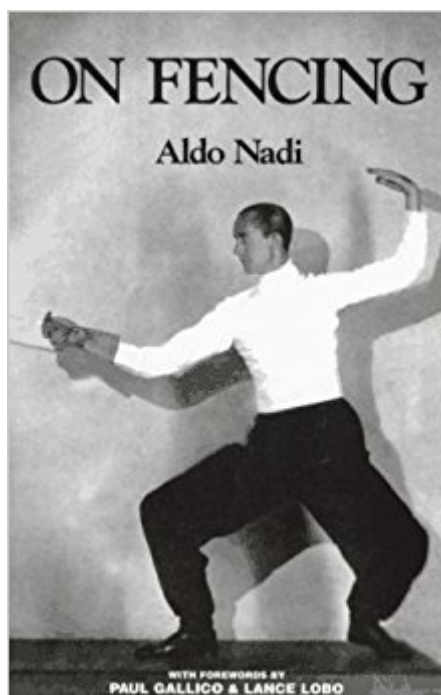


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# On Fencing



## Synopsis

Sharp black and white cover. Stylish cover photo.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Aldo Nadi himself acknowledged, that he altered his footwork in terms of technique during the actual fencing bout, contrary to what this book teaches. As such this is not an all-inclusive guide to fencing. It only teaches one point of view, and considering the hundreds of years of development of fencing that fencing has gone through, it's too limiting to just know one point of view. "The Italian Style" basically focuses on relatively defensive fencing, making your target area as small as possible to your opponent. That's what this book teaches, next to the basics in terms of footwork. It disregards current day scientific knowledge in terms of how to most efficiently lunge, with the way your front foot should leave the floor. It also focus on teaching the basics like "a step forward" and "a step backward", and different consecutive hand actions. In real life situations, fencers have to learn that for instance footwork is way more pliable, making use of different half steps forward and backward, jumps, and much more. Why should you read this book? Because you may end as a fencing master, that doesn't adhere to a particular style, doesn't mean you simply can begin that way. Everyone starts by learning one interpretation of fencing. You might also read Roger Crosnier's books, that teach the modern lunge and in his book on the electrical foil the development of footwork in modern fencing, or in terms of modern books Istvan Lukovich's books. There are many books out there. Buy

a book. Buy more books. You learn fencing by studying and fencing. Not just by reading one book and not just by fencing. It takes diligent effort. This book does things most others don't: anecdotes, a duel, and a cocky writer, that even acknowledges problems fencers even face today with referees in terms of monitoring the distance between two fencers before "Allez!" I enjoyed reading it.

Aldo Nadi was an undefeated World Professional Fencing Champion. Know that many fencing instructors consider Nadi to be the consummate Master of sport. Aldo Nadi places his many decades of fencing instruction into text form for all of us to use and enjoy. He provides the reader with his "secrets" gleaned through his fencing education, techniques, and learned and natural talents. In this book, Nadi states that "teaching fencing is much more difficult than might be generally supposed." He then launches into a treatise of the history of the sword, the importance of footwork, the lunge, proper attack techniques, parry-ripostes, counterattacks, and much more. I feel that this book is a model of fencing instruction, that is devoted to the sport, nay art, of fencing. Nadi's insights into the "psychology of combat" are revealing of the authority to which he speaks through his instructions. The reader will find this text very easy to understand and incorporate into their personal fencing regimen. For novice or advanced fencers, this book is a must read! What else needs to be said. This is a great instructional/tutorial text. Superb! Five stars.

If you have ever participated in the magnificent art of fencing at any point in your life, you should read this book. If you are a serious student of fencing, no matter what style or school of fence you practice, you should own this book. Even if you have not fenced before, despite the highly technical nature of much of this book, it can give you an excellent insight into the fencer's world and, in particular, into the mind and life of one of the greatest fencers who ever lived. On Fencing contains a wealth of knowledge that only a true master could possibly hope to attain, and Aldo Nadi does an excellent job of not only explaining his fencing style, but also telling a story of honor, danger and romance that is, in a word, fencing. This work superbly illustrates to anyone who reads it the pure passion that many fencers actually (or at least hopefully) feel for their art. True, this book was written many years ago. True, Aldo Nadi was of a different build than many of the fencers now out there who may read this book. Also true, fencing in Nadi's time was quite different from what we now call "fencing." These truths, however often they and other "faults" are pointed out by some of Nadi's critics, are in fact irrelevant to the true art of fencing; any serious fencer with good training and enough experience can tell you that size, age, build, etc. are not a consideration in an art that relies more on mental alertness and skill than it ever will on size or strength. What Nadi does in this

book is to point out exactly this fact, and to engulf the reader in a world where there is still honor, where fencing is still given the respect it deserves, and where anybody, man, woman or child can learn an art in which everyone has an equal chance of success. If nothing else, this book is a fascinating read from a time long gone, in which the teachings given are as useful and true now as they were then. This book should be cherished by every true fencer. Note: Aldo Nadi was a classically trained Italian fencer. To those not familiar with the Italian style of fence, it is highly recommended that you read *The Science of Fencing* by Maestro William M. Gaugler for better understanding.

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