



Dreynevent 2013 - Vienna

Sword & Buckler Workshop after Manuscript I.33

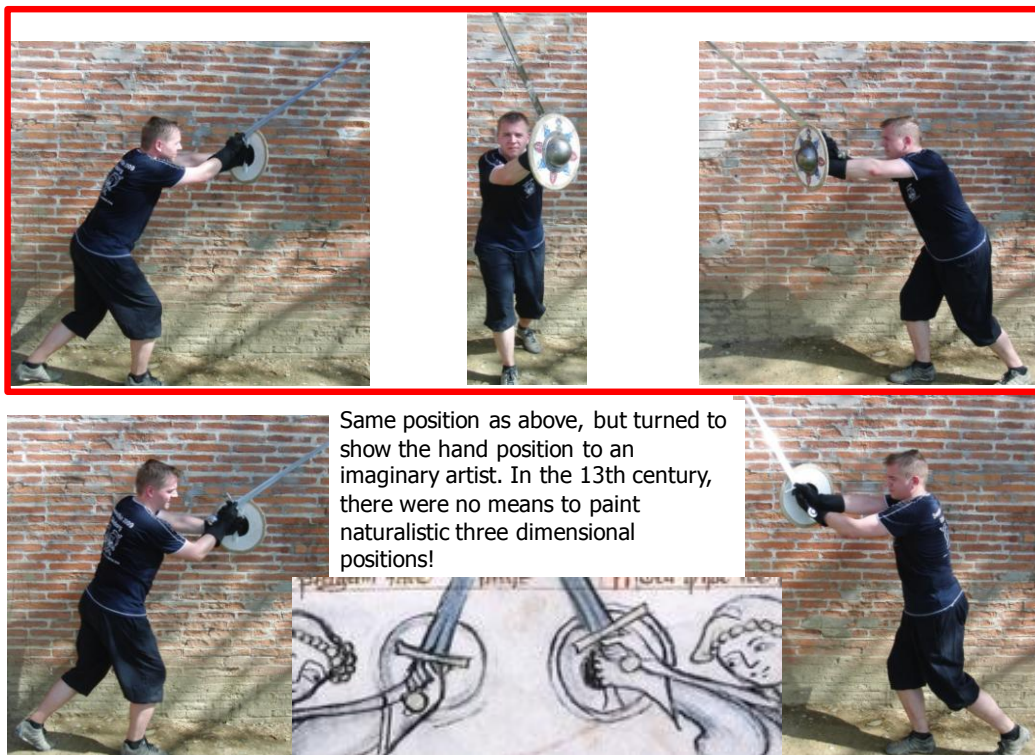
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Schützen against Secunda Custodia



The Secunda Custodia is a typical guard, which can be observed in almost every sword art. Be it after Marozzo, Fiore, Liechtenauer, Lecküchner. The reason is simple, as it is the starting position of a cut from the attackers right shoulder to the opponents left upper opening.


When analyzing the opponents guard, we can assume that he will perform a simple cut, be it rather vertical or diagonal. As both fencers have the same pure objective, namely hitting each other, the question is how to gain control over the space in-between them. The attacker cannot enter because the defender, who is in the second guard, would deliver a blow. The I.33 system provides a solution to this: The "Schützen" or "cover" in English. The "Schützen" closes the attack vectors and allows a safe approach toward the opponent who assumed the second guard.


The Schützen Position

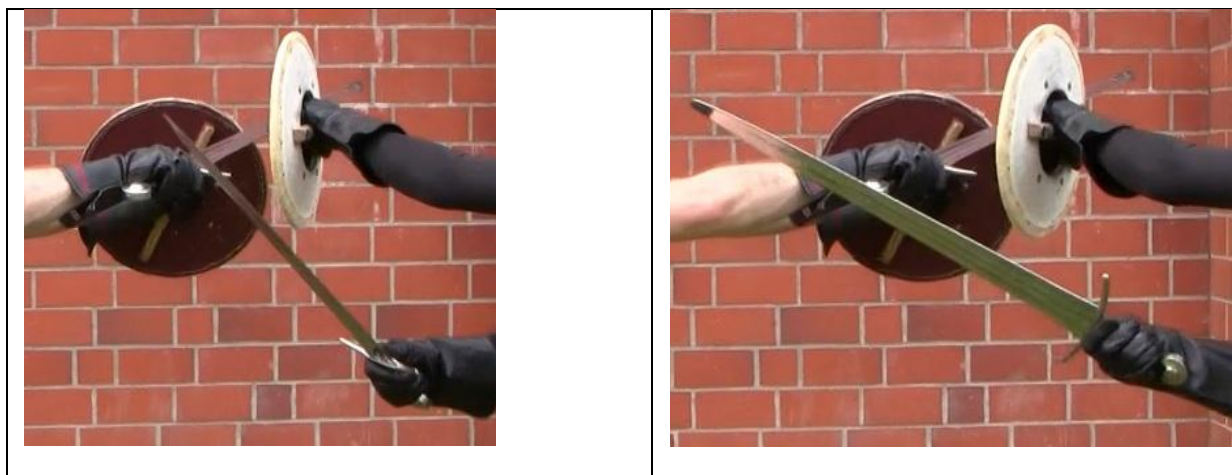


9th Play - Part I	Interpretation
	<p>The Priest assumes second guard (right foot forward).</p> <p>The Pupil approaches and when entering the long distance, he assumes the "Schützen" position stepping in with the left foot towards the Priest.</p> <p>If the Priest draws a cut, it will be caught by the "Schützen" and the Pupil can easily perform a "Durchtritt" (Stepping through).</p> <p>If the Priest does nothing, see <u>10th Play</u>.</p> <p>If the Priest, as shown, assumes also a "Schützen" position, three new options unfold.</p> <p>On this page, only the "Durchtritt" will be described. From this "Schützen" vs. "Schützen" Position onwards, two options will be described later.</p>
	<p>Here, the Pupil performs a "Durchtritt". It is performed in unwinding the hands from the "Schützen" position. The Pupil steps another step with the left foot towards the Priest while unwinding the hands. The Pupils blade had sneaked behind the Priests blade due to the unwinding movement.</p> <p>The Priest can counter this in pushing the Pupils blade down from the "Schützen" vs. "Schützen" position. The Priests Handposition is the same as after a "Mutatio Gladii". Now, the Priest can perform a "Nucken" to the Pupils head.</p>
	<p>The Pupil responds to the pressure and flees the bind with a step to his left, while thrusting or thrust-striking the priest.</p>

9th Play - Part II	Interpretation
	<p>Now to the other options from the "Schützen" vs. "Schützen" position.</p>
<p>This is the text describing the other options. No image exists for these options:</p> <p>He might get an opportunity for a strike to the left, as it is done by general fencers, or to the right, as it is done by the priest and his youths. To counter these two possibilities, the priest may, with the sword under the arm, reach the bare hands of him who executes the abovementioned strikes, although this counter is not depicted in the example image. <i>(Translation by Dieter Bachmann)</i></p>	<p>Depending on the pressure, the "Durchtritt", a long edge blow to the Priests right side ("on the left" in the Pupils perspective) or a short edge blow with shield strike to the Priests left side ("on the right" in the Pupils perspective).</p>
	<p>The cut to the Priests right side is the typical common fencers "Twerhau". Shown are two examples from the almost finished technique. This action works especially well if the opponent is very hard in the bind. The drawback is, that the way is quite long. An experienced fencer might protect himself with the "Schützen" against "Tertia Custodia".</p>

9th Play - Part III	Interpretation
	<p>The cut to the Priests left side is the preferred option of the manuscripts author. It is a short back edge blow, prepared by a shield strike to clear the way.</p> <p>Another picture is substituted (from 38th Play). It also shows a short edge blow, but from another situation. We only have to imagine the Priest in the picture below is still in "Schützen", so the buckler and sword would be higher and tip up. The Pupil executes a "Shield Strike" with the edge of his buckler against the arms of the opponent, pushing them away laterally. At the same time he accelerates the sword in turning his elbow inwards and cut the Priest in the head.</p>

9th Play - Part IV	Interpretation
	<p>The counter against the "Durchtritt" and the two blows is performed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both are standing in the "Schützen", a cross is established. • The pressure of the Pupils blade(left in the picture series) is felt. • The Priest turns his hand outwards like unwinding before a "Durchtritt". • Instead of stepping through, the Priest let the tip of his sword drop and winds it under the Pupils arms to the other (the Pupils right) side. • There he cuts in a circular movement with the short edge into the hands or forearms of the Pupil. • While doing this, the Priest turns his buckler clockwise over his sword arm to protect his right opening.



10th Play	Interpretation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priest rests in Secunda Custodia • The Pupil approaches with Schützen. His left side is covered.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Priest omits to do something, i.e. the counter-Schützen, so the Pupil unwinds his arms and thrusts from the Schützen position. • The "Durchtritt" movement can be simply continued, even if there is no blade contact.

A word of caution:

This handout should be seen in the context of what was presented during the workshop. The handout alone, without the context of the workshop, might lead to wrong conclusions and misunderstandings. Techniques have been explained in detail during the workshop.

Literature:

- [1] Le Livre De l'Art Du Combat, Liber de arte dimicatoria, F.Cinato, A. Surprenant CNRS EDITIONS, Paris, 2009
 [2] The Medieval Art of Swordsmanship, Jeffrey L. Forgeng, Chivalry Bookshelf, 2003
 [3] <http://collections.royalarmouries.org/index.php?a=wordsearch&s=gallery&key=WYTozOntpOjA7czo0OiJpLjMzljtpOjE7aTowO2k6MjtiOjA7fQ==&pg=1> [images du I.33]

