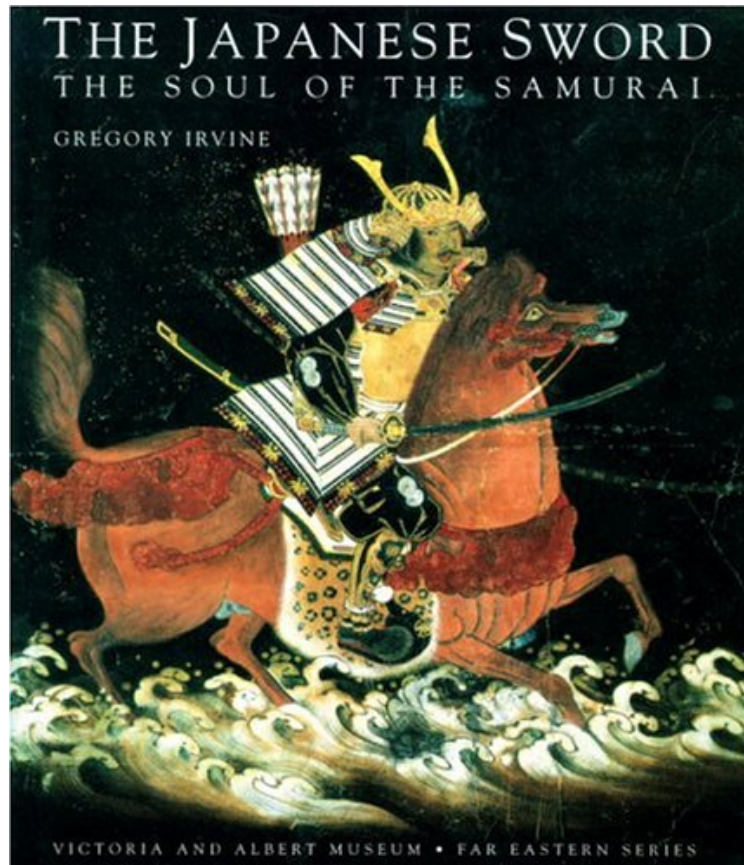


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Japanese Sword: Soul Of The Samurai (Far Eastern Series / Victoria and Albert Museum)

Gregory Irvine

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese Sword: Soul Of The Samurai (Far Eastern Series / Victoria and Albert Museum):

Drawing on the Victoria and Albert Museum's magnificent collection, one of the finest in the West, this illustrated survey examines the development of the Japanese sword in an historical and social context from the eighth to the twentieth century. The development of the sword from its origins as one of the world's most effective cutting weapons is seen in the context of the emergence and development of Japan's ruling military class, the samurai, to whom it was indispensable both as a weapon and symbol of power. The book also deals concisely with the techniques used in the making of the Japanese sword and the associated terminology. In addition to weapons from the VA's own collections and unusual prints showing graphic depictions of swords in action, illustrations include comparative material from

other museums such as Japan's Tokyo National Museum which has one of the best and most well documented collections of Japanese swords in the world.