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ARMS-continued

is in an almost perfect state of preservation. It is covered with impressed designs of spirited leafwork and scroll arabesques in the early Renaissance style. At the top there are two small side pockets to hold the small skinning knife and the steel articles which are represented to the left of the pensable tools that few hunting swords of the period in question are found lacking them.

The weapon on the outer left-hand side on Fig. 2 is a fine specimen of the wild-boar sword. The peculiarity of these swords was not only their length, some having a blade forty-six inches or more in length, but their shape and the presence of a cross-guard ten or twelve inches and in some cases fourteen inches from the extreme point, trating too far into the body of the boar. These guards, either square or round in shape, were iron pins or pegs placed transversely in the blade, and occasionally their construction was such that they could be removed by pressing a spring which held them in place in the hole that was cut in the blade. The latter between the quillons and this peg was usually unprovided with an edge, in fact it was a rectangular piece of steel which at the point where the cross-guard was fixed broadened course only to thrust, and to receive the charging boar. In the picture we see the cross-guard in the sword on the extreme right, while in the other on the extreme left of the picture, which was also a Schweinsdegen, but of shorter dimensions—the blade being only 34 in. long—this guard is lacking. This latter weapon has a gilt pommel and quillons. From a passage in Emperor Maximilian's book of adventures, "Theuerdank," we know that he used these swords, which he calls "the new kind," for boar hunts, and this sword is supposed to have been one he used. They can hardly have been very effective weapons, and to judge by their comparative rareness in collections and museums they probably never came into general use.

Having cast this brief glance at hunting swords as they were at the end of the fifteenth century, we have to return to the type illustrated by Pl. vii. and IX. Of great breadth at the quillons, their tapering blades show no indication of any portion being left unsharpened. In the text Gaston carefully instructs his readers that the sword for wild the first half of which is not sharpened lest one cuts one's knee or leg when striking at a charging boar from horseback. From this we can gather that probably the ancient illuminator who drew these swords had before him in lieu of a typical weapon of the chase, such as the hero of the work was in the habit of using, the ordinary war sword of the time. To kill a boar from horseback armed only with the sword when the animal was not "held," viz., tackled by greyhounds, alauntes, or mastiffs, was the greatest feat of all, and if performed in woods or thickets it was one that

was full of great peril. It was, as Gaston says, a "fairer thing and more noble" than to kill him with the spear, and he adds that he has seen many good knights, squires and servants perish in the attempt of facing a charging boar that had not hounds at his heels or at his ears.

Another important weapon of the chase was the sword, and which were considered such indis- espieu, illustrated in Pl. 1x. and x11. To judge by these and other pictures in Gaston Phœbus, they greatly resembled the ancient framea and the Norman pilum, and were put to the same double use as a javelin for throwing and as a spear or lance for close conflict. The head was narrow and short, and unlike the angones which the Franks used, and that were provided with a barbed point, these spears could be easily withdrawn from the body of the victim. Gaston gives very minute placed there to prevent the sword from pene- instructions how the espieu is to be held when tackling a charging boar. Some people hold it "under hand," some place the haft under their arm-pits as they are accustomed to do when going to jousts, but both are foolish proceedings, for the rider cannot turn his hand so quickly as is often necessary, and cannot bring the necessary force to bear. He is to approach the boar at a trot, not at a gallop, with shortened reins and short stirrups, for then he can bend with greater ease and it will distress his horse less. The point must out into a lancet-shaped double-edged blade some not penetrate too far into the body, which would ten or twelve inches in length. It was used of bring the head too near to him, the danger to man and horse from being struck by the tusks being the principal peril, against which all possible precautions should be taken. After "delivering your thrust, ride on, for the boar is sure to turn quickly on you." When using the espieu as a javelin Gaston Phœbus warns the hunter that after throwing it he should turn his horse sharply to the right, for no man can throw the espieu other than straight in front or slightly to the left of him, and if the weapon misses the beast and sticks in the ground there is great danger of impaling the horse on the shaft, unless it be guided to the right. According to Gaston Phœbus, the espieu could be used oftener from horseback than could the sword, for "you can reach the beast with the former many times when it is impossible to do so with the sword." When tackling on foot a charging boar, be sure you place your thrust in the right place. "Hold your espieu about the middle, not too far forward, lest he strike you with his tusks, and as soon as the point has entered the body take the haft of the espieu under your arm-pit, and press and push as boar hunting is to have a blade four feet long, hard as you can and never let go of the haft, and if the beast be stronger than you then you must turn from side to side as best you can without letting go the haft, until God comes to your aid or other assistance reaches you." To kill a boar brought to bay by hounds was a far less risky feat, and as the amount of personal danger encountered by the huntsman was the measure by which these old veneurs gauged their sport, we can well understand why Gaston Phœbus contains not a single picture of this comparatively tame performance.

Pl. xxvIII. brings before our eyes another type of spear, the Schweinsfeder, as the Germans