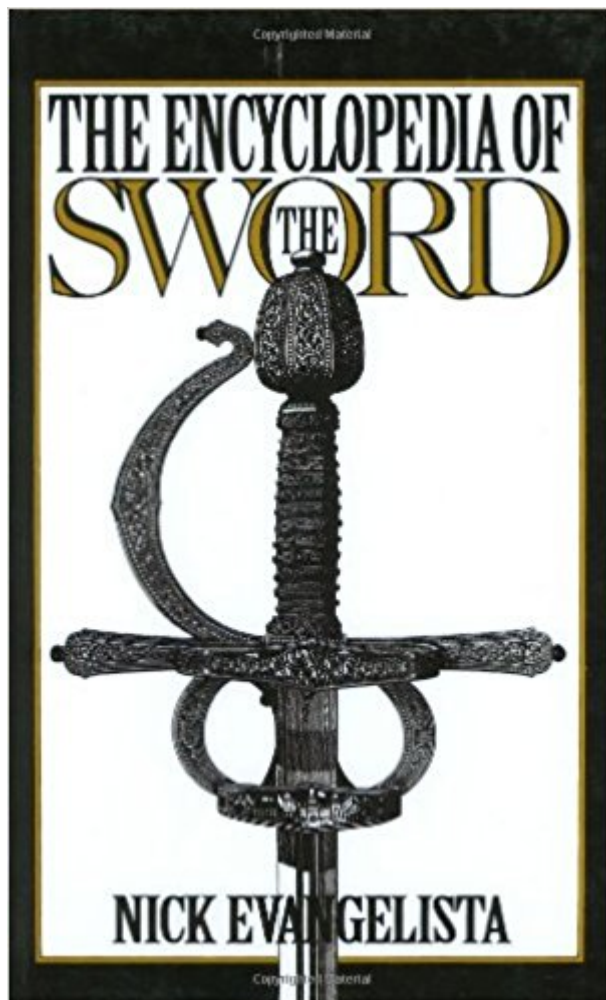


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# The Encyclopedia Of The Sword



## Synopsis

From the gruff, sword-toting swashbucklers of the Middle Ages to modern adventure epics like *The Princess Bride*, the aura surrounding the sword is one that is both romantic and pragmatic. Thoughts of this weapon bring to mind images of the Knights of the Round Table, Zorro, the Three Musketeers— the things daydreams are made of. Historically, the fate of the empires revolved around the sword; nations rose and fell based on the power of their swordsmen. For centuries it was the weapon of choice in settling personal disputes. Today, the art of sword fighting has been incarnated as the dynamic, chess-like sport of fencing. It has also played an important part in the history of theatre and film, and it has been part of literature for as long as there have been books. In its varied guises, the sword has for centuries figured in the world's varied cultures, myths, and politics. Yet, there has never been a comprehensive volume on the subject of the sword until the publication of this encyclopedia. For the first time, in a single volume one can locate information on the history of sword types and styles around the world; techniques of combat sword use; techniques and styles of modern sport fencing; names and descriptions of various fencing implements and weapon types; swashbuckler films and the fencing masters who influenced the genre; significant individuals who have taught sword use; the sword at the Olympics; the literature in which the rapier, foil, or broadsword has figured; and much, much more. Essential reading for fencing and military history enthusiasts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In regard to 20th-century fencing and the Anglo-American tradition, it is the best and most

comprehensive reference book published thus far. It is the first to systematically devote space to cover swordplay in the movies, television, pulp fiction, and comic books. The Encyclopedia also provides a refreshingly global perspective, uniting Western and Asian traditions, particularly in regard to Kendo and the related Japanese traditions. It provides answers for nearly all questions regarding the sword and its use in history, as well as starting points for much-needed critical investigation into modern fencing mythology."

-Hammesterz Forum

"Evangelista has succeeded admirably in achieving his aim of bringing "all aspects of sword knowledge under one roof."

-European Studies Journal...

"this encyclopedia is a most welcome addition to the field. This book should prove useful, and it is recommended for the reference collection of academic and large public libraries."

-RQ...

"serves as both a glossary of fencing terms and a repository of facts concerning actors and films in which sword-play is prominent. Equal time is given to historical, mythical, and Japanese swordsmanship, so that this can be used as a literary reference as well as a sportsman's guide."

-College & Research Libraries News

"The Encyclopedia of the Sword is the first comprehensive treatment of the weapon that has played a key role in human history. Evangelista has assembled a massive amount of information about virtually every artistic, cultural, historical, literary, popular, and symbolic aspect of the sword at all times and in all countries. This will truly serve as the definitive text on the subject for many years to come. ... Libraries of all kind should consider this as a valuable addition to their social historical collections and not simply as another weapons book with limited value."

-ARBA

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NICK EVANGELISTA is a Fencing Master who was trained in Europe and the United States and who teaches both sport and theatrical fencing. In addition, he is a freelance writer and has been a fencing technical consultant to the film industry.

A read to build information for later use or discard as the person forms their own ideas of the 'what of/is/was of Swords". Greatest use, as a source of information on details the average 'Sword Action' reader does NOT normally have. An effort in quotation of commentary. An interesting beginning for the novice or alternately a raging rampage of rustic rambling. Some data you rarely see, but how good that is depends on many things. Lots of drawings. Interesting. Thanks, Harry!

I'm no fan at all of Mr. Evangelista, \*however\* this book is a lot of fun to peruse. Well-written, full of all sorts of odd-ball facts and minutiae I would have never guessed at. Dated now sadly, still very entertaining and informative though. It'd be interesting to see an updated version.

I returned this book, after browsing through it for about an hour. For \$80, I expected an excellent work of scholarship, filled with good illustrations, descriptions and analyses of various weapons, schools and styles, etc. Instead, this book is a thin rehash of existing scholarship, with a few, weak illustrations and very little insight into anything having to do with the sword. There is very little description of technique of Western sport fencing, much less of more esoteric or historical styles. The section on saber fencing is appalling. Weapons are catalogued, but there are few illustrations, none in color, and no discussion of how the design of a particular weapon determined the style of

fencing associated with it

This is an excellent reference text for anyone wanting to explore humankind's martial traditions as they relate to the sword. As I pore my way through the numerous texts and treatise on swordplay, I rest assured that The Encyclopedia of the Sword is by my side as an invaluable tool and source of concise and detailed information regarding the history of the sword. To be honest, it has been like a bible on swords and swordplay for me over the last three or so years. Nick Evangelista has a wonderful clear and communicative writing style that presents detailed and complicated terms and theories in an easily digestible format. There seems little doubt that this is largely to do with his extensive experience as a fencer/martial artist which lends a necessary level of authority to the text. The content is certainly very readable, which inevitably finds me reading the Encyclopedia over long duration's as I let the information unfold and take me on a journey through the pages - I really think this is a testament to the value and strength of the books layout and content . The content is also clearly well researched and presented objectively. In my opinion this text is an essential source to anyone interested or wanting to find out more about one aspect of our cultural and martial heritage - the sword.

This is a great book for everybody with even a passing interest in swords or fencing. It covers a lot of the colorful history of swords, ranging from the ancient swords used in the Trojan war to fencing in the Olympics today. "The Encyclopedia of the Sword" is more than just an other quick reference of fencing or antique swords. When you read it you'll get an idea how fencing evolved from warfare to an art, science and sport. Evangelista describes much more as merely fact about sword-types, fencers, techniques and fencing-schools, he also manages to include a lot of anecdotes about duels and Maitres. Undoubtedly inspired by Evangelista's own maitre he also includes a lot of information about the sword in fiction: literature, theatre and movies. Everybody who buys this book must however bear in mind that it wasn't written as a manual on fencing, kendo or any other form of swordplay, nor as an elaborate book for collectors of swords. You don't have to fence to read this book but by reading it you certainly won't learn HOW to fence. Personally I thought the book had one minor drawback: the information about famous contemporary fencers focuses almost entirely on American fencers, not a word about the reigning European champions from France, Germany or eastern Europe.

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