Facts And Fundamentals Of Japanese Swords: A Collector's Guide

Nobuo Nakahara
Translation by Paul Martin

Facts and Fundamentals of JAPANESE SWORDS
A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE

Download Ebook
Facts and Fundamentals of Japanese Swords is a practical, comprehensive volume that offers information, along with 300 photos and illustrations, enabling collectors to evaluate the veracity and quality of swords that they are considering acquiring or already have in their collections. The book is divided into three sections: An Overview of the Japanese Sword, The Forged Sword, and Consequences of Modification and Wear. Each section provides very specific, useful lessons by the author that serve as virtual hands-on experiences. With easily understandable examples, the author precisely instructs readers on how to discern and obtain a "healthy" blade, while avoiding fakes or potentially problematic blades. In addition, he shows not only the difference in styles and shapes of blades, but explains what the differences mean and how to interpret them from a buyer's/collector's point of view.

Paul Martin, a Japanese sword researcher and curator, is a former member of the Department of Japanese Antiquities at the British Museum, London. He has translated the text, and drawn on his extensive experience and expertise in the field to adapt the author’s theories and discussions, making them more accessible to Western readers.

**Book Information**

Hardcover: 192 pages  
Publisher: Kodansha USA; 1 edition (September 1, 2010)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 4770031300  
Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 0.9 x 7.5 inches  
Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds  
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #1,128,364 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
#101 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Firearms & Weapons > Swords & Knives  
#2248 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Antiques & Collectibles  
#221694 in Books > Textbooks

**Customer Reviews**

As I’ve noted in other reviews, the appreciation of nihonto (Japanese swords) for those who don’t speak or read Japanese is a bit of a challenge owing to a relative dearth of widely available books on the finer points of studying these antique weapons and works of art. We are fortunate to now have several different introductory books in print (by the likes of John Yumoto, Leon Kapp/Yoshindo)
Yoshihara, Kazan Sato, Clive Sinclaire, and Colin Roach, some recent museum exhibition
catalogues from exhibits of nihonto in the U.S., and now this latest welcome addition, "Facts and
and translation of a Japanese-language book by Nobuo Nakahara, a researcher and expert on
nihonto. Unlike most other books out there, this is not so much an introductory overview that focuses
on history, culture, or over-arching basics with pretty color pictures, but more of a specialty text that
focuses on some finer details of studying nihonto (i.e. the sword itself). And unlike the similarly
translated encyclopedic work, "The Connoisseur’s Book of Japanese Swords" by Kokan Nagayama,
this is a much slimmer volume (191 pages) written in a less dense and more accessible,
conversational style. The book is divided into four main sections: An Overview (covering blade
types, parts, and historical development), Fundamental Elements (covering specific aspects of the
sword such as hada, hamon, kissaki, nakago, horimono, etc.), Sword Appreciation (discussing
etiquette and kantei-sho), and an appendix featuring many different pictures of various blades.

Download to continue reading...
