



American Fencers Introduces New Line of Classical Sports Fencing Equipment

Company Responds to Growing Classical Fencing Movement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco, Calif., May 10, 2006 - American Fencers Supply (AFS), America's oldest and most respected supplier of fencing equipment, today announced that they have begun offering a retail line of classical fencing weapons and parts.

The classical fencing movement is organizing and growing here in the U.S. and their equipment needs are very specific. AFS is starting its new line with weapons and parts, many of which are coming from Tom Rockwell, a respected maker of high-quality Italian and French hilt pieces.

"I started referring people to Tom after he sent me a sample of his ingenious false-ricasso. After referring many customers to Tom, I thought 'wait a minute, why am I not selling Tom's gear to those customers myself?' and I contacted Tom to see if he was interested in distribution. Lucky for me, he was," said Cole Harkness, Production Manager at AFS.

AFS is carrying a basic selection of Tom Rockwell's hilt parts, primarily Italian false-ricasso guards, as well as pieces to convert French weapons to Italian or to allow Italian hilts to use French blades. AFS is also carrying a few styles of Tom's French pommels for those who want a little more weight than the standard 100g pommel, and also his Italian foils and epees and Velcro wrist straps, too.

There are several other classic weapons in the collection: Figure-8 foils with guards in steel and in manganese-bronze (look like brass, but are much tougher) and also Radaellian sabres (crested steel guard side bars from Negrini of Italy) with S2000 blades.

In related news, AFS announced that, in the next year, it will reintroduce its cotton snap-closure competition jackets for men and women as well as its retooled cotton competition knickers. "We have been making and selling fencing gear for 40 years and we remember when snaps and buttons were state-of-the-art. We will bring back those clean, classic lines with more user-friendly materials and new patterns for a better fit. Personally, I prefer cotton jackets for teaching and I think these 'new, old-fashioned' jackets will appeal to a wide fencing audience," said Harkness, who is himself a certified Fencing Master and always insists on quality products for his students.

American Fencers Supply is launching its new Classical Fencing Line for sale on its web site in the "Fencing" section.

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About American Fencers Supply

American Fencers Supply (AFS), founded in 1965, is America's oldest and most respected supplier of sports fencing equipment. AFS manufactures, sells, and distributes fencing equipment for competitive and recreational fencers. The company's Armoury Department is North America's largest supplier of theatrical and period weapons. For more information, please visit www.amfence.com.

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