

Sword & Spirit

Classical Warrior Traditions of Japan, volume two

Edited by Diane Skoss

“The true warrior spirit survives. Aficionados of the martial arts will certainly appreciate this second volume... Skoss’ attitude as a serious practitioner and scholar is reflected in her attention to detail: clean editing, a competent index that doubles as a glossary, and inclusion of the most thoughtful writers in the discipline today.”

The Japan Times
March 30, 1999

Take a look at the martial arts section in your library and you’ll find a huge selection of titles, ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime. What you won’t find is much in the way of accurate information on the authentic fighting traditions of the Japanese samurai. *Sword & Spirit*, the second volume in the Classical Warrior Traditions of Japan series, fills that gap. The eight essays in this volume include a translation of advice from a warrior to his son; the teachings of a modern instructor of the classical traditions; evaluations of the classical martial arts as combat systems; an outline of the meaning of *kata* in training; an interview with a master of *shurikenjutsu*; photos and descriptions of a select group of classical martial arts traditions; and an introduction to a long neglected primary source on the ways of the Japanese warrior.

Editor Diane Skoss is well qualified to present this collection. She lived in Japan for more than ten years, researching and training in the classical martial arts. She holds an *okuden* (highest technical level) license in the classical tradition of Toda-ha Buko-ryu *naginatajutsu* and is the world’s highest ranked non-Japanese in the modern martial art of *jukendo*, or way of the bayonet. She brings to this unusual technical expertise a background in librarianship and English literature (MLS & MA, Indiana University) and seven years as managing editor of the international magazine *Aikido Journal*. Her first book, *Koryu Bujutsu: Classical Warrior Traditions of Japan* (ISBN 1-890536-04-0), was hailed as “probably the best book on martial arts this year, if not for several years past and hence,” by Wayne Muromoto of *Furyu: The Budo Journal*.

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192 pages, 6 x 9” trade paperback.

Illustrated with 41 photos; includes bibliographic references, and index/glossary.

Dewey 796.8’0952

Subject heading: Martial arts--Japan

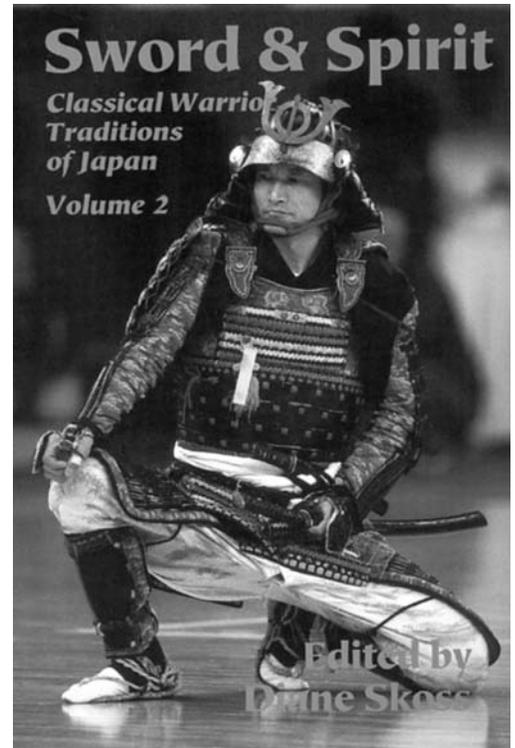
Published by Koryu Books.

\$19.95

ISBN: 1-890536-05-9

LCCN 98-85052

LC GV1100.77.A2S96 1999



Available from Baker & Taylor

Sword & Spirit: Contents & Credentials

“Foreword” by Yagyu Nobuharu

Yagyu Nobuharu is the 21st headmaster of the Yagyu Shinkage-ryu, a distinguished school of swordsmanship that was taught to the Tokugawa shoguns.

“Introduction: A Coconut Palm in Missouri” by Dave Lowry

Dave Lowry has written numerous books and articles on the martial arts, and is a regular contributor to *Black Belt Magazine*. Author of (among others) *Autumn Lightning*, *Sword & Brush*, and *Persimmon Wind*. He has trained in martial arts for over thirty years.

“Kyujukyu Kakun: the Ninety-Nine Precepts of the Takeda Clan” by Takeda Nobushige

Takeda Nobushige was the younger brother of warlord Takeda Shingen. Although he died in 1561 his legacy lives on in the words of advice he wrote for his son.

“Neglected Treasure: The *Koyo Gunkan*” by Alexander C. Bennett

Alexander C. Bennett has translated a number of martial arts textbooks from Japanese to English, and has recently begun to investigate the older warrior texts. Currently enrolled as a doctoral candidate at Kyoto University, he holds the grades of 5th dan in kendo, 4th dan in naginata, and 3rd dan in iaido.

“Field Guide to the Classical Martial Arts” by Meik & Diane Skoss

Meik Skoss is one of the foremost non-Japanese researchers and practitioners of the Japanese classical martial arts, and is a member of the board of directors of the International Hapology Society.

During his twenty-one year stay in Japan he trained in a variety of Japanese martial arts, including jodo (5th dan), jukendo (5th dan), aikido (4th dan), tankendo (3rd dan), naginata (2nd dan), Toda-ha Buko-ryu naginatajutsu (*okuden mokuroku, shihan-dai*), Shinto Muso-ryu jo (*okuirisho*), Tendo-ryu naginatajutsu, and Yagyu Shinkage-ryu hyoho.

“Negishi-ryu Shurikenjutsu: An Interview with Saito Satoshi” by Meik Skoss

Saito Satoshi is the headmaster of Negishi-ryu shurikenjutsu and Yamamoto-ryu kenjutsu. He began his martial arts training before World War II, learning karate directly from Funakoshi Gichin.

“The Tojutsu of the Tatsumi-ryu, Murphy’s Law and the K.I.S.S. Principle” by Liam Keeley

Liam Keeley is a member of the board of directors of the International Hapology Society and the book review editor for *Martial Arts Illustrated* magazine. He has lived and trained in Japan for nearly twenty years; he holds classical licenses in both Tatsumi-ryu heiho (*mokuroku* for *iai, kenjutsu*, and *yawara*) and Toda-ha Buko-ryu naginatajutsu (*okuden mokuroku, shihan-dai*).

“Kabala in Motion: Kata & Pattern Practice in the Traditional Bugei” by Karl F. Friday

Karl F. Friday is a professor of history at the University of Georgia and is the author of *Hired Swords: The Rise of Private Warrior Power in Early Japan* and *Legacies of the Sword: The Kashima-Shinryu and Samurai Martial Culture*. He holds the *menkyo kaiden* (license of complete transmission) in Kashima-Shinryu.

“Uchidachi and Shidachi” by Nishioka Tsuneo

Nishioka Tsuneo has been training in Shinto Muso-ryu jojutsu for over sixty years. He holds a *menkyo kaiden*, and heads his own group, the Seiryukai, dedicated to preserving and transmitting Shinto Muso-ryu.

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