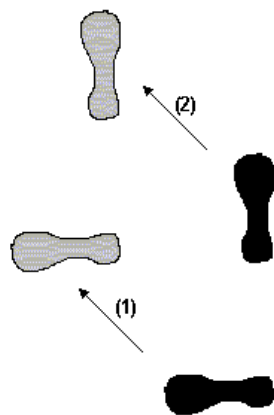


pace is shown in figure 4.



DiGrassi's Slope Pace

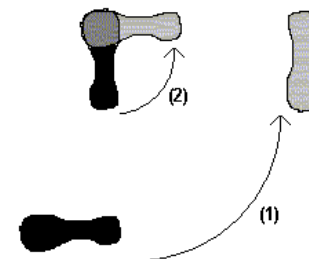
Figure 4 - DiGrassi's Slope Pace

The Compass Pace

The compass pace is a circular pace, and like the slope pace is used for voiding actions and angular attacks. DiGrassi describes the compass pace as follows:

Circular paces, are not otherwise used than in half paces, and they are made thus: When one has framed his pace, he must fetch a compass with his hind foot or fore foot, on the right or left side: so that circular paces are made either when the hind foot standing fast behind, does afterwards move itself on the right or left side, or when the forefoot being settled before does move likewise on the right or left side: with all these sort of paces a man may move every way both forwards and backwards.

Generally, this is step is started by bringing the rear foot behind the leading foot to about a stance's width and then pivoting the front foot through the ball of the foot, resulting in a stance that now faces to the left. The step is then completed with the front foot making the compass to the side of the rear foot, and pivoting the rear foot through the ball of the foot. Interestingly, whilst the modern French school no longer teaches any angular footwork, the Italian school still teaches a semi-compass pace as the Inquartata. [2] The compass pace is shown in figure 5.



DiGrassi's Compass Pace

Figure 5 - DiGrassi's Compass Pace

Footnotes

- [1] Both the modern Italian and French schools of fencing use the same footwork for advancing and retreating. Compare the descriptions provided by Crosnier for the French School, and Gaugler for the Italian school.
- [2] See Gaugler for further information

References

- Giacomo DiGrassi, " His True Art of Defense", 1594.
DiGrassi's original manual was published in Italian in Venice, 1570, and was translated into English in 1594 by I. G. gentleman. A scanned pdf version of the Italian manual is available at <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~wew/fencing.html> and the English version can be found online at: <http://www.musketeer.org/manuals/diGrassi/contents.htm> or <http://www.cs.unc.edu/~hudson/digrassi/> (partial copy but includes the diagrams) or <http://www.aemma.org/onlineResources/diGrassi/digrassiHome.htm> (full version with diagrams)
The English version is also available in the highly recommended book (since it also contains Saviolo and Silver):
Jackson, James Louis, "Three Elizabethan Fencing Manuals", Delmar, N.Y., Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 1972, ISBN 0820111074.
- Roger Crosnier, "Fencing With The Foil", Faber and Faber, London, 1951
Recommended text for those interested in Classical French school. Provides useful information on conducting group classes and drills etc.
- William M. Gaugler, "The Science of Fencing", Laureate Press, USA, 1997, ISBN 1884528058
Recommended text for those interested in Classical Italian School. Provides useful information for conducting individual lessons, and fencing tactics.

Golden Rivers Rapier Championship Tournament and Rebel!

Hear Ye all that the Province of Golden Rivers shall host a Championship Rapier Tournament upon the 7th Day of July. On this day, there shall be crossing of steel, honor upon the field, reveling galore and the naming of the first Golden Rivers Rapier Champion!

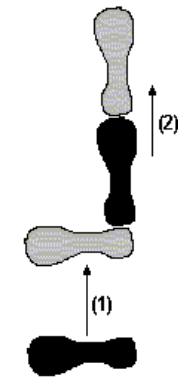
Armor inspection will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. List entry will close and the double elimination tournament will commence at 10:30 a.m. (Aye, the times are stiff to keep fighting away from the heat of the day - so be early). Bouts will be decided by first kill or concession; however, bouts may be decided at the drawing of first blood upon agreement of both rapier fighters.

After the finals, we encourage you to picnic in the shade and a barbecue will be fired up for you to grill whatever you wish to bring for your midday reveling pleasure. Pick up fights will be had for those undaunted by the sun. It will be hot, so please be aware of the heat and keep well hydrated throughout the day. Cool water and Gatorade will be provided by the province.

In the latter afternoon, the Golden Rivers Champion will be recognized and prizes for Honor, Chivalry, and Style/Beauty will be presented in the shade.

Date/time: 9:00 a.m. Saturday, July 7, 2001 and site fee will be two dollars, under 14 free.

Directions to Carmichael Park: From the North, take I-5 South to Sacramento and merge onto US-50 East. From the South, take either I-5 or Hwy 99 North to Sacramento and merge onto US-50. From the East, take US-50 West to Sacramento. From the West (the Mists), take I-80 East to Sacramento and merge onto US-50. Take the Watt Avenue North exit and continue on Watt over the river to Fair Oaks Boulevard. Turn Right onto Fair Oaks Boulevard and continue on past "the curve" as it takes you all the way to Carmichael Park on your left at the corner of Fair Oaks Boulevard and Grand Avenue. If you hit Manzanita where Fair Oaks



DiGrassi's Half Pace

Figure 3 - DiGrassi's Half Pace

The Slope Pace

So far we've looked at the linear paces used for advancing and retreating. DiGrassi's footwork also includes angular and circular footwork. The slope pace is angular footwork, which allows for voiding actions and angular attacks. DiGrassi's description of the slope pace is:

By crooked or slope pace is understood, when the hind foot is brought also forwards, but yet a thwart or crossing: and as it goes forwards, it carries the body with it, out of the straight line, where the blow is given.

The slope pace is most effective when done as a half pace, as it will void the body further off line, and is faster in execution. Starting from the normal stance, the rear foot is lifted and moved at a 45° angle, and placed about a foot's distance to the side of the leading foot. This will give the appearance of a correct stance but now facing to the left, with the rear foot becoming the leading foot. (In all the footwork descriptions, I have assumed a right-handed person using single sword. DiGrassi himself specifies hand and foot should be in agreement, and the sword should be held before, not behind, and this is also clearly shown in his ward diagrams.) The slope pace is then usually completed by taking a forward step with the original leading foot, ensuring a return to the correct stance. Note that the new stance may be at a different angle than originally, since you should always face your opponent. This is achieved through small pivots on the balls of the feet, but is not shown in the figure. The slope

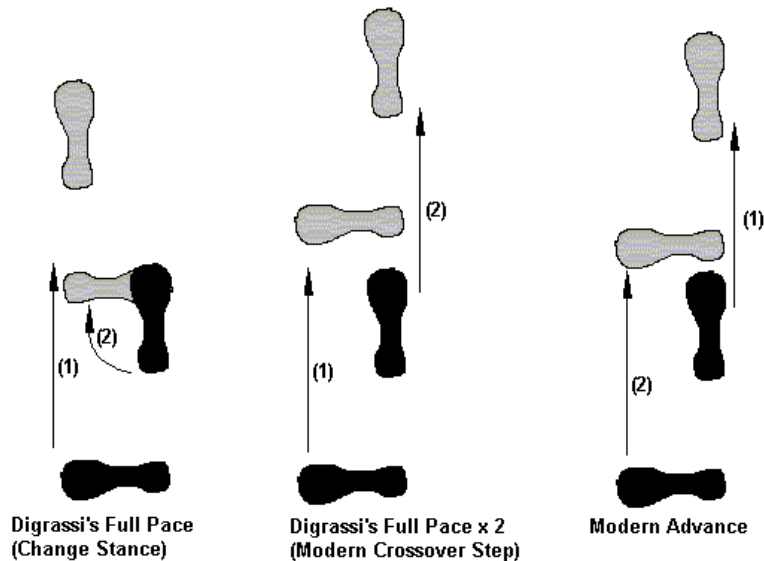


Figure 2 - The Full Pace

The Half Pace

The half pace according to DiGrassi is:

Now the middle of these back and fore paces, I will term the half pace: and that is, when the hind foot being brought near the forefoot, does even there rest: or when from thence the same foot goes forwards. And likewise when the forefoot is gathered into the hind foot, and there does rest, and then retires itself from hence backwards. These half paces are much used, both straight and crooked, forwards and backwards, straight and crooked.

The half pace, like the full pace starts with the back foot when advancing. Tactically, this step is used for closing distance subtly. Done smoothly, it appears that you have only settled your feet. The step is made by bringing the back foot to just behind the front foot, and then correcting the feet separation with the front foot. This pace is shown in figure 3.

makes a sharp right you're just a couple blocks too far. If you are coming to Sacramento via I-80 from the Northeast, take I-80 West toward Sacramento and exit at Madison Avenue to the left, in the a northeast direction. Continue on Madison until you take a right on Manzanita. Continue on Manzanita until it turns into Fair Oaks Boulevard. The Park will be on your right at the corner Fair Oaks and Grant Avenue.

Rowany Festival (Lochac)

Dates: 12-17th April 2001. Site: Tara Guides' Camp, Taylors Road, Silverdale, NSW Australia. Cost: Full event—\$65/\$70(members/non-members), Day rate—\$15, Overnight rate-\$20. Booking forms and more information available from the Rowany Festival Website:
<http://www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival.html>

Fencing at Festival is as follows:

Thursday 12th April: Torchlight Rapier Tourney (skirt tourney) at 8pm.

Friday 13th April: Baroness' Rapier Tourney at 4pm

Sunday 15th April: Guild Prizes at 2pm

Tuesday 17th April: Rapier Tourney at 10am.

For more information about Festival, contact the autocrats:

Caristionnic Bethan (Tina Bean)

Ph: (02) 9808 6605 email: tbean@one.net.au

Caterina del Vino (Adrienne Waters)

Ph: (02) 9706 7257 email: sleepy_lyon@excite.com.au

Constance Von Rothenburg (Rachael Naughton)

Ph: (02) 6255 6818 email: paulrachael@bigpond.com

Bliss of Teine (Narelle Griffin)

Ph: (02) 9630 8497 email: Bliss@will.net.au

For more information about Rapier activities at Festival contact the Lochac Principality Rapier Marshal (details in directory).

Golden Rivers Period Rapier Collegium

Saturday, 31st March 2001

11:00 4:00pm

The coordinating instructor will be Guildmaster Racgozonny and he will be assisted by a number of experienced guild members including Golden River's Rapier Marshal, Nytschaed.

While this is a provincial A&S event, all those interested in SCA fencing/rapier are encouraged to attend. As this instruction is geared to the beginner through the guildmaster, all are welcome to attend.

Cost for this event... FREE!!! Lemonade will be provided.

Location: Carmichael Park, Fair Oaks Boulevard and Grand Avenue in Sacramento.

Directions: If coming from Hwy 99 North, I-5 North, I-5 South, I-80 East (from the Bay Area)... head towards Sacramento and take the connector to US 50 East toward Tahoe. As such, if you are going West or East on US 50, take the Watt Avenue exit and travel North (a right coming from the East and a left coming from the West). From Watt Avenue, go over the river and take a right onto Fair Oaks Boulevard. Follow Fair Oaks Boulevard, past the "curve" and Carmichael Park will be on your left. If you are coming via I 80 from the Northeast, i.e. traveling in a Southwesterly direction, take the Madison Exit left and proceed down Madison until you take a right onto Manzanita. Manzanita merges straight into Fair Oaks Boulevard and Carmichael Park will be on your right when you are traveling in this direction.

Questions regarding directions or scheduling, please contact me at dragonslair_12345@msn.com.

Yours in service,
Antonio Giordano da Sicilia
Seneschal of Golden Rivers

Pace Length

DiGrassi's first words on paces outlines the length of a pace:

And because I cannot lay down a certain measure of motion, considering the difference between man and man, some being of great and some of little stature: for to some it is commodious to make his pace the length of an arm, and to other some half the length or more. Therefore I advertise every man in all his wards to frame a reasonable pace, in such sort that if he would step forward to strike, he lengthen or increase one foot, and if he would defend himself, he withdraw as much, without peril of falling.

This is an important measure to remember, as it allows us to define relative pace lengths depending on the size of the fencer. This principle is also used in modern fencing texts. An arm's length is generally the same as 2 foot's lengths. This agrees with the length of pace taught in modern fencing, which adds proof to the old adage that "there is nothing new in fencing". However, unlike modern fencing, the sequence in which the feet move is different. Which brings us to...

The Full Pace

The full pace according to DiGrassi is:

By whole pace is understood, when the foot is carried from behind forwards, keeping steadfast the forefoot. And this pace is sometimes made straight, sometimes crooked.

This is a step with the back foot, bringing it up in front of the leading foot. In practice, you can remain in this new stance by pivoting on the ball of the now trailing foot, however I find that most people normally make a second full pace to complete the step, which is analogous to a modern crossover step. The full pace is used for covering ground quickly, either forwards or backwards. As we can see, very different to the modern advance or retreat [1]. This pace is shown in figure 2.

An Introduction to DiGrassi's Footwork by Probst ibn Jelal (Richard Cullinan)

One thing that initially confuses new fencers is the greater variety of footwork mentioned within period manuals. The most commonly used manual would probably be that by Giacomo DiGrassi, whose manual was translated into English in 1594. I've found that the key to understanding DiGrassi is to understand his footwork. Any experienced fencer will tell you that it starts with the footwork.

The Paces referenced by DiGrassi

DiGrassi refers to 3 main types of footwork: The Straight Pace, The Crooked or Slope Pace and The Compass Pace. Furthermore, paces can be either a full pace or a half pace. These paces are the mainstays of DiGrassi's footwork, however, he does make the occasional reference to a right pace, which is also known as a Traverse.

Figure 1 is used by DiGrassi to show his footwork:

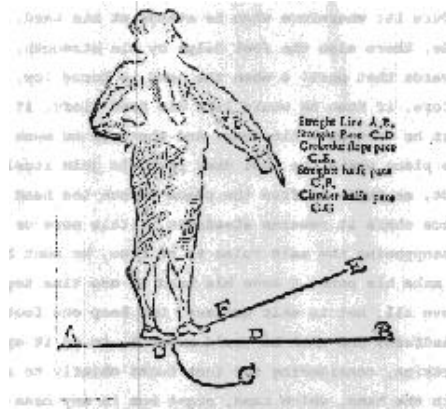


Figure 1 - DiGrassi's Footwork Diagram

Upcoming Prizes

BE IT KNOWN, to all that profess skill at arms that we, Connor and Isa, King and Queen of the West, having pride in this Courtier of our Court, Michael of Castele Kepe, give him leave and let to play his Courtier's Prize against all Masters in their subtle mystery at these weapons, viz: rapier, rapier and dagger, case of rapier, rapier and cloak, rapier and baton, rapier and parrying gauntlet, and rapier and buckler. Said Masters of the Principality of Lochac: Baron Francois Guyon Lord Guildmaster and Ancient Guild Master Dameon Greybeard should bring weapons and skills to the Festival of Rowany, where, for the edification of some, the education of a few, and the delight of many, Michael will Present the Prize at (the hour of Two in the Afternoon, upon Green before the Tavern) and the Masters do their utter most in courtesy and achievement to perform so well with weapons they may bear his prize away.

LET all come with such Pomp and Panoply, words and honor to fit the solemn dignity and joyous aspect of the situation, to whit, the Courtier's Prize.

FURTHERMORE, let such students who essay these weapons come to watch and learn. God save the King and Queen of the West!

West Kingdom Rapier Marshal Directory

Kingdom Rapier Marshal

Michael of Castle Keep (Michael Jacobs)
835/355 N. Wolfe Rd. Sunnyvale, CA 94085
Ph: 0011 408-732-4903 Email: mikej@netmagic.net

Marches Rapier Marshal

Doranna of St Brendans (Doranna Benker)
4142 Excelsior Rd #D2, Eureka, CA 95503
Ph: 707-442-1956 (please don't call after 9pm) Email: doranna9@hotmail.com,

Principality of Cynagua (Northern Central California) Rapier Marshals

Cynagua Principality Rapier Marshal
Fergus (Sean Kiernan)
Email: kiernan@efortress.com

Golden Rivers Marshal

Nytshaed (Douglas Leonard)
2808 Honeysuckle Way, Sacramento, CA 95826
Email: dleonard@pcocd2.intel.com

Principality of the Mists (Bay Area) Rapier Marshals

Mists Principality Rapier Marshal
Vacant—contact the KRM if you are interested in this position

Oertha Principality Rapier Marshal

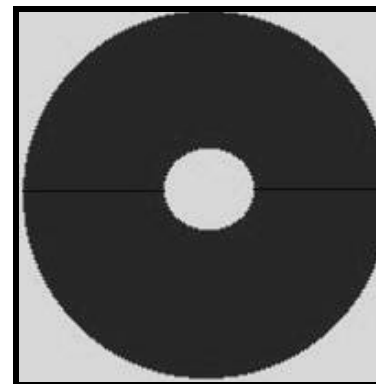
Lady Catherine of Birchfeld (April Carney)
PO BOX 873816, Wasilla, AK 99687
Ph: (907) 373-3715 Email: ladykat@alaska.com

Principality of Lochac (Australia) Rapier Marshals

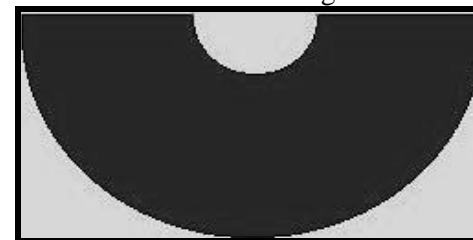
Lochac Principality Rapier Marshal
Táiriq ibn Jelal ibn Ziyadatallah al-Naysábúrí (Richard Cullinan)
16 Wentworth St., Croydon Park NSW 2133 Australia
Ph: (02) 9798 8751 Email: rcull@ozemail.com.au

Shire of Agaricus (SW Sydney & Illawarra)
Artemisia da Quietto d'Arzenta (Leonie Kirchmajer)
20 Montague St, Fairy Meadow NSW 2519
Ph: (02) 4285 9169 Email: malachy@sca.org.au

The color change is, of course, just to show the area that will be the cape more clearly. Cut the wasted cloth from the upper left and from the lower right. If you completely unfold the fabric you will have a doughnut shape like this.



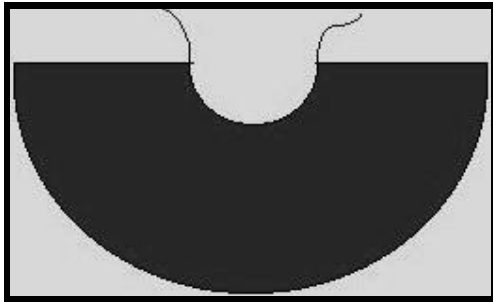
Fold it top to bottom and sew the bottom edge.



This would be a good time to try the cape on, if you ever think to wear it. If the neck hole needs to be larger, re-cut it now. Then, reach through the neck hole, and pull the bottom seam through. This will leave the sewing on the inside of the cape to give the outside a more finished appearance. Sad to say, you now need to iron over the seam so that it will lay flat. It just will not look right if you don't do that. The last step is to take a piece of bias tape in a matching or contrasting color that is a good 20" longer than the neck hole and center it over the hole. Use it to sew the hole closed, finishing the edge and leaving the extra bias tape hang loose equally on each side to act as the tie string for the cape. That is all there is to it.

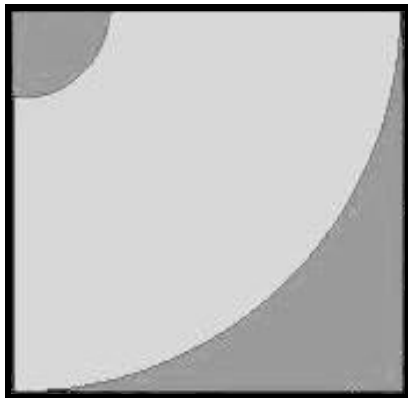
A Simple Design for The Fencing Cape

by David Falcone D'el Rhoid



Those of you who have read, or perhaps tried your hand at my last published project, the Simple fencing coif, will recognize much in this design for a cape. If anything, it is even simpler than the coif. The design is for a small cape that is not unlike the vestigial cape worn by gentlemen at the height of the era of the Rapier. As a garment it is not much, but it flows well in the off hand of a fencer. To be durable, I made mine from trigger cloth. Though just about any cloth of similar weight should work as well. Brocades would have a nice look to them.

Start with a piece of cloth 60"x60". Fold it top over bottom, and then again left over right. Tie a piece of string around a regular lead pencil. Hold on to the string with one hand at the upper left of the folded fabric, and inscribe an arc from the upper right to the lower left. Shorten the string to about 6" and inscribe another arc. You should end up with something like this:



Barony of Innilgard/College of Blessed Herman the Cripple (Adelaide)
Aldwin Seguin (Stephen Hobson)
15 Hollidays Rd. Summertown SA 5141
Ph: (08) 8390 0283 Email: psychis_med@yahoo.com

Barony of Riverhaven (Brisbane)
Edmund the Lame (Paul Sawtell)
"Silverthorn" P.O. Box 929 Maleny QLD 4552
Ph: (07) 5429 6176 Email: rapier@powerup.com.au



The Royal Guild of Fence Directory

Lord Guildmaster of Fence

Francois Henri Guyon (Shayne Lynch)
PO Box 836 Woden, ACT 2606, Australia.
Ph: +61 2 6294 1609 E-mail: Lynchs@my-deja.com

Arenwald von Hagenburg (Arnold Pears)
Övre Slottsgatan 18C, 753 12 Uppsala, SWEDEN.
Email: arnoldp@docs.uu.se

Dameon Greybeard
Lochac (Politararchopolis)

Edmund the Lamé (Paul Sawtell)
See Barony of Riverhaven Marshal

Sir Georg of Glacier's Edge
Oertha (Eskalya)

Jan Kees Dudel d'Ende (Josh Eisenberg)
See Principality of Mists Marshal

Brooke Racgozany
Cynagua (Woodland)

Jose Ramirez de Coronado (Doug Coronado)
959 Oregon Street Gridley, CA USA 95948
Email: zspaniard@yahoo.com

Sorcha de Careman
Oertha (Eskalya)

Xeno of the Blade
Now in Ansteorra

Michael of Castle Keep (Michael Jacobs)
See Kingdom Marshal

Justin Dickson
Now in Ansteorra

Dueling stories of the 16th Century From the French of Brantome

by George H Powell (AH Bullen 1904)

These stories are my paraphrasing of his paraphrasing of Brantome. They are various strange true tales of duels that were fought in the 16thC, showing the rules and customs.
- Silfren the Singer

Ste. Croix and Azevedo

Two Spaniards approached M de Namours, the French King's Lieutenant in Italy and having heard so much of his courtesy, Chivalry, and reknown they asked if they could settle their quarrel before him. This was a great compliment to him, that they should prefer him to the Spanish lords, even to King Ferdinand.

On the appointed day all assembled and before de Namours and the Duchess de Ferrara the two men fought.

Captain Ste. Croix was wounded in the upper thigh so badly as to bare the bone, and there was such a flow of blood that as he was trying to advance and strike, he fell. His opponent, Azevedo said "Surrender or I'll kill you", but Ste. Croix said nothing, just sat down, grasped his sword, and resolved to die first.

Azevedo entreated him to get up, saying he couldn't strike him on the ground like that, and Brantome says that it looked so dangerous, with a man so desperate and courageous. Ste. Croix got up, staggered two paces, and fell again. Azevedo raised his sword to cut his opponent's head off, but drew it back. Nothing would make Ste. Croix yield, and the Duchess tried to intervene. But de Namours said no, he could not break the laws of the duel, it was only over when one died or surrendered.

Then Ste. Croix's second stepped forward and said that he knew his friend, and nothing would make Ste. Croix yield. So The second surrendered for him! It caused a great sensation, but de Namour accepted it, and the doctors attended Ste. Croix.

It might have ended there, but his men carried him off the field with his arms, and when Alzevedo demanded them as was his right, he was refused. de Namour said that if Ste. Croix refused to give them up, his wound would be unsewn and he'd be put back into the lists in exactly the same position as when his second had surrendered for him... The arms were given to the Chevalier Bayard who then gave them to the victor.

From the Editor

Greetings all,

Welcome to this rather belated March issue of Punta Dritta. Hopefully the April edition will be out on time. Good to see some more event notices (those people in Golden Rivers are certainly busy). Another dueling story from Silfren. Two very useful articles. One on making a practical SCA legal fencing cape from David. The other is a wonderfully distilled version of DiGrassi's teachings written by Provost Ibn Jelal. We have some upcoming prizes, most notably that of our KRM in April.

Please keep the info coming in and I'll endeavour to get this newsletter out in a more timely fashion.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to this issue.

Yours in Service,
Artemisia da Quietto d'Arzenta

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Punta Dritta

March AS XXXV

Newsletter of The Royal Guild of Fence



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