



16th Century Research with a Mind for Meister Meyer

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“All Things Meyer” is my research mantra. If I look into woodcuts, it is to better appreciate Stimmer’s work on Meyer’s 1570, if I look into the Trade Guilds it is to learn more about Meyer’s work and daily life, and on and on.

I believe research is the life’s blood of our recreation efforts and the very pulse of understanding Joachim Meyer’s Kunstfechten. Without stout labor in research our physical applications run the hazard of becoming hollow, modern and not a representation of Meyer to be proud of.

I believe we can become better students of our historical masters by diving into their lives and times. If we study and gain understanding of the places they lived and worked, the wars and battles they fought, the Art and books they looked upon and their morals and religion would we not be more liken to the students they instructed within their lifetimes?

One of the first and easiest ways to go about researching a subject for me was and still is the checking of the resources and references of others work. This gets one into the “search” mode of always digging deeper. Take the mentality of, “I want to know what that guy who wrote that knew.”

Listing the books, articles, and websites from a book or paper on a topic you wish to *dig* into is a great way to stay motivated. Research if anything should be a joy, it is definitely a heavy task when done correctly logging keywords and key named persons from the paper in question and the sources they used, then just go down the rabbit trail, follow the above pattern for everything you come across in your topical field, especially from the referenced documents of valid sources.

Inevitably and you will create your own way and data tracking method.

Here is an example, you discover Kevin Maurer’s November 2010 web article “Who were the Freifechter?” on the Kampf Kunst Blog and fall in love with the idea of learning more and want to know more. If you have not yet read Mr.. Maurer’s article, you so do so now and then continue on reading this.

First I recommend logging all his references and then create a list of key words, after which the real fun and joy of research begins.

References mentioned to look up and research:

References:

Paurñfeindt, A. (1516). *Ergrundung Ritterlicher Kunst der Fechterey*. Wien: Hieronymus Vietor.
Meyer, J. (1570). *Gründtliche beschreibung der kunst des fechtens*. Straßburg : Thiebolt Berger
Sutor, J. (1612). *New künstliches fechtbuch* . (2 ed.). Frankfurt am Main: Wilhelm Hoffman.
Heußler, S. (1626). *New künstlich fechtbuch*. (4 ed.). Nürnberg: Ludwig Lochner.
Rißler, J. P. (1853). *Alsatia*.
Münster, S. (1598). *Cosmographia*. Basel: Sebastian Heinrich-Petri.
Cod.I.6.2°.5 (1539). *Hans Medel Fechtbuch*, Augsburg
“Original Article of the Federfechter dated 1610”



Key Words from article, to look up and research:

Words:

Freifechter (von der Feder)
Kriegsmann
Furriers (Kürschner) Guild
Trades Guilds
Marxbrüder
Fechtschulen
Winckelfechter (elbow-fencer)
Angelobten (Avowed)

People:

Andres Pauernfeindt
Joachim Meyer
Jakob Sutor
Sebastian Heussler
Conrad Mendeler
Georg Oswald Gernreich
Emperor Rudolf II

Places:

Nurnberg
Strassbourg
(Fall Festival) Frankfurt am Main
Loewenberg
Mecklenburg
Prague



Favorites

Alchemy

16th C.

Meyer

1560

Hand

Art

Dutch
Artists

1570

Stimmer

Strasburg

Amman

The next few steps I will outline are merely suggestions to approach the compiled data, however a further and better recommendation would be to find your own way. One thing is for certain, you will be well served if you create a list of questions as you get stumped or run into dead-ends. A perfect example regarding Kevin's article is the "Original Article of the Federfechter dated 1610" reference, you will have to dig for that one.

First I get copies of or at least read the referenced material from the list I created. This implies finding where the documents are housed which sometimes can prove difficult. Also remember to save a copy of the document or the information presented on the internet not just a web address, they are not as permanent as one might think.

Bookmarks and page favorites are your friends – save webpages, create folders and sub-folder and save more pages. The more organized you are from the onset the better off

you will be three years from now looking through your "Google Books" and "Open Library" collections.

Once you locate the referenced documents, treat them like the original web article; find their referenced material and pull out and list their Keywords. That can become a long process and it is sometimes hard to stay focused, but the reward is great when you then return to the original sources' Keyword List.

Revisit your original Keyword List and search for information on each word and start the process of cross referencing Keywords from your various lists. This is the step where you can go as deep as you want and follow the rabbit trail of related words and topics.

I hope this brief article is helpful to those beginning their adventurous journey of historical research. I welcome all questions, comments and advice, the fostering of an environment of communal research and the sharing of information is one of the goals after all.