me to keep.The while book is basically an authentic copy of the book written hundreds of years ago. And also having that benefit of todays interpretations in English.

This book drops just short of being great. Mainly because some of the imformation is "left out there" for the reader to determine where and how it should fit in the the subject at hand. In addition a bit of a hard read for someone who is unfamiliar with the subject matter, but other than that it grants a valuable insight to those interested in the subject.

This a very scholarly book; well reseached, and of very high quality in printing; indispensable to anybody who want to have a comprehensive idea of the martial arts of medieval Europe. The only thing I’d suggest to the publisher is to include a CD with demonstration of the techniques presented in the book.

I’m a student. This is a nice reference work. The pictures must be examined closely to find very subtle points the master wanted to make. It requires, like all these works, patience and open mind, think outside the box.

Turns out he did not. Middle age sword fighting looks a lot like junk yard judo enhanced with a long pointed weapon. I always wondered why the mouldy old middle agers were so enamoured with wrestling but now I see. Wrestling and swords were part of a unified system of defense (or offence if you made a poor carreer choice). I’ll hazard an opinion that the modern karate school looks rather dainty and ineffective by comparison.

This is an amazing book, and I am so happy to be able to look at the plates. Of interest to collectors, martial arts enthusiasts, and medievalists.

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