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# Katori Shintoryu Warrior Tradition

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**GRACE CHURCH**

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**Journal of Asian Martial**

**Arts** Penguin UK  
Miyamoto Musashi  
(1584?1645) was the

legendary samurai known throughout the world as a master swordsman, spiritual seeker, and author of the classic book on strategy, the Book of Five Rings. Over 350 years after his death, Musashi and his legacy still fascinate us and continue to inspire artists, authors, and filmmakers. Here, respected translator and expert on samurai culture William Scott Wilson has created both a vivid account of a fascinating period in feudal Japan and a portrait of the

courageous, iconoclastic samurai who wrestled with philosophical and spiritual ideas that are as relevant today as they were in his time. For Musashi, the way of the martial arts was about mastery of the mind rather than simply technical prowess—and it is this path to mastery that is the core teaching in his Book of Five Rings. This volume includes supplemental material on Musashi's legacy as a martial arts icon, his impact on literature and film, and the influence of

his Book of Five Rings. *Samurai Swordsmanship* North Atlantic Books  
Modern forms of budo, or martial ways practiced primarily for spiritual development, developed from established combat systems in response to social, political, historical and philosophical influences that occurred during the Edo Period (1615-1868). In classical budo, legendary martial artist Donn Draeger illuminates the history and evolution of these modern arts, including kendo, judo, kempo,

kyudo, iaido, and jujutsu and puts them into historical perspective. This book includes fascinating artwork from classical sources and archival photos of budo arts masters in action.  Via Media Publishing

The myths of the noble Samurai and the sinister Ninja are filled with romantic fantasy and fallacy. Samurai and Ninja expert Antony Cummins shatters the myths and exposes the true nature of these very real—and very lethal—medieval Japanese

warriors. The Samurai and Ninja were in fact brutal killing machines trained in torture and soaked in machismo. Many were skilled horsemen and sword-fighting specialists, while others were masters of deception and sabotage. Some fought for loyalty, others for personal gain. What these warriors all shared in common was their unflinching personal bravery, skill and brutality. In Samurai and Ninja, Cummins separates myth from reality and shows why the Japanese

were the greatest warriors of all time: He describes the Samurai and the Ninja as they really were in earlier times when battles raged across Japan—not in later times when war became obsolete and Japanese warriors became philosophers, scholars and courtiers. He describes the social context of the day and the feudal world into which the warriors were trained to fight and die for their lords. He exposes the essentially brutal nature of warfare in medieval Japan. This book is illuminated by many

rare Japanese manuscripts and texts which are translated into English for the very first time.

*Legacies of the Sword*

Floating World Editions  
There are similarities and differences between the European and Japanese medieval warrior traditions that reflect the social evolutions within those cultures. Over the years publishing the *Journal of Asian Martial Arts*, we published articles that presented the main themes found in this unique area of

comparative studies. The most important of these writings are assembled in this anthology for your convenience. Chapters 1 and 2 are by Dr. Willy Pieter, a leading scholar with a thorough grasp of European and Japanese martial art traditions. His first chapter examines the feudal system and how aspects of social organization helped form the warrior ethic, resulting in a mix of scientific and intuitive elements. In the second chapter Dr. Pieter illustrates how the perception of the human

body and mind are culturally different in the East and West. Westerners have a long tradition of dualism, which separates the body and mind, while the Eastern approach has been wholistic. The author discusses scientific and medical histories for insight, particularly Chinese and European influences on Japan. In the third chapter John Michael Greer presents the esoteric side of a European sword tradition as found in the writings of Dutch fencing master

Gerard Thibault (ca. 1574–1627). He notes that Asian and Western combat systems have been understood in sharply different ways over the last century or so. Asian combatives came to be associated with Eastern spiritual traditions and seemed to be very different than any Western combative system. However, this short chapter shows that there is actually much in common. In the final chapter Matthew Galas compares and contrasts the sword arts in

Germany with the classical Japanese martial traditions. The period covered by this inquiry reaches from approximately 1350 until 1600. The focus is on general principles and combat philosophy. The study reveals that German sword techniques were as effective as their counterparts in feudal Japan. The content in this anthology is useful for anyone interested in either or both European and Japanese martial art traditions exemplified during their medieval

periods. Enjoy reading this special anthology dedicated to two leading warrior traditions.

Flashing Steel, Second Edition Kodansha International

A wonderful pictorial account of the iconic Yorkshire Rider bus company.

*Japanese Weapons - An Anthology* Overlook Books  
Iaijutsu is the art of samurai swordsmanship in self-defence. Iaijutsu is distinguished from kenjutsu (the samurai sword employed in attack) by the fact that the

practitioner begins each technique with the sword sheathed. This book refers to the art of iaijutsu in order to emphasize how Eishin-Ryu Iaijutsu is among the various schools of iaijutsu.

*The Return of the Warrior*  
(*Young Samurai book 9*)

Toyo Press

The shinobi, or ninja, is one of the most widely recognized figures in the world of espionage—and also one of the most misrepresented. What do we really know about the historical shinobi, his tactics, and his role in

medieval Japanese society? In *Secret Traditions of the Shinobi*, these questions—and many more—are answered. Translated into English for the very first time, this widely sought-after collection of historical documents brings to light the secret practices, techniques, philosophies, and lifestyles of the shinobi. Included are: • the *Shinobi Hiden*, or "Secret Ninja Tradition," a documentation of techniques commonly attributed to one of the

best-known ninja masters, Hattori Hanzo; • the *Koka Ryu Ninjutsu Densho*, a small but important work from the Edo period that reveals the realm of ninja magic and spells; • the three shinobi scrolls of the *Gunpo Jiyoshu*, a manual enthusiastically promoted by Tokugawa Ieyasu, the first Tokugawa shogun of Japan; • one hundred poems written between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries—making them the oldest collection of written ninjutsu information in the world; and • seventy historical

black-and-white illustrations depicting ninja tools and weapons. Secret Traditions of the Shinobi will enthrall martial artists eager to learn the real skills of the shinobi, as well as anyone interested in this exciting period of Japanese history and espionage. From the Trade Paperback edition.

**Yorkshire Rider Buses**  
BRILL

Tracing the evolution of state military institutions from the seventh through the twelfth centuries, this book challenges much of the received wisdom of

Western scholarship on the origins and early development of warriors in Japan. This prelude to the rise of the samurai, who were to become the masters of Japan's medieval and early modern eras, was initiated when the imperial court turned for its police and military protection to hired swords--professional mercenaries largely drawn from the elites of provincial society. By the middle of the tenth century, this provincial military order had been

handed a virtual monopoly of Japan's martial resources. Yet it was not until near the end of the twelfth century that these warriors took the first significant steps toward asserting their independence from imperial court control. Why did they not do so earlier? Why did they remain obedient to a court without any other military sources for nearly 300 years? Why did the court put itself in the potentially (and indeed, ultimately) precarious situation of contracting for

its military needs with private warriors? These and related questions are the focus of the author's study. Most of the few Western treatments see the origins of the samurai in the incompetence and inactivity of the imperial court that forced residents in the provinces to take up arms themselves. According to this view, a warrior class was spontaneously generated just as one had been in Europe a few centuries earlier, and the Japanese court was doomed to eventually

perish by the sword because of its failure to live by it. Instead, the author argues that it was largely court activism that put swords in the hands of rural elites, that court military policy, from the very beginning of the imperial state era, followed a long-term pattern of increasing reliance on the martial skills of the gentry. This policy reflected the court's desire for maximum efficiency in its military institutions, and the policy's success  
Classical Budo Black Belt

Communications Incorporated  
 This book explores the concept that the reality which is created by the consciousness inherent in the Western worldview is exceptionally limiting and probably unsustainable. After describing the contexts within which the book was written the author documents his personal journey in search of wholeness and meaning. From his experience of this journey he suggests that the wisdom, insight, and praxis contained within -



what he describes as the meta-narratives of - Holism, Indigenous cultures, and Eastern traditions are manifestations of a holistic consciousness. The author explores the concept that a shift to such a holistic consciousness is required in order to redress the imbalance that is evident in all humanity's relationships, and he suggests that enabling such a shift in consciousness would have deep implications for the concepts and contexts of

community, adult learning, meaningful work, and sustainability. Warrior Origins Amberley Publishing Limited True Path of the Ninja is the first authoritative translation in English of the Shoninki—the famous 17th century ninjutsu manual. Authors Antony Cummins and Yoshie Minami worked closely with Dr. Nakashima Atsumi, author of the most comprehensive modern Japanese version of the Shoninki, thus making this English translation the closest to

the original scrolls. The information and insights found in this translation are invaluable for understanding the skills, techniques and mentality of the historical shinobi. Whether it involved tips for surviving in the wild, advice on intelligence-gathering techniques, or methods for creating chaos in the enemy camp, this ninja book unveils secrets long lost. Along with its practical applications, this book is an important guide to the mental discipline that ninjas must have to

ensure success in accomplishing their mission. True Path of the Ninja covers the following topics: What a ninja is and what equipment he needs The skills of infiltration and information gathering How to disrupt and distract the enemy How to be mentally prepared to carry out ninja missions In addition to the translation of the Shoninki, this book also includes the first written record of the oral tradition "Defense Against a Ninja" taught by Otake Risuke, the revered sensei of the legendary Katori

Shinto Ryu school of swordsmanship. Sensei reveals for the first time these ancient and traditional teachings on how the samurai can protect himself from the cunning wiles of a ninja. About this new edition: This second edition contains a new introduction by the translator, and has been thoroughly updated to reflect developments that shed new light on the original Japanese text. **Old School** University of Hawaii Press A new instalment and

standalone adventure charting series protagonist Jack Fletcher's return to pre-civil war England. His quest: to find his missing sister, with the help of some familiar faces...

**Aikido and Chinese Martial Arts** Tuttle Publishing

This anthology presents an assortment of seven articles from the Journal of Asian Martial Arts that deal with Japanese weaponry: archery, short staff, naganita polearm, and test cutting (tamashigiri) with the long

sword. A few articles are highly academic and others are easier reading, based on interviews or actual practice. Three chapters place a focus on archery and the related formalities of ritual and practice. Two of these discuss the uniqueness of Japanese kyudo—the Way of the Bow. As kyudo is a martial art practiced as a do or “spiritual way,” the authors emphasize the meditative aspects. Dr. Hesselink’s chapter differs in that his work details the art of archery performed at full-gallop on

horseback. In the first chapter, Dr. Jones discusses his personal experience in Japan while testing for blackbelt in jodo—the Way of the short staff. In another chapter, Rick Polland points out aspects of solo short staff practice and how it also applies with an opponent. Ellis Amdur’s chapter dives into great detail on the history and evolution of the naganita—a bladed polearm utilized over many centuries in Japanese warfare and later also as a do practice

with individual spiritual cultivation as its primary objective. The beauty of naganita blades are no less intrically interesting than the highly respected making and use of Japanese swords. Tameshigiri—test cutting—is the topic of the final chapter. Utilizing the Swiss Visual Human technology, Dr. Ward analyzed sixteen major cuts that were often used by the samurai against their opponents. In the past, test cutters would use human cadavers to see exactly how sword

cuts affected particular body parts, e.g., neck, torso, wrist, etc. Each area attacked could be rated according to the difficulty of each cut. How does the composition of the body (thickness of bone, muscle tissue, cartilage, etc.) affect the skillful execution of the blade? The questions and answers that arise while reading this chapter provide great insight into the use of all bladed weapons. Although the chapters in this anthology discuss archery, the short staff, mounted archery,

the naginata and test cutting, there is a common theme: the importance of these to Japanese martial traditions.

*The Way of the Warrior* Kodansha Amer Incorporated WARRIOR ORIGINS is an account of the history and legends of the world's prominent martial arts and how they share a common heritage. It chronicles the origins of the Shaolin warrior monks, Shaolin Kung-Fu and their celebrated founder, Bodhidharma,

who is also considered the first patriarch of Zen (Chan) Buddhism. The book considers Bodhidharma's origins in the context of ancient Persia and its royal houses and continues with the rise of Karate from ancient Okinawan roots to Japan and then into a global sport. It connects the record of Ninjia and Ninjutsu and the influence of some of its latter luminaries, including Seiko Fujita, whilst also revealing new evidence on renowned martial artists such as Bruce

Lee. This work takes a dramatically original approach to the heart of the martial arts and their founders. Author Dr Hutan Ashrafian, who holds black belt grades in several martial art styles, including a 5th Dan in Okinawan Goju-Ryu Karate and championship medals in Karate and Judo at World and European Masters level, delineates the inheritance of these arts using innovative evolutionary approaches to find previously unidentified links between them. *Warrior Origins*

traces the pattern from Bodhidharma to the remarkable diversity of modern martial arts. *A Journey in Search of Wholeness and Meaning* Kodansha International Western scholars and educators are generally far less familiar with the samurai in his original- and, ostensibly, primary- role as warrior and masters of arms than in his other functions as landowner, feudal lord, literature, or philosopher. Yet, any attempt to comprehend fully the samurai without

considering his military abilities and training (bugei) is futile. With verve and wit, Karl Friday combines the results of nearly two decades of fieldwork and archival research to examine samurai martial culture from a broad perspective: as a historical phenomenon, as a worldview, and as a system of physical, spiritual, and moral education.

**Samurai Fighting Arts**  
Stanford University Press  
The fierceness of the Japanese warrior and his

fighting arts has fascinated Westerners since Europeans first came into contact with Japan more than 450 years ago. Classical Fighting Arts of Japan: A Complete Guide to Koryu Jujutsu is the first comprehensive English-language book on traditional jujutsu. Author Serge Mol-working almost exclusively from original Japanese source materials-vividly outlines the history of the close-quarter fighting methods that warriors developed not only to prove

themselves on the battlefield and in daily life, but also to the constantly ready to defend their feudal lords. A great number of jujutsu styles and techniques-armed and unarmed-have existed over the centuries, and many of the classical weapon schools also instructed in the use of jujutsu. The Classical Fighting Arts of Japan expertly guides readers through the rise and development of many of the major schools. The classical martial arts as practiced in the ancient

ryuha were deeply interwoven. For this reason, this definitive guide to koryu jujutsu will not only be invaluable to practioners of traditional and modern jujutsu, but will be of great interest to enthusiasts of modern budo such as judo, aikido, kendo, and iaido. Mol explores the historical and cultural factors that helped shape jujutsu and the martial arts in general. He offers a detailed look at individual jujutsu ryuha, giving details on the school's history (where possible

including illustrations of their founders and photos of ancient manuscripts). This book is richly illustrated with numerous photographs of rare documents and with many photos of exponents demonstration techniques, many of which have never before been shown outside Japan. In addition to his extensive research in original source material, Mol had regular access in conversation, over the course of years, to the insights of the grandmasters of several

of the most important jujutsu schools that remain active today. Classical Fighting Arts of Japan will be a welcome addition to the personal collection of every serious student of Japanese martial arts.

The Way of the Living Sword Shambhala Publications

This is a translation of an important classic on Zen swordfighting. Yagyu's Buddhist spirituality is reflected in his central idea of the life-giving sword' - the notion of controlling an opponent

by the spiritual readiness to fight, rather than during the fight. This is a translation of an important classic on Zen swordfighting. Yagyu Munenori was so widely renowned that he was appointed official sword instructor to two Tokugawa shoguns. (The position was always coveted by Miyamoto Musashi, but he never succeeded in gaining the post). Yagyu's' The Real Musashi Peter Lang  
This book introduces the world of traditional

Japanese martial arts and will provide readers with a deeper understanding of Bushido and Japan. Also known as Kobudo, these traditional martial arts can be seen as a continuation of samurai culture and comprise a number of styles formulated in the samurai era that are still being taught today. Aiming to develop Bujutsu (martial arts) and Heiho (strategy) to the highest possible degree, the samurai devised a code consisting of over eighteen arts. A samurai should have

impeccable manners and be an expert in martial arts, but he should never be a killer. His swords contained his soul, which he cultivated by learning poetry and art, and by practicing Zen meditation. The author is the world-famous Kobudo grandmaster. He knows all the Kobudo styles, and his teaching of arts such as Iaijutsu and Jujitsu fascinates many students around the world. This is his first book in English, and it offers readers the opportunity to learn the lesser known arts of

Kobudo, particularly the way of Nito Ryu-the two-swords method created by the famous samurai Miyamoto Musashi, and to understand the spirit behind it. Lavishly illustrated with around 700 photographs, Samurai Fighting Arts reveals many secret skills of Kobudo. It is divided into five chapters: Kobudo and its history; Kumiuchi Hyoho; Nito Ryu - the two-sword method; Iai and Kenpo; and Classical Kenjutsu and its application.

**The Knightly Art of the**



**Longsword** Singing

## Dragon

In *The Buddhist Goddess Marishiten*, David A. Hall provides an in-depth exploration of the Buddhist cult of the warrior goddess Marici, its evolution, and its efficacy and psychological impact on the Japanese warrior.

[Warrior Guards the Mountain](#) The History Press

Few of Japan's ancient warrior traditions have survived the five-and-a-half centuries since their heyday. Tenshinsho-den Katori Shinto-ryu is the

oldest extant classical Japanese martial art and one of the few that has maintained a comprehensive technical curriculum as well as studies in military strategy and prognostication. This book, by the traditions only master teacher, is a detailed illustrated introduction to the sword techniques, strategy, and esoteric studies of Katori Shinto-ryu, Japan's most famous sword school. This present book is based on Otake Risuke's earlier three-volume work, *The*

*Deity and the Sword*. The original Japanese has been re-edited, re-translated, and re-designed, with over 850 new photographs and new material on important aspects of the tradition.

**Kurikara** Blue Snake Books

Koryu, literally, 'old flow from the past,' refers to Japanese martial traditions that predate the sweeping cultural changes that followed the Meiji Restoration of 1868. They generally have a very different character and tone from modern

martial arts, such as kendo, judo or aikido which followed. More than the study of antique weapons, self-defense or a form of athletics, these martial traditions are a cultural legacy and a window to another time and place. In the first edition of *Old School*, Ellis Amdur, a renowned martial arts researcher, and himself an instructor in two different surviving koryu, gave readers a rare glimpse into feudal Japanese warrior arts, both as they were in the past and as they live on

today. Nearly a decade later, he returns to the subject in this new, greatly expanded edition, bringing readers inside the dojos of a number of ancient schools, providing a detailed analysis of the evolution and morphology of uniquely Japanese weaponry, addressing the myth and reality of Japan's naginata-wielding warrior women, and discussing the modern relevance of the blood oaths, magical ritual and mysticism that often permeate the koryu. Finally, he looks at the

challenge of preservation and transmission, especially as more and more practitioners of the koryu exist outside of Japan itself. Writing with a combination of the initiate's passion for his subject, and the scientist's rigorous search for the truth, Amdur asks critically: do the ancient traditions still meet the objectives of their founders? Are they successfully passing their ancient legacy down to the next generation? Over a third larger than the first edition and filled with

new artwork and  
photography, Old School:  
Japanese Martial

Traditions Expanded  
Edition will be an

invaluable addition to the  
library of old readers and  
new alike.