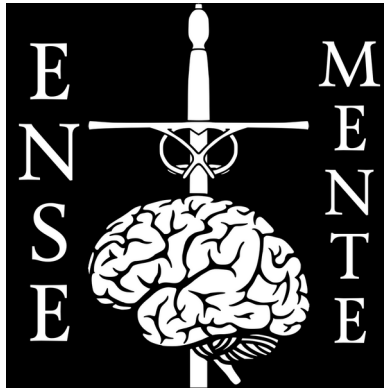


The  
**Pole Weapons**  
of  
Jakob Sutor



An English translation by:

Reinier van Noort  
v1.0, 05-01-2017.

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## About this document

Jakob Sutor's *New Künstliches Fechtbuch* was published by Wilhelm Hoffman in Frankfurt am Main in 1612. It describes fencing with the longsword, dussack, rappier (also with dagger), and pole weapons (staff, halberd, flail), and is illustrated with woodcuts.

The contents of Sutor's treatise appear to be derived from other sources, such as Joachim Meyer's 1570 *Gründtliche Beschreibung der Kunst des Fechtens*, Michael Hundt's 1611 *Ein new Künstliches Fechtbuch im Rappier*, and at least one other (as a source for the rapier and dagger work shown).

This document contains an English translation of the fourth part of Sutor's treatise, i.e. the part dealing with the staff, halberd and flail. This translation is mainly based on the transcription by Marlon Boettger, available on Wiktenauer.

In making this translation, I closely followed the Fechtkunst Glossary prepared by Jeffrey L. Forgeng, which is available on [the author's website](#). Note that *Oberhaw* and *Unterhaw* were translated as over-cut and under-cut, respectively.

## Acknowledgements

Scans of Sutor's treatise were made available by the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen. Jan Schäfer once again proofread this translation.

I hereby thank all these people for sharing their hard work.

Reinier van Noort  
Hagan, 05-01-2017



The  
**Pole Weapons**  
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An English translation by:  
Reinier van Noort – Ense et Mente.

# Vierdter Theil

Dieses Buchs/von Inhalt des Fechtens in  
der Stangen vnd Helleparten.

**A**lre Beschreibung von der Stangen  
Anbinden / Versatzungen vnd ihrer Abtheilung /  
welche hat vier Anbinde / vnd geschicht das erste An-  
binden am vordern oder eussern Theil der Stangen.

Das ander vor der Handt / die er in der Stangen vorführet. Das  
dritte in der mitte der Stangen. Das vierdte wirdt durch das ein-  
lauffen mit dem hindern Ort zu wegen gebracht. Ferner im ersten  
Theil vnd Anbindt gebrauch die Schleg vnd fliegende Stöß: Im  
andern Anbindt die bleiben Binden vnd Nachreisen / vnd in den  
zweyten lezten die Einlauffen vnd Ringen. Der Versatzung in  
der Stangen / wie der Anbinden sindt vier: Die erste mit dem vor-  
dern Theil deiner Stangen von beyden seiten: Die ander vor der  
Handt: Die dritte in der mitte: Die vierdte mit dem hindern Ort  
volnbracht wirdt. Zum dritten / seindt der Läger fürnemlich fünff:

Die Oberhut / gerad vbersich vor dir außgestreckt / zu bey-  
den Seiten: die Vnderhut zu beyden Seiten: Neben-  
hut: Mittelhut vnd Steurhut.

M ti

Wann

## Fourth part of this book, on the contents of fencing with the staff and the halberd.

Short description of engaging the staff, displacements and their division. There are four engagements, and the first engagement is done with the front or outermost part of the staff. The second before the hand which you direct in front on the staff. The third in the middle of the staff. The fourth is accomplished with the back point, via the running in. Further, in the first part and engagement use the strikes and flying thrusts. In the second engagement the remaining, winding and chasing, and in the two last the running in and grappling. The displacement with the staff. As with the engagement there are four: The first is performed with the front part of your staff from both sides. The second is performed before the hand. The third is performed in the middle. The fourth is performed with the back point. Thirdly, there are mainly five guards: The high guard, extended straight upwards before you, on both sides; the low guard on both sides; side guard, middle guard and rudder guard.



When you stand in the side guard, then stand with your right foot in front, and hold your staff with the middle part on your left hip, so that the short and back point stands towards your opponent, and the longer point stands out behind you. Offer him your right side well, as in the image here. Then, the figure on the left here stands in the rudder guard, standing with his left foot in front, holding the staff with the front point on the ground in front of his left foot, and with the back point upwards before his face with extended arms. Then, make this guard so. Stand with your right foot in front, hold your staff behind you, also with the front point on the ground, thus you are prepared for the strike. Example, when in the onset you now hold your right hand together with the back point of your staff at your waist, and you have your front point lying to the side on the ground in front of your right foot with your body hanging well forwards, then as soon as he thrusts towards your face observe this, and step out with your right foot towards your right side, and with your left [foot] further at him towards his left. Thus thrust him over his left arm to his face, while he is directing his thrust at you. With this you shall also, while you thrust in with him so, lower your head well down towards your right away from his thrust flying in over your staff. Thus you are protected even better. Then in the onset arrange yourself again with your knee bent well forwards, so that your upper body is well lowered after the staff. Note as soon as he thrusts in, then strike his staff out from your right towards your left in one jolt, though such that in this striking out with your staff you do not strike further than into the straight displacement. And before he recovers again from this thrust, thrust towards his face with a jump out.







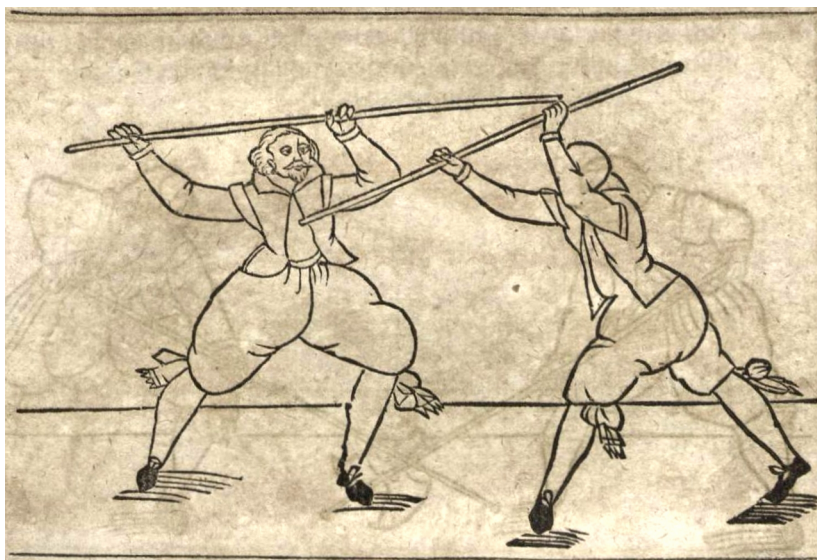
Fence thus from the middle guard on the left side. Step to him with your left foot behind your right, so that in the turning around you turn your back to him. But if he will hastily thrust towards your face in the turning around, hoping to overtake this, then because of this, in this stepping backwards nimbly raise both your hands, together with the back part of your staff, so that the front part of this hangs towards the ground, upwards extended towards his left. In this turning around of yours, strike his thrust that is coming in out to the side with your hanging staff, from your right towards your left. Via a swing, let your staff completely run around your head, and in the running around let go with your left hand after you have given your staff a strong swing with this hand. After that, then, with one hand strike a strong swift strike to his left ear.



In the onset, in the crossing over drive this strike thus. As soon as you can reach the outermost part of his staff with the outermost part of yours, then hold your front point straight before his face. Meanwhile turn yourself well on your right side, so that you turn your back to him, and in turning to him meanwhile step to him with your right foot behind your left. With this step turn yourself around on your right side, strike around with your right hand, straight from above to his head. Thus you surely hit him.



If the outermost parts of both staffs touch each other in the engagement, then unexpectedly drive his out strongly to the side, though so that after the pushing out you do not proceed so far with your staff, but immediately thrust him off of his staff there in front of you to his face, nimbly and hastily, before he recovers again. But if you cannot reach him in the pushing out, then move his staff to his side again, act as if you want to use the previous thrust again, and while he rushes with his staff hither towards yours again, thinking to displace your thrust, in the thrusting go drive through under his staff, thrust him on the other side with a jump out, nimbly and forcefully to his face.



If someone thrusts with his staff towards your right to your face, then immediately in the thrusting jump at him towards his right, at the same time with this drive his staff upwards with yours. Meanwhile thus thrust there in front of you towards his breast or face.





Come in the cross-cut from below with your left foot in front. Direct your halberd to the left. From there cut with the blade's edge next to your left, upwards across from below towards his right, through his face. With this under-cut go high with both arms, so that you hold your halberd high next to your head on the right side and the point stands towards your counterpart's face. Turn yourself well on your right. With this turning towards of the half part of your back, immediately slash diagonally across upwards from below next to your right, towards his left through his face, so that after the slashing your halberd points out behind your left shoulder. Then you stand for a pulled over-cut. From there, turn your blade's sharp edge downwards next to your left again. Cut diagonally upwards again from below next to this side, towards his right across through to his face. With the under-cut turn yourself well towards your right, so that with the heel of your halberd, as before, you can slash upwards again next to your right, and upwards from below towards his left through his face.



Observe. As soon as someone has engaged you with his blade on yours, then go with your blade at his staff a little over his, so that you come in with yours over his. Meanwhile turn over his staff. Upon that, tear nimbly strongly downwards to yourself, pulling his more in the weak. Then, thereon swiftly stab upwards on his halberd towards his face. If he wants to turn away the thrust hastily, then immediately change through below, and stab him with a step out, in on the other side.



In the onset from the middle-cut before the man, raise your halberd up high, from there strongly cut through with both hands across towards his right to his face and halberd. Nimble turn your blade upwards, immediately strongly slash through across from your right towards his left again towards his face and the halberd. With both hands pull it towards your left around [your] head. Cut through down from above towards his left arm, which he is directing in front, and to his face. Finally, stab him straight to his face.



In the onset in front of your counterpart from the high guard or straight displacement, when both blades touch each other, then hastily raise your halberd upwards along with your left foot, which stands in front. Unexpectedly, nimbly cut down through strongly towards his right from above towards his hands almost on his halberd. In cutting down, change through under his halberd, stab nimbly towards his left side to his face.





Whenever you cut through down from above from the upper guard, next to his halberd to his arm or hand, whether to bring him up with this, to lure him from his advantage, or to injure his hand or arm, then observe if, while you fall through under his halberd with yours, [if he wants] to thrust at you. And if he does this, then immediately go upwards again with your blade across horizontally, strike the thrust that is coming from him out upwards from below, and before he recovers, thrust him swiftly, strongly to his face.



If you find someone in the side guard, then drive him up with a pulled cut or thrust. As soon as he then goes up, then nimbly change through, seize his heel ([of the halberd]) with yours from the other side, and make sure to wrench him to you to where you can reach him with thrusting against his face.



Observe when you engage someone with your blade, and the counterpart does not want to work. Then hastily go off the blade unexpectedly, step out a little towards the side against which you had engaged, and meanwhile nimbly stab towards his face. In the stabbing in note whether he wants to displace and strike out your stab. If he does this, then lower your blade downwards, seize him by his foremost leg with that while he is still striking out, and pull this to you. Thus he must fall.



If you find your counterpart in the upper guard, and he desires to suppress your cut or stab, then act as if you want to seriously stab towards his face, so that you incite him down from above. In stabbing in note well, as soon as he comes down with the over-cut then swiftly step out to the side in the meantime. With this pull your halberd forth under his, with this fall onto his, wrench his downwards to yourself with your blade, then stab him strongly towards his face.





If your counterpart confronts you in the lower guard, then unexpectedly fall with your halberd hard onto his behind his blade. Meanwhile hastily, unexpectedly stab him towards his face with intent. Thus, he will nimbly go up to strike out your stab. Do not let him touch it, but in the going up pull and change through below, and stab in at him on the other side.



When two fence with flails, then it often happens that both staffs are bound together in the middle. Now, when this happens to you, then stay with the staff of your flail on his, and let go with your left hand. Reverse it, and with this seize the staffs of both flails. After that go through under his flail with your back point, then pull upwards towards yourself with your right hand. Thus he must let go [of his flail], or, when you step behind him with your right foot, fall.

End of this fencing book.

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