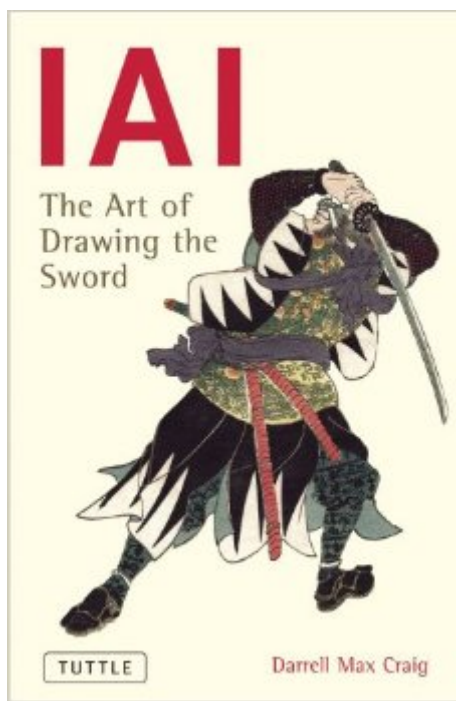


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IAI: The Art Of Drawing The Sword



Synopsis

Master the ancient samurai art of iaijutsu with this expert martial arts guide. To the Japanese, the sword is a spiritual weapon, possessed of a kind of divinity, a self reflective of the soul of its maker, owner, and user. Around its mystical powers has grown a centuries-old ritual and a fascinating, intricate discipline. This unique guide unlocks the mysteries of this ancient ritual practice, explaining the history and significance of swords in the samurai culture, and documenting the techniques of swordsmanship, as no other book in English does. IAI: The Art of Drawing the Sword is a thorough examination of the traditional Japanese martial art of iaijutsu. Included in this volume are introductions to sword care and selection; general etiquette and the training uniform and gear; proper basic sword procedure; sword techniques and drills for practice and demonstrations; kata; and sword testing; as well as the story of the Chushingura (the 47 Ronin). Generously illustrated with black and white photographs and line drawings, IAI: The Art of Drawing the Sword is a storehouse of information for both the aspiring student and the experienced swordsman.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book offers a lot of great information. It starts with care of the blade, and a little history. It then progresses into several basic techniques, a history of ritual suicide, the 47 ronin and how the old blades were tested on prisoners, their results printed on the tang (I have actually found blades with such ratings on them). It also covers identifying marks on blades, what to look for when looking at a historic sword and more. Worth every penny I spent for it.

This book covers a lot of ground! It includes everything from every part of a Japanese sword, seppuku, how the blades were tested (and includes more humane tests one can do at home in this modern age), along with taking care of the blade, dos and don'ts as well as some great history. Great book, I highly recommend it!

Sorry to say that Craig's coverage of Mugai-ryu laido, as taught by Shogo Kuniba, is less than accurate. Having also been a student of Kuniba, I see a large number of inconsistencies in the text and illustrations. Craig's general info is very good regarding sword nomenclature and philosophy, however, so I consider it a decent addition to any library concerning Japanese Swordsmanship, as long as the reader is aware of some of the drawbacks regarding Mugai-ryu.

Craig Sensei has done a wonderful job with this treatise that remains the foremost primer on Iado. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in Iado, Kenjutsu or Japanese culture in general. It has been quite a long time since I first read this book and having recently picked it up again I felt compelled to post a review and state that it is still at the forefront.

This book is a **MUST** for anyone who is at all interested in swords. Not only does it tell the history but it also illustrates in detail of how kata and testing was performed. It's also very easy to read and will keep you willing to read on for hours. Enjoy.

Iai: The Art of Drawing the Sword is good as a refresher, at best. Craig opens his tome with some personal history and stories, which is a fine method of doing things, until he brings his own opinion into it. He gives the impression that spiritualism should account for most everything in Iaido; as most practitioners are aware, spiritualism is only one aspect, and technique is equally or more important. Throughout the book, Craig provides small interludes detailing Japanese history, and other information, some of which is accurate, some of which is very much exaggerated, and some of which is not true. While the thought was nice, he should have researched his facts more. The drawings accompanying his descriptions of the kata are sketchy and vague; a beginner would have difficulty following them, although someone with grounding in another Japanese sword art such as kenjitsu may have better luck. However, with knowledge of the kata, or at least of the mechanics of the motions, a reader would find this book a helpful reminder, as long as he does not try to base his study entirely on this book. Overall, this is not a terrible book, but there are much better on the subject, with regards to technique, illustration, and history.

EXCELLENT book for the beginner in laido. It teaches some wazas and katas. It also teaches etiquette for in the dojo. For example; how to bow, how to wear the gi, hakama and obi and it goes in depth on how to draw the bokuto (this IS a book on laido after all), and much more. Well worth the money. I consider this book a must have before you even step into a dojo.

This book is thicker than I expected. It's still a quick read. There's a lot of information, phonetic English spellings of Japanese terms, pictures, and illustrations. It's a lot to absorb, so I expect to reread it about 20 times.

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