

# Anonymous Glasgow Messer Treatise

Ms. E.1939.65.341, R.L. Scott Collection, Glasgow, Scotland (1508)

ff. 25v - 26v

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## **Note several techniques with the messer**

Item: When he wants to strike or thrust to you, then position yourself thus: set the left foot forward and hold your messer near your right hip in the hand. And when he strikes above to your head then step to him with a simple parry such that the edge stands above and spring with the right foot to his left side and strike to his head or wherever you can hit him so that he is yours.

## **Another Technique**

Item: When he strikes to you from the roof, then set your right foot forward and parry and spring outward to his right side in the triangle and strike to him or thrust as you wish. And when you want to spring, then lift the other foot up a bit so that you can spring away from him even better.

## **Another desirable position**

Item: Set your right foot forward and hold your messer in the way so that the point goes downward. And when he strikes you from the roof, then shoot your messer up and parry with the inverted hand, and spring to his right side in the triangle and strike to his head or thrust.

## **Another position**

Item: When he fights you extended below, then stand with your left foot forward and raise your messer to the leg in the *Wechsel* [Change] and when he attacks you then go up with the messer so that the hilt stands upward and the point downward and parry thusly (and this same parry is called a commendable parry), and spring out to his left side in the triangle and strike or thrust.

## **This is called a distress position**

Note: When he strikes strongly at you from the roof then go up 'armoured' and parry strongly and wind the point against his face and slice him with the edge below in his hand.

### **Another good technique or position**

Item: When he thrusts from below, then set the right foot forward and take your messer in the *Mittelhau* [Middle Stroke] and strike across to his messer. And weaken his thrust aside and turn your messer on his messer and step with the left foot forward and let the messer go around the head and strike or thrust.

### **Another technique: for the heavy weapons**

Item: When he strikes from the roof to you with a heavy weapon, then parry with the armoured hand and turn the point against his face and thrust to his chest. Or, step with the left foot behind his right foot, well into the balance, and catch his neck with the messer and throw him.

### **Another technique and a slice**

Item: When he fights you below, then set the left foot forward and hold your messer to your right leg in the Change. And when he thrusts or strikes, then step there and parry. And let the point go downward to parry with the 'half parry' and catch his messer with the left arm, and let the messer go directly up and slice him through the mouth.

### **A messer taking**

Item: When you strike at him from the roof and he parries with the simple parry, then grasp him with your left hand to the messer so that the thumb is against the hand that he has the messer in, and turn his messer from the hand and throw it away.

### **Another grip**

Item: When he strikes from the roof to you then go up with an inverted hand and with the parry outside and over his arm with the hilt. And grasp his elbow and take it upward while pulling the arm downward so that he falls on his face. You must let the messer go well around his arm.

### **A technique from the scabbard and this is a distress position, such that you cannot go behind or before**

Item: Note when he thrusts or strikes, then take your messer in the Middle Stroke so that your right foot is forward and when he turns to you, then strike from your side from the roof directly above and away. And spring to him out of the way to his right side in the triangle and strike to his right arm.