

**References to the fencing treatise of
Pedro de la Torre**

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Pedro de la Torre

Little is known about this 15th century *maestro*, but his treatise on fencing is one of the oldest known detailing a style of Iberian swordplay. It is also important for being a possible origin for the Iberian method of fighting with two swords. Any surviving copies of this work have not yet been located. The year of publication is cited in other works as 1474.

Summary

This work is at least 124 folios long, and is separated into at least two parts. Folio 58 is cited as being in chapter three, so it is likely that the second part starts before then. The treatise covers sword alone, dagger alone, sword and shield, montante, sword and cloak, two swords, sword and dagger, and sword alone against spear. Sword alone is likely the principal weapon, as it is called the queen of weapons. The two-sword method was created by the author. There are four principal guards: one at each shoulder and hip.

Notes on this compilation

References have been paraphrased and ordered by folio number to give a sense of how the treatise may be laid out. References without a folio number given are listed at the beginning. Each paraphrase is followed by a note in brackets denoting the work from which the reference was taken. The final section includes quotes of the denoted sections of the original, along with an English translation.

The guards are not positions, but understandings of the damage that can be done to you, and
Four principal guards: one at each shoulder and hip
[Nueva Ciencia 39]

The sword should be kept lower than the middle of the body, with the left hand near it
[Nueva Ciencia 234]

The sword is divided into nine parts (in the “second part” of the book)
[La Scherma 27]

Against a *reves*, counter with a *reves*
[La Scherma 74]

folio 1-2

No backward movement is made, because time is lost
[Nueva Ciencia 583]

folio 4

Parry is made when the blow is in the high posture, with the arm straight up
[Engaño 53v]

folio 5

All weapons are deceptions, and all who deal with them are deceivers
[Engaño 52]

In a knife fight, when one closes in to strike, grab his near hand to spin him around and grab his back to throw him down
[Nueva Ciencia 578]

folio 6

He that is attacked has the advantage
[Nueva Ciencia 211] [Nueva Ciencia 230]

folio 7

When one will be attacked, move
[Nueva Ciencia 211]

Parry is made when the blow is in the high posture, with the arm straight up
[Engaño 53v]

folio 8

The first to attack will be the one that is wounded
[Nueva Ciencia 211]

Both parries and deflections can be made with the buckler and shield
[Engaño 51]

folio 9

Ascending *tajo* and *reves* with the montante (possibly another three techniques call the little friend, the baker, and the pig's foot)
[Nueva Ciencia 156]

folio 10

Coming on guard, the feet should be two feet (one-third of your height) apart
[Nueva Ciencia 62]

folio 11

One cannot know how the opponent will move before he moves
[Nueva Ciencia 135]

Keep the eyes on the point of the sword
[Nueva Ciencia 140]

folio 12

Do not withdraw the arm before thrusting
[Nueva Ciencia 184]

folio 13

Half steps

[Engaño 49] [Resumen 19]

folio 15

Reves from high to low followed by another, or

Cleaving *tajo* (*hendiente*) from high to low, or

Ascending *tajo*, or

Tajo to the knees, or

Reves to the feet and to the legs

[Nueva Ciencia 176]

Both parries and deflections can be made with the buckler and shield

[Engaño 51]

folio 18

Deflection with the cloak

[Engaño 51] [Engaño 114]

folio 19

Deflection with the cloak

[Engaño 51] [Engaño 114]

Presas done on the wrist of the weapon arm

[Nueva Ciencia 388]

folio 20

Deflection with the cloak

[Engaño 51] [Engaño 114]

folio 22

Presas done on the wrist of the weapon arm

[Nueva Ciencia 388]

folio 26

Presas done on the wrist of the weapon arm
[Nueva Ciencia 388]

folio 27

Fighting with two swords isn't an old method, and he invented his method while having a four-palm stick in his left hand with which to defend himself – parry with the left sword and wound the opponent's left arm with the right sword
[Nueva Ciencia 499]

folio 29

Techniques are the same on the right and left side, the only difference is knowing to change the sides
[Engaño 54]

Presas done on the wrist of the weapon arm
[Nueva Ciencia 388]

folio 32

Blows targeting from the belt down are shorter, and by attacking the face, they will not reach
[Nueva Ciencia 73]

folio 33

Presas done on the wrist of the weapon arm
[Nueva Ciencia 388]

folio 36

The distance between your feet should be one-third of your height
[La Scherma 36]

folio 36-39

The sword can parry and the dagger can wound in the chest or face (possibly one parries *tajos* and *reveses* deep inside with the sword and dagger together, and the dagger remains to detain the opponent's sword while the sword cuts or thrusts to the legs)
[Engaño 50v]

folio 41

As much as the montante is advantageous over the sword by reason of length, it is that much more dangerous

[Nueva Ciencia 489]

folio 43

When battling sword against spear, throw a blow to parry

[Nueva Ciencia 521]

folio 44

The sword alone is the queen of weapons

[Engaño 48v] [Resumen 25]

With the sword alone one has to wound and parry and do it all

[Engaño 48v]

The sword alone can counter all weapons, with or without haft, including double sword, montante, spear, axe, stick, ranseur, guisarme, sword and dagger, sword and buckler, round shield, cloak, shield, pavise, and adarga

[Engaño 48v] [Nueva Ciencia 209]

folio 46

Thrust to the right hand (vulgar technique of *estocada a la mano*)

[Nueva Ciencia 592]

folio 47

In a battle against a spear, keep the intellectual eyes on the movement of the opponent's arm

[Nueva Ciencia 140]

folio 53

Watch the right arm

[La Scherma 53]

folio 55

Presa done on the wrist of the weapon arm

[Nueva Ciencia 388]

folio 58

(Chapter 3)

Counter a thrust on the inside with the same thrust "*Erir por el mismo acometimiento*"
[La Scherma 42]

folio 59

No backward movement is made, because the time to wound is lost, and given to the
opponent
[Nueva Ciencia 613]

folio 60

The dagger, like the sword, can counter all weapons, including sword and dagger, sword and
buckler, round shield, cloak, double sword, montante, spear, axe, stick, ranseur, guisarme,
adarga, shield, and pavise
[Nueva Ciencia 515] [Nueva Ciencia 526]

Presa done on the wrist of the weapon arm
[Nueva Ciencia 388]

folio 62

Whether natural or by accident of youth, left-handedness is never seen in the upper classes, so
the care that has to be taken against it is unnecessary for them
[Nueva Ciencia 675]

folio 120

All weapons are deceptions, and all who deal with them are deceivers
[Engaño 52]

folio 122

All weapons are deceptions, and all who deal with them are deceivers
[Engaño 52]

folio 124

All weapons are deceptions, and all who deal with them are deceivers
[Engaño 52]

[Engaño 48v]

Pacheco de Narvaez, Luis. *Engaño y Desengaño* (Madrid, 1635), fol. 48v

“Pedro de la Torre, fol. 44, Pedro Mocio fol. 59, Fracisco Roman fol. 4, 5, Camilo Agripa fol. 81, Xiacomo de Grasi fol. 4, 110, Iuanes de la Agoche fol. 12, dixeron que la espada sola, meritamente se puede dezir Reyna de todas las armas, por ser escala, y guia de la defensa y ofensa, y el fundaméto de todas, porque có ella sola sin otra ayuda se ha de herir, y reparar, y todo lo ha de hazer ella, y que puede contra todas las armas enastadas, o sin asta, y q' suple a todos las elecciones dellas”

(Pedro de la Torre, fol. 44, Pietro Monte, fol. 59, Francisco Roman, fol. 4, 5, Camillo Agrippa, fol. 81, Giacomo di Grassi, fol. 4, 110, Giovanni dall'Agocchie, fol. 12, all said that the sword alone can rightly be called queen of all weapons, by being a scale and guide of the defense and offense, and the foundation of all, because with it alone, without other help, one has to wound and parry and do it all, and that it can counter all the weapons, with or without haft, and that it supplies to all the choices of them.)

[Engaño 49]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 49

“Y porque Iayme Ponz folio 21. Pedro Monzio folio 19. Pedro de la Torre folio 13. Agripa folio 6. 10. Grasi, folio 14. 65. dixeron medios compases, Carrança en folio 162. dixo lo mismo”

(And because Jaime Pons, folio 21, Pietro Monte, folio 19, Pedro de la Torre, folio 13, Agrippa, folio 6 and 10, di Grassi, folio 14 and 65, said half steps, Carranza, in folio 162, said the same)

[Engaño 50v]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 50v

“Iayme Ponz, folio 5. 10. 18. 21. dio por general percepto, que contra los tajos, y rebeses, se reparasse con la espada, y la daga juntas, y muy adentro, y que la daga quedasse deteniendo la espada contraria, en quanto la de su escolar hiriesse de estocada, ò cuchillada a las piernas. Pedro de la Torre desde folio 36. hasta 39. siguiò este parecer, y dio permission para que pudiesse la espada estar reparando, y hiriesse la daga en los pechos, ò en la cara; que fue lo que setenta y tres años despues dixo Carrança en folio 158.”

(Jaime Pons, folio 5, 10, 18, and 21, gave by general precept, that against the *tajos* and *reveses*, one parries with the sword and dagger together deep inside, and that the dagger stays, detaining the opposing sword, as his scholar's sword wounds with a thrust or cut to the legs. Pedro de la Torre, from folio 36 to 39, followed this opinion and gave permission for the sword to be able to parry, and the dagger to wound in the chest or face; which Carranza said seventy-three years later in folio 158.)

[Engaño 51]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 51

“Iayme Ponz, fol. 23. 24. 25. Pedro de la Torre, fol. 18. 19. 20. Marozo cap. 62. 67. 68. Grasi, fol. 26. 55. le dieron el desvio a la capa. Al broquel, y rodela le dieron el reparo, y el desvio Iayme Ponz fol. 5 10 18 21 Pedro de la Torre fol. 8 15 Francisco Roman fol. 5 Marozo desde el cap. 87 hasta el 157 Grasi, fol. 62 83 84 94 y nuestro autor Geronimo de Carrança, como si los Españoles fueros Chichimecos, ò nacidos en Monicongo, y q' no avia de aver quié supiesse averiguar lo que dixo, y de quien lo tomò, haziendose universal juez, y primer distributor de la potècia de cada una de las armas, sentado en el tribunal de su satisfacion (sin mas trabajo que el leerlo, no de especularlo) declaro, como có motu propio governado por el espiritu de su cófianza, de q' ninguna destas cosas estuvierá en la memoria de los hóbres, todas, y cada una dellas partes, sin acrecentar, ni disminuir una silaba, como se halla en su libro, fol. 160.”

(Jaime Pons, fol. 23-25, Pedro de la Torre, fol. 18-20, Marozzo, ch. 62, and 67-68, Grasi, fol. 26 and 55, gave the deflection to the cloak. Jaime Pons, fol. 5, 10, 18, 21, Pedro de la Torre, fol. 8, 15, Francisco Roman, fol. 5, Marozzo, from ch. 87 to 157, di Grassi, fol. 62, 83, 84, 94, and our author Jeronimo de Carranza gave the parry and the deflection to the buckler and shield, as if we Spanish were Chichimecs, or born in the Congo, and have not had to find out who knew what he said, and from whom he took it, becoming the universal judge and first distributor of the potency of each one of the weapons, seated in the court of his satisfaction (with no more work than reading it, not speculating it) declared, as with *motu proprio* governed by the spirit of his confidence, of which none of the things they had in the memory of men, all and each one of the parts, without adding or diminishing one syllable, as is found in his book, fol. 160.)

[Engaño 52]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 52

“que las armas todas son engaños; y dezirle, que si las armas son engaños, que todos los que tratan en ellas, son engañadores, no advirtiendo que en esta generalidad hablava contra si, y que pues el tratava dellas, y los ponía por uno de los materiales de su doctrina, que peligrava en la consecuencia: pero saquela el mas piadoso, en quanto yo pàsso a dezir, que ni aun este con ser tan dessatinado, no fue pensamiento suyo; porque Iayme Ponz fue el primero que lo produjo, como se halla en su libro fol. 41. 42. 43. Pedro de la Torre fue el segundo, y los dilato en fol. 5. 120. 122. 124.”

(that all the weapons are deceptions; and saying that if the weapons are deceptions, that all those that deal with them are deceivers, not taking note that in this generality he had spoken against himself, and that as he dealt with them and placed them by one of the materials of his doctrine, that he was jeopardized in the consequence: but the most devout removes it, as soon as I happen to say, that not even this, being so foolish, was his thinking; because Jaime Pons was the first that produced it, as is found in his book, fol. 41-43. Pedro de la Torre was the second and expanded them in fol. 5, 120, 122, and 124.)

[Engaño 53v]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 53v

“si huviesse de reparar, avia de ser quando començasse a bajar, y no despues, porque en aquel giro, o buelta tan grande que haze la espada, cobra fuerça, y se forifica quanto mas se va llegando a su centro. Nuestro Pedro de la Torre fol. 4. 7. que se le salga a el encuentro quando llegare a la postura alta, y el braço estuviere derecho hàzia arriba.”

(if one has to parry, it had to be when it started to lower, and not after, because in that large rotation or turn that the sword makes, it collects force and is strengthened by how much as it goes arriving to its center. Our Pedro de la Torre, fol. 4 and 7, that he goes to meet it when it will arrive to the high posture, and the arm will be straight upward.)

[Engaño 54]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 54

“Iayme Ponz folio .4. 25. dixo solamente, que las tretas son todas unas, en el derecho, y el izquierdo, y que solo està la diferencia en el saber trocar los lados. Y que Pedro de la Torre folio 29. y Marozo folio 66. dixeron lo mismo, y que por ningun caso fuera alterar un concepto, en que hombres tan doctos se conformaron.”

(Jaime Pons, folio 4 and 25, only said that the techniques are all one on the right and the left, and that the only difference is in knowing to change sides. And Pedro de la Torre, folio 29, and Marozzo, folio 66, said the same, and that in no case did he go altering a concept, to which such learned men conformed.)

[Engaño 114]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 114

“y comun opinion de q' a la capa se le avian de dar los desvios, antes la puse por doctrina de Carráça, por averla escrito en fol. 158. aunque como queda citado, fue de Iayme Póz, de Pedro de la Torre, y de Achile Marozo”

(and the common opinion in which the deflections have to be given to the cloak, I placed before in Carranza's doctrine, by having it written in fol. 158; although, as it remains cited, it was from Jaime Pons, Pedro de la Torre, and Achille Marozzo.)

[La Scherma 27]

Pallavicini, Giuseppe. *La Scherma Illustrata* (Palermo, 1670), p. 27

“Li gradi, si dividono, nelli tre spartimenti della Spada, del forte, del terzo, & del debole; d'una parte si fanno tre parti, cioe del forte tre parti, del terzo altre tre parti, & del debole altre tre parti, che sono novi gradi di Spada, come insegna *Pietro la Torre nella seconda parte*”

(The sword is divided into three parts, the *forte*, the *terzo*, and the *debole*, and each of those is divided again into three parts, for a total of nine, as *Pietro la Torre* teaches in the second part)

[La Scherma 36]

Pallavicini. *La Scherma Illustrata*, p. 36

“quale insegna la quantita della pianta dove dice, che l'huomo deve stare in pianta la terza parte della sua statura, ed iui si ragiona che l'huomo e palmi sette, e mezzo di giusta statura, la terza parte viene ad essere palmi due, e mezzo di pianta cioe numerando dalla punta del tallone sinistro per infino alla legatura del piede destro, & anco se l'huomo fusse d'altezza palmi nove la sua pianta viene ad essere palmi tre, e questa e la giusta distanza della pianta, conforme ne parlano molti Autori; vedi *Giacomo Grassi a fog. 14 e Pietro Monzio in fog. 21 Pietro la Torre in fog. 36 Antonio Marchini in fog. 19* & altri Autori, li quali insegnano la forma della pianta e inventata in Napoli, ma si puo credere che la pianta e stara principata in tempi antichissimi; poi che in quelli tempi gli huomini non stavano a mezz'aria; per onde alla presenete giornata si vedono molti libri antichi, li quali stanno ben situati in pianta con la giusta distanza dichiarata sopra.”

(which teaches the width of the stance, where he says that a man must stand with his feet apart one third of his height, and in that place he says that a man of proper stature is seven and a half spans tall, the third part of which is two and a half spans as measured from the point of the left heel to the bend of the right foot. Also, if a man should be nine spans tall, his feet should be three spans apart, and this is the proper distance for the width of the stance, as many authors agree; see *Giacomo Grassi, p. 14 and Pietro Monzio on p. 21, Pietro la Torre on p. 36, Antonio Marchini on p. 19, and other authors*)

[La Scherma 42]

Pallavicini. *La Scherma Illustrata*, p. 42

“per onde se il vostro contrario vi guadagnasse la vostra Spada dalla parte di dentro, e guadagnasse retto, all'istante copirlo retto di quarta nella punta della sua spalla destra della medesima parte di dentro, come anco ci insegna *Pietro la Torre nel suo libro di Scherma Capitolo 3 a fol. 58* come dice *Erir por el mismo acometimiento*, cioe il filo dritto della Spada vostra che camina sopra la Spada del vostro contrario, e lo colpirete con la Stoccata di mezza quarta in faccia”

(so that if your opponent gains your sword on the inside, and straight, immediately hit him straight in fourth in the point of his right shoulder on the inside, as also *Pietro la Torre* teaches us in his *book of Fencing Chapter 3, on p. 58*, as he says, *Erir por el mismo acometimiento* [Wound with the same attack], that is, the true edge of your sword that proceeds over your opponent's sword, and hit him with the *stoccata* of *mezza quarta* in the face.)

[La Scherma 53]

Pallavicini. *La Scherma Illustrata*, p. 53

“per onde il primo moto e il braccio destro, e poi camina la Spada, e guardandosi questo punto, vederete tutti li cenni, che fara il vostro contrario, cioe nel cavare, nella finta, & anco nel fare il guadagno della vostra Spada, & cosi il braccio destro e quello, che fa il primo moto, e questa e la vera regola, come insegnano molti Authori di questa psofessione, cioe: *Gioachmo Mayero nella terza parte fol. 47, Pietro la Torre fog. 53 Carranza della Linea Orizontale prima parte*, e cosi gli Maestri antichi hanno lasciato per iscritto, cioe il punto della Spada sola, e che cosa s'ha da oslerbare per conoscere li tempi, e i moti, che fa la Spada del contrario”

(since the first motion is the right arm, and then the sword moves. If you observe this point, you will see all the movements your opponent will perform, that is, in the *cavazione*, in the feint, and also in the gaining of your sword. And so the right arm is that which makes the first motion. This is the true rule, as many authors of this profession teach, namely, *Joachim Meyer, in the third part, p. 47, Pioto la Torre, p. 53, Carranza of the Horizontal Line first part*, and so the old masters have left behind in writing, that is, the point of the sword alone, and what must be observed to know the times and the motions which the opponent's sword does.)

[La Scherma 74]

Pallavicini. *La Scherma Illustrata*, p. 74

“*Pietro de la Torre* vuol, che nel tirare il Rovverso, che fara il vostro contrario, tirargli un'altro roverso”

(If your opponent performs a *roverso*, *Pietro la Torre* wants that you perform a *roverso* in return)

[Nueva Ciencia 39]

Pacheco de Narvaez, Luis. *Nueva Ciencia* (Madrid, 1672), p. 39

“Nuestro Pedro de la Torre, por primero, no sintio bien de que la guardia fuesse postura, antes la quiso hacer acto del entendimiento, en saber el hombre lo que le puede dañar, y despues rindiendose flacamente al yugo de la opinion suya (que en ella no tuvo à quien imitar) dixo, que son quatro las guardias principales, y las sirvô en el ombro derecho, ê izquierdo, y en los dos quadriles.”

(Our Pedro de la Torre, at first, didn't feel that the guard was a posture, but rather wanted to make it an act of understanding, in the man knowing that which can damage him, and after weakly fighting the yoke of his opinion (that in it he had no one to imitate) said that there are four principal guards, and served them on the right and left shoulder, and on the two hips.)

[Nueva Ciencia 62]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 62

“Pedro de la Torre, y Marco Docciolini, quando, haciendose reformadores de los otros Maestros, dizen, que afrimandose el hombre, tenga apartado el un pie del otro dos pies, que es la tercia parte de su cuerpo”

(Pedro de la Torre and Marco Docciolini, becoming reformers of the other Masters, say that when a man establishes, he has the one foot parted from the other by two feet, which is a third of his body)

[Nueva Ciencia 73]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 73

“lo que bien advirtiô Pedro de la Torre, que qualquiera golpe que se tirare de la de la cintura abaxo, es mas corto, y que hiriendo al contrario en el rostro, êl no podrá llegar”

(that which Pedro de la Torre advised well, that whatever blow that will be thrown from the belt down is shorter, and that wounding the opponent in the face, he will not be able to reach)

[Nueva Ciencia 135]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 135

“Pero no quieren cóceder que esto no sea afirmacion, antes dizen que Carrança siguiô en esta sentencia a Pedro de la Torre, que muy en juicio, y osadamente resuelve, que en ninguna manera se puede conocer el movimiento q' ha de hazer el contrario, si primero no se mueve”

(But they don't want to concede that this is affirmation, rather they say that Carranza followed Pedro de la Torre in this sentence, who very wisely and boldly resolves, that in no manner is one able to know the movement that the opponent has to make, if he doesn't move first)

[Nueva Ciencia 140]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 140

“Nuestro Español Pedro de la Torre, no gozô mejor fortuna en el acierto de esta dificultad, aunque probô la mano dos vezes; por primero dixo, que los ojos se han de poner en la punta de la espada, dóde quiera que estuviere; y bolviendo a reiterar esto, dice en la batalla de lança, que si el contrario se la tirare al diestro, que este ha de mirar con los ojos intelectuales al movimiento de el braço, quando quisiere arrojarsela”

(Our Spaniard Pedro de la Torre didn't enjoy better fortune in the success of this difficulty, although he tried his hand twice; first he said that the eyes have to be directed to the point of the sword, wherever it will be; and returning to reiterate this, he says in the battle of the spear, that if the opponent will attack the *diestro*, that the *diestro* has to look at the movement of the arm with the intellectual eyes, when he will want to attack him)

[Nueva Ciencia 156]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 156

“contra la opinion de Carrança, que lo que se puede hazer en el montante, y las demas armas es en infinito, cuyo parecer siguiô Nicoletto Giganti, y el de Iayme Pons (a quien imitaron Pedro de la Torre, y Marozo) dizen que ay tajo, y revês ascendiente; y de mas desto pone otras tres especies, a quien llama el poco amigo, el hornero, y el pie de puerco”

(against the opinion of Carranza, that which can be done with the *montante* and the other weapons is infinite, whose opinion followed that of Nicoletto Giganti and Jaime Pons (whom Pedro de la Torre and Marozzo imitated), they say that there are ascending *tajo* and *reves*; and more than this he lays out another three types, which he calls the little friend, the baker, and the pig's foot)

[Nueva Ciencia 176]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 176

“lean a Iayme Pons, y a Pedro de la Torre, y veràn como quieren que se tiren dos reveses, uno de alto abaxo, y otro redondo por la cara, y demàs desto, ponen tajo hendiente, que es de arriba abaxo, y tajo ascendiente, que es de abaxo arriba, manderecho a las rodillas, y revês a los pies, y a las piernas.”

(they read Jaime Pons and Pedro de la Torre and will see how they want that two *reveses* are thrown, one from high to low, and another rounded by the face, and besides this, they lay out a cleaving *tajo*, that is from high to low, and an ascending *tajo*, that is from low to high, right-handed to the knees, and *reves* to the feet and to the legs.)

[Nueva Ciencia 184]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 184

“no es bien considerada resolucion para formar la estocada retirar el braço atràs, y bolverlo a arrojar de nuevo. Pedro Moncio, Pedro de la Torre, y Giacome de Grasi, y despues destes Salvador de Fabres sintieró lo mismo”

(it is not a well-considered resolution for forming the thrust to withdraw the arm back and return it to throw again. Pietro Monte, Pedro de la Torre, and Giacomo di Grassi, and after them Salvator Fabris, felt the same)

[Nueva Ciencia 209]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 209

“Pedro de la Torre quiere, que la espada sola pueda contra todas las armas enastadas, ô sin asta, contra dos espadas, contra montante, lança de à pie, y de armas, hacha, baston, roncon, ô visarma, contra espada, y daga, espada, y broquel, rodela, capa, escudo, pavês, y adarga”

(Pedro de la Torre wants that the sword alone can counter all the weapons, hafted or unhafted, against two swords, against montante, spear on foot, and half-pike, axe, stick, ranseur, or guisarme, against sword and dagger, sword and buckler, round shield, cloak, shield, pavise, and adarga)

[Nueva Ciencia 211]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 211

“y no es alguno destes que aconseja Pedro de la Torre, que quando vea el diestro que su contrario le quiere acometer, mude lugar, quitandose de aquel en que estuviere, porque no cumpla su intento, que quando esto, en su modo de entender, fuera necessario à la defensa, contradize inconstantemente à lo que antes dexô dicho, que el que es acometido tiene ventaja, porque el acometedor teme el daño que le ha de venir; por lo qual vâ de espacio, y lleva menos fuerça, porque es cierto; que es mas fuerte estar en dos pies que en uno, como lo que dà el que va à herir, estando fixo en ambos el que espera, que como ha deliberado lo que ha de hazer, va mas presto, y ventajosamente: y por otra sentencia resuelve, que el primero que entrare à herir, serà herido”

(and it is not some of these that Pedro de la Torre advises, that when the *diestro* sees that his opponent wants to attack him, he changes place, removing himself from where he was, because it doesn't fulfill his intent, that when this, in his mode of understanding, was necessary for the defense, it contradicts inconstantly that which he left said before, that he that is attacked has advantage, because the attacker fears the damage that has to come to him; whereby he goes from space and brings less force, because it is certain that it is stronger to be on two feet than on one, as one who goes to wound gives; he that waits being fixed on both, as he has deliberated that which he has to do, goes more quickly and advantageously: and in another sentence he resolves, that the first that will enter to wound will be wounded)

[Nueva Ciencia 230]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 230

“esta ignorancia dexaron en vinculo patrimonial Pedro de la Torre, y Angelo Vizani, diciendo el uno, que el q' es acometido, tiene ventaja”

(Pedro de la Torre and Angelo Viggiani left this ignorance in a patrimonial link, the one saying that he who is attacked has advantage)

[Nueva Ciencia 234]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 234

“Huya la obediencia al precepto que dà Pedro de la Torre (y al de los demàs que lo huvieren seguido en esto) diziendo que se ponga mas abaxo de la mitad del cuerpo, y la mano izquierda un poco desviada dêl, y no en otra manera”

(The obedience flees to the precept that Pedro de la Torre gives (and to that of the rest that have followed him in this) saying that [the sword] is placed below the middle of the body, and the left hand a little deviated from it, and not in another manner)

[Nueva Ciencia 388]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 388

“Pedro de la Torre, sin respecto al decoro Español siguiô estas vanidades, haciêdo pöderaciô dellas (como quâdo tratemos de la daga còtra daga, se bolverà a refirir, y citar) y despues destes casi todos los q' há escrito hicieró lo mismo: pero todos dixeron q' la presa se hiziesse en la muñeca de la mano en q' estuviere el arma, y no en otra parte”

(Pedro de la Torre, without respect to Spanish decorum followed these vanities, making consideration of them (as when we deal with the dagger against dagger, it will be revisited to refer and cite), and after these almost all those that have written did the same: but all left that the *presa* was done on the wrist of the hand in which the weapon was, and not on another part)

[Nueva Ciencia 489]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 489

“Y tambien sabemos, que con aventajada cordura, contradixeron este parecer Pedro de la Torre, y Camilo Agripa diziendo el primero, que quanto es ventajoso el montante a la espada en razon de largura, tanto es mas peligroso”

(And we also know that with advantageous prudence, Pedro de la Torre and Camillo Agrippa contradicted this opinion, the first saying that as much as the montante is advantageous over the sword by reason of length, it is that much more dangerous)

[Nueva Ciencia 499]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 499

“Por lo que dize Pedro de la Torre (cuyas palabras referimos fielmente) no tiené poca antigüedad, pues afirma que êl fue el primero que las inventô, y que le obligô a ello un caso repentino, en que aviendo de pelear se hallô có un palo de cuatros palmos, poco mas, ô menos en la mano izquierda, y como le faltasse arma defensiva para ella, pensô reparar con êl, y que en efecto se defendiô, y assi de este facil, y casual, experimientto, quedô para con êl establecida esta ciencia, ô quier que sea; y la mas sustancial dotrina que dexô escrita, es que aguarde su diestro a que tire el contrario, y que con la espada izquierda repare el golpe de la derecha, y con la suya derecha hiera en el braço izquierdo”

(Because of which, Pedro de la Torre says (to whose words we refer faithfully) they have little antiquity, then affirms that he was the first that invented them, and that a sudden case obliged him to it, in which having to fight, he was found with a stick of four palms, more or less, in the left hand, and as he lacked a defensive weapon for it, thought to parry with it, and that in effect he was defended, and thus with this easy and chance experience, with it was established this science, or whatever it is; and the most substantial doctrine that was left written, is that his *diestro* waits for what the opponent throws, and with the left sword he parries the blow of the right, and with his right he wounds in the left arm)

[Nueva Ciencia 515]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 515

“No le damos nuevo motivo a la admiracion, ni se le ocasiona al credito mas escrupuloso a negar su creencia con el proponer afirmado, que la espada sola pueda contra la pica; pues en el otro siglo antes del presente oyeró a Pedro de la Torre, y a Iayme Pós de Perpiñan que lo afirmaron asi, a quié Salvador de Fabres, y otros imitaron, no solo siguiendo en esto su parecer, sino las palabras con que lo dixeron”

(We don't give new motive to the admiration, nor is the most scrupulous credit produced to negate their belief in the affirmed proposal, that the sword alone can counter the pike; as in the century before the present they heard Pedro de la Torre and Jaime Pons de Perpiñan that affirmed it so, whom Salvator Fabris and others imitated, not only following their opinion in this, but the words with which they said it)

[Nueva Ciencia 521]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 521

“y deseádo remedio contra ellos, tenga por errado parecer el de Pedro de la Torre (y de los que en esto antes, ô despues lo huvieré dado) en q' dize, q' si el de la espada sola, batallare có alguno de lança, y este tirare un golpe q' lo repare”

(and wanting a remedy against them, Pedro de la Torre has the erroneous opinion (and those that have given it before or after) in which he says that if one with the sword alone will battle someone with a spear, he will throw a blow that parries it)

[Nueva Ciencia 526]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 526

“Pedro de la Torre, con mas temeridad que prudencia bien instruida, se atreviô a dezir, que la daga sola (como la espada) puede contra espada, y daga, espada, y broquel, rodela, y capa, contra dos espadas, montante, lança de a pie, y de armas, hacha baston, roncon, ô visarma, y las demàs enastadas, y contra la adarga, escudo, y pavês”

(Pedro de la Torre, with more recklessness than well-educated prudence, dared to say that the single dagger (like the sword) can counter sword and dagger, sword and buckler, round shield, and cloak, two swords, montante, spear on foot, and half-pike, axe, stick, ranseur, or guisarme, and the other hafted weapons, and the adarga, shield, and pavise)

[Nueva Ciencia 578]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 578

“Nuestro Autor Pedro de la Torre no se escusô de alguna parte desta infelicidad, ni mejorô su opinion con dezir, que si en la batalla con puñales (que ya oy son dagas) se llegaré a estrecho, que el diestro procure asir a su cótrario por las espaldas, para derribarlo: poco, y bien pedia este hombre si se huviera de combatir con alguna estatua, y no con adversario movible; y notese si pudiera dezir mas, quando êl huviera descubierto el acometimiento perfecto, y este se pudiera hazer con la daga: Pues aun no se contentô con esto, que otro tan sustancial precepto dexô para hóra, y veneracion de sus ciencias, diziendo, que cuando el contrario entrare a herir, se le dê con la mano que mas cerca estuviere en el lado mas cercano, tan recio que le haga bolver las espaldas, y q' entonces se le echen los braços al cuerpo; y cierto que por lo q' tiene todo esto de bestialidad, pudiera temer el observante de su enseñança un par de cozes muy bien dadas.”

(Our Author Pedro de la Torre was not excused from some part of this misfortune, nor bettered his opinion by saying that in battle with knives (that nowadays are daggers), if they will come close, that the *diestro* seeks to grab his opponent from behind, in order to throw him down: little and well asked this man if he had to fight with some statue, and not with a mobile adversary; and it is noted if he was able to say more, when he had discovered the perfect attack, and this was able to be made with the dagger: As though he was not content with this, that he left another precept so substantial for honor and veneration of his sciences, saying that when the opponent will enter to wound, it is done with the hand that is closer on the near side, so strong that it makes him turn the back, and that then the arms are thrown around the body; and it is certain that by that which has all this brutality, the observer of his teaching could fear a pair of kicks given very well.)

[Nueva Ciencia 583]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 583

“y Pedro de la Torre dexô dicho, que no se haga movimiento àzia atrás, porque se pierde tiempo”

(and Pedro de la Torre left said that no movement is made backward, because time is lost)

[Nueva Ciencia 592]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 592

“Entre los Autores, solo Pedro de la Torre haze mencion della, y con particular encarecimiento encarga que se tire a la mano derecha afirmando que aquel a quien se executare perderà el sentido”

(Among the Authors, only Pedro de la Torre makes mention of [the thrust to the hand], and with particular appreciation orders that it is thrown to the right hand, affirming that to whom it will be executed will lose sense)

[Nueva Ciencia 613]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 613

“Y lo que assimismo advirtiô Pedro de la Torre, que no se haga movimiento àzia atràs, porque se pierde el tiempo de herir, y se le dà al contrario para que herir”

(And which Pedro de la Torre also advised, that no movement is made backward, because the time to wound is lost, and is given to the opponent in order to wound)

[Nueva Ciencia 675]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 675

“Pedro de la Torre cótéporaneo de Iayme Pós, tocando, y no resolviendo el sentimiéto q' en esto tuvo, quizá por ser dificultad a quié no se atreviô acometer, pide con encarecimiéto se considere, q' este defecto de ser izquierdo, ya sea procedido de naturaleza, ô adquirido có algú descuydo desde la puericia, núca seà visto en Principe, grá Señor, ô Cavallero, y rarisimas vezes en hóbne principal, ô noble ciudadano, y q' no siédo de alguna destas clases tiene por superfluo el cuydar de lo q' cótra êl se huviesse de hazer: adviertase quan bien cúpliô con la obligacion del Autor, y la escapatoria q' buscô por no ponerse a riesgo de ser censurado.”

(Pedro de la Torre, contemporary of Jaime Pons, touching and not resolving the sentiment that he had in this, perhaps by it being difficult which he didn't dare to attack, asks with appreciation that this defect of being a lefty is considered, whether it comes from nature or is acquired by some carelessness from youth, it is never seen in a Prince, great Lord, or Gentleman, and rarely in a great man, or noble citizen, and that not being of some of these classes, the care that has to be taken against it is superfluous: one takes note how well he complied with the obligation of the Author, and the way out that he sought to not be at risk of being censored.)

[Resumen 19]

Arias de Porres, Gomez. *Resumen de la Verdadera Destreza* (Salamanca, 1667), p. 19

“Jayme Pons, Pedro Monçio, Pedro de la Torre, Agripa, Grasi, y Carrança quisieron huuiese medio compas”

(Jaime Pons, Pietro Monte, Pedro de la Torre, Agrippa, di Grassi, and Carranza wanted that there was a half step)

[Resumen 25]

Porres. *Resumen de la Verdadera Destreza*, p. 25

“Es la Espada el instrumento mas adecuado à la defensa de el hombre, reyna de las armas la llamaron los Antiguos”

(The sword is the most adequate instrument for the defense of man; the old Authors called it the queen of the weapons)