

# American Fencing

## Helene Mayer (1910-1953)

Olympic Champion, 1928; World Champion, 1937

European Champion, 1929, 1931

Eight Times U. S. Champion, 1934-1946

Helene Mayer, widely regarded as the greatest woman fencer in history, died on October 15 in Frankfurt, Germany, after a prolonged illness. Only a little over a year ago, she had been married to a Stuttgart engineer, Erwin Falkner von Sonnenburg.

A classical stylist of the Italo-German school, Helene Mayer won the championship of Germany at the tender age of 13, and from then on became a world sports figure comparable in stature to that of Helen Wills in tennis circles. A few days before her 18th birthday, she scored a brilliant victory at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam. A year later she won the European (now called the World's) Championship and repeated in 1931. During this period in the golden era of sports, Helene Mayer's magnificent willowy figure and blonde braided tresses, tightly rolled over each ear, became the symbol of Europe's athletic womanhood. Even as late as the 1936 Olympic Games, "Helene Mayer" figurines were sold at curio and specialty shops throughout Berlin.

Slightly indisposed at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, Helene finished fifth. After the Games, she remained in the United States to attend Scripps College in California as an exchange student, and with the rise of Hitlerism in her native country she decided to make her permanent residence here. However, she returned to Germany in 1936 to compete in the Olympics, and there she placed second.

The story behind Helene Mayer's representation of Germany in 1936 has never been told, and may perhaps be never wholly known. Her ancestry was partly Jewish, through her father Ludwig, who was chief of sanitation in Offenburg, where her grandfather, Martin Mayer, had served as honorary Mayor. But Helene always referred to her racial origin as simply "German." And, racial theories notwithstanding, the Nazi government brought the strongest pressure to have Helene return for the Olympics; just what that pressure was, Helene never said. Her family had remained in Germany, and she feared there might be "difficulties." She insisted upon and obtained certain guarantees concerning her participation, but she was required to lose in the individual finals to her "Aryan" teammate who eventually finished third. It is interesting to note, however, that the following year, at great personal sacrifice because of her limited financial resources, she made the trip to Paris, to fence in the world championships, and there she defeated all of her opponents, including the 1936 Olympic champion. Having thus reasserted her supremacy without the peculiar circumstances present in Berlin, Helene Mayer never again competed internationally.



During her twenty years of residence in the United States, Helene Mayer entered nine of our national championships and won the first eight: 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1942 and 1946. She was defeated in the last bout of the 1947 championships by an inspired Helena Dow, and finished second. That was her final appearance in the nationals, although she continued to fence at the school conducted by her old friend, Hans Halberstadt, in San Francisco and always maintained her interest in helping the younger fencers until forbidden to do so by her physician.

At the height of her fencing career, Helene Mayer had few serious feminine rivals, and was indeed a fair match for our top foilsmen. Her superb technique was supported by a strong body and a formidable competitive temperament. Yet, off the strip she was always a charming woman of warm personality and unusual talent. An accomplished linguist, she taught German, French and Italian at Mills College while doing graduate work at the University of California; and later became a professor of political science at the City College of San Francisco. She was selfless in her devotion to her mother and brothers in Germany, but her profound attachment to her family never obscured her loyalty and love for her adopted country. Naturalized as a U. S. citizen before the war, she dedicated herself to the teaching of German customs and language to countless G.I.'s who were destined for occupation duty in Europe. Literally dozens of her pupils maintained a regular correspondence with her for years after the war.

Generally popular among fencers, Helene Mayer was also a gay companion and a generous friend. Her courage in the face of adversity was extraordinary. Her death is a great loss to fencing; it is a tragic sorrow to all of us who had the privilege of loving Helene.

—Miguel de Capriles

## The New Olympic Fencing Committee

The Quadrennial Meeting of the United States Olympic Association was held in Washington, D. C., on November 30 and December 1. Although this issue of **American Fencing** went to press prior to those dates, the composition of the new Olympic Fencing Committee has been determined by action of the AFLA and the NCAA, each having named six members to the committee. A thirteenth member may be named by the armed forces if a proposed amendment to the by-laws of the USOA is approved. The Olympic Fencing Committee is charged with the selection and nomination of the fencing teams which will represent the United States at the 1955 Pan American Games in Mexico City and the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Australia.

The AFLA members of the Committee, selected at the October meeting of the Board of Governors, are: (1) **Jose de Capriles**, of Chappaqua, N. Y., President of the AFLA, member of the 1936, 1948 and 1952 Olympic teams; (2) **Edward Carfagno**, of Beverly Hills, California, Vice-President of the AFLA, member of the 1939 U. S. International Team; (3) **Dr. James H. Flynn**, of Montclair, N. J., 1947 national sabre champion, member of the 1948 Olympic team; (4) **Ralph Goldstein**, of Yonkers, N. Y., Secretary of the AFLA, member of the 1948 Olympic team; (5) **Howard Hayden**, of Detroit, Michigan, former chairman of the Michigan Division; (6) **Nickolas Muray**, of New York, N. Y., 1927 and 1928 national sabre champion, member of the 1928 and 1932 Olympic teams. The choice of the President and Secretary of the League has been customary; the remaining members represent the nation's leading centers of amateur fencing.

The NCAA member of the Committee, who have been formally notified of their appointment by Walter Byers, Executive Director, are the following: (1) **Dr. Norman C. Armitage**, of Pendleton, South Carolina, alumnus of Columbia University, member of the 1928, 1932, 1936, 1948 and 1952 Olympic teams; (2) **Miguel de Capriles**, of Pleasantville, N. Y., alumnus of New York University, member of the 1932, 1936, and 1948 Olympic teams, and member of the NCAA Rules Committee; (3) **Commodore Leonard Doughty**, of Annapolis, Maryland, alumnus of the U. S. Naval Academy and an experienced international competitor; (4) **Dernell Every**, of Pleasantville, N. Y., alumnus of Yale University, member of the 1928, 1932 and 1948 Olympic teams; (5) **Alvar B. Hermanson**, of Chicago, Illinois, fencing coach at the University of Chicago, trainer of the 1936 Olympic team, and chairman of the NCAA Fencing Rules Committee; (6) **Tracy Jaeckel**, of New York, N. Y., alumnus of Princeton University, member of the 1932 and 1936 Olympic teams, and member of the International Bout Committee at the 1951 Pan American Games and the 1952 Olympic Games. In view of the fact that undergraduate college fencers rarely have developed sufficiently to earn a place on an Olympic fencing team, the NCAA has relied for most of its members upon alumni who have remained active in college circles but also have acquired a background of international fencing which qualifies them for

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#### Board of Editors

R. Goldstein M. Tishman  
T. Jaeckel L. Shaff  
M. de Capriles, Chairman

#### Contributing Staff

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\* \* \* \* \*

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Application for entry as second class matter is pending.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS JANUARY 15, 1954

### DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES: PLEASE NOTE!

There have been repeated complaints that members of the AFLA are not receiving their copies of **American Fencing**. The main source of trouble, from our end, is the fact that our membership lists for the divisions are often incomplete and that addresses are inaccurate.

We are now applying for second-class postal rates for **American Fencing**, which will save the AFLA about 30% in mailing costs. But we have to show an up-to-date mailing list of members who are paid up and in good standing.

PLEASE send us the paid-up current membership in your division once a month. If you wait until the end of the year, your members will not receive **American Fencing** during the season. Under the new arrangements in the national office, the membership files are located in the same building as the offices of the publisher, and our mailing list can be kept up to date if you will cooperate.

It takes about 14 hours of hard work to address, stamp, sort and deliver every issue of **American Fencing** to the Post Office. The August issue showed 295 returned copies—wrong addresses or duplicate stencils (one correct, one wrong). Often college students go home for the summer and leave no forwarding address. And of course we have no way of knowing about a new member unless you tell us.

—W. L. Osborn

the duties of the Olympic Fencing Committee.

The AFLA also has nominated Colonel Gustave M. Heiss, of Washington, D. C., a member of the 1932 and 1936 Olympic fencing team, to the Olympic Pentathlon Committee. The pentathlon program includes epee fencing, and Colonel Heiss was one of the greatest American champions in this weapon.

### THE CONNECTICUT TROPHY

The Connecticut Trophy has been retained this year by the Southern California Division for showing the greatest interest, activity and cooperation during the 1952-53 season. As far as we can recall, this is the first time that a Division has won twice in a row. The Metropolitan group and Maryland Division were very close.

Points are given for the largest number of members in good standing, the greatest per cent of increase in membership, the greatest number of competitions and competitors, and the best record of promptness and efficiency in reporting monthly to National Headquarters. Unfortunately many divisional secretaries fail to file adequate annual reports and consequently their division receives no credit for competitions, competitors or standing at Headquarters.

The results are as follows:

**Total Membership:** (1) Metropolitan, (2) Southern California, (3) Michigan, (4) Western N. Y., (5) New Jersey.

**Per cent Increase:** (1) Maryland, (2) Western N. Y., (3) Illinois, (4) Wisconsin, (5) New England.

**No. of Competitions:** (1) Southern California, (2) Metropolitan, (3) Northern California, (4) Michigan, (5) Maryland.

**No. of Competitors:** (1) Metropolitan, (2) Southern California, (3) Michigan, (4) Illinois, (5) Maryland.

**Reporting to Hq.:** (1) Maryland, (2) Southern California, (3) New England, (4) Northern California, (5) No. Ohio.

**Final Standings:** (1) So. California, (2) Metropolitan, (3) Maryland, (4) Michigan, (5) No. California, (6) Western N.Y., (7) Illinois, (8) New England, (9) Wisconsin, (10) N. Ohio.

### SIGN THEM UP!

We need new members. How many have you brought in? You'll be surprised how many of your non-fencing friends would enjoy becoming Associate Members and how many High School fencers will become Student Members if you'll just ask them and explain the benefits.

*Official A.F.L.A. Notes*

By RALPH GOLDSTEIN, Secretary

**A.F.L.A. Membership 1953**

The Recording Secretary has made a thorough check of the AFLA Membership Files and has turned over to the publisher of **American Fencing** a statement showing the entire paid-up membership by divisions in 1953 and the number of membership cards removed from the files as not in good standing. The list follows:

**Life Members:** 18

**Non-Divisional:** 123 active, 92 college, 41 student, 1 associate; 87 removed.

**Alaska:** No report; 11 removed.

**Border:** 17 active, 21 student; 12 removed.

**Cincinnati:** No report; 6 removed.

**Colorado:** 1 active; 11 removed.

**Columbus:** 5 college, 3 student; 14 removed.

**Connecticut:** No report; 8 removed.

**Delaware:** 10 active; 1 student; 2 removed.

**Florida:** 4 active, 1 student; 6 removed.

**Georgia:** No report; 6 removed.

**Illinois:** 16 active, 15 college, 48 student; 63 removed.

**Iowa:** 10 active, 23 college, 1 student; 36 removed.

**Kentucky:** 13 active, 27 college, 14 student; 13 removed.

**Maryland:** 18 active, 39 college, 29 student; 30 removed.

**Miami Valley:** 7 active, 1 student; 6 removed.

**Michigan:** 47 active, 33 college, 48 student; 41 removed.

**Mid-New York:** 2 active, 3 college; 2 removed.

**Minnesota:** 13 active, 12 college, 13 student; 6 removed.

**New England:** 18 active, 14 college, 17 student; 21 removed.

**New Jersey:** 32 active, 45 college, 23 student; 52 removed.

**Northern California:** 58 active, 2 student; 24 removed.

**Northern Ohio:** 16 active, 8 college, 7 student; 7 removed.

**North Texas:** 10 active, 8 college, 12 student; 23 removed.

**Oregon:** 6 active, 2 college, 4 student.

**Philadelphia:** 21 active, 20 college, 19 student; 40 removed.

**Seattle:** 7 active, 2 college, 3 student; 5 removed.

**Southern Florida:** 5 active, 6 college, 2 student.

**Southern California:** 81 active, 21 college, 10 student; 45 removed.

**South Texas: (Gulf Coast):** 2 college; 70 removed.

**Spokane:** No report; 14 removed.

**St. Louis:** 13 active, 5 student; 7 removed.

**Washington, D. C.:** 21 active, 10 college; 19 removed.

**Westchester:** 15 active; 2 removed.

**Western New York:** 31 active, 24 college, 55 student; 30 removed.

**West Point:** No report; 16 removed.

**Wisconsin:** 11 active, 9 college, 38 student; 30 removed.

The grand total of names removed from the files reaches the staggering figure of 768—about one-third of all the members previously listed. This seems to be an abnormal turnover, and every League member is urged to make every effort to keep his division up in size and to insure that appropriate reports are made to the national office.

**Preliminary Olympic Training Squads**

On the recommendation of the President, the AFLA Board of Governors at its October meeting approved the establishment of preliminary Olympic training squads pending the organization of the Olympic Fencing Committee. It was felt that the physical conditioning of Olympic candidates should be started immediately and should be gradually intensified. Responsibility for the training program will be transferred to the Olympic Fencing Committee as soon as this Committee is ready to assume it. The preliminary squads for both the 1955 Pan American Games and the 1956 Olympic Games consist of the members of the 1952 Olympic team and the 1953 national ranking fencers in each weapon. Medalists in this year's senior and all-Eastern intermediate events will be added later. The present squads are:

**Foil** — Albert Axelrod, Daniel Bukantz, Silvio Giolito, Harold Goldsmith, Ralph Goldstein, Byron Krieger, Allan Kwartler, Neil Lazar, Nathaniel Lubell, Paul Makler, Robert Nielsen, Evan Quinn, Leonard Turk.

**Epee** — Richard Berry, Thomas Bickley, Jose de Capriles, Peter Conomikes, Robert Derderian, Ralph Goldstein, Roger Jones, Paul Makler, Alan Ruben, Alfred Skrobisch, James Strauch, Donald Thompson, Edward Vebell, Albert Wolff.

**Sabre** — Norman Armitage, Jose de Capriles, Abram Cohen, James Flynn, Sol Gorlin, Allan Kwartler, Paul Makler, Hamilton Millard, Nickolas Muray, Tibor Nyilas, Alex Treves, George Worth.

**Women** — Sallye Chambers, Eve Cohen Siegel, Polly Craus August, Madeline Dalton, Betty Dedousis, Diane Millstein, Maxine Mitchell, Vivienne Sokol, Paula Sweeney, Janice-Lee York.

....Squad members are expected to enter every competition open to them and to train with their fencing master at least twice a week. Later in the season, they will be notified of all-squad sessions to be held once a month. After the 1954 Nationals, it is expected that the squads will be divided into "probables" and "possibles." The "probables" will train during the summer and will engage the "possibles" in team competitions. Efforts will be made to obtain the use of a running track for certain conditioning periods.

**New Rule on Judging by Non-Amateurs**

The President submitted to a mail vote of the Board of Governors a motion duly made and seconded at the meeting of September 8, to amend Rule 601 to read as follows:

"Judges and Directors in official A.F.L.A. competitions shall be amateurs in good standing except that for Divisional and Non-Divisional competitions a jury may contain one or more non-amateur members of the A.F.L.A. if such a decision is made by affirmative action of the appropriate governing body."

The motion has now been carried by an overwhelming majority of the Board, and therefore Rule 601 should be changed in your Rules Book accordingly.

The effect of this new rule is to make the question of judging by non-amateurs a matter for "home rule" or "states' rights." It requires an affirmative vote by the Executive Committee of a Division before any non-amateur member of the A.F.L.A. may serve on a jury. In no event may a professional who is not a member of the A.F.L.A. be asked to serve. According to this ruling, non-amateurs may not officiate at national championships without the affirmative vote of the entire Board of Governors.

**Coming International Events**

AFLA members who are planning to be abroad after the first of the year may be interested in the following schedule of major international events announced by President Mazzini of the F.I.E.

Jan. 30-31—Epee Individual, Milan, Italy.  
Feb. 20-21—Sabre Ind. (amateur-professional), London.

March 6-16—VII Central American and Caribbean Games, Mexico City.

March 20-21—Epee Ind. amateur-professional, London.

April 30—Women's Ind. De Beaumont Cup, London.

May 13-15—Epee Ind. (amateur-professional), women's foil ind., men's foil (under 21 years), Marseilles.

May 29-30—Sabre Individual and Team, London.

June 10-22—WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Luxembourg.

The Coronation Cup event (men's foil), originally scheduled for June 12 and 13 in London, may be changed due to conflict with the World's Championships. Other events will be announced at a later date.

The annual Congress of the F.I.E. will be held in Rome, Italy, March 18-22, 1954. If any member of the AFLA is available to represent the United States at this Congress (without expense to the League), please communicate with Tracy Jaeckel.

**INTERESTED?**

Our president encourages any members interested in observing how the AFLA operates to attend a meeting of the Board of Governors. An invitation and information as to time and place may be obtained by contacting one of the national officers.

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### The New AFLA President

**Ed. Note:** In keeping with established policy, we continue our thumbnail sketches of the officers and prominent personalities of the AFLA. Jose de Capriles' election to the Presidency of the League was assured last spring since his nomination by petition was unopposed, but he was then the editor of *American Fencing*, and good taste kept him from printing his own sketch.

It has long been the practice in the AFLA to select for the Presidency a well-known competitor who has rendered outstanding service to the League. It would be hard, and perhaps impossible, in this generation to find a better all-around American fencer than Jose de Capriles. Let us look at the record of the last twenty years: Jose started to fence at N.Y.U. in 1929 under Professor Julio Martinez Castello; in 1933, in his senior year, he led N.Y.U. to its first of a long series of intercollegiate championships, fencing all three weapons in the team events and capturing the individual epee title. That year, Jose won the Shaw Swords at Travers Island for his first major AFLA triumph.

## Jose de Capriles

As recently as 1952, Jose won a place in the Olympic team in both epee and sabre, and was first alternate in foil—an achievement which has not been duplicated in this country. Between these two widely separated dates, Jose has won two National epee titles, finishing second three times and third once; one National foil championship, with one silver and one bronze medal; two second-place medals and two third-place medals in the National sabre championship; and several Metropolitan titles in all three weapons. He twice won the outdoor "national" epee, was three-weapon champion once and runner-up four times, and won the foil event at the international Wilkinson Sword competition. He did not compete in the National Tournament from 1941 to 1945 inclusive, but in 1946 became the only modern fencer since Leo Nunes (1924) to win three national individual medals in one year; first in foil, second in epee (tied for first) and third in sabre—which, considering the size of our post-war competitions, was a remarkable display of stamina as well as skill. Only five men since 1893 have performed this feat.

Jose has also served the AFLA well in many capacities. He is perhaps best known to the current crop of members as the Editor-in-Chief of *American Fencing* since this magazine was founded in 1949; but as far back as 1935, he established *The Riposte* as the first national fencing magazine, an independent venture which became a war casualty. Jose has served on countless committees, and has spent a great deal of energy running local, sectional and national tournaments with superior skill and tact. His most recent administrative assignments involved the lion's share of the work in our constitutional revision and in the publication of the current rules book. He is also recognized as one of our ablest directors in

all weapons, and in 1952 brought tremendous international prestige to American fencing by his extraordinary performance as director in the Olympic individual foil finals.

Jose brings to the presidency the liberal viewpoint of an active competitor, and is a believer in the principles of "states' rights" for the divisions in contradistinction to the "benevolent paternalism" of certain previous administrations.

Warm as is the affection between Jose and his brother Mike whom he succeeds, they have through the years often found themselves in opposite camps in matters of League policy. Like most great fencers each is an individualist; each has achieved notable success in his own right, and the many occasions through the years when they have crossed swords have proven classic examples of unbrotherly independence. The League owes a great debt to each in his own particular way.

During the war, Jose served with the Air Force. Drafted in May 1942, he became an enlisted radio operator on a troop carrier plane and flew to Africa. After thirteen months, he was commissioned a second lieutenant, and in the twenty-two months between June 1943 and April 1945 rose to the rank of major. He participated in every important action in Europe from the Normandy landing through Bastogne and across the Rhine into Germany. He received the bronze star and was in command of his Group when it returned to the United States in August 1945.

Jose is an attorney and head of the Claims Department of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. He has three sons and thinks a fourth would only create arguments as to who would be the substitute on the team.

—Tracy Jaeckel

## National Three-Weapon Team Champions

- 1906—**New York A.C.:** Dr. S. McCullough, Dr. G. M. Hammond, K. B. Johnson  
 1907—**New York A.C.:** G. K. Bainbridge, W. D. Lyon, A. G. Anderson  
 1908—**New York A.C.:** V. Curti, W. D. Lyon, A. G. Anderson  
 1909—**Fencers Club:** G. Breed, A. de La Poer, A. V. Z. Post  
 1910—**Fencers Club:** G. Breed, E. Adams, A. V. Z. Post  
 1911—**Fencers Club:** G. Breed, A. de La Poer, A. V. Z. Post  
 1912—**Fencers Club:** G. Breed, A. de La Poer, A. V. Z. Post  
 1913—**New York A. C.:** P. W. Allison, J. A. MacLaughlin, A. G. Anderson  
 1914—**New York A. C.:** P. W. Allison, J. A. MacLaughlin, W. vonBlejenburgh  
 1915—**New York A.C.:** P. W. Allison, V. P. Curti, A. Hall  
 1916—**Fencers Club:** P. J. Meylan, G. Breed, A. S. Lyon  
 1917—**New York A.C.:** P. W. Allison, L. G. Nunes, S. Pitt  
 1918 and 1919—No Contest  
 1920—**New York A.C.:** S. Hall, L. G. Nunes, S. Pitt  
 1921—**Fencers Club:** G. Breed, W. Twyeffort, L. M. Schoonmaker  
 1922—**New York A.C.:** J. Aabye, L. G. Nunes, C. R. McPherson  
 1923—**Washington Square F.C.:** R. Webb, P. Mijer, N. Muray  
 1924—**Fencers Club:** R. Peroy, G. Breed, L. M. Schoonmaker  
 1925—**Fencers Club:** R. Peroy, G. C. Calnan, P. Calle  
 1926—**Fencers Club:** G. C. Calnan, C. Bardianni, H. V. an Buskirk  
 1927—**New York A.C.:** J. Aabye, L. G. Nunes, J. Vince  
 1928—**Fencers Club:** G. C. Calnan, A. P. Walker, H. Van Buskirk  
 1929—**Fencers Club:** J. L. Levis, C. Lamar, N. C. Armitage  
 1930—**New York A.C.:** L. G. Nunes, J. V. Grombach, N. Muray  
 1931—**Salle d'Armes Vince:** G. Cetrulo, J. Barmack, P. W. Bruder  
 1932—**Fencers Club:** H. V. Alessandrini, T. Jaeckel, N. C. Armitage  
 1933—**Fencers Club:** G. C. Calnan, T. Jaeckel, N. C. Armitage  
 1934—**New York A.C.:** D. Every, L. G. Nunes, J. R. Huffman  
 1935—**Fencers Club:** H. V. Alessandrini, T. Jaeckel, N. C. Armitage  
 1936—**Salle Santelli:** W. A. Dow, J. R. de Capriles, M. A. de Capriles  
 1937—**Salle Santelli:** W. A. Dow, J. R. de Capriles, M. A. de Capriles  
 1938—**New York A.C.:** D. Every, N. Muray, J. R. Huffman  
 1939—**Salle Santelli:** W. A. Dow, J. R. de Capriles, M. A. de Capriles, P. Lubart  
 1940—**New York A.C.:** W. A. Dow, L. G. Nunes, J. R. Huffman  
 1941—**Salle Santelli:** J. R. de Capriles, P. Mijer, T. Nyilas  
 1942—**New York A.C.:** D. Every, H. Santos, J. R. Huffman  
 1943 to 1946—War, No contests.  
 1947—**Salle Santelli:** D. Cetrulo, J. R. de Capriles, T. Nyilas  
 1948—**Salle Santelli:** D. Cetrulo, J. R. de Capriles, T. Nyilas  
 1949—**Salle Santelli:** A. Axelrod, J. R. de Capriles, G. V. Worth  
 1950—**Salle Santelli:** A. Axelrod, N. Lewis, G. V. Worth  
 1951—**New York A.C.:** D. Every, H. Santos, J. H. Flynn  
 1952—**Salle Santelli:** A. Axelrod, R. Goldstein, G. Worth  
 1953—**Salle Santelli:** A. Kwartler, R. Goldstein, G. Worth

# News from the Divisions

## Michigan

by Shirley Stein

The Grosse Pointe Sword Club again captured all the men's team titles, while Salle de Tuscan won the individual prize competitions and the women's team championship.

**Men's Foil Team:** Grosse Pointe S.C. (R. Yasenchak, J. Campoli, A. Schankin, G. Flynn).

**Epee Team:** Grosse Pointe S.C. (G. Flynn, R. Wegert, R. Yasenchak, J. Campoli, A. Kunzmann).

**Sabre Team:** Grosse Pointe S.C. (A. Schankin, R. Yasenchak, J. Campoli, A. Kunzmann).

**Women's Team:** Salle de Tuscan (C. Christensen, M. Johnson, M. Chadwick).

**Three-Weapon Team (Plaque Invitational):** Grosse Pointe S.C. (G. Flynn, epee; A. Kunzmann, sabre; A. Schankin, foil).

**Men's Individual (Plaque Invitational):**

**Foil:** Byron Krieger, Salle de Tuscan

**Epee:** Howard Fried, No. Ohio

**Sabre:** James Campoli, Grosse Pte. S.C.

**Women's Individual (Plaque Invitational):** (1) Sallye Chambers, S. de T.; (2) Sue Thompson, Univ. Club, Chicago; (3) Carol Christensen, S. de T.

**Women's Platt Handicap:** (1) Carol Christensen, S. de T.; (2) Judy Goodrich, Lapeer H.S.; (3) Beverly Fernea, Lapeer H.S.

**Men's Prep Foil:** (1) Donald Borthwick, S. de T.; (2) Hal McInnis, G.P.S.C.; (3) Ray T. Hajjar, G.P.S.C.

**Women's Prep:** (1) Margaret Fisk, S. de T.; (2) Barbara de Polo, S. de T.; (3) Dorothy Laska, S. de T.

## CREATING INTEREST

by William F. Strobel

After many years of giving lecture-exhibitions in a great variety of places (school assemblies, women's clubs, church groups, etc.) I have learned from audience reactions to give an exhibition which invariably makes a hit. Most people have seen some "fencing" in the movies, so at the start of my talk I re-enact a fencing scene of the "highwayman" type. No elaborate costume needed—one fencer wears black trousers and dark shirt, the other wears white trousers and white shirt.

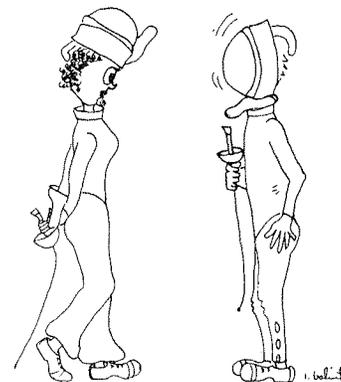
Scene One starts with the two fencers seated at a table exchanging sharp words until one flings back his chair and draws his weapon. There is no need to go into details—the ensuing duel follows a movie script—up-turned table, jumping off stage, slashing back on to stage, etc., until the hero kills the villain and the curtain falls. This scene will be lively and hilarious if properly done, and will have the audience in a receptive mood for the more serious parts to follow.

Scene Two consists of the fencer (preferably the hero in scene one) putting on his hat and coat and walking across stage with his fencing bag slung over his shoulder. Another person walks toward him, and during the conversation the latter asks whether the fencer is going fishing, golfing, etc. This can be made humorous by having the acquaintance guess what is in the bag and then finally being informed that fencing equipment is contained therein. The bag scene is needed because few people know what a fencing bag looks like and, therefore, the point is of educational value. The scene ends with the acquaintance joining his fencing friend enroute to the fencing club for a fencing lesson.

Scene Three is at the fencing club. The fencer unpacks his bag which contains the three weapons, mask, jacket, etc., and shows them to his friend with explanations about each item and stressing that all equipment is so designed as to give absolute safety. It is of vital importance to impress the audience with the fact that fencing is as safe or safer than any other sport; all sports are dangerous if the participants are not properly trained, ignorant of the rules, and improperly equipped. Parents hesitate to allow their youngsters to use a steel implement in play, because they feel it must be dangerous. The lecturer throughout his talk must indicate that good fencing is as safe as good golf, good tennis, etc., and absolutely safer than football.

Scene Four should be a demonstration of the conditioning exercises particularly called for in fencing, pointing out the need for limberness, suppleness and agility. Let no one harbor the idea that fencing is a noble art for the lame, the halt and the blind; indicate that it calls for conditioning and training like any other red-blooded American sport.

Finally, Scene Five consists of the typical lesson and a sample of what good weapon-



"If I coupe-disengage, will you promise not to parry?"

play looks like (short bout) in each weapon. Bring the audience back to your first scene—the swash-buckling sword play—and point out that type of fencing is done exclusively by persons who know little or nothing about fencing. Stress that in good fencing the actions are rather small, and the emphasis is on speed and precision.

This exhibition takes between thirty and forty minutes. If well done, with a touch of humor here and there (not slapstick), brief and to-the-point talking, every minute of the act will be interesting and the audience's attention will be sustained to the end. Closing the talk with an invitation to get better acquainted with the sport by becoming a participant, you will be pleasantly surprised at the response. From here on, the question becomes one of follow-up, offering the facilities and lessons in fencing. It is this part of the work that needs building up, for created interest without the follow-up is practically worthless.

### SIGN THEM UP!

We need new members. How many have you brought in? You'll be surprised how many of your non-fencing friends would enjoy becoming Associate Members and how many High School fencers will become Student Members if you'll just ask them and explain the benefits.

Have you paid your current AFLA dues? You may not receive copies of American Fencing unless you are in good standing.

Have you changed your address recently? Please notify us promptly of any change of address, so that our mailing list may be up to date.

The Board of Editors of AMERICAN FENCING cordially wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## ARE YOU PROPERLY UNIFORMED for SAFETY?

Do you take into account the possibility of accident? Do you take all necessary precautions to protect yourself at all times? You owe it to yourself, to your opponent and to the sport to be properly uniformed at all times.

Currently, we are featuring our **three-weapon jacket and trousers** in 12 oz. duck at a special price to encourage completely uniformed fencers in all clubs at all times.

Three-weapon uniform \$15.00.

Also black or white gabardine uniforms, prices on request.



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**TWO FENCERS ON U. S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEES**

Two fencers have been named by the U. S. Olympic Association to important committee posts. Miguel de Capriles has been appointed a member of the Nominating Committee which will select the new officers of the Association and ten members-at-large for its governing body; and also has become a member of the Committee on U. S. Participation in the 1955 Pan American Games, which will recommend the size and composition of the American team for that event. Dernel Every has been appointed to the committee which passes upon membership applications; he previously had served on the Transportation Committee for the 1952 Olympic Games.

**WESTMOUNT Y FENCING CLUB (Montreal)**

The Westmount Y Fencing Club proposed to sponsor a new annual invitation team competition, each team to include one foilsman, one sabre man, and one foilswoman, with a limit of three teams per club. One pool for each weapon; winner to get as many points as there are entries, second place one point less, etc.; and team with greatest number of points will win. A two-man team could conceivably win. Tentative date, weekend of Lincoln's birthday, Friday and Saturday, February 12 and 13, 1954. All fencing to be done Saturday starting at 10 a.m. Place: Gymnasium of Westmount Y, Sherbrooke Street, Westmount, Quebec. Interested persons notify J. A. Howard, 4751 Barclay, Montreal 10, Quebec, Canada.

**PSSST! YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS ARE SHOWING!****A MODERN FABLE  
by W. L. Osborn**

Once upon a time, not so many years ago, in a state west of Maine, there lived several master plumbers. They were very competent plumbers, and the rivalry among them was very keen. But they were devoted to their art, and they decided to instruct a number of apprentices in the mysteries of using left-handed monkey wrenches. Thus it was that several schools came into being, and they flourished despite the rigors of the required apprenticeship. For many a young student came to the master plumbers, and waxed enthusiastic about the fine points of using left-handed monkey wrenches. Finally came the time when it was decided to schedule inter-shop contests, so that the young apprentices could show off their skill.

Now, each master plumber took great pride in his work, and often insisted that his apprentices use only his own brand of left-handed monkey wrenches. It mattered not that the specifications for left-handed monkey wrenches were standardized throughout the country. And when it came to the method of using the left-handed monkey wrenches, each master plumber took great pains to convince his apprentices that he alone knew the secrets of the art. And each therefore refused to allow his apprentices to associate with those in other shops.

When it came to inter-shop contests, there was great difficulty in judging the aptitude of apprentices in using left-handed monkey wrenches. Of course the national plumbers' guild had worked out definite standards for judging, but the rivalry of the master plumbers seemed to affect the eyesight of their apprentices; and thus it became hard to select the most skillful winners from that section of the country to attend the national contest. But in spite of this handicap, every year there were one or two. And these contestants had such a hard time winning in their section of the country that at the nationals they usually finished high among the leaders. In some years they won, and the master plumbers who had instructed them were pleased, and more than ever were certain that they alone could teach the fine art of using left-handed monkey wrenches. But then came a day when the apprentices lost—not because they had forgotten their lessons but because their masters at the plumbing school refused to give them the fine training when it counted most!

It all started when Apprentice Farmer, the prize pupil of Master Green, was invited to attend Master Blue's shop one night to compare the high skills taught in the school, and accepted. This was so unusual that gossip about it soon reached Master Green. And the next night, when Apprentice Farmer appeared at Master Green's shop, the master plumber took his prize pupil to task for disloyalty, and made it crystal clear that if the crime was repeated Apprentice Farmer would have to seek another master! The poor apprentice admitted that he had forgotten that he was a citizen of the U.S., where rules were rules, but promised not to let it happen again.

But, sad to relate, Apprentice Farmer did slip once more—albeit in a different direction. He had heard that in a distant state he could purchase a certain left-handed monkey wrench of good quality. So



he took his allowance in his sticky wet fingers and sent it off by mail. In due course, the new left-handed monkey wrench came. Ah! The thrill of it! The gleam of it! The way it gripped the steel! The way it seemed to be almost alive! . . . So he took it to Master Green's shop, and showed it proudly to his fellow students. But hardly had he gotten past the door of the establishment, when Master Green spotted the tool at once. He dashed up to his prize pupil and thundered: "And where did you purchase that #%\$XG! (Modesty forbids using the exact word)." Apprentice Farmer shuddered and answered: "Why, I sent away for it!" . . . Silence dripped for minutes. . . . Impending doom hung in the air. . . . And Master Green pronounced sentence: "It will not be used in my school!" Again the poor apprentice admitted that he had forgotten that he was a citizen of the U.S.A., where rules are rules. . . . But after all he, too, had his pride. He walked off the premises, and set out to organize his own practice shop for left-handed monkey wrenches.

Tragedy followed. Because he had qualified to attend the national contest, Apprentice Farmer went. But his timing was off! He could not join his elbows on time! His blow torch failed to light at the right moment! His left-handed monkey wrench just would not grip properly! His connections were a bust! He lost the contest!

But his head is unbowed. He has found that in the U.S.A., where rules are rules, rights are also rights. Bad plumber though he might be, he has the right to buy his tools where he pleases and to practice with anyone he chooses. And perhaps, who knows, he might even win on his own some day! "Sic transit gloria mundi! (Also Tuesday)."

(Ed. Note: Any resemblance to a real situation is probably not coincidental.)

**THE FLECHE - By Prof. Julius Alpar  
A Correction**

Through an unfortunate error, two of the illustrations in Professor Alpar's instructive article on The Fleche, published in October, were incorrectly numbered. Fig. 2 should have been labeled Fig. 6, and Figure 6 should have been Fig. 2. We suggest you make these corrections in our October issue.

—Editor

# AFLA National Calendar

## DECEMBER 1953

- 10 N.J. WOMEN'S Novice 7:30 p.m. Montclair St. T.C.  
**12 All-East. SABRE Interim. Team Noon Princeton U. Gym**  
 Md. WOMEN'S Handicap 2 p.m. Balto. YMCA  
 13 Met. WOMEN'S Jr. Team Noon Rohdes Ac.  
 Md. FOIL Novice 2 p.m. Int'l Centre  
 New Eng. EPEE Jr. 2 p.m. M.I.T.  
 14 West. N.Y. EPEE Novice 7:30 pm. U. Buffalo  
 West. N.Y. WOMEN'S NOVICE 7:30 p.m. U. Buffalo  
 15 Met. WOMEN'S Interim. Qual. Rd. 7 p.m. Fencers Club  
 18 So. Cal. FOIL Handicap 8 p.m. Valley J.C.  
 N.J. SABRE Novice 7:30 p.m. Snyder H.S., Jersey City  
**19 All-East. EPEE Interim. Team 1 p.m. White Plains, Co. Center**  
**20 All-East. WOMEN'S Interim. Team 1 p.m. White Plains, Co. Center**  
 29 Met. Intercollegiate FOIL 7 p.m. N.Y.A.C.

## JANUARY 1954

- 3—Met. FOIL Interim. Qual. Rd. Noon N.Y.A.C.  
 West. N.Y. FOIL Novice 1:30 p.m. Falcons, Buffalo  
 West. N.Y. SABRE Novice 1:30 p.m. Falcons, Buffalo  
 6 N.J. EPEE Interim. (Qual. Rd. 7:30 p.m. Grove St. School, Verona for All East.)  
 8 So. Cal. EPEE Senior 8 p.m. L.A.A.C.  
 So. Cal. WOMEN'S Intermediate 8 p.m. L.A.A.C.  
 9 Met. WOMEN'S Greco Open Noon Saltus-McBurney  
 New Eng. WOMEN'S Jr. 2 p.m. BFC, Cambridge YWCA  
 Gulf WOMEN'S Novice 2 p.m. Menard Pk. Y.C., Galveston  
 Gulf FOIL Novice 2 p.m. Menard Pk. Y.C., Galveston  
 Gulf SABRE Open 4 p.m. Menard Pk. Y.C., Galveston  
 10 Met. EPEE Interim. Qual. Rd. Noon Fencers Club  
 Md. EPEE & SABRE Novice 1:30 p.m. Int'l Centre  
 New Eng. FOIL Prep 2 p.m. M.I.T.  
 11 N.J. SABRE Interim. (Qual. Rd. 7:30 p.m. Rutgers Gym, New Brunswick for All East.)  
 15 No. Cal. EPEE Interim. 8 p.m. Halberstadt  
 So. Cal. SABRE Senior 8 p.m. Knights FC  
 16 Met. WOMEN'S Jr. Noon Saltus-McBurney  
 New Eng. SABRE Prep 2 p.m. M.I.T.  
 17 Md. FOIL Prep 2 p.m. Int'l Centre  
 19 Met. SABRE, Muray Senior 7 p.m. Santelli  
 20 N.J. WOMEN'S Interim. (Qual. Rd. 7:30 p.m. Grove St. School, Verona Rd. for All East.)  
 22 No. Cal. EPEE Interim. Team 8 p.m. Halberstadt  
 So. Cal. FOIL Interim. Team 8 p.m. Pasadena YMCA  
 N.J. FOIL Interim. (Qual. Rd. 7:30 p.m. Newark Coll. Engineering for All East.)  
 23 Met. FOIL Senior Noon Saltus-McBurney  
 24 Md. WOMEN'S Jr. 2 p.m. Int'l Centre  
 New Eng. SABRE Jr. 2 p.m. M.I.T.  
 26 Met. EPEE Senior 7 p.m. Fencers Club  
 29 No. Cal. Three Weapon 8 p.m. Olympic Club  
 So. Cal. EPEE Interim. 8 p.m. L.A.A.C.  
 So. Cal. WOMEN'S Interim. Team 8 p.m. L.A.A.C.  
 30 Met. WOMEN'S Open Team (Qual. Noon Fencers Club Round for Nationals)  
 31 Md. J.C.C. Invitation 2 p.m. Jewish C.C.  
 New Eng. WOMEN'S Interim. 2 p.m. BFC, Cambridge YWCA  
 West. N.Y. FOIL Interim. 1:30 p.m. Falcons, Buffalo  
 West. N.Y. SABRE Novice 1:30 p.m. Falcons, Buffalo

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Met. FOIL Jr. Ch. 7 p.m. N.Y.A.C.  
 4 N.J. WOMEN'S Jr. 7:30 p.m. Montclair St. T.C.  
 5 No. Cal. SABRE Jr. 8 p.m. Halberstadt  
 So. Cal. SABRE Interim. 8 p.m. Long Beach Y.  
 6 Met. FOIL Open Team (Qual. 10:30 a.m. Saltus-McBurney Round for Nationals)  
 Gulf EPEE Novice 2 p.m. Texas A. & M.  
 Gulf SABRE Novice 4 p.m. Texas A. & M.

- 7 Md. Schoolboy FOIL 2 p.m. Jewish C.C.  
 New Eng. EPEE Interim. 2 p.m. M.I.T.  
 No. Cal. WOMEN'S Open 2 p.m. Halberstadt  
 9 Met. EPEE Jr. Ch. 7 p.m. Fencers Club  
 West N.Y. EPEE Interim. 7:30 p.m. U. Buffalo  
 West N.Y. WOMEN'S Interim. 7:30 p.m. U. Buffalo  
 12 No. Cal. SABRE Interim. 8 p.m. Olympic Club  
 N.J. FOIL Open 7:30 p.m. Newark Coll. Engineering  
 13 Gulf PREP (all weapons, men and women) 2 p.m. U. of Houston  
 14 Met. EPEE Open Team (Qual. Noon Fencers Club Round for Nationals)  
 Md. EPEE Jr. (electric) 2 p.m. Jewish C.C.  
 Md. SABRE Jr. 3:30 p.m. Jewish C.C.  
 New Eng. FOIL Interim. 2 p.m. M.I.T.  
 16 Met. SABRE Jr. Ch. 7 p.m. N.Y.A.C.  
 19 No. Cal. FOIL Interim. 8 p.m. U. Calif.  
 So. Cal. FOIL Open 8 p.m. L.A.A.C.  
 N.J. EPEE Open 7:30 p.m. Newark Coll. Engineering  
 20 Met. SABRE Open Team (Qual. 10:30 a.m. Saltus-McBurney Round for Nationals)  
 Gulf Junior FOIL, EPEE, WOMEN 2 p.m. Rice Inst.  
 21 Md. Three Weapon Team 2 p.m. Int'l Centre  
 New Eng. SABRE Interim. 2 p.m. M.I.T.  
 West. N.Y. SABRE Interim. 1:30 p.m. Falcons, Buffalo  
 22 Met. EPEE, Wash. Sq. Teams Noon Fencers Club  
 25 Met. WOMEN'S Prep 7 p.m. Rohdes Ac.  
 26 No. Cal. FOIL Interim. Team 8 p.m. Halberstadt  
 So. Cal. WOMEN'S Open 8 p.m. L.A.A.C.  
 N.J. SABRE Open 7:30 p.m. Newark Coll. Engineering  
 27 No. Cal. WOMEN'S Interim. 8 p.m. Halberstadt  
**28 All-East. Three Weapon Team (Honeycutt) Noon N.Y.A.C.**  
 Md. FOIL Jr. 2 p.m. Jewish C.C.  
 New Eng. WOMEN'S Prep 2 p.m. Dana Hall

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## THE A.F.L.A.

(In this column we will, from time to time, explain some of the functions of the AFLA. Many activities are unknown to our members; others are not understood due to lack of information and background material.)

### WHY SHOULD WE JOIN THE AFLA?

This question has been asked on many occasions, and the answer is basically the same whether the fencer is one of a group located within the territory of a Division or in an area not yet covered by organized AFLA activity. It is a question which must be answered by all of us if we are to expand our sport on a sound, permanent basis. I'd like to submit herein a few reasons and would be pleased to hear others which would help to put our point across.

1. **Recognition:** An AFLA charter gives jurisdiction over a specified area. Competitions acquire an official status and contestants receive awards which are recognized throughout the country. There is the sense of "belonging," since the AFLA is not only the national organization but is also affiliated with the AAU, the U. S. Olympic Association and the International Fencing Federation.

2. **Publicity:** The prestige of a national organization gives more color and importance to news releases covering local competitions.

3. **Widened Horizons:** Any member of the AFLA is eligible to compete in sectional and national championship tournaments. When away from home he is eligible to compete in many centers throughout the country and will find a warm welcome at the many fencing clubs which extend guest privileges to visiting AFLA members.

4. **Incentive:** The way the AFLA is organized encourages the fencer to improve and qualify for sectional or national events. A nation-wide system of rating contestants on the basis of experience and performance makes it possible for a member to enjoy competition with others of comparable ability both on home grounds and away. Those who attain certain proficiency may qualify for financial travel assistance to the National Championships under impartial rules which have been established.

5. **Information:** Members receive, as part of their membership, all issues of "American Fencing" and those over 19 years of age also get a free copy of the official Rules Book. The magazine carries instructive articles, reports of local competitions and offers a medium for the exchange of ideas.

6. **General Assistance:** The national office is always available to guide and assist in solving local problems. Its advice is based on the sum total of experience throughout the country since 1892.

## Intercollegiate Fencing Association DUAL MEET VARSITY FENCING SCHEDULE 1953-54

### December

- 5—Fordham at Yale
- 12—Lehigh at Rutgers  
Fordham at Army
- 19—C.C.N.Y. at Columbia

### January

- 9—Yale at C.C.N.Y.  
Cornell at Army  
Penn at Columbia  
Rutgers at Princeton  
Fordham at N.Y.U.
- 13—Penn at Princeton
- 16—Cornell at Navy  
Lafayette at Rutgers  
Lehigh at Army  
Princeton at Columbia  
Yale at Penn  
C.C.N.Y. at N.Y.U.
- 23—Brooklyn College at Navy  
Army at Penn
- 30—Johns Hopkins at Navy  
N.Y.U. at Yale  
C.C.N.Y. at Army

### February

- 6—Columbia at Yale  
Johns Hopkins at Penn  
Navy at N.Y.U.  
Rutgers at Fordham
- 10—Penn at Rutgers
- 13—Penn at Navy  
Yale at Rutgers  
Army at Columbia  
Johns Hopkins at Princeton  
C.C.N.Y. at Fordham
- 17—Haverford at Princeton  
Columbia at N.Y.U.
- 20—Brooklyn College at C.C.N.Y.  
Columbia at Rutgers  
Newark Co. of Rutgers at Fordham
- 24—Yeshiva U. at C.C.N.Y.
- 27—Navy at Army  
Lehigh at Penn  
Yale at Princeton  
Rutgers at N.Y.U.

### March

- 6—Princeton at C.C.N.Y.  
Columbia at Navy  
Harvard at Yale  
N.Y.U. at Army

### March 12-13

- 57th Annual I.F.A. Championships  
N.Y.U. (University Heights)

7. **Support of the Sport:** The mere fact that you fence indicates an interest in the sport. A strong national organization is the soundest and only way to insure a continuity of interest and to promote the popularity of the game. By joining the AFLA you contribute to this national effort and will have a voice in its management.

—Jose de Capriles

## The New F.I.E. Electrical Epee Point

The four-pronged electrical epee point is definitely on the way out. Over a year ago, the AFLA and the colleges joined in sponsoring a flat-tipped safety point developed by Mr. Charles Willous. The International Fencing Federation, almost at the same time, developed a hemispheric safety point, adopted from experimental electrical foil points, and prescribed its use at the 1953 World Championships. Now the international point has been prescribed by the F.I.E. for all competitions scheduled after January 1, 1954. The specifications for this safety point are printed in the June 1953 issue of *L'Esgrime Francaise*, which is the official organ of the International Fencing Federation, with illustrations of the Souzy model.

In the opinion of AFLA experts, it will not be practical to produce the new hemispheric safety points in the United States because of high labor costs. However, the leading manufacturers of fencing equipment in France, Hungary and Italy have announced that they have an ample supply which will become available to American fencers through the leading distributors of fencing equipment in this country. In most cases, the new point will fit into the sleeve of the old-fashioned four-pronged point manufactured by the same company, but due to minor differences in measurement, the points from different sources are not always interchangeable.

The Souzy model is built to fit into a 6.7 mm. sleeve. The button has a diameter of 7.00 mm., and is shaped like an inverted U, so that it has a cylindrical base and a hemispheric tip. The cylindrical base is 1.4 mm. high and the hemispheric tip has a radius of 3.5 mm. Six rows of tiny teeth, arranged in eight segments, cover the entire surface of the point, both on the cylindrical base and the hemispheric tip, except for a small area at the extreme end which is about 2 mm. in diameter. Since the total length of the new point, from its base, is 4.9 mm., it is possible that the over-all length of the weapon may have to be checked to insure that it stays within the regulation limits.

According to *L'Esgrime Francaise*, the new safety point is superior to the older type with four prongs in the accurate registration of hits. It is said that the new point will catch on slanting hits somewhat better than the four-pronged point, by the friction created by its multiple teeth, and will not rip the cloth of the uniform.

—M. de Capriles

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