

Pascha's Staff with Two Ends

A translation of Johann Georg Pascha's "Short instructions how the Staff with Two Ends, that is Hunting Staff, Half Pike or Leaping Pole is actually to be used" (1670).

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This is a translation of the 1670 edition of Johann George Pascha's treatise on using the Staff with two ends, hunting staff (Jägerstock) or half pike to defend oneself. This is an expanded version of Pascha's 1660 treatise ("Short instructions how the Hunting staff or Half pike is actually to be used"), presenting 34 rather than 21 lessons and 35 figures replacing the original 16. The new lessons presented here are lessons 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 26, 30, 31, 32, 33. Most of these lessons provide suggestions for different stepping patterns for the same attacks, except lesson 31 which describes a Spanish thrust made with a jump with both feet, followed by a strike behind you and another Spanish thrust back in the original direction.

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Short
INSTRUCTIONS
How the
Staff with Two Ends,
That is
Hunting Staff,
Half Pike or Leaping Pole

Is actually to be used, and what kind of
lessons there are on it.

Mostly translated, with diligence, from the French
language to German and decorated with
necessary figures and copper plates.

Published from a frequent desire
By

JOHANN GEORG PASCHA

Court master of the Princely Pages of Magdeburg.



LEIPZIG /
By Friedrich Arnsten, book dealer
Anno 1670.

What fencing on the Cut and Thrust is, this is sufficiently known. However, as this exercise at the present does not particularly flourish in Germany, while it is only common in France, I have deemed it necessary to say something about it beforehand, before the lessons are set. What kind of instrument [it is]? How long it must be? And what use it has.

The staff with two ends, hunting staff, half pike or leaping pole, as many call it, on itself, now, is a strong staff approximately four fingers thick and four and a half ell¹ long, or as long as the man who wants to use it can reach. [It has] points with cutting edges at both ends, as No. 1 shows. With this, in case of need, one can defend himself against 10, 20 and 30 men, who have unsheathed swords. Indeed, it may seem to be almost impossible, but who has knowledge of this will have to confirm this. However, this must only be done in an emergency.

When someone is in a house rather surrounded by many with unsheathed swords, and must worry that the house will be stormed, then he would do better to battle through, and retreat himself in a safe place, than if he waited until they entered the house, as then he cannot use the staff in the narrow space. Or when he is engaged by many with swords on the open street, then he can likewise stay, and defend himself in the wide space, until people come to it. As there are then such lessons in this exercise, that for a quarter of an hour one can defend himself against 20 or 30 in a position where there is space. However, all this must be done in an emergency, as nobody is to be advised that he brings himself in danger intentionally, as other exercises, such as fencing and grappling and similar then should also only be used in need and for defense.

Firstly, thus it is necessary to know that the staff can be carried in three different manners.

The first manner is, when you grip the staff in the middle with the right hand. Take it under your right arm, so that the one point is high behind, and the other is low in front, as No. 2 demonstrates.

The second manner, you hold the staff right under your right arm, as before, except that you turn your right hand in the middle of the staff, so that the fingers lie above as No. 3 shows.

With the third manner, the staff comes likewise under your right arm, except that you place your left hand on the staff and your right hand on your left arm, as No. 4 shows. And in these manners the staff can be carried when walking. If you now want to exercise these lessons before someone, then make a reverence as No. 5 demonstrates.

Now follow the lessons.

1. Place your left foot in front and the right back. Grip the staff two spans from one point with your left hand and two spans from the other point with your right hand, as No. 6 demonstrates, and when someone now wants to attack you from the front, then slide forward through both hands, as No. 7 shows, and swiftly back again, as can be seen in No. 8. When you want to slide forward and back on the left side, then you must step forth with your right foot, though such that your left foot stays in front and your right comes behind, and thus in all four directions², and every time [having] stepped forth with your right foot. But you must always look around, quickly behind yourself, quickly to the sides, [to see] where they want to attack you. In that place you must then also defend yourself. When you have now performed

1. The ell was a rather variable length measure, but it was most likely about 60 cm. The German ell is 57,9 cm, the Alte hallische Elle (which might have been the ell meant) was 60,2 cm. George Silver, in his *Paradoxes of Defence* (1599) gives a length of about 8-9 ft for a short staffe or half pike, which is similar to the length given here (pp. 29).

2. "Ecken" is more literally translated as "corners".

this lesson in all four directions, and you thus again stand there where you started, then slide forwards, so that with your right hand you have the staff at one point, and with the left [you have] the staff approximately three span from the same point, as can be seen in No. 7.

The two Spanish thrusts in all four directions.

2. Slide the left [hand] to the right hand, until the thick end, and with the right hand slide almost to the place where the left hand was, and step with your right foot in front, as No. 9 demonstrates. Slide the right hand to the left hand until the thick end, and with the left hand slide almost to the place where the right hand was, and step with your left foot in front. And do this so in all four directions, until you once more come to stand where you had started, and indeed each time around to the left.

3. Perform the two Spanish thrusts half around. Firstly, behind yourself, after that, half around, to the same place again where you stood at first. Then to your left side, further half around to your right side. Finally once more to the place where you stood at the beginning. In these thrusts, each time, you must turn yourself around to the left. But you must slide and step to as in the previous second lesson.

4. Perform only one Spanish thrust half around. When you stand as you have begun, then make a thrust behind yourself, half around to the left, and step with your right foot in front, as No. 10 demonstrates. Thereafter a Spanish thrust again to the place where you stood at first, around to the right, and step with your left foot in front. Further, to your left side around to the left, and step with your right foot in front, following, to your right side half around to the right, and step with your left foot in front, and finally around to the left, to the place where you have begun, and step with your right foot in front, and make another thrust. With every step a Spanish thrust must be performed. In this Spanish thrust, you slide with the right and left hands as was conceived in the previous lessons.

5. Just as the two Spanish thrusts were performed in all four directions, so it can also be done several times forwards and backwards.

6. Perform the strikes over the head and the Spanish thrust with it. To wit, when you stand where you have begun, and [with] your left foot in front, then slide your right hand to your left, as No. 11 shows. Grab with your left hand under your right, and slide the left hand to the point of the staff, and step with your right foot in front, as No. 12 demonstrates, and thus strike to. Perform a Spanish thrust, and step with your left foot in front, as reported in the second lesson, and thus perform this in all four directions, until you come to stand where you have begun, and indeed each time around to the left.

7. Perform the strikes over the head and the Spanish thrust with it, half around, as you have performed them in all four directions. First, behind you half around. Thereafter half around to the same place again where you stood at first. Then to your left side, further half around to your right side. Finally, again to your place where you stood at the beginning. In this lesson, each time you must turn yourself around to the left. But you must slide and step to as in the previous lesson.

8. Perform the strikes over the head without Spanish thrusts, half around. When you stand where you started, then slide your right hand to your left, grab with your left hand under your right, and slide the left to the point of the staff. Step with your right foot half around to the left, and thus strike to, as No. 13 shows. Slide your left hand to your right, grab with your right hand under your left hand, and slide the right hand to the point of the staff. Step with your left foot half around to the right, so that you come to the place where you have begun, and thus strike to. Again slide your right hand to your left, grab with your left hand under your right, and slide the left to the point of the staff. Step with your right foot around to the left to your left side, and thus strike to. Further, slide your left hand to your right, grab with your right hand under your left, and slide the right hand to the point of the staff. Step with

your left foot half around to the right, and thus strike to. Finally, slide your right hand to your left, and grab with your left hand under your right hand, and slide the left hand to the point of the staff. Step with your right foot around to the left to your left side, so that you come to stand at the place where you began, and thus strike to.

9. As you make the strikes over the head and Spanish thrust in the square, so they can also be done several times forwards and backwards.

10. Just as the strikes over the head without Spanish thrusts are done in all four directions, so this can also be done forwards and backwards.

11. Perform the parries from above forwards and backwards. Set the feet even, and take the staff with the right and left hands in the middle, though such that your fingers of the right hand are above and of the left hand are below. Hold the staff in front of you, so that one point is with your left hand and the other with your right hand, as No. 14 demonstrates. Let the point that is with your left hand go from above and away from you, past by your left foot, as No. 15 shows, and after that the same point past by your right foot, as can be seen in No. 16, and so on. And go several steps forwards and backwards.

12. Perform the parries from below forwards and backwards. To wit, when you stand with your feet even, and hold the staff in your hands as in the previous parries, then let the point which is with your left hand go from below and towards you, past by your left foot, as No. 17 demonstrates, and after that the same point past by your right foot, as No. 18 shows, and so on. And go several steps forwards and backwards, as before.

13. Step back with your left foot, and turn your right hand. Slide one point behind yourself past by your left side, as No. 19 shows, and perform the blows on both sides forwards and backwards. When you stand so, then hew a full circle with your right hand around to the right, and step with your left foot in front. Take the staff with your left hand, so that the fingers come below, and slide a point behind yourself again, past by your right side, as can be seen in No. 20. And hew a full circle with your left hand around to the left, step with your right foot in front and take the staff with your right hand, so that the the fingers come below, and once more slide a point behind yourself past by your left side. And perform several more of such blows. When now, finally, your right foot comes in front, and you have again slid the point of the staff past by your left side, then hew a full circle with your right hand around to your right, and step back with your right foot. Take the staff with your left hand, so that the fingers come below, and slide a point behind yourself past by your right side. Hew a full circle with the left hand around to the left, and step back with your left foot. Take the staff with your right hand so that the fingers come below, and slide one point behind yourself past by your left side, and perform several more of such blows.

14. This lesson can be performed in all four directions, each time half around with two strikes.

15. This lesson can be performed in all four directions, each time half around with one strike.

16. When now finally your left foot stands behind, then take the staff with the right hand so that the fingers come above, one span from the left hand, while the staff goes around to the left, and you have your left hand at the point, so that the fingers come below, as No. 21 demonstrates. And perform the blows with both hands forwards and backwards. When your left foot stands behind, then throw your left foot to your left side, around behind your right foot, so that you turn your face to the other side and stand with your feet even, and with both hands hew a full circle to the left around the head. Throw your right foot around over your left, so that your feet come to stand even, and you come to stand how you first stood, and with both hands hew a full circle to the left around the head. Perform several more such blows, and with each step to as was reported. When now your right foot stands in front, then perform these blows backwards. Throw your right foot over your left foot back to your left side, so that you turn your face to the other side, and with both hands hew a full circle to the

left around the head. Further, throw your left foot around to your left side behind your right foot, and with both hands hew a full circle to the left around the head. Perform several more such blows until you come to the place where you began, and with each blow step to back as has already been reported. With these blows you always turn yourself to your right or left side, and stand with your feet even.

17. When your left foot now comes behind, then let the staff run against your left arm, so that you stand as No. 22 demonstrates, and hew on both sides forward and backward. To wit, hew from you with both hands to your right side, so that the staff comes to lie against your right arm and step with your left foot in front, as No. 23 shows. Again hew from you with both hands to your left side, so that the staff comes to lie against your left arm, and step with your right foot in front. Perform several more such blows, and with each step to, as reported. When now finally your right foot comes in front and the staff lies against your left arm, then perform this lesson backwards again. Hew from you with both hands to your right side, so that the staff runs against your right arm, and step back with your right foot. Further, hew from you with both hands to your left side, so that the staff runs against your left arm, and step back with your left foot. Thus perform several more such blows, until you come to the place, where you began. And with each blow step back, as reported in this lesson.

18. You can perform this lesson with two strikes in all four directions.

19. You can also perform this lesson in all four directions always half around with two strikes.

20. This lesson can also be performed in all four directions always half around with one strike.

21. Now follow the blows around to the right. When your right foot stands in front, then step with your left foot to your right side in a corner and hew a full circle to the right around the head, as No. 24 demonstrates. Step further with your left foot in the other corner, and hew a full circle to the right around the head. In this way, in the third and fourth corners, and with each blow which you do to the right around your head, step forth with your left foot, until your left comes to stand in front, and you stand in the place where you began.

22. Perform these blows around to the left to all sides or directions, as you have performed them to the right, except that this happens to the left, and you also hew around to the left, and always step forth with your right foot, as No. 25 shows. When you now finally turn your face to, and stand where you have begun, and your right foot also stands in front, then set your right foot back, and slide the staff past by your right side, so that your left hand is at the point, and your right hand is two span from that, as can be seen in No. 26.

23. When your right foot now stands back, and you have slid the staff past by your right side, then perform the strikes down from above in all four directions. When your left foot stands in front, then strike down from above, and step with your right foot in front, as No. 27 demonstrates. Slide past by your left side, so that your right hand [comes] at the point, and the left hand comes two span from the point, as No. 28 shows, and strike down from above again, and step with your left foot in front, as can be seen in No. 29.. And thus in all four directions, until you again come to the place where you began. And indeed each time around to the left. When you now stand so, as you began this lesson, and have slid [the staff] past by your right side, so that your left hand [is] at the point of the staff and your right hand two span from that.

24. Then perform these strikes down from above half around in all four directions. Firstly behind yourself, thereafter again to the same place where you stood at first. Then on your left side, after that half around on your right side. Finally, again to the place where you stood at the beginning. With these strikes you must each time turn yourself around to the left, but you must slide and step to as in the previous lesson, when now your left foot stands in front, and you have slid past by your right side.

25. Thus perform only one strike down from above in all four directions. Firstly, behind yourself half around to the left, and step with your right foot in front. Thereafter again to the place where you began at first around to the right, and step with your right foot in front.³ Next on your right side half around to the right, and step with your left foot in front, and finally around to the left to the place where you have begun, and step with your right foot in front. In this lesson slide as in the previous lesson.

26. Just as the strikes down from above are performed in all four directions, they can also be performed forwards and backwards.

27. Perform the strikes up from below in all four directions, as No. 30 demonstrates. In this lesson you slide and step to as in the twentieth lesson, except that you strike up from below to the adversary's elbow.

28. Perform the strikes up from below half around in all four directions. In this lesson you slide and step to as in the twenty-first lesson, except that you strike up from below to the adversary's elbow as in the previous lesson.

29. Perform only one strike up from below in all four directions. In this lesson you slide and step to as in the twentysecond lesson, except that you strike up from below to the adversary's elbow.

30. As the strikes up from below are performed in all four directions, thus also perform them forwards and backwards.

31. Perform the Spanish thrust. Perform a thrust, and jump forth with both feet, as No. 31 demonstrates. Slide with the right [hand] to the left, grab with the left under the right and slip with the left up to the end. And strike behind yourself, as No. 31⁴ shows. Perform a Spanish thrust half around to the right, as No. 32 shows, and do this in all four directions.

32. Perform this Spanish thrust in all four directions half around.

33. You can also perform this lesson forwards and backwards, but when you make this lesson backwards, then you must jump back with your feet.

34. Place the staff on the right shoulder, so that you have one point in your right hand, as No. 33 shows, and let the staff run over your left shoulder, so that you catch the staff in the middle with your right hand, as can be seen in No. 34. Let the staff run around your right hand, so that you receive this again on the inside in your right hand. Take the staff under your right arm, so that the forward point is low, and the backward high, and , when you have exercised these lessons in front of distinguished people, make a reverence, as done in No. 5. But otherwise, when you are dealing with your adversary, then understand that no reverence is needed.

And so much about the staff with two ends, hunting staff or half pike.

3. A strike to your left side (relative to the starting orientation) is usually made before a strike to the right side, and appears to be missing here. (Cf. Lesson 3).

4. There are two different figures with the number 31.



1. N

2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11



12.



13





20.



21.



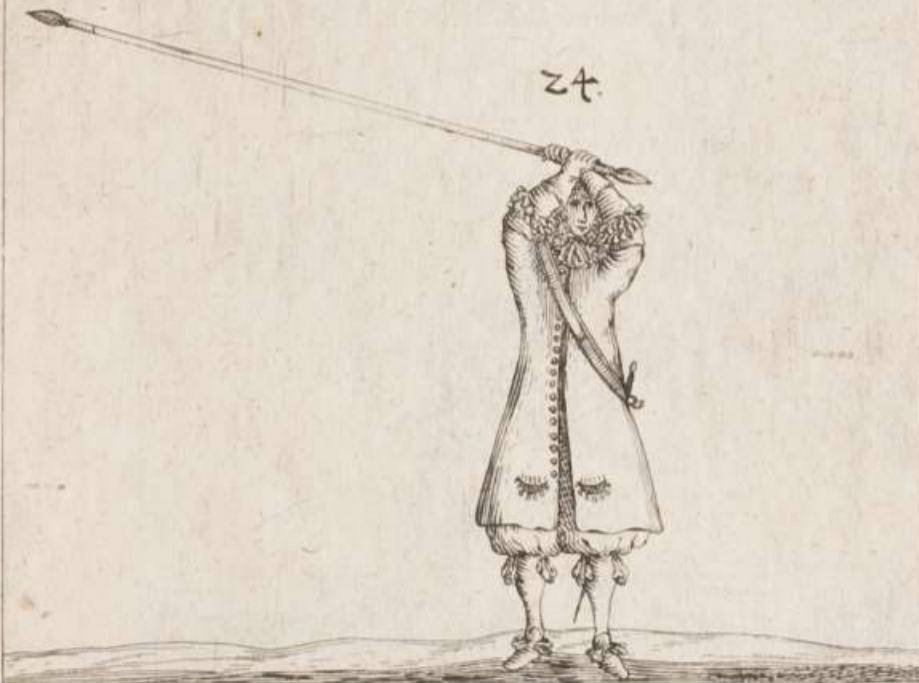
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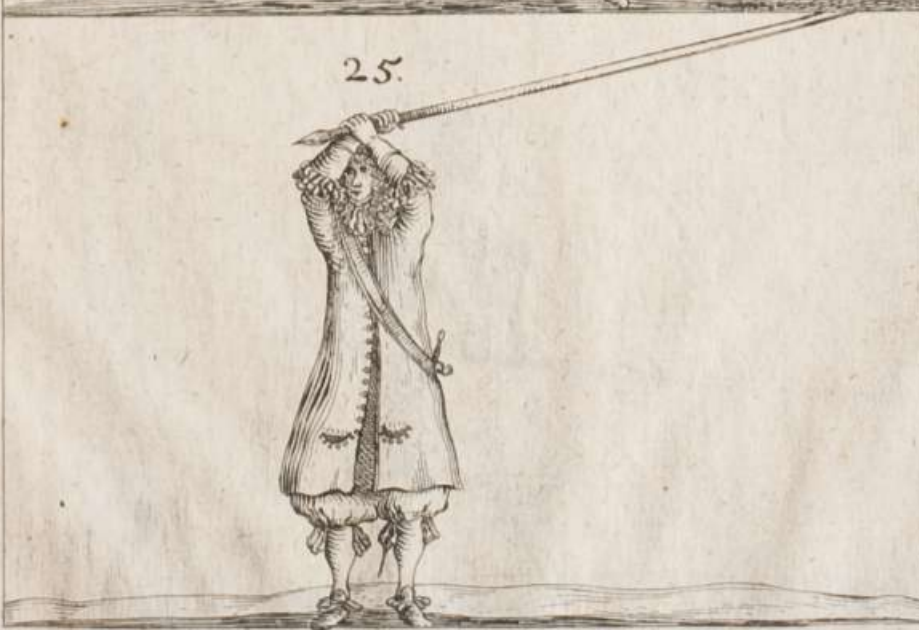
23.



24.



25.





29.



30.



31.



31



32.



33.



34.

