



FEATURES

14 The halberd: Extreme weapon of the Renaissance

Part axe, part spear, the halberd was a common and effective weapon from the 15th through the 17th centuries. Better yet, many period treatises survive to show us exactly how it was used.



24 An ancient art, a long absence

Boxing was well known in the ancient era, and it has been popular in Europe since the 1700s, so why does it seem to have gone missing in the Middle Ages?



30 The renaissance of Western knife fighting

The knife, though extremely commonplace in Western culture, had always been very much a secondary weapon, until World War II triggered an unprecedented surge of interest in knife combat.

34 Antagonistics: The gentlemanly arts of self defence in Victorian and Edwardian London

England's martial arts scene in the late 1800s was a stew of widely diverse styles, including a first-of-its-kind blend of Western and Eastern arts that was popularized by a former railway engineer.



A history of the European martial arts, part 1

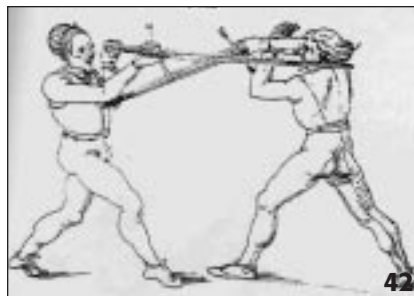
42 Masterly medieval mayhem

The first of a four-part series on European martial arts looks at the Middle Ages: the weapons, the manuscripts that survive, and the arts themselves and what can be reconstructed of them.

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48 **Boxing's ancestors**

Modern boxing is a fine sport in its own right, but the forms of bare-knuckle pugilism that existed before the Marquis of Queensbury's rules were much more useful for self defense.



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