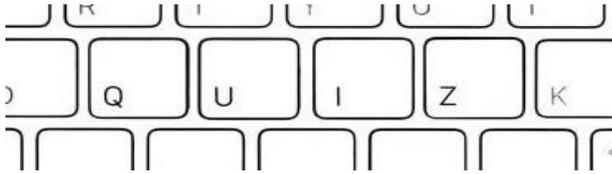




NEWS FLÈCHE

Issue 5 – 5th May 2020



[Click for the KFC online Fencing and Swords in Film quiz.](#)

Top scorers published next week!

Fencing Arcana



Academic Fencing – Mensur

Mensur is a traditional form a fencing conducted by a small number of German, Austrian and Swiss Universities.

The duel was fenced between two male students at a fixed distance with sharp weapons with protection for just eye and nose and a leather scarf and tunic. Opponents faced each other and took turns at hits, aiming for the only unprotected body part - the opponent's face. It was forbidden to move, retreat or even dodge with the torso. Only the weapon could be used to parry the attack. When fatigue set in or one of the opponents let down his guard, his opponent broke through his parries, leaving a cut on his face, which eventually scarred over. Scars were said to give a man's face character. As a result, both duelists left satisfied: the winner with a sense of triumph, and the loser with a sign of courage on his face. Academic fencing was seen as a kind of personality training by showing countenance and fairness even in dangerous situations. During the Third Reich the practice was banned for being a remnant of the old guard although it continued in secret. It resumed after the war and is still practiced today. The scar resulting from a hit is called a "smite" (German Schmiss), and was seen as a badge of honor. Nutters!



Remember to tune into Mo's Zoom Room on Tuesday - details in the first [News Flèche](#) on the KFC website.

Fencing in the Movies

The Princess Bride (1987)

"Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You kill my father. Prepare to die". An absolute classic, hilarious from start to finish.



The movie features an epic duel between Wesley and the Spaniard. Fairly realistic fencing with wonderful movie theatrics. Coached by former president of the British Academy of Fencing Bob Anderson. See [wiki](#) for how many movies Bob was involved in.

The Duellists (1977)



A film based on the true story of two French officers, who engaged in 17 duels over two decades. Directed by Ridley Scott. Set in Napoleonic France its beautifully and artistically shot and is often quoted as an example of realistic and accurate historical swordplay. Coached by the legendary [Bill Hobbs](#). There are three increasingly bloody fights to watch with the sabre fight at the end is just exhausting.

Die Another Day (2002)

Moving to the modern day, James Bond has Madonna as a coach. For movie fencing this is quite realistic except that Bond is good at fencing, even Epee. Coached again by Bob Anderson. Speaking of Bob Anderson ...



Star Wars – A New Hope (1977)

Ok, not really fencing, but a little bit of trivia is that Bob Anderson had to step and fight in place of David Prowse as he basically couldn't even fight a cold.

Bob Anderson was the stunt double for Darth Vader and was the sword master in all of the original Star Wars movies. See [Mark Hamill tweet](#) (right).



The Mark of Zorro (1940)

Both actors were accomplished fencers and clearly very fast. Very long choreographed sword fighting scenes are incredibly hard to learn so this is quite an epic scene. Its all very gentlemanly and good natured until the end. Touché!