

References to the fencing treatise of
Francisco Román

Compiled and translated by
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Francisco Román

This 16th century *maestro* from Seville is credited with much of the development of the montante rules. His treatise also important for being one of the few pre-Carranza texts on Iberian swordplay. Any surviving copies of this work have not yet been located. The year of publication is cited in other works as 1532.

Summary

The length of this work is unknown, as the highest folio number cited is 13. It covers at least the montante, sword alone, sword and shield, sword and cloak, and throws. Sword alone is called the queen of weapons, but montante is called the principal weapon and the eagle of weapons. However, it is also said that the sword and shield is the best of all, and that the sword is the foundation of all shields.

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 montante originally had four rules (high, low, left, and right), then accumulated three more, and Roman increased them to nine, and said they had to be increased to fifteen
[Nueva Ciencia 491]

Has sixteen montante rules
[Carranza 110v] [Compendio 51]

Preface

The montante is the principal weapon
[Engaño 49] [Nueva Ciencia 208]

The montante is the eagle of weapons
[Engaño 49] [Nueva Ciencia 208] [Nueva Ciencia 489]

folio 4-5

The sword alone is the queen of weapons, and can be used against all weapons, with or without haft
[Engaño 48v]

With the sword alone one has to wound and parry and do it all
[Engaño 48v] [Nueva Ciencia 208]

The sword is the foundation of all shields
[Nueva Ciencia 208]

The sword and shield is the best weapon of all
[Engaño 49] [Nueva Ciencia 208]

Reveses thrown to the thighs
[Nueva Ciencia 192]

folio 5

The sword should not hinder the shield, and the shield should not hinder the sword
[Nueva Ciencia 238]

All the cuts with the sword and shield have to be low
[Nueva Ciencia 192] [Nueva Ciencia 670]

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

“And like this they parry with the cloak, as if it was of iron”
[Engaño 116]

Has seen many cripples, having used the cloak to parry as if it was made of steel
[Nueva Ciencia 213] [Nueva Ciencia 667]

Sword makes parries instead of the cloak
[Nueva Ciencia 213]

Presa de pie, which are similar to Marozzo's *presa*
[Nueva Ciencia 388]

The attacker has a greater advantage than the attacked
[Nueva Ciencia 230]

folio 9

Invite, or incite the opponent (vulgar technique of *llamar*)
[Nueva Ciencia 605]

folio 13

Invite, or incite the opponent (vulgar technique of *llamar*)
[Nueva Ciencia 605]

[Carranza 110v]

Sanchez de Carranza, Jeronimo. *Libro... que trata de la philosophia de las armas* (Sanlucar de Barrameda, 1582), fol. 110v

“pero dezidme porq' an puesto numero a las reglas del Montante, siendo infinito lo q' en el se puede hazer como en las demas Armas: Ellas son respódio el Maestro diez y seys reglas, pero yo sobre Maestre Roman eche dos por contrapunto”

(But tell me, why have they put a number to the rules of the montante, that which can be done being infinite, as in the other weapons? There are, responded the master, sixteen rules, but I exceeded Maestro Roman, I added two for counterpoint.)

[Compendio 51]

Pacheco de Narvaez, Luis. *Compendio de la Filosofia* (Madrid, 1635), p. 51

“Pero dezidme, porque han puesto numero a las reglas del montante, siendo infinito lo que en el se puede hazer, como en las demas armas? Ellas son, respondio el maestro, dieziseys reglas, pero yo sobre Maestre Roman, echè dos por contrapunto.”

(But tell me, why have they put a number to the rules of the montante, that which can be done being infinite, as in the other weapons? They are, responded the master, sixteen rules, but I exceeded Maestro Roman, I added two for counterpoint.)

[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

“aunque en esto fue tan inconstante como Francisco Roman, porque si este dixo en el mismo folio citado, que la espada, y rodela es la mejor arma de todas, y luego que el montante es la mas principal, y el aguila dellas”

(although in this he was as inconstant as Francisco Roman, because he said in the same cited folio that the sword and shield is the best weapon of all, and then that the montante is the most principal, and the eagle of them)

[Engaño 51]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 51

“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 proprio governado por el espiritu de su cófianza, de q' ninguna destas cosas estuvièra 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 116]

Pacheco. *Engaño y Desengaño*, fol. 116

“Francisco Roman, que fue el q' entre los antiguos Autores hablò algo desto, solamète dixo en fol. 5 estas palabras: Y assi reparan con la capa, como si fuera de hierro”

(Francisco Roman, who was he among the ancient Authors that spoke of this somewhat, only said in fol. 5 these words: And like this they parry with the cloak, as if it was of iron)

[Nueva Ciencia 192]

Pacheco de Narvaez, Luis. *Nueva Ciencia* (Madrid, 1672), p. 192

“Francisco Roman quiere que se tire el revês a los muslos, y que las cuchilladas que se tiraren, con espada, y rodela, sean todos por lo baxo.”

(Francisco Roman wants the *reves* to be thrown to the thighs, and that the cuts that will be thrown with sword and shield are all low.)

[Nueva Ciencia 208]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 208

“entre ellos ganô la primacia Mase Francisco Roman, y por el mayor de sus inferiores, y pocos aciertos, dixo que la espada es el fundamento de todos los escudos, y que con ella se ha de herir, y reparar, y todo lo ha de hazer ella, aunque en el proemio dexô torcido este parecer, con aver dicho, que el montante es la principal arma, y que es aguila dellas, y con segunda inconstancia, como hombre que con igualdad se agrevada de todo, dixo despues, que la espada, y rodela, es la major arma de todas”

(among those, Master Francisco Roman gained primacy, and by the greatest of his inferior and small successes, said that the sword is the foundation of all the shields and that with it one has to wound and parry, and it has to do it all, although in the preface he left this opinion twisted, with having said that the montante is the principal weapon and is eagle of them, and with a second inconstancy, like a man that is aggravated with all equally, later said that the sword and shield is the best weapon of all)

[Nueva Ciencia 213]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 213

“Poca satisfacion mostrô tener de la capa Maesse Roman, pues dize aver visto muchos lisiados, por averla puesto a que den en ella, como si fuera de acero, y a esta causa no se atrevio à fiarle un reparo, y quiso (sin razon convencible) que la espada le ayudasse à êl”

(Master Roman showed little satisfaction with the cloak, as he says to have seen many cripples, by having it placed so that they attack it, as if it was of steel, and for this reason, he didn't dare to trust it for a parry and wanted (without convincing reason) the sword to help do it.)

[Nueva Ciencia 230]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 230

“no satisfaciéndose del cótrario parecer de mase Francisco Roman, en darle mayor ventaja al acometedor, que al cometido”

(not being satisfied with the contrary opinion of master Francisco Roman, in giving greater advantage to the attacker than the attacked)

[Nueva Ciencia 238]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 238

“dixo mase Francisco Roman, que ni la espada ha de estorvar à la rodela, ni esta ha de estorvar à la espada”

(master Francisco Roman said that neither should the sword hinder the shield, nor the shield hinder the sword)

[Nueva Ciencia 388]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 388

“Achile Marozo le imitô en esto, y acrecentô otras 19. de quié vergonçosamente se deve hablar, ni permitir, q' un animo noble las imagine, porq' arrojarse un hóbre en la tierra, poniédo los pies en la barriga de su contrario, armar çancadillas (como también las usô Frácisco Romá, aquíé diô por nóbre presa de pie) tirarse de las barbas, boca, y narizes, asirse de las piernas, y echarse acuestas a su enemigo”

(Achille Marozzo imitated him in this and accumulated another 19 which must be spoken of shamefully, not permitted that a noble spirit imagines them, because own hurls a man to the ground, placing the feet in the belly of his opponent to arm trips (as Francisco Roman also used them, which he named barring with the foot), thrown by the chin, mouth, and nose, grabbed by the legs, and one throws his enemy down)

[Nueva Ciencia 489]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 489

“pues sabemos, que engrandeciendolo Masse Francisco Roman dixo, que es el aguila dellas”

(so we know that, aggrandizing it, Master Francisco Roman said that is the eagle of them)

[Nueva Ciencia 491]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 491

“En la pueril infancia del montante fueron quatro reglas las que le assignaron, conforme a los quatro rectitudines, alta, baxa, la de uno, y otro lado, creció en edad, y reputacion, y acrecentaronle tres, y gozô destas siete, hasta que en aumento de su decoro Mase Roman las llegô a nueve, y dixo que se avian de acrecentar hasta quinze, conforme fuesse la calle ancha, ô angosta, duspues por algun particular servicio le dieron otras tres tretas de ventaja”

(In the puerile infancy of the montante, there were four rules were assigned to it, according to the four lines: high, low, that of one and another side; they grew in age and reputation, and accumulated three, and enjoyed these seven, until in augment of its decorum, Master Roman brought them to nine and said that they had to be increased to fifteen, conforming to the wide or narrow street, after by some particular service they gave another three techniques of advantage)

[Nueva Ciencia 605]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 605

“Iayme Pons fue el primero (entre los que hasta aora se han visto) que ordenô que se engañasse al contrario có la postura, descubriendo alguna parte del cuerpo donde se aficionasse a herir: Neustro Francisco Roman (aunque sin version de la lengua Lemosina, en que esto quedô escrito) tratô de incitar, ô llamar al contrario con el mismo intento”

(Jaime Pons was the first (among those that have been seen up to now) that ordered that the opponent was deceived with the posture, uncovering some part of the body where he was enticed to wound. Our Francisco Roman (although without a version of the Limousine tongue, in which this remains written) dealt with inciting or inviting the opponent with the same intent)

[Nueva Ciencia 667]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 667

“la capa, supuesto, que como afirma Francisco Roman, que no es de azero, con que ella fuesse la impedida, y no la contraria”

(the cloak, since, as Francisco Roman affirms, that it is not of steel, with which it would be impeded, and not the opposite)

[Nueva Ciencia 670]

Pacheco. *Nueva Ciencia*, p. 670

“Y acumulando credito a credito, assi como error a error se han dexado llevar como faciles de lo que dixo Francisco Roman (con tan poco constancia como las demàs cosas) que todas las cuchilladas con espada, y rodela han de ser por lo baxo”

(And accumulating credit after credit, as well as error after error, they have been left to convey as easy that which Francisco Roman said (with as little consistency as the other things) that all the cuts with sword and shield have to be low)