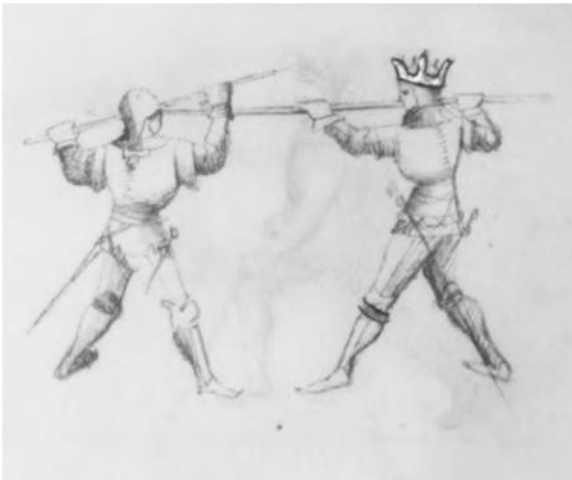




Rocky Mountain Swordplay Guild

July 12-13, 2008

10am - 5pm



Seminar Fee-

Before June 15th: \$65

After June 15th: \$85

At the door: \$105

To make your reservation, call: 303.997.1274

The Rocky Mountain Swordplay Guild presents

# The Knightly Art of the Spear

with Greg Mele, Chicago Swordplay Guild

While the sword has been the symbol of the warrior, it is the spear that dominated the battlefield. One of mankind's oldest weapons, it was the weapon of the common soldier, and in the form of lance and pike, was the foremost weapon of late Medieval and Renaissance armies. Long after the joust, pike square and judicial duel, it continues to serve today as the rifle and bayonet.

This workshop looks at a method of combat for use with the spear, shortened lance or "half-pike", based on the teachings of the Italian masters at arms of the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. We will discuss the evolution and development of the spear in the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, and students will learn the basic guards, thrusts, parries, disengagements and strikes with the staff, followed by a number of solo drills and training sequences taken directly from the historical sources. Time permitting, we will finish with a look at using the spear in the armoured judicial duel.

In order to participate in the workshop, students should wear comfortable training clothes, and low-traction shoes or boots, as well as the following equipment:

- **Weapon:** a "spear" or staff between 6.5 – 7.5' long. The weapon shaft should be made of ash or hickory and approx 1.25" in diameter. A rubber or padded spear-point, no more than 2" in diameter, is required.
- **Safety Equipment:** a three-weapon fencing mask and gorget or is acceptable minimum head and neck protection. Students should also wear high-cuffed leather gloves. Padded gloves, a vambrace or gauntlets are not required, but may be desired as some of the techniques strike the lead arm.