

18891

# *The* **RIPOSTE**

DECEMBER

VOL. 4

NO. 7





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## THE 1940 INTERCOLLEGIATE FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Report of I. C. F. A. Committee of Arrangements

The Intercollegiate Fencing Association, faced with its perennial problem of how to make room for the prospective new members who are constantly knocking at its door, has again undertaken to revise the form of competition under which its annual Championships will be contested.

Originally conducted as a straight round-robin of team matches, the Championships in the past have also been broken down into divisional qualifying groups each of which fenced its own round-robin to determine which teams and individuals should go to New York to compete in a round-robin finals, while at other times qualifications for the finals has been based upon the seasons record in dual meets between member colleges in each division. Subsequently, from 1932 to 1934, team championships were carried out on the basis of preliminary and secondary elimination rounds, with four teams in each weapon qualifying for a round-robin finals, the individual championships being conducted as separate events run off in preliminary, semi-final and final pools.

With the exception of the complete round-robin which could conveniently accommodate but six teams, each of these methods had its own shortcomings and beginning in 1935 the Association experimented with a new system under which each college designated its representatives in each weapon as Class A, Class B, Class C, respectively, the event consisting of three round-robins in which all Class A fencers met all others so designated, the Class B fencers met only the Class B competition, and the Class C group was similarly segregated. The team championship in each weapon was awarded to the college with the highest total of bouts won in all three classes, and the Three-Weapon Championship was based on the total number of bouts won in all of the team events. Individual championships were by classes, gold, silver, and bronze medals being awarded to the first, second, and third ranking fencers in Class A, silver and bronze medals to the first and second place winners in Class B, and bronze medals to the winners of the Class C events.

Criticism of this form of competition can be summarized under four principal headings. In the first place, it permitted a fencer of lesser ability, because he was pitted only against those of lesser ability, to win as many or in some instances even more points for his college than his more competent teammate who was matched with the best fencers from all of the other competing colleges. Conversely, a competent fencer, who under this scheme might be forced into one of the lower classifications because one of his teammates happened to be of equal or slightly greater ability, was prevented from giving his team maximum assistance by beating Class A men of other schools and, furthermore, was arbitrarily eliminated in advance from a chance to compete for the Class A individual title, the recognized Intercollegiate Championship.

A third criticism of the competition in vogue dur-

(Continued on page 13)

## GOSSIP AND MORE

Count de Ballet-Latour, President of the International Olympic Committee, announced on December 2nd that, if Helsingfors were unable to hold the 1940 Olympic Games, they would be canceled. The committee rejected an American offer to take the 1940 games since it was deemed impossible for European athletes to go to the United States. There had been some talk of transferring the games to Detroit in the event that Helsingfors gave them up.

The Winter Games, scheduled for Germany, have already been canceled. In view of recent developments in Finland it now appears inevitable that the Summer Games will also be canceled.

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Despite the fact that November 5th was a cold, rainy day, the Autumn Tea Dance given by the Columbia Rapier Club proved a great success. The Ballroom at the Men's Faculty Club was well filled with attractive couples who, between dances and cups of tea, formed large sociable groups which intermingled and seemed well able to converse on topics other than fencing.

These parties, held at least once a year, have always attracted good attendance despite the bad weather which has inevitably accompanied them. We hope that the next party, scheduled for early February will find good weather and for once relieve the entertainment committee of its unfounded worries of the past.

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An error appeared in this column in our last issue. At that time we stated that "The Foils Club has obtained the services of Al Hern as instructor to take the place of Matthew Gusick who has moved to California." We have now been advised that Mr. Hern and Mr. Gusick had been partners since the opening of the Club in August, 1938, and that Mr. Hern purchased Gusick's partnership share when Gusick left for California. The Club's Secretary states that all present members of the club and every representative of the club in A.F.L.A. competitions are and have been the exclusive pupils of Mr. Hern.

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*A man's whole being, his character, is fully exposed on the fencing strip. When you cross blades with an opponent you enter a contest in character as well as in skill.*

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Mr. James R. Killian, Jr. has written a new book about ultra high-speed photography, based upon the experiments of Harold E. Edgerton of M.I.T. This book, entitled "Flash", is copiously illustrated with all types of action photographs taken at speeds ranging from 1/100,000th to 1/1,000,000th of a second. Of interest to us were five fencing action pictures for which Joseph Levis posed. You may have seen some of these photographs reproduced in a recent article in "Life" magazine.

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On December 3rd a television program of fencing was broadcast over the National Broadcasting Company's television station from the Fencers Club strips

(Continued on page 8)

**THE RIPOSTE***America's Oldest Fencing Magazine*

114 Washington Place - New York City

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**EDITORIAL**

This, the December issue, is of double anniversary significance to the Editor. In the first place, The Riposte was founded in December, 1935, and therefore this month we have four candles on our cake. The Editor sits over in the corner with a wee cake and a single candle all his own. Yes, it was December, 1938, that the present writer attempted his first Editorial and assumed responsibility for missing most of the deadlines even to publishing the July issue in September. It has been a year of pleasant experiment, trying to know just what our readers wanted and then trying to supply the need.

X X

A year ago we had a subscription list divided approximately 50-50 between New York City subscribers and those from other parts of the United States. Over the year our subscription list has built up until now we have an approximate 25-75 distribution of subscribers, with the 75% covering just about every State in the Union and most of the Possessions. New Yorkers with 23 Fencing Masters to serve them are interested primarily in the results of local competitions. Our present majority, with fewer Professionals, are more interested in technical fencing articles. As these subscribers have grown in numbers we have endeavored to balance the magazine accordingly. The present Anniversary Number contains more articles than ever before. We hope that you will like it.

Although we have found, and who would not, that creative writing is a tougher assignment than reportorial writing we have endeavored to follow the subscription trend within our magazine. We do not intend to discontinue competition news but shall henceforth feature it only to the extent of its relative importance.

X X

As we close the present 1939 Volume, we want to thank our subscribers and contributors, both professional and amateur, for their support and helpful suggestions over the past year. To all of you we wish a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY 1940 filled with good fencing.

## SAN FRANCISCO

The 1939 Heron Trophy Competition, described in some detail in our November issue, was completed on November 3rd. There had been six teams entered this year and three dual meets had been held each week from October 5th through November 3rd. The Olympic Club team of Alfred R. Snyder, Louis Lataillade, Bryan H. Smith, Victor Arnautoff and Marvin O. Adams, Jr., successfully defended its 1938 winning of the Trophy. It won five matches, losing none, won 80 bouts, losing 40, and scored 495 touches with 396 touches against.

The fencing team of the University of California was second with three matches won, two matches lost, 70 bouts won, 55 bouts lost and scored 479 touches with 431 touches against. The Funke Fencing Academy was third with three matches won, two matches lost, 64 bouts won, 61 bouts lost and scored 479 touches with 455 touches against.

The other teams were the Young Italian Club, the Berkeley Team and Stanford University, fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

There were 41 fencers in the competition throughout the period. We list the first ten men in order of their accomplishment, showing Bouts Won, Bouts Lost, Touches Given, Touches Received and Olympic Scoring Average.

	B.W.	B.L.	T.G.	T.R.	Avg.
1. Alfred R. Snyder (O.C.)	24	0	120	49	.7100
2. Jack Hovick (U. of C.)	21	4	120	54	.6896
3. Salvatore Giambra (Y.I.C.)	19	1	97	47	.6736
4. Robert Stone (U. of C.)	20	5	115	67	.6318
5. Lawrence Bocel (Y.I.C.)	4	1	24	14	.6315
6. Louis Lataillade (O.C.)	18	6	109	64	.6300
7. Bryan H. Smith (O.C.)	19	5	110	79	.5820
8. Richard H. Mercer (F.F.A.)	18	7	108	78	.5806
9. John Cooper (S.U.)	15	10	107	84	.5600
10. Eyo Luporini (Y.I.C.)	3	2	23	19	.5476

The Prep Foil contest was held on November 10th at the Funke Fencing Academy. There were ten entries, three of whom came from Sacramento for the event. Because of the new ruling for Prep classification the fencing was better this year than ever before, partly due to some experience acquired by several of the entries in the Heron Trophy Competition. The winner of the six-man finals was Joel Lee Brenner of the University of California who won all five of his bouts for a clear title. John Cinelli of the Young Italian Club was second, losing only to Brenner, while William Mertsching from Sacramento was third, losing only to Brenner and Cinelli.

The Prep Sabre Competition on November 15th at the Funke Fencing Academy attracted 8 entries. At the end of the first fence-off in which all entries participated, John Cinelli and Joe Bini of the Young Italian Club, and Robert Shrader, unattached, were tied for first with 5 wins and 2 losses apiece. In the final fence-off Cinelli won both bouts 5-2, while Bini defeated Shrader 5-2. Although he only took third place, Shrader had the lowest touch score of the evening with only 26 hits made against him to Cinelli's 30 and Bini's 32.

The Divisional Junior Epee Championship was held at the University of California in Berkeley on November 17th. Of the nine entries, 5 were from the University, 3 from the Young Italian Club, and one unattached. Robert Stone and P. Richard Rosenberg of the U. of C. were tied for first with 6 wins and 2 losses apiece, while Jack Hovick, also of the U. of C., was third with 5 wins and 3 losses. Stone defeated Rosenberg 3-2 in the fence-off. Their victories qualified these three men for the Pacific Coast Championships in April.

## The Remise

Our frantic dispatches to the address given us for our anonymous columnist have remained unanswered. Perhaps our insistent requests that he reveal himself have gone against the grain. Anyhow, we shall endeavor to act as commentator until either the other contributions are resumed or we begin to receive small hatchets or daggers through the mails.

There are so many competitions this season and, believe it or not, this magazine takes so much of our time, that it is quite impossible to edit a magazine, go to our regular business daily, continue active fencing and attend every competition as well. We are naturally in a position to comment only upon those competitions we have attended.

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The John Allaire Memorial Competition was not particularly spectacular this year. The greatest single achievement of the evening was Norman Armitage's amazing low score of only 10 hits made against him in 7 bouts in sabre. This competition has only been held for three years, but this performance has already established a record which will be hard to beat. Since this competition is decided upon the unusual basis of touches against, Armitage's contribution to his team's victory would normally be of utmost significance. As it happened his teammates were similarly efficient, with Lt. Gustave Heiss and Tracy Jaeckel jointly turning in the low epee score for the evening and Hugh Alessandrini turning in the second lowest foil score. A well-balanced, experienced and efficient group of winners, this Fencers Club team outshone its like victories of the other two years.

Special mention must be made of Pieter Mijer, 59 year old veteran of the Salle Santelli, who finished the evening with only 18 epee points being made against him. This was particularly impressive in view of the fact that he lost his first bout and therefore entered his second bout with 6 touches already against him. His total score was bettered only by the joint work of Heiss and Jaeckel of the Fencers Club who together received only 17 points against them. He added further to his record a few days later when he won the Senior Individual Epee Competition.

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The Cartier Trophy Competition narrowed down once again to a contest between the Salle Santelli, the defenders, and the N.Y.A.C., the contenders of the past two seasons. Rightfully, no tears can be shed over the 5-0 shut-out which the N.Y.A.C. administered to their opponents in the final match. They had been on the receiving end of 5-1 and 5-1 scores in the past two years in the same contest and after "taking it" for two years they eventually had their opportunity to "dish it out".

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Mr. Joseph Vince was pleased as well as concerned to learn that there were 39 entries for his special Women's Foil Prize Competition. This entry list exceeded the competitive capacity of his Salle d'Armes. He was faced with the problem of either providing additional facilities for the competition or turning the competition over to the Metropolitan Committee for placement elsewhere. After considering the first course and realizing the unfairness to the competitors in providing additional makeshift

(Continued on page 12)

## Joseph Levis Joins The Professional Ranks

In 1922, a shy Freshman wandered into the M. I. T. gymnasium without the slightest realization that he was to experience a meeting there which would change his entire life, bring him fame, hundreds of friends throughout the world and may even now lead to his fortune. That boy had been undergoing the cruel unfriendliness which many colleges unwittingly shower upon lone Freshmen whose natural timidity makes it hard for them to make friends. With nothing better to do, he stopped to watch some fencing and was particularly interested in a tall, well-built, kindly type of fellow who was fencing with great determination. He edged closer to listen to this fencer talking to others between bouts. Suddenly he was amazed to have this fencer actually speak to him—speak to a Freshman. "Would you like to learn to fence?" What else could a Freshman say but "Yes, I guess so," with the mental reservation of "What can I lose?" The boy was placed on guard and taught to advance and lunge. This was the first time that George Calnan, then-recent graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy and a post-graduate student at M. I. T. crossed foils with Joseph Levis, M. I. T. Freshman.

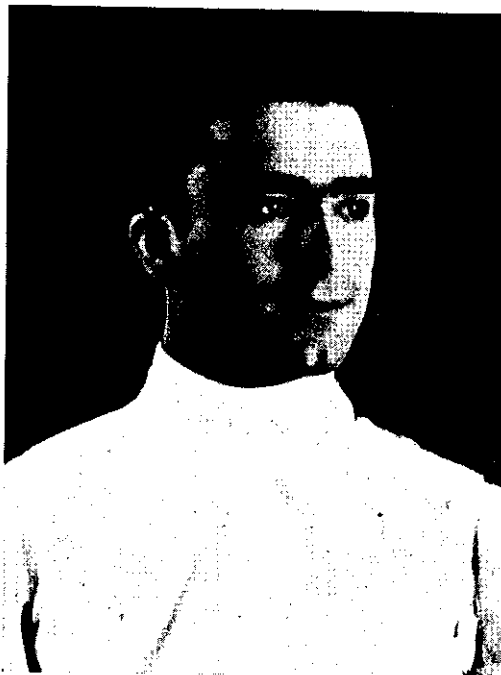
The first lesson gave birth to the fastest advance and lunge that American fencing has yet developed. It also welded a friendship which lasted until Calnan's death as an officer aboard the Akron when that Navy dirigible was destroyed in a storm off the New Jersey coast in the spring of 1933.

That chance meeting was remarkable in that it brought two young men together who were to make deeper marks upon the pages of American fencing history than any other men to date. It was to lead to two amazing and parallel careers beyond their fondest dreams in 1922.

Lieutenant George C. Calnan was to become American National Foil Champion in 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1930 and 1931. Joseph Levis was to hold that championship in 1929, 1932, 1933, 1935 and 1937. Between them they were to share that championship for a period of nine consecutive years up until Calnan's death in 1933. Lt. Calnan was also to win the National Epee Championship in 1923, the National Outdoor Epee Championship in 1931 and the National Three Weapon Championship in 1927, while Levis was to win the National Outdoor Foils Championship in 1929 and 1933 and the National Three Weapon Championship in 1929.

Their careers in International fencing were similarly parallel and between them they did more to

force recognition of American fencing ability upon the world than any other two men. Calnan was member of four American Olympic Fencing Teams, Levis was a member of three. Each man was Captain of his last American Olympic Fencing Team.



JOSEPH L. LEVIS

In 1928, on his first Olympic Team, Levis placed tenth in the individual Foil Championship. To place within the first ten in this competition is to achieve a fencing honor coveted by all fencers. Levis was the first American to do so (as was Calnan in epee). Four years later in Los Angeles, Levis was to go much further and amaze the entire Continental fencing world by placing second in the same great competition with Gustavo Marzi of Italy, first, and Guilio Gaudini of Italy, third. This was the apex of his amateur fencing career although he was to win three American Foil Championships after this date.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be at the Olympic Games in 1932 saw a great American Fencing Team captained by Calnan. Joseph Levis with his string of victories made it possible for the American Foil Team to achieve a triple tie for first

place with the Italian and French Foil Teams. This achievement was outstanding but on the following day Levis was to scale greater heights individually. He waded through pool after pool to find himself in the finals against the ten best fencers of the world. No American had ever seen Levis fence as well as he did that day. No European had supposed that any American would ever fence that well. They gathered around his strip to see Monsieur Lavees streak through his bouts in an amazing burst of speed and elan. There was no stopping the man. He was as hard to control as a thoroughbred at the starting line. "En garde—pret—allez" and Levis was off with an attack and "Eh-Li!", his war-cry. No one had the chance to attack him. His opponents tried stop-thrusts, time-thrusts, and ripostes, but Levis swept these all aside as he came in with his original attack or with counter-ripostes at the end of his rush. He was a deadly, berserk, point-making machine that day and probably remembers less of it himself than he does of many of his American Championships. His audience, however, remembers it only too well. Each of his attacks had been emotion-stirring with everyone in the American stands leaning in the direction of his attacks to the absolute danger of spilling the rooter on the end seat into the aisles. That night there were many hoarse throats and bitten knuckles among his American rooters who owed Joe Levis one of the most exciting days in their lives.

Levis ended the day in second place, acknowledging superiority to only one other amateur in the world, the famous Marzi. Joe had come far from that day ten years earlier when he had taken his first lesson.

He is now the newly appointed fencing master at M. I. T., his Alma Mater. We shall miss him in competition where he excelled for so many years. From 1926, when he won the Intercollegiate Foils Championship for M. I. T., he had marched on through National Junior Championships in foil and epee in 1927 to the National Championships and his Olympic achievements which we have already described. In addition to these individual achievements Levis was also a member of the teams which won the National Foil Team Championships in 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1934. With Calnan he shares the honor of being America's most consistent performer over a period of years and it is with regret that his fellow amateurs now see him leave their ranks and join the professional ranks with other leading American amateurs such as Dimond, Pasche, Peroy, Vince and others. There is no question but that we need more professionals but, as each good amateur takes the step, there is a forgivable feeling of regret on the part of the remaining amateurs.

Levis will not say much as yet about his plans as a professional. He does admit that he has a double objective, first, to produce good collegiate fencers at M. I. T. and second to endeavor to give his men a love for the sport that will carry them beyond the short four years of college into higher A. F. L. A. competition and possible National ranking. For this pur-

pose, we propose the old Latin motto: "Non Scholae sed Vitae" which, if we remember correctly, means, "Not for School, but for Life", a motto which should be that of every fencing master who teaches school-boys and collegians throughout the land.

For years the fencing squad at M. I. T. has never exceeded 30 to 35 men. The fencing squad jumped to 90 men this year upon word of Levis' acceptance of the post of fencing master there. To realize what this means one has only to appreciate the fact that there are now more men at M. I. T. "out" for fencing than there are for any other sport except track. We doubt that Levis in his wildest dreams could have anticipated any such response to his call and for a young, new professional to be faced with as large a task as a starter would give us concern if that particular man were not Levis. Fortunately, we have known Levis throughout all but his first two introductory years of fencing. Therefore we feel that he will face this fencing problem just as he has faced every other fencing problem he has ever had and will come off as usual—with the gold medal.

—D. E.

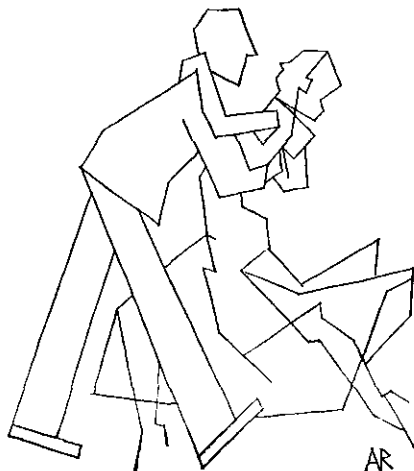
## WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Sala Messineo cordially invites all the readers of The Riposte when visiting Washington to visit and fence at its Sala d'Arma at 1346 Randolph St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

## Let's Make a Date ! For the Time of Your Life

### The Annual Rapier Club Ball

FEBRUARY 10, 1940



#### News Flash:

The Rapier Club has borrowed John Jay Hall at Columbia University for its annual exhibition and formal dance to be held on the night of FEB. 10, 1940.

Further details will be found in the next issue of The Riposte or at your local club.

Subscription \$2.25 per couple  
Advance price (special to you) \$2.00

## Why Not Try a Straight Lunge?

In baseball, have you ever seen a runner on first easing off toward second base? The right-handed pitcher with his back toward first base appears indifferent to the runner or how far off-plate he goes. Such, however, is not the case. Suddenly he whirls, throws to first and the runner is out. There was no luck in this. It was a mathematical certainty based upon timing, distance and speed. The pitcher might have appeared indifferent to the runner but the third baseman and the catcher had been very alert to his position. Let the runner advance one inch beyond a certain known distance and the pitcher or third baseman signals the pitcher and Mr. Base Runner is a sure "out".

We admire the coordination among players which makes such plays possible. We give praise to the spectacle of such a play and overlook the study which made the play possible. We know that a ball can travel faster than a runner. Therefore, no runner can beat the ball back to first base once he has transgressed a certain limit by as little as one inch. The same thing is applicable to fencing. Let an opponent come one inch closer to you than he should, or you creep in one inch closer to him than he should allow and a straight lunge will beat his parry every time.

How quickly can you parry a straight lunge? Very quickly, you think, and you are right, but have you added the time you need to see the necessity for the parry? That is important and we shall test its importance with a simple experiment. Have a friend hold a fencing glove against a wall, fingers down, at about sword height. Stand back from the wall with your foil pointed at the glove's finger. How far away? Only an inch. Now have your friend drop the glove without warning and try to hit any part of it before it passes your foil. The word "try" is used purposely here for that is all you will do. You can make money on this trick betting on the glove nine times out of ten. This experiment should prove to you that a lot can happen before you can start a foil into action.

If we add this starting time or inertia of a parry to the parry itself we have a sizeable total insofar at least as the split-second totals in fencing are concerned. This starting time may vary by considerable amounts within the same fencer depending upon whether he is on the defensive and set to parry or whether he is intent upon an attack at that moment and, therefore, temporarily asleep defensively. It may also vary considerably within the same fencer from day to day with discouraging unpredictability. It is this variation in reaction time which accounts in great measure for our being "on" or "off" from day to day or from competition to competition. It, of course, varies considerably between individuals.

This article is limited primarily to the efficacy of a straight lunge. Thus far we have dealt with the problem of the defense and why that defense, which is apparently simple, contains difficulties. Now let us take up the straight lunge itself and what we mean by it. We may be going contrary to general fencing vocabulary, but we mean a direct lunge into the opponent's open line without a preliminary advance. It may be necessary to disengage or even

coupe into the open line or the line may be open for a lunge without a disengage. For our purpose, we, therefore, consider any direct or simple lunge or a lunge with disengage as a "straight lunge."

If we are correct in our contention that a straight lunge is as fast or faster than a parry then there must be much greater speed in a lunging foil than in a parrying foil. To arrive on the target a lunging foil must move forward from between three to four feet in less time than a parrying foil can move from 4 to 12 inches. Is it possible that we may have here a ratio comparable to that between the baseball and the runner? Perhaps not, but we do know that a lunging foil travels faster than the lunge itself. We would all be very much surprised to know just how fast a foil point went forward at its maximum in a lunge.

A foil has two sources of power, one from the extension of the arm and the other from the push of the body which is being propelled forward by the straightening of the back leg. All of us can testify as to the terrific speed in a foil merely from the extension of the arm. This is evident from any direct riposte. We also know that a well executed lunge can be fast. Now blend the two and we have a greater speed than either the lunge speed or the extension speed, although less than the sum total of both.

The classical French School may rise up in wrath at the implication of the above paragraph. This School insists that the arm be extended first and the lunge start at near-termination of the extension resulting in a constant foil speed. The modern French and Italian Schools, whether they are willing to say so in writing or not, practice a straight lunge by starting the arm and front leg forward together. The start is slow and harmless looking, it gathers speed as it goes and ends at top speed. It was what Warren Dow meant in his article, "Fundamental Foil Training" in the July issue when he said, "The last action of an attack should literally explode." Your classical French Foilsman would shudder and murmur, "Bent arm attack" if he saw this done. However, the fact is that it is being done and very effectively.

Do not take this to mean that every attack is executed in this way. This applies only to the straight lunge as we mean it in this article. For attacks with deception such as the double and the one-two, the arm must be fully extended before the lunge. This is necessary to draw the parry which the second motion is to deceive.

There are two arguments frequently used against the bent arm attack; one is that you have no right of way until your arm is extended and, therefore, any stop thrust would be against you and the other is that it is dangerous. An important element of the modern straight lunge is its surprise not only in time but in intent. It comes so fast that a stop thrust must be planned in advance. Even so, opposition just short of blade contact can be practiced so that even the threat of a stop-thrust can be eliminated. There is no more danger in this direct lunge than in any other lunge. There is no jab or poke to this attack. The arm is straight when the point lands. It hasn't been straight for as great a part of the attack as before, but it is straight and there

is none of the jab which makes the real bent-arm attack taboo.

We have advocated the straight lunge for point-making usage. There are several reasons for this:

(1) *It is the most direct and fastest attack that a fencer can make.* After all, a straight line is the shortest distance between two points.

(2) *It is easy to judge.* Your judge will see a hit from a straight lunge more easily than any other touch. You may fail to receive credit for some good touches made by more complicated methods since the movements that fooled your opponent may also have fooled the judge. A straight lunge carries no element to fool a judge.

(3) *It is daring.* Few opponents give you credit for being able to hit them with a straight lunge. They consider a straight lunge as risky for you and not for them. Therefore, they do not expect you to try it. They usually anticipate something more complicated. This helps you for they tend to hesitate in their parry, believing that your action is only a feint.

(4) *It is embarrassing.* A hit with a straight lunge undermines your opponent's morale. He loses his confidence if you show him that you can hit him with the first thing in the book.

(5) *It limits your opponent's offensive.* With a straight lunge threatening at all times, he dares not fool around but must confine himself to close play. You may thus have cut his bag of tricks in half.

The straight lunge may be used defensively as well as offensively. Many fencers overlook its potentialities as a defensive weapon. Let us explain. An opponent is pressing you hard. He is intent upon the attack and your retreats or parries do not seem to alter his intention. He has shown ability to hit and temporarily seems to have taken your number. In other words, he has the psychological upper hand and you are at a loss for the moment as to any plan or tactics. Why not make a straight lunge every time he seems about set to come at you, not necessarily to make a touch but rather to disrupt his plan, to confuse him, to gain time? Just as Joe Louis uses a straight left to annoy an opponent set to attack, you may use a straight lunge to force your opponent to hesitate in his plans.

Some of our readers, professionals and amateurs alike, may say that this article thus far has been interesting and theoretically correct (we hope) but pooh-pooh it insofar as actual practice is concerned. "It sounds well, but who is going to fall for a straight attack? Anyone is crazy to risk a straight lunge against a parry-riposte." To refute any accusations of being only a rocking-chair fencing philosopher we should like to cite a classical example of its use and analyze its use among some of our leading amateur fencers.

We consider Gustavo Marzi of Italy as the finest and most consistently strong amateur fencer today. His technique is perfect, his execution is machine-like. He is versatile and resourceful. In the 1936 Olympics he was faced by a situation most unusual for him. His opponent was leading him with a score of 4-0. All of his well-planned and well-executed attacks had failed to score. He was apparently up against an opponent whose offense and defense that particular day were better than his own. He did not lose the bout. He made the next five touches with straight lunges proving, I hope, that the straight lunge is not too elementary to be used by or to be effective against the best fencers today.

Our own American Senior fencers are not above its use. On the contrary, they recognize its great value and depend upon it more than Novices and Juniors do. The most effective attack of Norman Lewis, National Foil Champion, is his straight lunge. If he can get within striking distance of his opponent, Lewis will invariably make his touch with a direct attack. He does not even bother to conceal his intent but is able through fast and deceptive legwork to conceal his timing so well that he steals distance and lunges before his opponent is willing to believe that it is not just another feint. He is also patient and can wear down an opponent's alertness with a series of body feints prior to the actual attack.

Warren Dow was the most successful fencer in Metropolitan competition during the past season. He carried away first place undefeated in all four of the individual competitions he entered in New York City. An analysis of his touches would show that more than half of them were made with straight lunges either in time through the opponent's defense or in countertime into the start of an opponent's offense. These plus the many stop and time thrusts he made show conclusively how much this experienced fencer believes in and depends upon a straight-extended foil plus timing.

Daniel Bukantz, ranked # 6, uses an attack very similar to Lewis'. He has not the latter's deceptive foot-work but he disguises his intent better with a wider variety of other attacks and employs fast fleches as well as lunges for his direct attacks.

Jose de Capriles, Individual 3-Weapon Champion, has a highly developed sense of timing. Being one of the tallest men in fencing today he does not need to concentrate upon distance as much as the others. He is patient and waits and waits for the right "time" and then is out straight and far for a direct touch. His long reach also makes it possible for him to use a simpler adaptation of the same principle, the straight thrust. Should an opponent, intent upon gaining distance upon Jose, come within his tall shadow we see a fast straightening of arm with or without a half lunge and that opponent is added to a long list of embarrassed predecessors.

We do not intend to review the entire Senior list and shall, therefore, mention only two others, John Huffman and Hugh Alessandrini. We mention them particularly because they are definite exceptions. Neither makes any noticeable use of straight lunges. They each prefer to prepare their openings rather than accept those already offered. Each has special equipment for this more difficult task; Huffman with a fast and strong balestre and a well-mixed variety of changes, beats and pressures; Alessandrini with the fastest hand in amateur foil today which is good offensively in deception attacks or defensively in false or secondary-intention attacks.

We must now come back to our younger fencers and address them more directly. In practicing straight lunges in your lessons and exercises do not look upon them merely as drill. Remember that, although they are the first thing you were taught, they are also used effectively in every competition by men who could spot you three touches every bout. Get over the idea that the straight lunge is too simple for practical use and that every attack must be complicated. Remember your first lesson in plane geometry where you proved that a straight line was the shortest distance between two points and appreciate fencing's acceptance of that truth in its own first lesson.

## WHY NOT TRY A STRAIGHT LUNGE?

(Continued)

The use of the straight lunge is not going to change you overnight into a Marzi. You are going to become very disappointed with it when it fails to win for you, as it will fail. That failure will be due to your poor sense of timing and after trying and failing with poorly-timed straight lunges you will want to put them aside as suicidal. Do so in competition, if necessary, but resolve to perfect your timing in the meantime. When practicing free play or bouting in the salle, concentrate on some straight attacks. Don't tell your partner what you plan to do but see if you cannot "steal" a few straight touches when he is napping. Analyze your failures to see whether your timing was poor, your legs were lazy, your arm came out too soon and awoke your partner's parry too early or a combination of these. This concentration with one purpose is good fun and wonderful training. Mix it up a bit so that your partner won't be all set for just the one thing and don't care if he hits you more times than you hit him. You will get more pleasure and good out of the few times you hit him, as intended, than he will get out of the results of haphazard fancy.

And now we come to an important discovery you should make during this practice. In fact it is so important that it should have been featured earlier in this essay. Give it just heed. You will find that while you are standing in good guard, waiting, shifting distance and watching for just the right moment to lunge at your partner, most of the attacks he throws at you will rattle off your blade harmlessly. You will find yourself safer from his attacks while concentrating upon your offense than had you been concentrating upon your defense. A crazy statement like this certainly demands explanation and here it is. You were so intent upon hitting him that you ignored all movements of his that didn't threaten your actual target. In other words, you withheld your parry and ceased to bite on every will-of-the-wisp feint your opponent made. You subconsciously did what the good fencers do consciously, ignored the false feints. You were intent on distance primarily and, therefore, probably stepped back when your opponent started. Any complicated attack was futile against you. You are theoretically hittable by only one type of attack, a simple attack such as another straight lunge or a beat-lunge. In general, therefore, a fencer intent upon making a straight lunge may be said to be invulnerable to any type of attack more complicated than the one he is planning to make himself. By confining your thoughts to the straight lunge you will, at the same time, confine your opponents effectiveness to the same simplicity. This is a fencing axiom that unfortunately is overlooked by a majority of the amateurs and professionals today. It is in our opinion so valuable that we believe that any fencer, who practices the straight lunge for defensive and offensive purposes, studies the results and primary reasons for those results and absorbs the real feeling for basic sword-play which these practices offer, will find his foilsmanship so improved that he will begin winning competitions in which he otherwise could not have hoped to place.

—D. E.

## GOSSIP AND MORE

(Continued)

in New York City. We were unable to see the program but await with interest the reports of those fortunate enough to have seen it.

X X

The members of the Greco Fencing Academy are publishing a club paper entitled "The Stop Thrust—Always in Time". It deals primarily with the activities of the club's members and with their successes in competition. The first issue, published on November 4th, was a two-page mimeograph job, reminiscent of our own beginnings. We wish it every success.

X X

*Sportsmanship has an indefinable code which any group of spectators appreciates, whether or not it is fencing-conscious. The newspapers may judge you by your scores, but the spectators judge you by your actions.*

X X

The fencing bug is a potent insect that drives its victims hard and far. Its latest most-seriously-stricken victims are the several students of Middlebury College who are reported as driving 225 miles from Middlebury, Vt. to New York City each Saturday to take fencing lessons.

X X

The A.F.L.A. is constantly alert to professionalism and must frequently reopen this problem to discussion. A recent and lengthy discussion on this subject involved the amateurism of actors who were employed to fence as part of their duties in any particular play. What seemed like an interminable discussion was put to an amusing end when Mr. George Cochrane remarked that in his experience he had seen many fencers acting but very few actors fencing.

X X

Last December, an American fencing team visited Cuba during the Christmas holidays where it won the Batista Trophy in a Cuba-United States fencing match. The A.F.L.A. now plans to send a second team to Cuba to defend the Trophy. Plans are not complete for the team as yet but it is rumored that Norman Armitage, Lt. Gustave Heiss, Jose de Capriles, Miguel A. de Capriles and Edward Carfagno have accepted invitations for positions on the team. Many other fencers who have been contacted have been forced to refuse similar invitations through inability to leave the United States for the two-week trip.

X X

*A sport which does not mold the character of the human receptacle, spiritually and morally, is nothing more than hard exercise. If you just want hard exercise, try riding a stationary bicycle.*

Mary, Mary, quite contrary.  
Would never go out at all;  
But she leaped at the chance  
To go to this dance;  
The Annual Rapier Club Ball.—Advt.

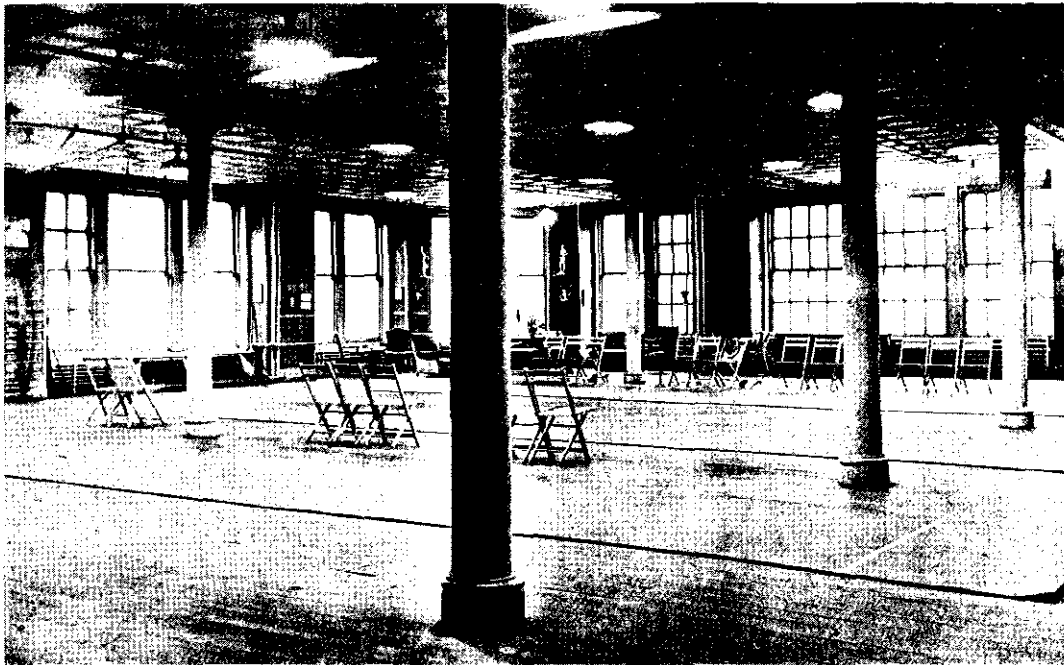
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*Introduction*

*There is no group in the world more loyal to its sport than the fencers. We have often made reference to the fencing bug which once having really bitten you leaves you the life-long host to its virus. Such a real victim is Rear Admiral Bakenhus, who was infected many years ago and regardless of whether serving with the United States Navy, afloat or ashore, or now retired as a Consulting Engineer in New York City, has always carried his fencing equipment to his various ports of call throughout the world. His was a constant search for other fencers with whom to enjoy the sport and in case of failure to find them to train other men in the sport for his pleasure. Rarely, if ever, an active competitor, his is the perfect example of what fencing can mean to*

*a man who has come to appreciate its good fun, its exercise and its mental stimulation.*

*A few years ago he wrote an article in favor of fencing at college. We saw and liked that article and have gained his permission to reprint it. We have saved it purposely for this issue of The Riposte which should reach you just at the start of active college fencing. If your school or college is hesitating in recognizing the sport or is showing a tendency to minimize the sport in favor of other athletics, we suggest that you bring this article to your school's attention. It gives a clear, concise and fair analysis of the sport's advantages that should impress any athletic department with the various benefits fencing offers to its devotees.*

**FENCING AND OTHER SPORTS AT COLLEGE**

REAR ADMIRAL R. E. BAKENHUS  
Civil Engineering Corps, U. S. Navy, Retired.

**Physical Education in General**—The primary purpose of physical education for the student is to contribute to the well rounded man of life after school, to give him health and strength and the ability to do things in his chosen profession with the best results. It should contribute materially to his good health both while at school and in after life. The young man should acquire a good posture, knowledge of what strains his body will stand, and how to get the most out of himself without injury.

Physical education and exercise should have expert supervision and each man, while given the widest latitude of choice, should be guided to those exercises which are best suited for him.

Sports and games indulged in to a reasonable extent are excellent as a part of a well rounded physical education. They give recreation and fun. The association with others is a benefit and results in life long friendships. Competitive sports, if not carried to excess, or beyond the physical capacity of the individual, have a great value. They are stimulating, teach a man how to put forth his best effort in a crisis and also how to prepare for such a crisis. The lessons learned may be applied to the efforts and crises of later life, if they are well learned.

There are but few institutions where a man may indulge in sports for their own sake, where they are his main interest, and the intellectual or professional pursuits are secondary. There are always some who may indulge in such a luxury or who are preparing for a career in professional sports or in physical education. The fundamental aims and objects of most colleges and schools do not provide for such groups. Nor is it in accord with the principles of education followed at such schools to encourage any one sport or athletic interest to such a degree that it becomes a center for the school spirit, nor where the athlete becomes the great hero of the hour, such that the basic ideal of the student body is warped. All honor to the man who triumphs in athletic sports at school. There is a thrill in it for him and for all his schoolmates. He has done something that should help him win in the competitions of later life, whether it be with individuals or with adverse

conditions. He has done something to build up his morale and give him confidence in himself and that will always stand him in good stead.

**Fencing**

The purpose of these notes is to bring out the advantages of fencing without in any way detracting from any of the other suitable sports.

Fencing is one of the very oldest and most honorable of sports and dates back hundreds of years. At the present time the weapons and methods as generally used are conventionalized and the weapons are light and the action faster than of old.

Fencing is essentially though not exclusively an indoor sport and is thus particularly adapted to the months of inclement weather.

Fencing does not require excessive space, nor are the facilities and equipment expensive.

Not much time is required to prepare for this exercise and thus no time is lost unnecessarily.

The exercise is milder than some sports and yet is vigorous enough to develop the muscles and to require deep breathing. It is an exercise which tends to develop good posture, self possession, and to eliminate awkward movements or poses.

Fencing is a sport for a man with brains as well as muscles. The moves must be carefully thought out and practiced, under a competent instructor, of course. There are many combinations of action. To perceive them the eye must be trained, and more than that, the automatic reactions must be developed by long practice. The reactions then become faster than the eye can see and are due to the "feel" of the blade and to subconscious thought.

The lunge, the advance and the retreat are excellent exercise for the legs and the body muscles. The work with the weapon itself develops the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder and body muscles.

There are three types of weapons now in general use—the foil which is for thrusting with the torso only as a target, the epee which is also for thrusting but with any part of the body, limbs or head as target, and the sabre which is both a thrusting and a cutting weapon with the body, arms and head as

target. There is much to be learned and the weapons are usually taken up in the order named.

Proper clothing must be used for protection while fencing. This includes mask, glove, jacket and trousers of suitable material and design for the weapon concerned, and also shoes for proper footwork. Fencing is one of the safest of all sports, and bodily injury is a rarity.

Fencing above all requires perfected coordination of the various parts of the nervous and muscular systems. It tends to give poise and graceful movement. It does more than that, as it brings out power of automatic reaction to given situations. It will help a man to save himself when he might otherwise be subject of an accident—avoid a fall, move out of danger, or he may save others due to his quick reactions.

Fencing is an exciting and exhilarating sport. It has all of the advantages of competition. This will not only bring out the superior fencers, but will also show each individual under what circumstances he can do his best.

Fencing has always been a gentlemanly sport. Courtesy and fairness are inherent in the game.

One of the great advantages of fencing is that a man can indulge in it for many years after he would be required to give up some of the other popular sports. There are many men fencing at ages of 50 and 60 and even 70 years who do well and get much fun out of it.

The fencer also gets experience in judging and umpiring in competitions. This is difficult and requires a quick eye and knowledge of the rules. It develops also a sense of fairness, justice and decision.

There is hardly a sport that is so well adapted to college men as fencing, both for the benefit during the study years and for what it will mean later.

## CONNECTICUT

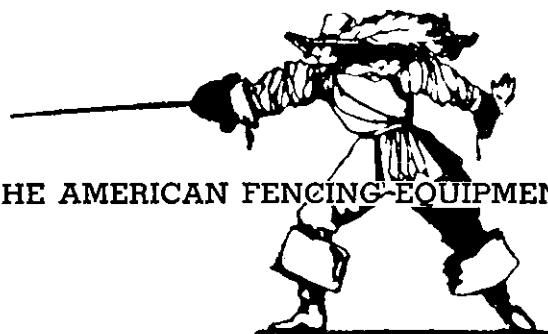
The Connecticut Division of the A. F. L. A., after a quiet season in 1933-1939, is now reported as evidencing revived activity. The authorities of Yale University have granted permission for the use of the Yale Gymnasium for Sunday competitions. Miss Muriel Guggolz, member of the American Olympic Fencing Team in 1932, has been appointed Chairman of the Connecticut Girls' Division of the A. F. L. A. and has obtained a private school gymnasium for all women's foil competitions.

Robert Grasson, Yale Fencing Master and Foil Coach of the 1936 American Olympic Team, has been pursuing an energetic schedule of fencing exhibitions throughout the State. He is assisted in these exhibitions by his son, Albert, Assistant Fencing Master at Yale, and his daughter, Marguerite, Connecticut women's foil champion. They have already given exhibitions at the Kent, Hotchkiss, Berkshire Academy, the Bridgeport High School, the Greenwich High School, and the Brunswick School in Greenwich.

A new fencing club, The New Canaan Fencing Club, has been organized in New Canaan under the coachship of Robert C. Barr, who is also the fencing instructor at Sterling House in Stratford. The New Canaan Club was organized in the Fall with 20 enthusiasts, 18 of which had done no fencing previously. Mr. Barr previously instructed fencing at the Ridgefield School for eight years until the closing of that school. During that time his team had the unusual record of suffering no defeats, which Mr. Barr attributes primarily to good material. He writes that both of his new groups are highly enthusiastic and feels that the future of American fencing lies in the young fencers throughout the country in schools and clubs such as these.

ROBERT H. E. GRASSON, *Pres.*  
Head fencing Master, Yale Univ.  
U. S. Olympic Coach

ALBERT J. GRASSON, *Sec.-Treas.*  
Fencing Master, Yale Univ.



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## THE REMISE

(Continued from page 3)

space for the competition, he sacrificed the holding of his own competition. The Metropolitan Committee took action immediately, contacted other clubs and salle d'armes and eventually voted to place the competition at the Salle Santelli, which cooperated fully with the Committee with its short-notice problem.

This competition was the largest girls' competition of the season thus far. It produced good, clean fencing but somehow lacked the zest of similar competitions in the past. The bouts unfortunately followed a cut-and-dried pattern and were noticeably lacking in the exciting tilts which these same girls have produced in the past. Perhaps Sunday afternoon is a bad time to expect young ladies to tear into one another as if their boy friends had been insulted. There were some unexpected upsets, particularly that of Maria Cerra and Mildred Stewart, and the finals were marked with close and well-fought bouts.

Miss Dorothy Grimmelman of the Salle Santelli came off the winner. As a quiet, modest competitor she proved to be a popular winner and she seems now to have acquired the competitive experience to profit from her disappointing tries of the past. Her fencing in the finals was the coolest, the most reasoned fencing of the strip and she deserved her victory.

X X

It was at this same competition that all the competitors were assembled together at one time for a brief explanation of the change of location which had been made. We had not seen so many girls together since we were janitor of the Martha Washington Hotel, but indeed they did look nice in their white uniforms. From time to time we have heard little rumblings of discontent about the strict A.F. L. A. rulings on girls' uniforms this year. Perhaps we have forgotten too easily the miscellaneous and unattractive varieties displayed in the past. To remind you of conditions that existed in even the very recent past we searched through one of the larger fencing scrapbooks in the city and found the picture we show below. Mind you this was taken in 1933 at

the National Outdoor Championships at the Chicago Century of Progress. There were six types of costumes worn by these 12 girls, varying all the way from short shorts to short white skirt over long black bloomers and black silk stockings. In fact, today's approved costume was not evident at that competition. Despite rumblings to the contrary I feel that the girls owe a debt of gratitude to the A.F. L. A. for their action in this matter.

X X

The Greco Prize Competition attracted 35 entries. Warren Dow was the only Senior entered and won the competition for the fifth straight year. He completed the competition without the loss of a bout. In fact, he has lost only three bouts in this competition over a period of 5 years, an unusual record.

Mr. Anthony Greco, patron of the competition, was naturally disappointed that there had not been a stronger entry list. For some reason or other the strength of Open Prize competitions of this type seem to be in inverse relation to the size of the entry list. Seniors seem to prefer to enter only such competitions as promise to finish at a respectable hour. This is because most, if not all, of them are working and cannot afford to exhaust themselves in a long competition and stagger to the office half awake the next day. As matters developed, the competition this year was divided into two parts and would not have proved lengthy the first evening. Mr. Greco plans to place some limits on the competition next year to attract more of the stronger fencers.

X X

It is reported that the Rules Committee of the Intercollegiate Fencing Association has placed a complete taboo on the use of the fleche in its competitions this year. We were opposed to this when it was proposed a year ago, but have now come to the conclusion that the elimination of the fleche will not necessarily restrict the potentialities of the fencers. To hit an opponent out of distance there is the lunge, the advance and lunge, the balestre and the fleche. Of these the fleche can be the most dangerous and since it is not studied but is more the inspiration of the moment its elimination in college competition is probably wise. Many successful fencers never use the fleche which proves that it is not essential



What the Best Dressed

Girl Fencers Wore

in 1933

to success. One further argument in favor of the ruling is that the fleche seems to be habit forming. Once a competitor begins having success with the fleche he seems to forget how to lunge and uses the fleche at every opportunity. This does not make for the best fencing. We therefore retract our last year's arguments against the I.C.F.A.'s abolition of the fleche.

The A.F.L.A. will continue to permit the fleche so long as it is recognized by the F.I.E. However, both the F.I.E. and the A.F.L.A. have introduced penalties for its careless or improper use.

X X

With the resignation of Joseph Levis as A.F.L.A. Vice President to assume his professional duties at M.I.T., there have been two nominations for the office: Mr. Ferard Leicester of San Francisco and Mr. Richard F. Warren of Philadelphia. Both men are very similar in nature, qualifications and loyalty to the sport and the A.F.L.A. over many years. Regardless of which man loses the friendly ballot now in progress, the A.F.L.A. stands to acquire a fine Vice President.

## THE 1940 INTERCOLLEGIATES

(Continued from page 1)

ing the past five years was that it made possible, if not inevitable, an anti-climatic ending. For many years, the Intercollegiate Fencing Association has made much of the final evening of its annual championship events, and a contest in which it was possible and even usual for most of the team championships, at least, to have been settled before the final session commenced presented a constant threat to maximum enjoyment of the affair by the Association's guests.

Finally, this form of competition has required at least 594 bouts, and might involve as many as 603, a fact which has absolutely precluded any possibility of adding to the Association's present membership of twelve colleges.

It was to correct these faults in an otherwise satisfactory contest that the I.C.F.A. Council at its Annual Meeting in October adopted a new form of competition which in a measure is a combination of the form of individual competition of the period 1932-1934 and the 1935-1939 method of grafting the characteristics of team competition on a structure essentially suited to individual events.

Under the new plan, as adapted for twelve colleges, the fencers in each weapon will be divided among six preliminary six-man pools. In each such pool a round-robin will be fenced to qualify three contestants for the semi-finals which will be conducted on three strips of six. From the semi-finals a total of nine fencers will qualify for the finals which again will be fenced as a complete round-robin.

Each bout won in any round will count as a team point towards the team championship both in that weapon and in the three-weapon competition. Every fencer, therefore, will start with an equal opportunity to win points for his team against the best that the competition has to offer, although the more competent performers who continue throughout the three rounds of the event will obviously turn in the better records. All starters, furthermore, will have a chance to win the individual Intercollegiate Championship title or finish as medalists in the real championship competition, for the individual place-winners, of

course, will be those who finish first, second, and third in the nine-man final rounds.

Under this plan it is inconceivable that any title, team or individual, will be clinched until the finals are well under way, a fact which will lend drama to the Championships and more than compensate for any possible loss which may be considered to result from the impossibility of stimulating dual-match team competitions as was the practice under the former plan. It is expected, furthermore, that the ever-changing score-board, a feature of the old plan which has been retained, will continue to keep uppermost in the minds of the spectators the idea of team competition, in spite of the fact that fencing, however conducted, is basically a duel between individuals.

In arranging the organizational details of this year's Championships, it has been decided to request each college to classify its team members as before, not because they will be so classified in the competition, but simply to assist the Bout Committee in seeding the contestants in the make-up of the preliminary strips. Seedings will also take into consideration the necessity of keeping members of the same team from meeting one another until the final round, in which matches between teammates will be fenced off before the contestants involved meet the representatives of any of the other colleges.

It has tentatively been decided that substitutions will be permitted in any round, but that substitutes may not compete for individual prizes and, in determining the individual record of a man substituted for, it shall be assumed that he has lost all bouts fenced by his substitute.

This form of competition will require only 513 bouts, exclusive of possible fence-offs for first place, and by altering the number and arrangement of pools, and the number of qualifiers from preliminary and semi-final pools, can be adjusted to accommodate at least fifteen colleges without increasing the number of bouts to be fenced beyond a maximum of 560. Before acting upon any application for membership in the Association, however, the Council has voted to study this new plan in actual operation at the 1940 Championships.

## ST. LOUIS

The St. Louis fencing season opened on November 11th with a "Soiree de Gala" at the Carondelet Y.M.C.A. There were eight exhibition events on the evening's program including a women's foil match between Miss Ervilla Droll and Mrs. Robert Witte, a foil match between Tracy Barnes and George Curtis, an epee match between Mauthe Freck and William Chiprin, a sabre match between Lon Hocker and Robert Witte, George Curtis giving a foil lesson to Miss Joan Thompson, Dr. Tibor Nyilas giving a sabre lesson to Alexander Solomon and individual and mass balloon fights with epees.

The evening served the double purpose of introducing the fencing season and Dr. Tibor Nyilas, ranking Hungarian sabreman, to the fencers of St. Louis. All fencers were invited to bring their equipment for general fencing between the exhibition bouts.

Rub-a-dub-dub, it's the Rapier Club.

And a very fine dance, you know;  
Exhibitions and all,

It's a whale of a ball,  
So put on your tux and go!—Advt.

## A. F. L. A. COMPETITIONS HELD IN NEW YORK CITY

**Open Foils Team Competition—Cartier Trophy  
8 Teams—October 26th**

This early-season foil team competition attracted 8 teams to the strips of the Saltus Fencing Club. At the end of the first evening of competition, the four remaining teams were N. Y. A. C., Salle Santelli "A", Saltus Fencing Club "A" and Salle d'Armes Vince.

In the four-team finals the N. Y. A. C. defeated the Saltus "A" team 5-1 and the Salle d'Armes Vince team 5-1, while the Salle Santelli defeated the Saltus Fencing Club 5-0 and the Salle d'Armes Vince 5-4. This left the final match between the N. Y. A. C. and the Salle Santelli "A", the same teams who competed similarly in 1935, 1937, and 1938.

The N. Y. A. C. team of Warren Dow, Dernel Every, John Huffman and Ralph Marson swept through to a 5-0 victory against Diaz Cetrulo, Jose de Capriles, Miguel de Capriles and Norman Lewis. The Salle Santelli had two legs on the Trophy and their loss returned the Trophy to assured circulation for another two years at least.

**Individual Novice Foil Competition—41 Entries  
November 11th**

After almost 9 hours of fencing, Theodore Green of the Saltus Fencing Club, won the gold medal at the Salle Santelli after a three-way tie for first place with Murray Kornfeld of St. John's University and James Strauch of City College. In the fence-off Green defeated Kornfeld 5-4 and Strauch 5-3. Kornfeld defeated Strauch 5-2 for second place.

**Three-Weapon Team Competition—John Allaire Memorial Trophy—8 Teams—November 12th**

The Fencers Club won this competition for the third successive year by the largest margin of any of the three competitions held thus far. The winning team was paced by Norman Armitage with but 10 touches scored against him in sabre, while Lt. Gustave Heiss and Tracy Jaeckel shared the epee assignment with 17 touches against them and Hugh V. Alessandrini held his foil score down to 21. The Salle Santelli team of Norman Lewis in foil, Jose de Capriles in epee and Miguel de Capriles in sabre was second.

This competition is scored on the basis of touches against, low score winning. Each bout is for 5 touches with the additional penalty of one point for losing the bout. The competition was held at the N. Y. A. C.

**Summary of Team Standings**

	Foil	Epee	Sabre	To.
Fencers Club .....	21	17	10	48
Salle Santelli .....	15	18	29	62
N. Y. A. C. ....	21	28	18	67
Veterans .....	42	18	30	90
Greco Fencing Academy .....	33	38	33	104
Saltus Fencing Club .....	34	38	33	105
St. John's University .....	30	38	38	106
Columbia University .....	37	35	37	109

**Individual Senior Epee Competition—7 Entries  
November 14th**

In this small but select field of Senior epeeists, Pieter Mijer, 59 year old veteran of the Salle Santelli, won first prize on the fencing strips at the Salle d'Armes Henry IV. He lost two bouts during the evening, one to Tracy Jaeckel of the Fencers Club and the other to Kevis Kapner of the Salle Santelli. Strangely enough these two losses forced him into a triple tie for first place with these same two men. In the fence-off he reversed the results

by defeating Jaeckel 3-1 and Kapner 3-0, while Jaeckel took second place by defeating Kapner 3-0.

**Individual Novice Sabre Competition—29 Entries  
November 21st**

Herbert Spector of C.C.N.Y. won first place in this competition at the Salle Santelli with the loss of only one bout in the finals and suffering that loss only after clinching first place. Harry Morganstern of St. John's University was second and his teammate Murray Kornfeld was third.

**Individual Open Foil Competition—Greco Trophy  
35 Entries—November 25th**

At one time there were 48 entries for this competition, but many of the ranking fencers withdrew from the competition when its size became known. This was prior to the announcement that there would be no endeavor to complete the contest in one long evening. Warren Dow of the New York Athletic Club won the competition for the fifth successive year on the strips at the Greco Fencing Academy. Having retired one Greco Trophy with 3 successive wins he now has two legs on the current trophy. He went through the competition undefeated while Arthur Tauber of N.Y.U. won second on touches after being tied in bouts won with Diaz Cetrulo of the Salle Santelli.

**All Eastern Intermediate Sabre Team Championship  
Robert Stoll Trophy—3 Teams—December 1st**

This, the first Championship of the season, attracted only three teams, apparently through the known strength of the teams entered. Three cadets from the U. S. Military Academy, fencing as the West Point Fencing Club team, outfought two of the toughest younger sabre teams in the East to win the Stoll Trophy and the Championship Gold Medals. The Columbia University team, defending Champions and Intercollegiate titleholders with this weapon, were the first to go down before this inspired Cadet team by a score of 5-2. The favored Salle Santelli team with three of the most experience sabremen in this class next were defeated 5-4.

The West Point team was composed of Alan Rorick, Alan Strock and Davison Dalziel, while Columbia was represented by James Welles, Gordon Wallis and Malcolm Barto and the Salle Santelli used Dr. James H. Flynn, V. Lada-Moscarski and Dr. Paul Wiss (recently from Hungary).

The competition was held at the Columbia University Gymnasium.

**Individual Novice Epee Competition—22 Entries  
December 2nd**

The first novice epee competition to be held in the Metropolitan area produced three competitors of equal strength. These three were of such equal calibre that three fence-offs failed to break the tie after the completion of the final round. By that time the weary Bouts Committee decided to settle the matter by flipping a coin and by this unusual means Arthur Tauber of N.Y.U. received the gold medal. Rudolph Ozol of the Salle Santelli the silver medal and Murray Kornfeld of St. John's University the bronze.

This was the sixth competition of the still-young season to end in a triple tie for first place. It was held at the Salle Santelli.

## Women's Individual Prep Foil Competition

18 Entries—November 2nd

Miss Margaret Mackey, first girl representative of the Salle Cherny in A.F.L.A. competition, won the gold medal in this, her first competition. Miss Diane Maginsky of Brooklyn College won second place and her teammate, Miss Ruth Bernat, won third. The competition took place at the Salle Santelli.

## Women's Individual Novice Foil Competition

19 Entries—November 4th

Miss Dorothy Kerfoot of the Foils Club won first place on the Salle Santelli strips after a fence-off with Miss Addie Bassi of the Aldo Nadi Studio. Having originally lost to Miss Bassi in the Finals, Miss Kerfoot reversed the previous result by winning the fence-off 4-1. Miss Grace Accl, fencing unattached, won her first A.F.L.A. medal by taking third.

## Individual Women's Open Foil Competition

Vince Trophy—39 Entries—November 19th

Coming through the finals undefeated, Miss Dorothy Grimmelman of the Salle Santelli won the gold

award offered by Mr. Joseph Vince. Miss Madeline Dalton of the Salle d'Armes Vince and Mrs. Dolly Funke of the Greco Fencing Academy were tied for second but finished in that order on the basis of touches. The competition was held at the Salle Santelli.

## Individual Women's Junior Foil Competition

Dorothy Brown Locke Awards—25 Entries  
December 3rd

Miss Helena Mroczkowska of Hofstra College, the only Junior to hold a National Ranking and the favored contestant in this competition, confirmed earlier forecasts by going through her 15 bouts undefeated. She was pressed to the limit in only her last bout with Miss Aida Principe of the Sala Mes-sineo of Washington, D. C. Miss Principe ended tied for second place with Mrs. Rosemary Nadi of the Aldo Nadi Studio and these foilswomen received the second and third awards in that order on the basis of touches.

The competition was held at the Greco Fencing Academy.

## PHILADELPHIA

Although the fencing schedule for this Division had not yet been published at this writing, it had been planned to include two "Pre-Prep" competitions, one for boys on December 8th and one for girls on December 15th, both at the Salle Herrmann.

These competitions are a new idea to interest the younger fencers who are not yet members of the A.F.L.A. They are intended to demonstrate how organized fencing competitions are conducted with trained officials. The full schedule will carry 22 Individual and 4 Team competitions, plus the Division-sponsored Interscholastic Three Weapon Competition of Pennsylvania for the Yale Trophy and the Warren Swords.

Mr. Richard F. Warren will again serve as Chairman of the Bouts Committee with Philip C. Shakespeare, Jr. as Chairman for Foil, Robert H. Agnew, Chairman for Epee and Charles F. Kolb, Chairman for Sabre.

Both the Sword Club and the Philadelphia Fencers Club are reported as being very active; the latter club being one of the oldest sport clubs in the United States, having been founded in 1895. This club has always been domiciled at the Salle Herrmann where it has the indefatigable Colonel A. J. Drexel Biddle as its President. He is the recognized authority on bayonet fighting in the United States (see New Hampshire news).

Philadelphia regrets the loss of Anthony Hyde who has recently moved to New York City. As National Junior Sabre Champion during the past season, Philadelphia took pride in his success and dislikes losing him so soon after his victory.

The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin of October 30th devoted a full page spread with pictures to fencing. William J. Herrmann, Richard P. West, and William J. Herrmann, all teaching fencing at the Philadelphia Fencers Club, reported a record total of new persons seeking fencing instruction. Leonardo Terrone, private instructor and fencing master at the University of Pennsylvania, states that he is swamped with requests for instruction. Manuello Younger, Temple University

instructor and fencing master at the Central Y.M. C. A., agrees that never in recent years has he seen so much interest in fencing. At Temple alone he has 16 classes a week ranging from 25 to 35 pupils apiece. Demand for other classes will be met as soon as the equipment problem is solved. George Hopkins, coaching both men and women classes at the Germantown Y.W.C.A., is preparing to add more classes. There are many other professionals in and around Philadelphia who did not happen to be mentioned in this article. It is highly probable that they too have experienced the same increase in fencing interest.

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## MICHIGAN

Al Collins of St. Clair Recreation won the Prep Foil Competition at the Salle de Tuscan in Detroit on November 26th. Charles Rogers of Lawrence Institute of Technology was second, while Frank Thomas of the Salle de Tuscan was third.

The winners of the Women's Prep Foil were: 1st, Miss Virginia Wishard; 2nd, Miss Lorraine Amalotte, Salle de Tuscan; and 3rd, Miss Kathryn Flannagan, Wayne University.

There were 30 entries from 8 organizations in the Novice Foil Tournament held on December 3rd at the Salle de Tuscan. This was reported as being the largest and strongest novice foil competition ever held in Michigan. Richard Watson of Cooley High School won first place, while Jean Jacobowski of the Grosse Pointe Sword Club and William Hammond of Michigan State College were tied for second and finished in that order on the basis of touches.

Miss Lorraine Amalotte of the Salle de Tuscan won first place in the Women's Novice Foil Tournament. Her teammate, Miss Virginia Wishard, was second and Miss Norma Wynick of Wayne University was third.

Mr. Frank Thomas of the Salle de Tuscan won the Prep Epee Competition. Mr. William Hammond of Michigan State College was second and Mr. Roland Rogers of Lawrence Institute of Technology was third.

## FLORIDA

Due to the late season in Florida, the new Division of the A.F.L.A., recently formed in this State, is scheduling its matches from February to May. Discussions are now under way with the New Orleans Division for the joint holding of an intersectional championship in the South to be known as the Dixie Fencing Championship.

The Salle d'Armes of Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., headquarters of the Florida Division, wishes to be listed among the salle d'armes extending non-resident privileges to A.F.L.A. members visiting Florida.

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Under the command of Colonel Harry L. Smith, a tournament was recently held at the Portsmouth Navy Yard by Colonel A. J. Drexel Biddle, Instructor of Individual Combat. The winners of the Barracks tournaments were as follows: First Tournament—Knife, Pvt. G. L. Musselwhite; Bayonet, Pvt. R. T. Frizzelle. Second Tournament—Knife, Pvt. J. Galbraith; Bayonet, Corporal R. F. Buckley.

In commenting upon the art of individual combat, Colonel Biddle says, "While there are the standardized Spanish knife and the Cossack knife and various other standardized methods of knife fighting, the Bowie knife is the superior of all. This is the knife, with all its science, used by the Marines.

It is the bayonet worn in a scabbard at the belt that is drawn and used as a Bowie knife when time does not permit the attachment of the bayonet on the rifle. The sword is the world's only complete weapon. For many thousand years the sword was the only weapon for close combat in duels and in battle, after the spears had been thrown and the arrows shot from bows. Down succeeding centuries the best of all blade science was put into the sword. In these later days, when gun powder has put the sword to disuse in combat, it nevertheless remains the "star" blade.

The best of sword science is in the Marine bayonet, and in the Marine bayonet used as a knife. The hand cut, which is primary with the sword, will disarm the fighter with the bolo, the machette or the other knives."

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## OHIO

The Cincinnati Fencing Conference, composed of two representatives from each of four fencing groups within Cincinnati, control the intercity fencing matches and the city meet each April. As a result of last year's successful activities, climaxed by 27 entries in the city meet, many of whom entered in two or more weapons, the Conference plans to expand the present season with more and larger competitions, provide more ways and means for new fencers to get proper instruction and endeavor to establish Cincinnati as headquarters of a new Southern Ohio and Northern Kentucky Division of the A.F.L.A. Should this be accomplished the Cincinnati fencers plan to send a representative team to the Mid-Western Championships in St. Louis in April.

The present Cincinnati Champions are: Paul Stewart, Senior epee; Arthur Botterell II, Senior foil; William Gibbons, Senior sabre, and Joseph Shriner, Novice foil.

## INDIANA

The dearth of fencing masters in the United States is evident in the city of Indianapolis. Indianapolis is a city of more than 350,000 persons and not only has not a professional fencing master but, so far as we can ascertain, has no fencer that has received professional instruction. Fencing, however, is by no means dead in Indianapolis. There is a regular class in three-weapon fencing at the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union there and unofficial fencing clubs in two of the High Schools. There is also the Indianapolis Fencing Corps, a three-year-old private club with about 25 enthusiastic members. Fencing groups assemble at the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. from time to time. Because of the inability of Butler University to obtain proper fencing instruction its plans for a fencing club this year were postponed.

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## HAWAII

Gail Potter, former fencing professional at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, writes that he arrived in Hawaii on September 7th and had established a fencing school by September 20th. His salle is on the beach at Waikiki, overlooking the Pacific, with a roof solarium for day and night fencing under the stars. Among his students are all the races resident in Hawaii from ages of 10 to 70. He has attracted a group of experienced fencers from the mainland and the army posts as well as many who are studying fencing for the first time. He reports several groups of student fencers training for winter competition. He is teaching at no schools, preferring to confine his efforts solely to free-lancing. Despite the warm climate, Mr. Potter reports that Hawaii likes fencing. More than 10,000 people attended fencing exhibitions given by him in the last two weeks of October.

At his request we list his address as 1244 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, "so a friend or two may send me some news."

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