



# Fight Books in Comparative Perspective

## 1. International St. Martin Conference

### 9. | 10. NOV 2017

DEUTSCHES KLINGENMUSEUM SOLINGEN  
(GERMAN BLADE MUSEUM SOLINGEN)

St. Martin Conference is the title of a new series of academic conferences held at Deutsches Klingenmuseum (German Blade Museum) in Solingen/Germany. It will be dedicated to topics from the field of edged weapons: their production and cultural history, the schools and traditions of their use, and their reception in modern culture, among others.

The first St. Martin Conference on 9./10. NOV 2017 will be discussing “**Fight Books in Comparative Perspective**”. From the famous wrestling scenes of the cemetery site of Beni Hasan in Egypt to self-defense manuals of the globalized martial arts world of the 21st century: The depiction and description of body techniques of combat is a phenomenon that can be witnessed throughout history and worldwide. For several hundred years, such techniques have been laid down by image and/or word in a huge number of fight books from (at least) Europe, India, and East Asia, and were largely, but not exclusively concerned with the use of edged weapons. The books are among the most significant and informative artifacts of martial arts culture, and their interpretation is an important task for martial arts studies.

The conference wants to open a **comparative, multidisciplinary approach** towards these artifacts. Scholars from all relevant fields (martial arts studies, literary studies, linguistics, art history, cultural studies, Asian studies, history, sports and movement sciences, among others) are invited to discuss **topics that will include:**

- **Materiality:** What can the material properties of a fight book reveal about its intended function and actual use?
- **Depiction of technique:** What visual strategies are applied to render movement into image?
- **Textuality:** Which terminologies and forms of text are chosen to convey the techniques to the reader?
- **Weaponry:** For which weapons are the described techniques intended, and what does that reveal about their audience?
- **Martial arts context:** What do the books tell us about the martial arts world they are part of?
- **Wider historical context:** Which role do the fight books play in the society they belong to, and how do they reflect it?

In the last years, questions concerning fight books have mainly been discussed on the basis of medieval and early modern European examples. The conference explicitly wants to widen the scope, both geographically and historically. To this purposes, a minimal working definition of “fight book” shall encompass **all kinds of media that try to systematize and/or transmit body techniques for close quarter combat**. The goal of the two days will be to integrate the presented studies into a common perspective.

During the conference, the Klingenmuseum will **exhibit its rich collection of fight books**, the oldest of which date from the mid-16th century.

### Conference fees

Key note speakers are free of charge.  
The fee for accepted speakers is 50,- €. The fee for regular listeners is 75,- €, to be paid in advance. Places will be limited, cancellation is only possible until 10. OCT 2017. Included in the fee are conference documents, coffee and snacks, and a buffet at the museum on the first evening.

### Program

Please see the reverse side for a list of conference speakers and topics (minor changes might occur).

Updates and a booklet will be downloadable on [www.klingenmuseum.de](http://www.klingenmuseum.de).

Also check our facebook page for news: [www.facebook.com/klingenmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/klingenmuseum)

### For registration and further information, please contact:

Dr. Sixt Wetzler  
Deutsches Klingenmuseum Solingen  
[s.wetzler@solingen.de](mailto:s.wetzler@solingen.de)  
Tel.: +49 212 258 3612  
[www.klingenmuseum.de](http://www.klingenmuseum.de)

### In cooperation with



Kommission „Kampfkunst und Kampfsport“  
Deutsche Vereinigung für Sportwissenschaft  
Committee for Martial Arts Studies in the  
German Association for Sports Sciences



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DEUTSCHES  
KLINGEN  
MUSEUM  
SOLINGEN



### Program

Thursday | 09. NOV 2017

<b>11:00</b>	<b>Opening registration</b>			
11:40	Welcome address	Dr. Isabell Immel	Deutsches Klängenmuseum	
12:00	Keynote	Dr. Eric Burkart	University of Trier	Fighting Complexity. Fight books as attempts to organize embodied knowledge
<b>12:50</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>			
13:10	Talk	Dr. Daniel Jaquet	University of Geneva	Inscription, Description, Codification. How to put martial knowledge in words and images
13:40	Talk	Dr. Matthias Johannes Bauer	FOM University of Applied Sciences, Wuppertal	The Fight Book of Hugold Behr. A late 16th century fight book in comparative perspective
14:10	Talk	Jacob Deacon, M.A., Dr. Iason-Eleftherios Tzouriadis	University of Leeds	A Long Distance Relationship. Staff weapons as a microcosm for the study of 15th and 16th century fight books
<b>14:40</b>	<b>Lunch break &amp; poster session</b>			
	Poster	Dr. Pierre-Henry Bas	Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle / Lille III University	Illustrate and Teach the Horse Back Fighting. From 15th to 20th century
	Poster	Dr. Gerald Volker Grimm	Independent	Shifting Typologies of Staff Weapons
	Poster	Heiko Große	Independent (Broadsword Academy Germany)	The Penicuik-Sketches and Scottish Fencing Manuals
	Poster	Bartolomiej Walczak, M.Sc., Bartosz Starko, M.Sc.	Independent	Commonalities and Differences in Dagger Teachings among German Fight Books
16:00	Keynote	Dr. Bok Kyu Choi	Independent (Korean Institute for Martial Arts)	Learning Martial Arts through Books? Comprehensive illustrated martial arts manuals from Korea
<b>16:50</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>			
17:10	Talk	Dr. Julian Braun	Independent (Bunbu-Forschungskreis)	Japanese Martial Arts Books. An overview
17:40	Talk	Michael Mattner, M.A.	Independent	The Illustrated Catalogue of the Shinkage-Ryu Martial Arts
18:10	Talk	Henry Yallop, M.A.	Royal Armouries Leeds	The "Fight Books" of the British Cavalry
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Conference dinner</b>			

Friday | 10. NOV 2017

10:00	Keynote	Dr. Rainer Welle	Independent (SHEMAS)	From Fixed Image to Cinematic Illusion. Fight books and internalized images of movement
<b>10:50</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>			
11:10	Talk	Dr. Mario Staller, Prof. Dr. Swen Körner, Dr. Andrew Abraham	University of Liverpool / German Sports University Cologne / University of Leeds	Beyond Technique. The limits of books (and online videos) in coach development in the context of self-defence skill development
11:40	Talk	Qays Stetkevych, M.A.	University of Cardiff	Wrestling with Medieval Combat. Buttresses and barriers to the reconstruction of Old Norse grappling
12:10	Talk	Cornel-Peter Rodenbusch, M.A.	University of Barcelona / University of Tübingen	Libellus de Batalla Facienda. Judicial combat in mid-13th century Catalonia
<b>12:40</b>	<b>Lunch break &amp; poster session (as on 1st day)</b>			
14:00	Keynote	Dr. Ben Judkins	University of Cornell	Alfred Lister. Discovering the "noble art of self-defence" in China
<b>14:50</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>			
15:10	Talk	Prof. Dr. T. J. Desch-Obi	City University of New York	The Art of Caucaseco. Respectability and social resistance in a Colombian cartilla
15:40	Talk	Dr. Alexander Will	Independent	The Hanging Guard. William Hope's invention of self-defence and the spirit of Enlightenment
16:10	Talk	Mathijs Roelofsens, M.A.	University of Lausanne	La Noble Science des loueurs Despee
<b>16:40</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>			
17:00	Final discussion			
<b>17:30</b>	<b>End of conference</b>			