



Viking Weapons and Combat Techniques

By William R. Short

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Viking Weapons and Combat Techniques By William R. Short

A source of enduring fascination, the Vikings are the most famous raiders of medieval Europe. Despite the exciting and compelling descriptions in the Icelandic sagas and other contemporary accounts that have fueled this interest, we know comparatively little about Viking age arms and armor as compared to weapons from other historical periods. We know even less about how the weapons were used. While the sagas provide few specific combat details, the stories are invaluable. They were written by authors familiar with the use of weapons for an audience that, likewise, knew how to use them. Critically, the sagas describe how these weapons were wielded not by kings or gods, but by ordinary men, as part of their everyday lives. *Viking Weapons and Combat Techniques* provides an introduction to the arms and armor of the people who lived in Northern Europe during the Viking age, roughly the years 793–1066. Using a variety of available sources, including medieval martial arts treatises, and copiously illustrated with images of historical artifacts, battle sites, and demonstrations of modern replicas of Viking weapons, the author and his colleagues at Hurstwic (a Viking-age living history organization) and at the Higgins Armory Sword Guild have reconstructed the combat techniques of the Viking age and what is known about the defensive and offensive weapons of the time in general. Throughout, the author corrects some popular misconceptions about Viking warriors and warfare, such as the belief that their combat techniques were crude and blunt rather than sophisticated. In addition, the book provides an overview of Viking history and culture, focusing on the importance of weapons to the society as well as the Vikings' lasting impact on Europe through their expeditions of trade and exploration.

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Viking Weapons and Combat Techniques By William R. Short Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #757033 in Books
- Published on: 2014-09-18
- Released on: 2014-09-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x .46" w x 7.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 200 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

WILLIAM R. SHORT is the manager of Hurstwic, LLC, an organization that researches, practices, and teaches the fighting moves used by Viking-age warriors. An independent scholar who received his doctoral degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he regularly lectures and teaches at universities, schools, and museums in North America and in Iceland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melissa Conner:

Precisely why? Because this Viking Weapons and Combat Techniques is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such awesome way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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Sandra Byrom:

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