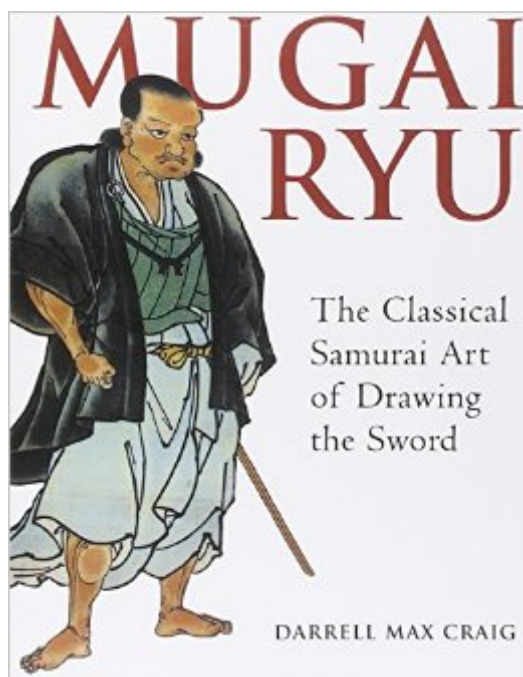


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Mugai Ryu: The Classical Japanese Art Of Drawing The Sword



Synopsis

In this book, the author takes us on a tour of the Samurai code of Bushido. He talks of his encounters with the descendants of famous samurai of the past. We are taken to ancient Japan to meet the most influential samurai through the memories of their descendants as told to the author by members of those very samurai families! We learn about the many rituals of the sword and discover how they were made, cared for and tested. The author instructs us on the use of the sword with over twenty traditional sword drawing techniques and sparring routines. Discover what made the Samurai such lethal swordsmen. Learn the "one cut" techniques of the Samurai. For all styles and all levels of experience.

Book Information

Paperback: 314 pages

Publisher: Ymaa Publication Center; First Edition edition (December 3, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1886969183

ISBN-13: 978-1886969186

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.9 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book has been a waste of my money and I will return it as soon as possible. I have an MA in Japanese Studies and have lived several years in Japan, while studying Japanese history as well as practicing martial arts. The main reason for this unfortunate judgement lies in the fact that Mr. Craig should not have attempted to bring Japanese history into his story about the Mugai Ryu. He has consistently misinterpreted, as well as misunderstood, Japanese history in it's factual reality. Furthermore, he has not been very consistent in making his mistakes by, for example, stating that the battle of Sekigahara took place in 1601 (page 3) while the correct date is 1600 (which date is used later on in the text). Another one of the inconsistencies is the date of passing of his kendo teacher, Nakamura Takeshi. On page 111 Mr. Craig writes underneath a picture of Nakamura sensei the year 1997, while on page 113 the same Nakamura sensei is said to have passed away in

1996! This is surely not the way to honor the memory of his teacher. Elsewhere in the text Mr. Craig makes the historically completely incorrect statement that Toyotomi Hideyoshi "became a teacher of martial strategy to all the retainers of the Tokugawa shogun" (page 70). This would have been an extremely strong feat, since Toyotomi Hideyoshi died in 1598 and the Tokugawa family only became historically third in line to be bestowed the title of shogun in 1603! Therefore, the afore-mentioned Hideyoshi could never have become a teacher of anything to the retainers of the Tokugawa, not to mention that Hideyoshi actually was the one person who united Japan under his rule in 1590 after his own overlord Oda Nobunaga, who began the unification process during the late 60's of the 16th century, had been murdered by one of his vassals in 1582.

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