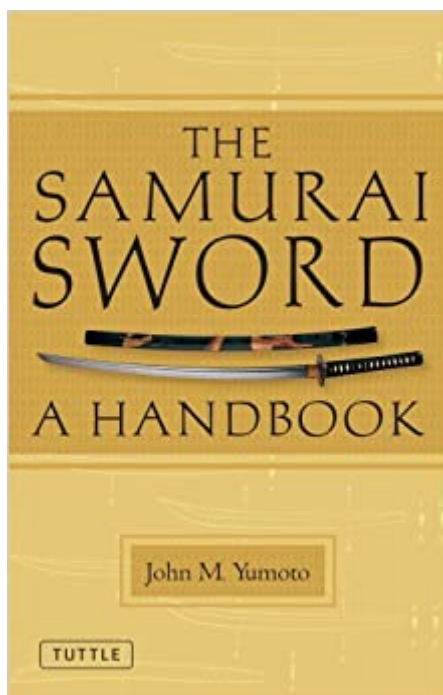


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The Samurai Sword: A Handbook



Synopsis

The samurai sword: a symbol of the spirit of old Japan, it embodies the samurai's steel discipline, unswerving devotion and peerless skill. With its creation, a feat of craftsmanship passed down by generations of artisans, the samurai sword is generally considered to be superior even to the famed blades of Western Damascus and Toledo. The Samurai Sword Handbook is a precise exploration of the samurai sword designed for sword collectors as well as anyone intrigued by these ancient blades. Detailing the origins and development of the samurai sword, its historical background, styles, famous schools and differences in construction, this revised edition of the classic reference outlines methods of identifying and researching the sword, as well as caring for it properly. This must-have for sword lovers is sure to be a bestseller. Topics of this Samurai book include: Japanese History and the Samurai Sword Types of swords Parts of the sword Blade shape, construction, and grain The making of the sword Inscriptions and their readings Care and maintenance Appraisal and value Relative point values

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Customer Reviews

"This book, written by one of the foremost authorities outside Japan, is the first of this subject in English. It should find many readers, since there are now more of these swords in America than in Japan due to United States servicemen's interest in them. âNew York World Telegraph and Sun" "If you happen to have a samurai sword, John Yumoro's book will help you to determine its category. Whether you have one or not, it will give you all the romance of its background." âSan Francisco

Chronicle" At long last an American has produced a handbook on Japanese words aimed at an American market. It is a 'must' for anyone interested in Japanese blades and by far the best single reference volume for those who are not specialists." â "Military Collector & Historian

John M. Yumoto is perhaps the foremost authority on the samurai sword outside of Japan. A native of California, he began his study of Japanese swordcraft during his early childhood in Japan. While in Japan he studied under a number of masters from different schools and learned the art of sword polishing and of identification and evaluation. He has held membership in a number of sword clubs and at present is an active member of the Japan Society for the Preservation of the Samurai Sword and the Northern California Sword Club. He has also been requested to serve as advisor to the Japanese Sword Society of the United States, presently being organized.

very good informative beginners' book. Just enough information and not overwhelming.

dry reading but then it is a text on swords. Good information and it tells you what to look for.

Very informative. Something I think everyone considering buying a quality sword should read.

Very informative.

This is a very short book that is highly detailed in certain aspects. I found it dry and devoid of many of the interesting aspects of the samurai sword. It has a little about how it was made, but much more on what years were better, what makers were better. It is almost a buyers guide.

Was not the book I was looking for, however it does contain a vast amount of knowledge. I enjoyed reading, and have included it to my collection.

I found the technical information/details of little use to me but I appreciated the depth to which the research was taken and appreciated how diverse and prevalent the sword-making industry was in Japan.

EVERY SAMURAI SWORD COLLECTOR MUST HAVE THIS REFERENCE BOOK.. IN PARTICULAR, THEY SHOULD READ THE HISTORY OF THE SWORD AND THE SAMURAI.

ALSO, BE SURE TO GET THE REFERENCE BOOK "JAPAN, THE SHAPING OF THE DAIMYO CULTURE, 1185-1868", WHICH WAS THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME U.S. EXHIBITION OF THE JAPANESE NATIONAL SWORD TREASURES IN THE U.S. NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, IN 1988 TO 1989.

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