

**Zeitschrift:** Itinera : Beiheft zur Schweizerischen Zeitschrift für Geschichte =  
supplément de la Revue suisse d'histoire = supplemento della Rivista  
storica svizzera

**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Geschichte

**Band:** 39 (2016)

**Rubrik:** English summaries

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 01.10.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## English Summaries

---

Audrey Tuaillon-Demésy

*Réflexions épistémologiques autour de la (re)création du geste technique de combats anciens à partir de sources historiques*

HEMA (Historical European Martial Arts) are well-ordered martial confrontations that take place in contemporary leisure time. The aim of this paper is to understand, from an ethnological point of view, how experimentation allows HEMA to be both an historical activity and also physical practice. The experimentation, in this specific case, is a tool which involves motor activity used to bring back to life past skills and techniques. Furthermore, it defines the process used for historical martial arts, from the reading of sources to the movement's re-creation. Today, despite a plurality of practices and different goals ("sportivisation", having tournaments, doing historical research, etc.), the HEMA community follows a guideline, accepted by the participants, from historical descriptions to "good moves". Experimentation is at the heart of this modern process of historical re-enactment.

Thore Wilkens

*Untersuchungen zur Relevanz praktisch perspektivierter Analysen in der Fechtbuchforschung*

This paper reviews methods and perspectives in secondary literature about 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century combat books. It outlines that most of the studies in this field do not consider the practical nature of these books. In addition it demonstrates that not to consider their practical aspects leads to misconceptions and debatable results from the point of view of interpretation as well as analysis. Furthermore, the paper proposes a method of analyzing the practical contents of medieval combat manuals. The method is illustrated by an interpretation of a wrestling technique from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The paper closes with the conclusion that practical analysis has to be part of the basic research in studying combat manuals.

Gilles Martinez

*La méthode expérimentale appliquée à l'étude du geste guerrier: l'exemple des formations collectives d'infanterie du Moyen Age central (XI<sup>e</sup>–XIII<sup>e</sup> siècles)*

The military manoeuvres of infantry formations during the Central Middle Ages (11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> c.) have so far been subject to little research. This article attempts to address this with a double objective.

This article focuses firstly on the specifics of the feudal period; the author conducts tests on group combat as part of his doctoral thesis. Previously, experiments have considered the individual within the formation, and not the formation in its own right, when the individual disappears in the collective. In recent tests, new information on manoeuvres has emerged (for example, which actions can be performed, which actions are effective and economical) as well as on the complementarity of the equipment. Recent tests have also addressed issues of group and command.

Secondly, this study proposes a basis for setting up experiments on historical militaria in such a way, as to encourage other researchers to publish their results and thereby, eventually, develop a genuine methodology for all periods.

Pierre-Henry Bas

*Restitution des gestes martiaux: évolutions et révolutions au milieu du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle*

Camillo Agrippa, the Roman architect and mathematician of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, is often considered the most revolutionary author of the Renaissance period, particularly in regard to fencing based on geometry and a didactic approach. The German Paul-Hector Mair, however, is not simply the author of a colossal but obscure encyclopedia on the art of fencing and wrestling. Reflection that seems close to Agrippa's is hidden in this work. Serious fencing, where the goal is as important as tactics and the techniques, is based on principles and biomechanics, Mair practically turns a page in the book of German medieval arts, while Agrippa opens the door to a new means to codify the art of fencing. This article proposes to compare the two authors and to show how the gestural experimentation and the studies of the context are very important in the approach of understanding fencing manuals.

Daniel Jaquet

*Les apports de la cinésiologie dans l'approche expérimentale pluridisciplinaire de l'étude du geste historique: l'étude de cas de l'impact du port de l'armure sur le comportement moteur*

The study of historical gesture can be based on textual source material (narrative description, technical discourse, information from normative literature) and/or from iconographic source material (representation of movement). All these documents are on different qualitative levels when it is a matter of investigating gesture. One of the main issues is the definition of the relation between representation and actual performance. Both definition and analysis of filters allow us to develop hypotheses on a gesture's performance and these may be tested with experimental protocols.

Medical and clinical research has developed powerful tools and methods to investigate human movements. Kinesiology, especially the cinematic approach, allow the measurement and the critical analysis of a series of complex movements as well as simulations. This paper sets out the benefits and limits of implementing these methods in the experimental analysis of historical gesture and presents a case study.

Olivier Gourdon

*La pratique de la coupe: un apport à l'étude et à l'interprétation des arts martiaux historiques européens*

This communication links test cuts (with sharp reproductions of archaeological swords corresponding to the illustrations and period of our source) to the practice of HEMA. Some questions, however, in determining historical techniques are unanswered, and this encourages us to juxtapose other disciplines in order to put together plausible hypotheses. Are cuts efficient? Are wards powerful enough to launch a lethal strike? What are the effects of a strike with the wrong edge? Are thrusts really deadly movements?

The paper will explain and demonstrate what kind of support test cuts with sharp swords can lend to the understanding and validation of gestures. My research is restricted to the field of one-handed sword techniques of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Loïs Forster

*L'équitation militaire médiévale. Art de guerre ou art de grâce?*

Studying medieval horsemanship is made quite difficult because the sources at our disposal are rare and often vague. This article presents a quick overview of the kind of horse and equipment used, then proposes a synthetic essay of the information on horsemanship towards the end of the Middle Ages, and finally analyses the interests and the limitations of equestrian experimentation.

Nicolas Baptiste

*L'expérimentation et l'histoire: des collections aux universités. L'exemple des armures anciennes*

The life of arms and armour, history of techniques, know-how, skills, inventions, down to gestures characterizing their collecting, are a shared adventure. The history of collecting constitutes a long series of technical manipulations, but also of ideological manipulations, above all in the history of arms and armour, of conservation, restoration and presentation of gestures. Even before objects are invented,



finalized and produced craftsmen and designers have accomplished a series of artistic and technical gestures, within the mechanism of their invention. These stories are still entirely unknown today. Who knows that the lifebuoy and the wetsuit are a military invention from antiquity, finalized in the Middle Ages, and we are still ignorant of the first experiments in this context?

Currently, there exists a strong emulation of the history of arms and armour, but also of collecting, in the context of the continuous collecting of originals, but also of by-products, including copies. Objects such as remakes, imitations, facsimiles, replicas, copies as well as gestures around them are still uncharted territory, even in a research framework.

Antoine Selosse

*Un vêtement militaire particulier, la brigandine. Expérience de recherches, des gestes de reconstitution et d'expérimentation personnelle. Production, cycle de vie et constatations*

Since the beginning of the new military re-enactment of the '80s, the brigandines have always been of interest. This was already the case in the collections of antique weapons, where these coats of plates had a special place. However, these objects are still relatively unknown, and the research subjects are scarce. Many issues include their production and daily maintenance. Only few re-enactment groups can testify to both the practice of making brigandines and to using them for a long time. It is also noteworthy that few armourers keep a record of numbers and production data, or note the time needed in their production, of modifications, ageing and the craftsmanship necessary in their production and in their life cycle. The 'Lys & Lion – 1462' re-enactment group has helped for over 15 years to fuel the debate on the subject and has participated in numerous publications; the systematic sampling is intended to transmit these personal experiences and specialized technical skills around this historic garment.

Simon Delachaux

*Le «Projet Artillerie», la reconstitution des gestes autour d'un objet d'expérimentation: nécessité de la recherche et apport des initiatives croisées entre musées, universités et mécénat*

Re-enactment groups, living history associations formed by history enthusiasts, are growing in number each year. Some groups are old and can already look back on some years of history, others are brand new, but few finally know where they are placed in the field of experimentation and which role they play with regard to

scientific research. The examples are very diverse, sometimes including the public and sometimes not. To a large extent the members of such associations have a special relationship with objects, and also with gestures. Collectors, historians, craftsmen, etc., the identities of these members are also very diverse, just as the nature of the gestures. Scientific research is needed to help these groups with their projects, but some of them totally ignore what they can personally contribute also to research. The canon project is a very fundamental experience for the Swiss «4 Lunes» association, that totally changes our notion of experimentation, but also the notion of history re-enactment proper.

*Pierre-Henry Bas* a obtenu à Lille III en 2015 une thèse intitulée *Le cheval à la fin du Moyen Âge et dans la première modernité : histoire et pratiques* sous la direction de Bertrand Schierb. Il est la fondation de l'association 4LUNES (Recherche et expérimentation du genre historique et archaïque). Son travail porte sur l'expérimentation gestuelle, appliquée au domaine du cheval à pied et à cheval.  
bas.pierrehenry@orange.fr

*Simon Delachaux* est infirmier spécialisé en santé et en sécurité au travail. Il est responsable du Centre régional de santé au travail (Yverdon). Il est également un membre actif de l'association de reconstruction historique les 4 Lunes, qui est en partie basée à Yverdon, dans le canton de Vaud, et qui s'intéresse à la période de 1470-1480. Ses intérêts personnels en reconstruction concernent la médecine, la cuisine, la bottellerie, l'artisanat et la reconstruction d'équipement.  
simon.delachaux@gmail.com

*Loïc Forster* est auteur d'un mémoire de master portant sur les traités de Geoffroi de Charry. Il consacre sa thèse, sous la direction de Bertrand Schierb, à l'étude des chevaliers et hommes d'armes dans l'espace bourguignon sous les ducs Valois. Il profite du point de vue riche offert par la combinaison de ses activités de combattant, de cavalier, de joueur, de chercheur et d'enseignant.  
loic.forster@laposte.net

