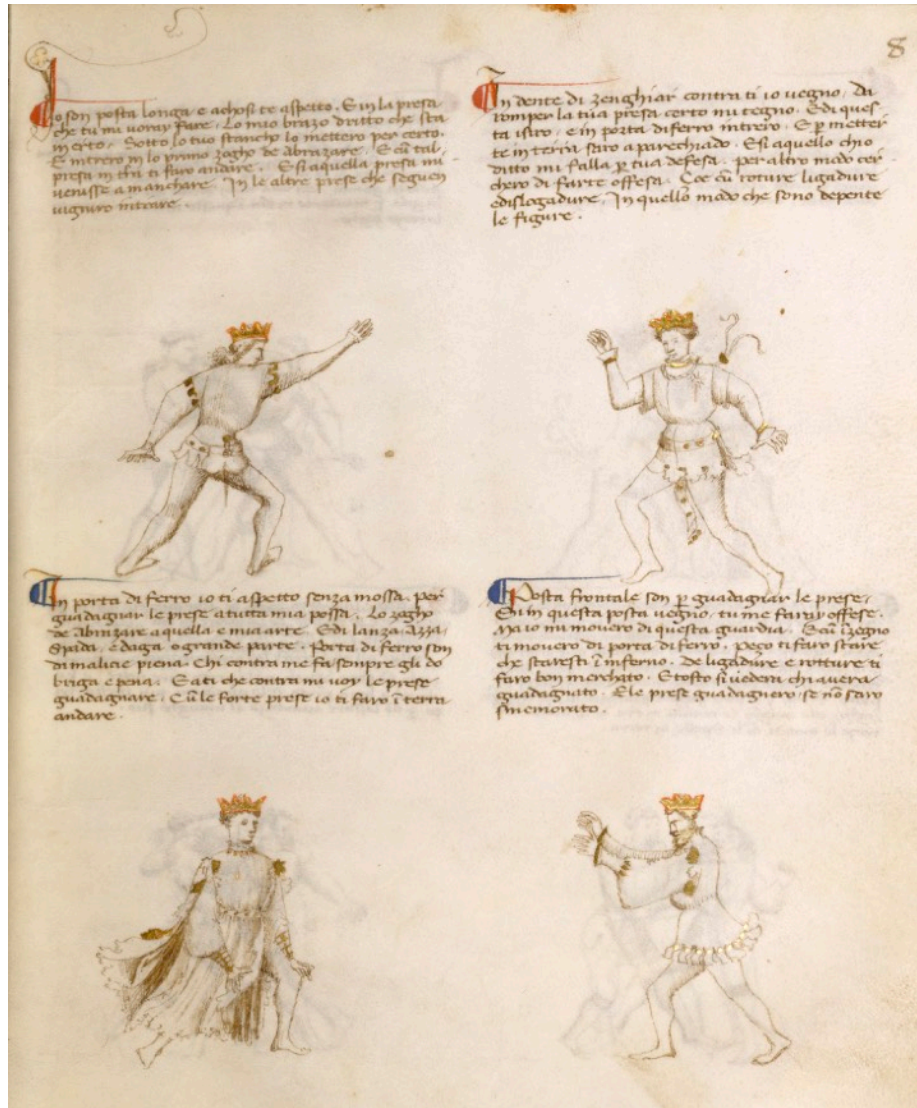




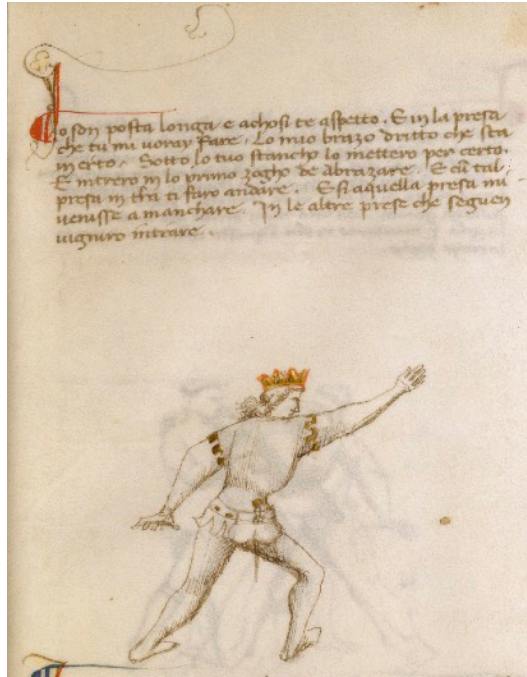
The Four Guards



Getty MS, Folio 6r

All of these guard images are gilded, much more so than just the crowns that we would expect. There are decorations on their doublets and belts, as well as the pommel of posta longa's dagger. Dente di zenghiaro has a gold collar, and also some kind of emblem on his chest. Posta di ferro has gold bands on his sleeves, and is wearing an ankle-length robe. The level of detail in the clothing begs the question: why are they not wearing shoes? They appear to be wrestling in their hose (which would wear out the soles of the hose very quickly).

Posta Longa



Io son posta longa e achosi te aspetto. E in la presa che tu mi voray fare, Lo mio brazo dritto che sta in erto, Sotto lo tuo stancho lo mettero per certo. E intrero in lo primo zogho de abrazare. E cum tal presa in terra ti faro andare. E si aquella presa mi venisse a manchare. In le altre prese che seguen vigniro intrare.

I am the long guard and I wait like this. And in the grip that you want to do to me, my right arm that is up, I will place under your left [arm] for certain. And I will enter into the first play of wrestling. And with that grip I will make you go to the ground. And if that grip fails me, I will enter the other grips that follow.

Notes:

What are the defining features of posta longa?

Feet are parallel and flat. Right arm is extended, back arm pressing back. He is wearing a dagger but isn't going to use it?

Entering into the first play of abrazare is explicitly mentioned.

Posta di dente di zenghiaro



In dente di zenghiar contra ti io vegno. Da romper la tua presa certo mi tegno. E di questa isiro e in porta di ferro intrero. E per metterte in terra faro aparechiado. E si aquello chio ditto mi falla per tua defesa, per altro modo cerchero di farte offesa. Zoe cum roture, ligadure, e dislogadure, In quello modo che sono depente le figure.

I come against you in the boar's tooth. I am certain to break your grip. And I will come out of this [guard] and enter into the iron door. And I will be ready to put you on the ground. And if what I have said fails me because of your defence, I will look to make offence to you in another way. Thus, with breaks, binds, and dislocations. In the way that is shown in the figures.

It's interesting to note that the quality of the ink changes between the first and second blocks of text. I imagine the scribe changed from one batch of oak-gall ink to the next, which was more concentrated. But when we turn the page, we are back to the weaker ink. It's pure speculation, but perhaps the scribe had a supervisor who

insisted he dilute the ink a bit more, to save money! (We've all had employers like that).

What are the defining features of dente di zenghiaro? The arms, especially the front arm, are bent at about 90 degrees at the elbow. The hips are much more square-on, and the weight is far enough forward over the front foot that the back heel has risen. It looks like he is on the balls of his feet, or even higher. He mentions using this guard to break the opponent's grip, and moving from this guard into porta di ferro.

Posta di porta di ferro

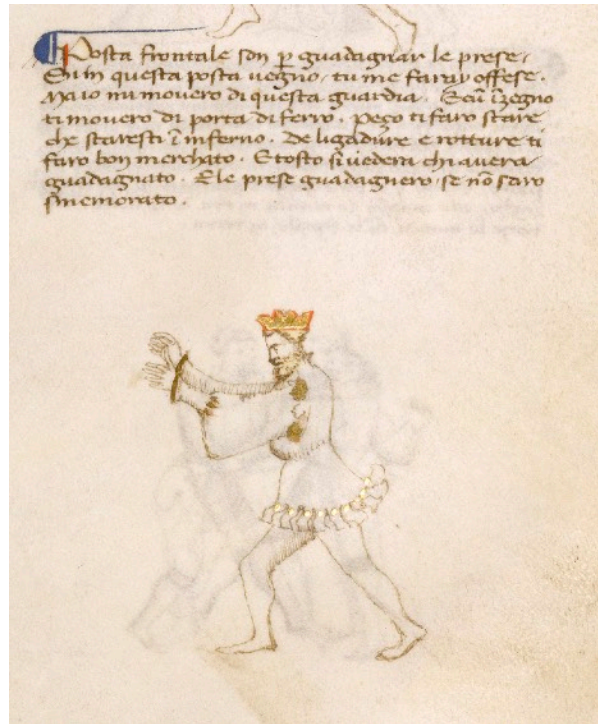


In porta di ferro io ti aspetto senza mossa per guadagnare le prese a tutta mia possa. Lo zogho de Abrazare aquella e mia arte. E di lanza, Azza, Spada, e daga o grande parte. Porta di ferro son di malicie piena, chi contra me fa sempre gli do briga e pena. E a ti che contra mi voy le prese guadagnare, cum le forte prese io ti faro in terra andare.

In the iron door I wait for you without movement, to gain the grips with all my power. The play of abrazare here is my art. And I take a great part in [the plays of] the lance, axe, sword and dagger. I am the iron door full of malice, and I always give great misery and pain to those who come against me. And to you who goes against me to gain the grips, with the strong grips I will make you go to the ground.

What are the defining features of porta di ferro? Both hands are down, and the weight seems to be sinking onto the front foot. This guard is explicitly used with the weapons, and indeed we see a version of it in the spear, sword, and axe sections, as well as five variations on it in the beginning of the dagger section.

Posta Frontale



Posta frontale son per guadagnar le prese. Si in questa posta vegno, tu me faray offese. Ma io mi mouero di questa guardia. E cum inzegno ti mouero di porta di ferro. Pezo ti faro stare che staresti in inferno. De ligadure e rotture ti faro bon merchato. E tosto si vedera chi auera guadagnato. E le prese guadagnero se non faro smemorato.

I am the frontal guard for gaining the grips. In in this guard I come, you will try to attack me. But I will move from this guard. And with cunning will move you from the iron door. Worse off you will be than if you were in hell. I will make you a good deal on locks and breaks. And quickly you will see who has gained [by the deal]. And the grips I will gain, if I am not forgetful.

What are the defining features of *posta frontale*? Both hands are extended forwards.