ARMS—*continued*

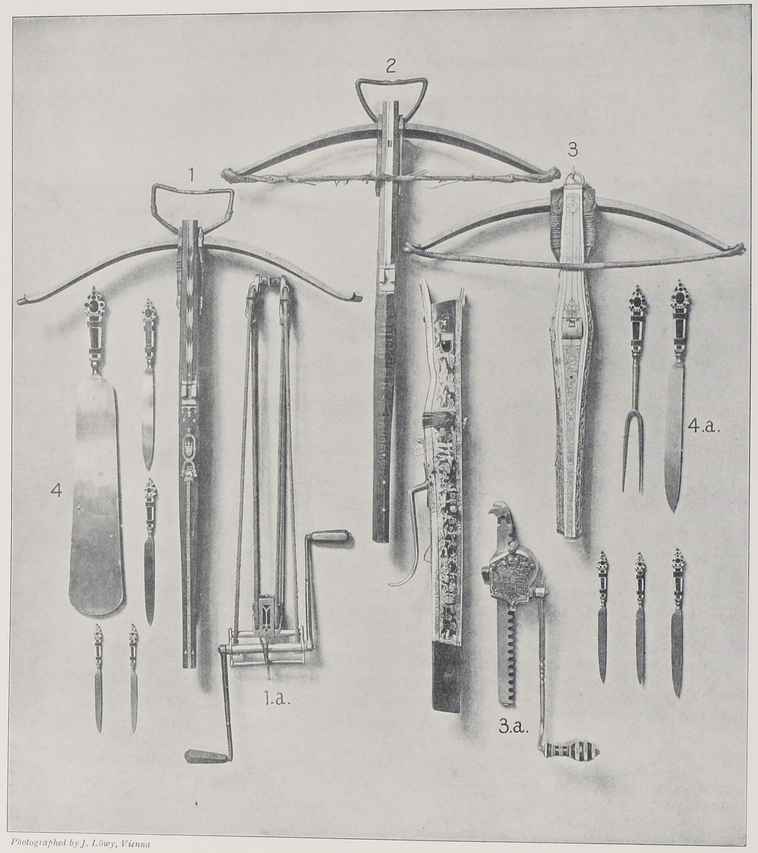
at least in France, for the sporting arrow was the one we see in our plates. The points were, as Gaston tells us, five fingers' width in length and four wide where the barbs were, and sharp on both sides. The cord of the bow was to be of silk, that material giving greater elasticity, and being more durable. The length of the arrow was to be eight fists.

The short-bow was used from horseback, as was also the cross-bow, and it is surprising that not more accidents were recorded, particularly with the latter anterior to the invention of the trigger-catch, which prevented the bow going off while in any other but a horizontal position. This improvement Emperor Maximilian himself is said to have introduced, in consequence of the accident he describes in "Theuerdank," when his cross-bow while riding through a wood went off, the bolt penetrating his hat. Gaston de Foix gives useful instructions on this head, the wounding of a Norman knight, one Godefroy d'Harcourt, by a fellow sportsman in his presence, giving him a capital opportunity to write wisely about it.

The shape of the cross-bow underwent but few changes, as we can see by a glance at our reproduction of some noteworthy weapons used by celebrated sportsmen in the latter half of the fifteenth and in the sixteenth century (*see* Pl. XLVI). These formed part of the famous *Ambraser Sammlung*, which is now incorporated in the Imperial Museum in Vienna. The cross-bows on the left and in the centre are very famous arms. The former once belonged to Louis XII. of France, and not only the steel bow, but all the metal work about it is exquisitely gilt and engraved. The wooden stock is covered with ivory inlay-work of wonderful delicacy, amongst the principal designs displayed being Anne of Bretagne's coat of arms, and below it the emblem of the order of the Porcupine, for it was Louis XII. who reorganised in a brilliant form the ancient order founded in 1391. According to Professor Böheim's instructive treatise on the imperial collections of arms, this cross-bow was made in the last decade of the fifteenth century, and it probably came to the Habsburgs as a present from King Louis to the younger Archduke Philip of Austria, who visited the king at Blois in 1502. The windlass pictured at its side belonged to it, and as even the cords are the original article, it is one of the few existing perfect examples of this unwieldy contrivance.

The cross-bow in the centre of the picture is the *Jagdarmrust* of Emperor Maximilian I., and is unquestionably one of the most interesting relics of the golden age of venery. The fact that the original cord is still attached to it makes it all the more important. The workmanship is plainer and more workmanlike than that of the French king's weapon, but even Maximilian could not get away from mottoes and devices, for the stock as well as the steel bow bears ample witness to this fancy. Twice in gothic letttering is engraved on the gilt steel bow the emperor's motto: *Halt Mas*, which we might translate by "Moderate Yourself," that being the device of the order of Frugality of which he was a member. The steel bow is nearly 4 in. wide and half an inch thick, and the bowstring is 27 in. long. On the varnished wood of the stock are written in gold and silver lettering proverbs from the Psalms. The trigger has a safety arrangement preventing the arm from going off except when held horizontally, and this, it is said, was one of the emperor's many ingenious inventions. The cross-bow on the right-hand side, with the compact crennequin below it, was the arm of one of Maximilian's successors, Maximilian II. It dates from about the year 1560, and is interesting because it is one of, if not the earliest weapon of this sort supplied with a set or hair trigger. As one need entertain no suspicion concerning the contemporaneousness of the trigger, it conclusively shows that the invention of the hair trigger, usually supposed to have been made about the end of the century by a Munich gunsmith, is of somewhat earlier origin.

We must now turn to the other weapons the use of which our plates illustrate. The swords we see in Pl. VII. and IX. are of the early fifteenth century type, and it will be perhaps best for our present purposes to ask the reader to glance at Pl. XLVII. where he will see some pictures of actual hunting-swords that are also preserved in the Vienna Museum, for by so doing he will gain a truer insight into the subject than were he to restrict himself to the *Gaston Phœbus* illuminations. The centre-piece is the celebrated hunting sword of Maximilian I. It must have played its part in many dangerous encounters with savage bear and fiercely attacking boar, for we know that this courageous sportsman loved nothing better than to attack these beasts single-handed in their lairs, where the combat was necessarily fraught with much danger. Unlike Charles the Great's sword *Joyeuse*, King Arthur's *Calabrun*, Roland's *Durandal*, and Lohengrin's *Floberge*, the emperor's sword, less legendary than the above-mentioned weapons of the chase, is not honoured by any name. That this specimen is a masterpiece of some famous armourer whose identity has unfortunately been lost, a glance at our reproduction will show, and there are very few similar weapons that even approach it for beauty of the metal chiselling, the exquisite damascening and faceting of the blade, and the supreme and yet simple elegance of its whole shape. These unusual points are difficult to describe; only a personal examination of this gem can lead to a satisfactory appreciation of its beauties. As in the writer's case, who never fails to feast his eyes on it whenever visiting Vienna, the visitor, if he is a fancier of ancient arms, will return again and again to take in every detail of what is probably the finest and most interesting hunting weapon that is extant. The blade is 34 in. in length and 2 in. wide. For three-fifths of its length it is double-edged, and for about two-thirds it is blued in what was known to the Milan armourers as *alla sanguigna*, a process that gave the steel that blue-red shimmer it obtained when withdrawn from the body of a foe, be it human or animal. According to Professor Böheim, this sword dates from the year 1490. The scabbard of *cuir bouilli*



Photographed by J. Löwy, Vienna

Figs. 1 and 1a.—Crossbow used for the chase by Louis XII of France, with windlass, dating from about 1499
Fig. 2.—Crossbow used for the chase by Emperor Maximilian I (1510)
Figs. 3 and 3a.—Stalking Crossbow of Maximilian II, of about 1560
Figs. 4 and 4a.—Set of Hunting Knives of German work of 1640
Fig. 5.—The Stock of a Sixteenth-century Crossbow

ARMS FROM THE AMBRAS COLLECTION IN THE IMPERIAL MUSEUM, VIENNA