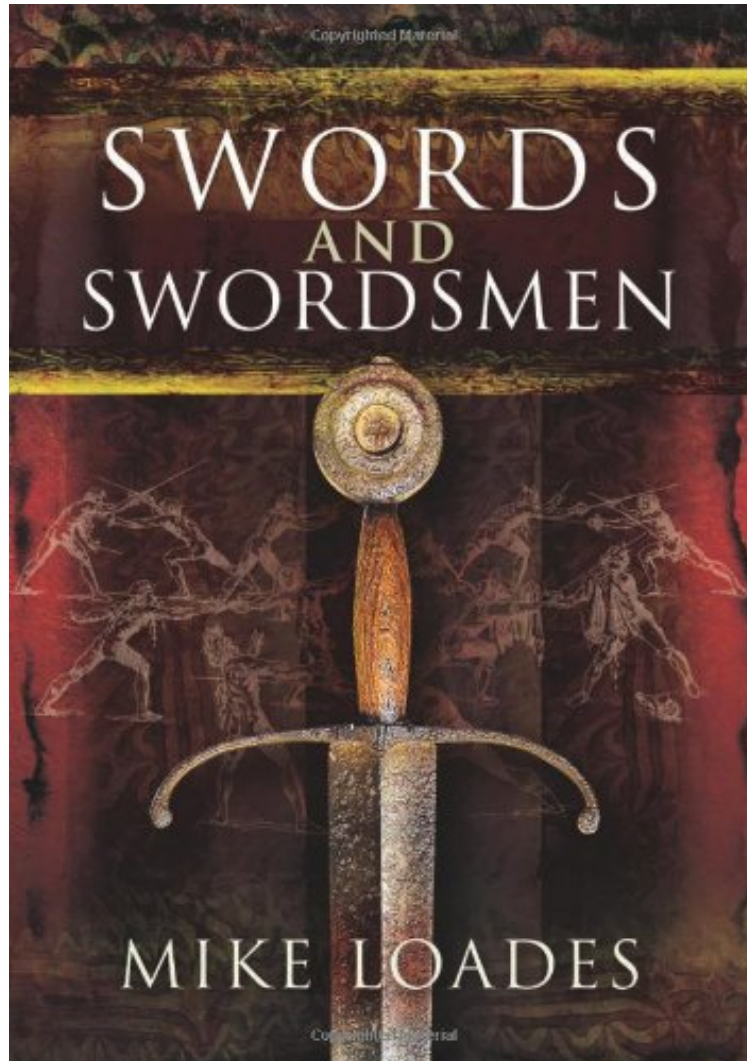


(Ebook pdf) Swords and Swordsmen

Swords and Swordsmen

Mike Loades

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#1133894 in Books 2011-03-04 2011-03-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.94 x 1.35 x 7.12l, 3.18
#File Name: 1848841337494 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Mike Loades : Swords and Swordsmen before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Swords and Swordsmen:

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. A view from a WMA and former JSA practitionerBy WilliamFirst, a warning, this is my first review of a book. There are bound to be spelling errors, grammar issues and other such nonsense but I'm going to give it a go none-the-less.I've been a fan of Mike Loades since finding his Weapons That Made Britain series. I've been sick and tired of seeing videos, movies, TV and other such media talking pure bunk about the weapons, armour and people of the past. Mike took time to actually do REAL research, to learn, to experiment and do as much as possible to recreate even a little piece of the past which taught me quite a few things I

simply didn't know. And that's exactly what this book did as well. I've always been focused on 1350-1430 or so in the European Martial Arts, and 1500-1650 in the Japanese Marital Arts world, so this book, opened up a whole new number of worlds for me, one where the sword was pivotal to survival, to countries, to wealth. And that says a lot right there. The ability for Mike to really put aside all the stuff we THINK we knew about how swords were used and more importantly show us WHY they were used is simply invaluable to anyone who has even a passing interest in the history of not just the blade, but the man (or woman) behind the blade. I spend most of my summer inside a suit of early 15th century armour, helping correct some of horrible things media has done in its view of the sword and armour, and Mike's book is yet another treasure trove of information I can use to better educate not just my students, but people with only a passing interest in the sword. The book is well written, laid out in a chronological order, so the development of the sword, from its axe-like proto-history, to the cutlasses and sabers of the more modern era are all clear, concise and contain concrete examples of the people that used them. The illustrations and photographs are very well done, and do not distract the reader. Well done Mike, well done.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.
Erudite and Entertaining.- Well worth the cost...By DaChipmunk
I can't add a lot more to what other reviewers have already written about this book - except to say I have ALWAYS found Mike Loades' work erudite, insightful and entertaining, and I dearly hope he will write and film more and leave us a larger legacy to be thankful for. In an age of electronic entertainment and massively reduced physical activity his continuing active experimental archaeology and scholarship with reenactment contribute so very much to our understanding of the past. Like Oakeshott, Hugh Soar, and so many wonderful writers I will acquire anything I can produced by the man. I just wish more of what he has done in the past was available. Some of these men spend a lifetime exploring every aspect of their specialities and suddenly expire before they finish their works, although sometimes someone else is able to finish some of it for them. I've personally been involved in various reenactment groups for more than 3 decades, and being very obsessive/compulsive about also learning about how so much of past daily life, technology, warfare and artisanry was accomplished we have some 8,000 non-fiction books from around fifty countries in our library and having been involved in archery (Society of Archer-Antiquaries for the last good while, once the NAA and NFAA) and a university-trained Industrial Arts Ed. craftsman who has made thousands of things professionally and privately in many skilled trades and crafts since the 1960s I know quality when I see it, and I know what it means and contributes to our lives and how much it can engage our intellect. In his way Mike is a Master of many disciplines with a nearly encyclopedic knowledge of the past which he brings to life again proving the truths and fallacies of past military technologies. (I'm also a member of the MWTCa.org - a tool collectors/users/scholars organization, whose sister organisation is the Early American Industries Associaton or EAIA.org. The craftsmen writers of the past few centuries taught me so much that I can thankfully give them credit for making me a far better craftsman. I can also recommend ABANA - the Artists/Blacksmiths' Organization of North America.) Mike Loades is an international treasure - a rare individual who we need to hear more from. I sincerely hope he contributes much more in the time we both have left because I want to enjoy it. I don't want to learn one day he has expired having published only two of five planned scholarly tomes like one terrific archaeologist in Holland I admire. I want him to be a Ewart Oakeshott and now that he has begun writing never stop. "Please, Sir, I want some more." - Actually ALL I CAN GET - would a shelffull be possible?. A Grateful reader. Da Chipmunk's old husband.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The legacy and legends of the sword
By Avid reader
Swords...and swordsmen. Just hearing those words evoke images of powerful, fearsome warriors and the great weapons they wielded: King Arthur and his Excalibur; Roland and his Durendal; the Japanese warrior Yamato Takeru and his Kusanagi, the Grasscutter. Even fiction and fantasy include mythical swords for their characters, such as Glamdring, the sword of the wizard Gandalf from the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien. The personable Mike Loades displays authority on things military on many historical television programmes, yet for those wanting more, this book is a great start for in-depth inquiry. Mr. Loades' passion comes through in his television appearances, but also in his book. "Swords and Swordsmen" takes the reader on a journey of the sword, mankind's legendary weapon of mayhem against his fellow man. After all, a sword is a weapon designed to inflict bodily harm. Yet what a marvelous legacy and history are found herein! One learns about the first sword from ancient times and into the 20th century. There were swords for many purposes, such as combat, dress, cavalry, dueling, sparring and beheadings. No stone is left unturned by Mr. Loades...even one with a sword in it. They're all here, from the glaive to the rapier. There is even a small mention of women duelists--courtesans, actually--fighting for their own definition of honour. Mr. Loades is thorough in his look at all facets of the sword. The manufacture and artistic qualities of swordsmithing are discussed. The American jeweller Tiffany and Company made a bespoke sword for a famous historical military figure, but you will have to read the book to discover his identity. There are many excellent photographs and illustrations from history. Many special swords are featured, as well as the personages associated with them: king and emperors, army officers and duelists. All in all, this is a fascinating, engaging and informative read. Highly recommended to all who are interested in the sword and historical weaponry.

This magnificent book tells the story of the evolution of swords, how they were made, how they were used, and the people that used them. It doesn't claim to give comprehensive coverage but instead takes certain surviving examples as

landmarks on a fascinating journey through the history of swords. Each is selected because it can be linked to a specific individual, thus telling their story too and giving a human interest. So the journey starts with the sword of Tutankhamun and ends with the swords of J E B Stuart and George Custer. Along the way we take in Henry V, Cromwell and Uesugi Kenshin, and there is the most detailed discussion you'll find anywhere of all of George Washington's swords. The chapters on these specific swords and swordsmen are alternated with more general chapters on the changing technical developments and fashions in swords and their use. The reader's guide on this historical tour is Mike Loades. Mike has been handling swords most of his life, as a fight arranger, stuntman and historical weapons expert for TV and stage. He considers the sword as a functional weapon, work of art, fashion statement and cultural icon. As much as his profound knowledge of the subject, it is his lifelong passion for swords that comes through on every page. His fascinating text is supported by a lavish wealth of images, many previously unpublished and taken specifically for this book.

“For anyone interested in Military History, this is a fascinating book...Well illustrated and written, this is a social and martial history all in one.” (Ancient Egypt Magazine)“...the reader is quickly drawn into a journey into man’s past that is both illuminating and entertaining. If more scholarly works were as well researched and as scintillating, the hallowed halls of academia would be that much more attractive!” (Armchair General.com)“...truly a high quality product, beautifully produced and with lavish illustration throughout...a great read and highly recommended.” (Military Illustrated, 01/012011)“... handsome, 494 page volume (including glossary, bibliography and index) investigates both the technical aspects as well as the societal impetus behind sword evolution in a way that is both academic as well as highly fascinating.... presents swords as seen through the eyes of prominent historical figures who used them and of particular interest is the highly detailed focus on actual pedigree pieces. Generously illustrated with period images, fine line drawings and photographs of original antique swords from museums and private collections. Whether a new enthusiast just starting out, a practitioner of the sword arts or an advanced aficionado or collector, there is something in “Swords And Swordsmen” for everyone ...” (Swordforum.com)"For modern fencers, Swords and Swordsmen vividly brings to life the weapons from which our sport derives as Mike Loades shares his passion and fascination for the sword and takes the reader on a journey through history. Meticulously researched and beautifully illustrated by over 200 photographs and 100 line drawings..." (The Sword)"From its earliest pages to its epilogue (which treats the sword in its modern incarnation from a 19th century dueling implement to the modern sport of fencing), Swords And Swordsmen makes it clear that no study of the design, function and symbolism of the sword can be entirely complete without an understanding of the code of chivalry, and vice-versa." (Chivalry Today)"A superb history of swords and swordsmen, with the most breathtaking coverage from the earliest days to modern times. Brilliant." (Books Monthly)About the AuthorMike Loades is best known as the presenter of Weapons that Made Britain and Weapon Masters, but has appeared in dozens of other documentaries as an historical weapons expert and military historian. As a fight arranger he has choreographed fight and battle sequences (most of which involved swords!) for over a hundred television productions, plays and operas. He has also directed several historical documentaries for National Geographic and History Channel. He has lectured and written widely on arms and armour, contributing to both periodicals and books. Swords and Swordsmen is his first full-length, solo book. Although British, Mike now lives in the San Francisco Bay area with his wife and dogs, where he continues to work on various television and writing projects.