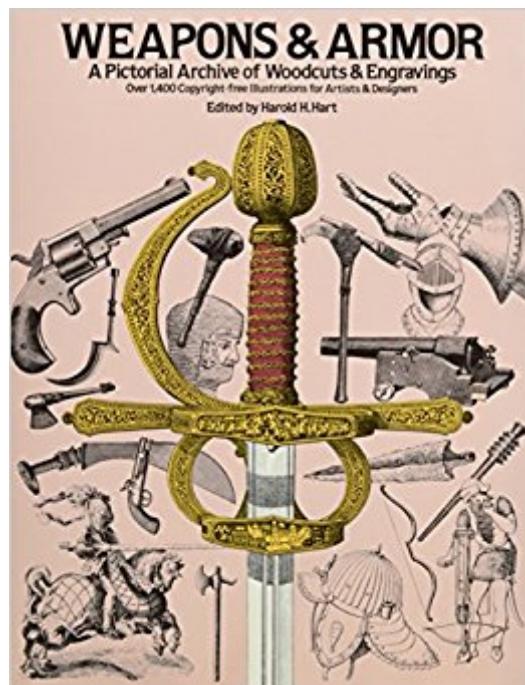


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Weapons And Armor: A Pictorial Archive Of Woodcuts & Engravings



Synopsis

A misericorde is a medieval poniard or dagger made for one purpose— to give the coup de grace or killing stroke. It was a beautiful, deadly instrument with a graphic mission; its very shape and cut graphically manifest its age and those who used it. Weapons throughout history chronicle ages, styles, and approaches to life and death; for artists, a weapons archive is a pictorial arsenal of powerful imagery. Here is such an arsenal: over 1,400 copyright-free illustrations of weapons and armor epitomizing the warlike times and peoples of this planet. Twenty-two categories of offensive and defensive arms and armor include battle-axes, bows and arrows, cannons, catapults, clubs, daggers, handguns, machine guns, powder horns, rifles, spears, swords, tanks, suits of armor, helmets, shields, and other means of combat. These copyright-free black-and-white illustrations (with a few half-tones) have been culled from almost 50 separate sources, ranging from books of ancient armor to scarce foreign periodicals and engravings. Along with the arms themselves are those who wield them— soldiers, warriors, knights, horsemen, hunters, jousters, duelists, arms manufacturers, aborigines, centurions, dragoons, musketeers, samurai, crusaders, in full period regalia. One plate identifies all the parts of a 17th-century suit of armor— visor, gorget, tassets, epauliere, cuisse, chain mail, gauntlet, etc.; many show details of intricate Renaissance and modern carving on pommels, blades, rifle butts, and boomerangs. Some remarkable devices include the Chinese Tartar 2-handed sword, Malay creese, Tormentum, Maxim gun, 16th-century Italian cross-bow, Soviet tank from World War II, Indian damascened cuirass, bamboo lance, halberd, and the scimitar. Unusual strokes may be visually delivered by such instruments as the Patagonian bola, a cane sword, the Zarabatana native blow gun, and the infamous "holy water sprinkler." Artists and designers will not find these rare emblems of warfare gathered together elsewhere in such a clearly printed format, so quickly accessible; historians of art, industry, and war as well as weapons fanciers will marvel at all the picturesque means here depicted of giving the coup de grace.

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Customer Reviews

A misericorde is a medieval poniard or dagger made for one purpose—*to give the coup de grace* or killing stroke. It was a beautiful, deadly instrument with a graphic mission; its very shape and cut graphically manifest its age and those who used it. Weapons throughout history chronicle ages, styles, and approaches to life and death; for artists, a weapons archive is a pictorial arsenal of powerful imagery. Here is such an arsenal: over 1,400 copyright-free illustrations of weapons and armor epitomizing the warlike times and peoples of this planet. Twenty-two categories of offensive and defensive arms and armor include battle-axes, bows and arrows, cannons, catapults, clubs, daggers, handguns, machine guns, powder horns, rifles, spears, swords, tanks, suits of armor, helmets, shields, and other means of combat. These copyright-free black-and-white illustrations (with a few half-tones) have been culled from almost 50 separate sources, ranging from books of ancient armor to scarce foreign periodicals and engravings. Along with the arms themselves are those who wield them—soldiers, warriors, knights, horsemen, hunters, jousters, duelists, arms manufacturers, aborigines, centurions, dragoons, musketeers, samurai, crusaders, in full period regalia. One plate identifies all the parts of a 17th-century suit of armor—visor, gorget, tassets, epauliere, cuisse, chain mail, gauntlet, etc.; many show details of intricate Renaissance and modern carving on pommels, blades, rifle butts, and boomerangs. Some remarkable devices include the Chinese Tartar 2-handed sword, Malay creese, Tormentum, Maxim gun, 16th-century Italian cross-bow, Soviet tank from World War II, Indian damascened cuirass, bamboo lance, halberd, and the scimitar. Unusual strokes may be visually delivered by such instruments as the Patagonian bola, a cane sword, the Zarabatana native blow gun, and the infamous "holy water sprinkler." Artists and designers will not find these rare emblems of warfare gathered together elsewhere in such a clearly printed format, so quickly accessible; historians of art, industry, and war as well as weapons fanciers will marvel at all the picturesque means here depicted of giving the coup de grace. Unabridged Dover (1982) republication of Weapons & Armor, originally published by the Hart Publishing Company, Inc., New York, 1978.

I purchased this book for an artistic side project I'm doing. I've always been pleased with the Dover image collections. They may not have the finest details, but they're perfect for what I'm doing. And this one is pretty well organized. This particular collection is one of the largest Dover collections I've found. One complaint I have (and this goes across the board for all Dover collections): I wish these came with a CD-ROM, even if each individual file was merely one page of the book instead of each individual item. It's not a deal-killer, it's just a few extra steps in Photoshop.

nice reference

Unfortunately this is a Dover publishing book. I would not have bought it if I had known. The illustrations are frequently poor quality and fine details can be hard to make out. I will keep it as I can still make use of some of the illustrations

I am an artist specializing in drawings and paintings of armed, armored warriors between the time of the Greeks to the time of the Renaissance. This is one of the first books I purchased as a reference guide to the design of such armor and weapons as these warriors might use. I have no regrets! Not only does Mr. Hart's pictorial archive provide great examples of the arms and armor used during this span of time, but it provides some of the very best black and white drawings I have ever found on the subject. What's more, these pictures are drawn from real examples of the highest quality of these items to be found. It is an amazing work of art in and of itself! Creating weapons and armor is the one craft man has always excelled at. If you are looking for a great reference book depicting how this craft has developed and changed over the centuries, this is a great one to start with! I highly recommend it! A++++

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