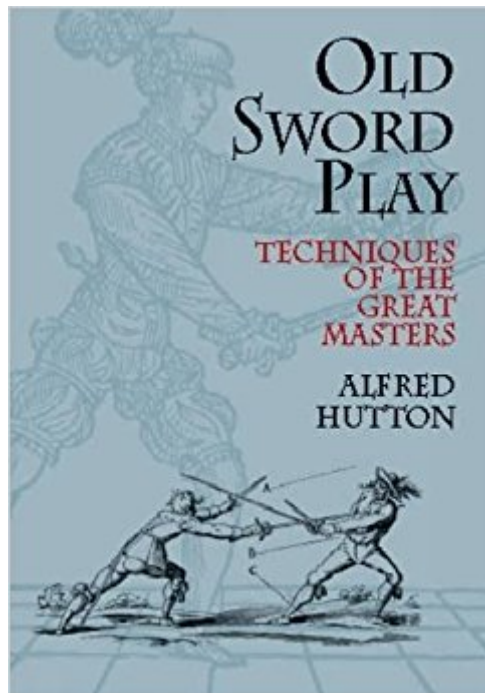




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Old Sword Play: Techniques Of The Great Masters (Dover Military History, Weapons, Armor)



Synopsis

Anyone interested in historical weapons or the art of fencing will want to own this classic study of swordsmanship in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Written in the late nineteenth century by a British officer, antiquarian, and noted scholar of the sword, the work was intended to provide military men with essential training in the art and science of fencing. Drawing upon the methods used by master swordsmen over three centuries, Hutton presented the tactics of the ancient masters in a form comprehensible to swordsmen of his own day. His extensive, detailed instructions cover the use of the two-hand sword, rapier and dagger, broadsword and buckler, rapier and cloak, and dagger and cloak. Complemented by nearly 60 illustrations, including instructive diagrams and rare woodcuts of classic fencing positions, this excellent introduction and its valuable information will be welcomed by scholars, theatrical directors, and sword-play enthusiasts alike. The book will also appeal to general audiences and anyone interested in an ancient form of self-defense still regarded by many as an art form and recreational pursuit.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am glad that I got this book. Beware that this book does not teach techniques congruent with standard competition European fencing. This book has a focus that one will not find in a traditional European Fencing class or club. The book contains many of the wood-cuts inspired by the "old-world" masters. I was pleased to find such topics as Two-hand sword; Rapier and dagger;

Rapier and cloak; and particularly "the Case of Rapiers." This book is for the person with the experience to decypher the techniques stated, and put to use in a Renaissance combat situation. This book is not for stage-play; re-enactments; or a competition fencer. This book is a direct reprint of Alfred Hutton's 1892 work and requires swordsmanship experience to apply. I'm glad I got it, but would be hard pressed to recommend it to everyone.

Capt Alfred Hutton was one of a handful of men of his day who had an abiding interest in the techniques of historical swordsmanship. He was a sabre fencing instructor in the Royal Army and a member of the Bartitsu club along with Egerton Castle and Arthur Conan Doyle. The work of Hutton, Castle, and men like them were forerunners of today's worldwide interest in what are now being referred to as the 'European Martial Arts.' This book is a good place to start.

Really fine reproduction of this book. The order came very fast. The pictures are helpful for understanding the text which was written for people who understood swordfighting. En Garde!

Great material from a historical perspective. Can't comment on practicalities but it seems like historically accurate instructions with some comments on practicalities of real combat compared to competitive sword moves. A good source for historical writing I think.

Very cool! Old ways of the world. Enjoyed seeing all the info!

Fascinating reading; keeping European martial arts alive.

as an avid Case of Rapiers practitioner, I was only expecting to utilize a small portion of this text. But in no time at all I found myself looking into every chapter and using it to help my friends further their own studies. It breaks down the styles into fairly easy to follow terms (as much as any other manual I have seen) and is easy to learn from. I really have no complaints other than wishing it were a bit more in depth, but it is perfectly fine as it is.

Alfred Hutton's Old Sword Play, I would describe as a gloss of duelling styles as they changed over time with the change of the duelling weapon. While it's useful for quickly and efficiently ingraining the basics of the weapons and their play with spartan pragmatism compared to, say, Castle's Schools and Masters of Defence.

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