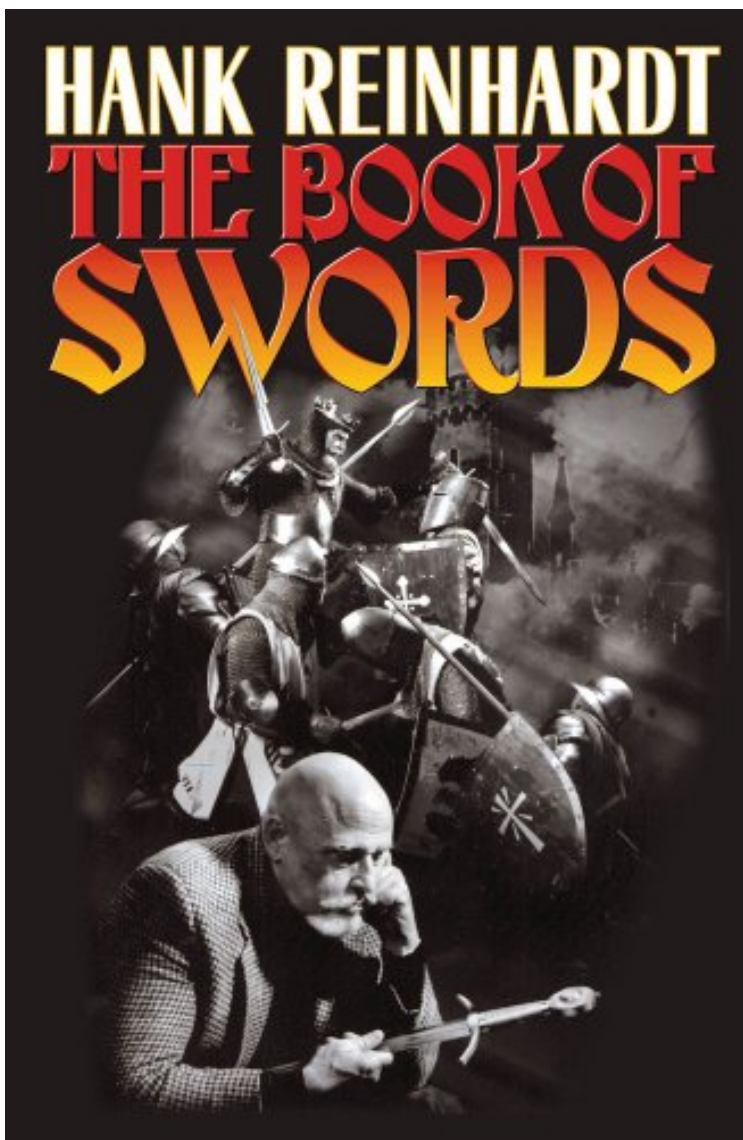


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The Book of Swords

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Hank Reinhardt : The Book of Swords before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Book of Swords:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An interesting and highly informative book for anyone who is interested in swords. By Joseph J. Truncale I have been into numerous blade martial arts (Tanto-Jutsu, Wakizashi-Jutsu, Kenjutsu, Iaido, Filipino stick and blade arts, and Military knife tactics) for more than fifty five years. I have also read and wrote reviews on a large number of books and DVDs on the blade arts over the years. After reading and writing a

review on Hank Reinhardt's *The Book of Knives* I purchased this book (Hank Reinhardt: *The Book of Swords*). Even though I have read many books on various sword arts, I found this text had a lot of practical information which I found fascinating, interesting and compelling. It had interesting and unique facts about swords I had not read about previously. This 237 page volume is organized into 14 sections. This book came out after the author had died, but he had been working on this book for ten years. The first part the author explores the substance of the early swords which were copper and bronze. The second part deals with the development of iron and steel swords. The third part covers the design and geometry of swords. Wounds and the effects of swords are explained in section four. Section five tells about the Viking and early medieval sword. In the other sections the book covers the Rapier and the small sword, the Saber, European Two-Handed Swords, the Japanese Katana, Eastern two-handed swords, exotic blades like the African swords and the Kukri. This book also covered the basics of cutting and fighting with the sword. If you are into the sword arts or are just interested in the history and development of blade weapons, this is a must have book for your personal library. It is a great read. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: *The Samurai Soul: An old warrior's poetic tribute*). 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good introduction for those new to the subject. By David C. Casler I'm writing a fantasy novel and found myself writing about battles with swords and longbows. I know essentially nothing of either, so I've had to do my research. I found this book mentioned on the web, studied the page, and ordered. It has fascinating detail about the making of swords, some information about the uses in battle, and a hint of how swords and swordsmanship have assumed mythic status. All of this is interesting, but I would have preferred a little more of the place of the sword in western culture. The author, now deceased, was an expert on the swords themselves, so the book reflects his background. If you are curious about swords, this is a good place to start--I recommend this book. But Hank was not a history professor, so this book is necessarily an introduction to give the reader enough vocabulary to pursue more research. I tip my hat to Hank's friends and relatives, who finished this book and brought it to publication. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I think it is a great book.. By S. Garsson It's out of print, and the copy price has gone up significantly. The writing is clear and concise, and the illustrations are very helpful to bringing across the author's point. I knew Hank when he was alive and had the opportunity to speak with him at trade shows a number of times.....the people responsible for bringing this edition to publication knew him and his style of speaking and writing well.....have not found a better primer of swords and swordsmanship in the broad sense, and that is the highest compliment that I can give.

The sword is the most revered of all of man's weapons. Although the club is older, the knife more universal, and the firearm much more efficient, it is to the sword that most decoration, myth, mysticism and reverence has been given. The katana has been called *The Soul of the Samurai*, the Vikings lavished love, care and attached wonderful names to their weapons. The sword has been the symbol of Justice, of Vengeance, and of Mercy. No one artifact has so captured the imagination as has the sword. As our society has grown more and more advanced, and more reliant on technology, there has been an increased interest in the weapons of the past. The romance of the sword is very much alive but movies, books and fiction of all types have romanticized the past, and particularly the sword, beyond all recognition of the real thing. Drawing on information from grave excavations, illustrations of battle scenes, and many classical and medieval literary sources, this book discusses how contemporaries showed swords were used. Building on Oakeshott and other authoritative writers on the subject, this volume, representing ten years of writing and a lifetime of experience, will add to the body of knowledge of the history of swords by illustrating not only the beauty of the form of the sword, but also their beauty of function.

About the Author Hank Reinhardt was a widely known authority on medieval arms and armor and an icon of Southern science fiction fandom for over fifty years. He had written numerous articles on swords and knives, and was in the process of writing this book on the history and use of the sword at the time of his death in 2007. He produced two videos with Paladin Press on the sword, and was a columnist for *Blade* magazine on swords in the movies. He was a cofounder of the mail order business *Museum Replicas, Ltd.* and a consultant to many sword makers. Unlike many experts, Reinhardt insisted on actually making and testing the weapons he wrote about, and through his various activities he has been instrumental in increasing the popularity of arms and armor in mainstream America. He has received numerous awards for his work with bladed weapons, most recently the Industry Achievement Award given at the 2006 *Blade Show* in Atlanta. Hank will appear in *Reclaiming the Blade*, a documentary due for release in 2008.