

## A Meeting of Cultures

by John Kovacs  
May 3rd, 1999

History was made recently when the internationally famous martial art teacher Guro Dan Inosanto trained with fencing master Maestro Ramón Martínez at the Princeton Academy of Martial Arts in New Jersey. Guro Dan needs little introduction, being the most celebrated student under Bruce Lee and credited with spearheading the recent interest in the Filipino and related Indonesian martial arts. A list of who Guro Dan has trained with over the years would read like a virtual who's who in the martial art world. Maestro Ramón Martínez is considered by many the world over as the leading proponent in renaissance fencing with a particular specialty in the little known "La Destreza" Spanish fencing method. Guro Dan and Maestro Martínez had a discussion on the much touted historical influence of the Spanish fencing school on the Filipino martial arts. Also discussed was a brief history of the rapier, with an introduction to both the Spanish and Italian methods of rapier and dagger, timing and distance, and Bruce Lee's thoughts on fencing- in particular the idea of the parry vs. the block and economy of motion.

The event was a pleasant experience, and demonstrated that Guro Dan's reputation as a warm and congenial martial artist is not just hype but fact. The Martínez Academy of Arms would like to thank Director Rick Tucci and Assistant Director Amy Tucci of the Princeton Academy of Martial Arts for making the event possible. We look forward to many more such gatherings in the near future.



Right to left: Guro Inosanto, Maestro Martínez, Director Rick Tucci, Assistant Director Amy Tucci.



Maestro Martínez working with Guro Inosanto in the Spanish guard position (*Afirmare*).



Maestro Martínez working with Director Rick Tucci on Italian guard position (Terza Guardia).



Instructor Jeannette Acosta-Martínez working with Assistant Director Amy Tucci in the Spanish guard position (*Afirmare*).

Photographs by Jeannette Acosta-Martínez and Ramón Martínez