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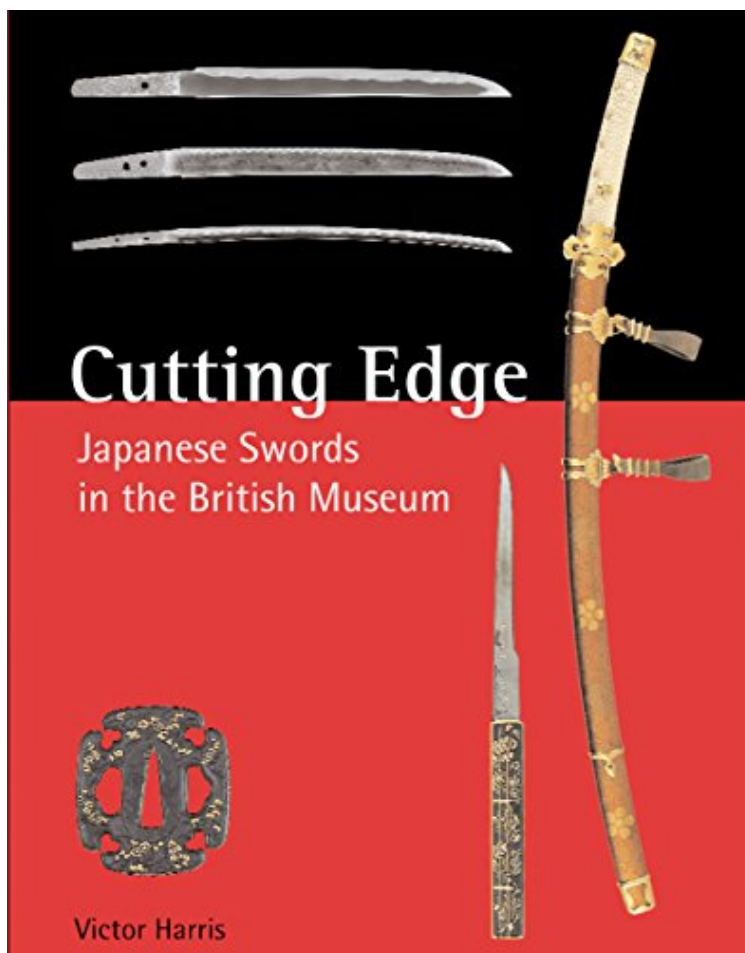
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The Japanese sword has long been appreciated both as a weapon and as an object of art. Only in Japanese culture has the sword been developed to such a level of technological excellence and spiritual importance. As a cutting weapon,

the fully developed curved katana, or samurai sword, of the samurai warrior was uniquely effective. As a cultural object, it offers invaluable insights into the social and spiritual history of the Japanese people. *Cutting Edge: Japanese Swords in the British Museum* offers a fascinating introduction to the design, manufacture and collecting of these Japanese weapons. It covers the development of sword art and designs, traditional forging methods, regional variations in style and signature works by legendary craftsmen. Included are hundreds of photos of swords and other art objects.

"Harris' informed and informative commentary is enhanced with the inclusion of hundreds of photos (and 16 pages in full color) making it an ideal addition to community, college, and university library Japanese Culture collections in general, and Japanese Sword supplemental studies reading lists in particular." *Midwest Book About the Author* Victor Harris recently retired as Keeper of the Department of Japanese Antiquities in the British Museum. He is a world expert on Japanese swords and is the author of *Shinto: The Sacred Art of Ancient Japan* and *Japanese Imperial Craftsmen* and co-author of *Swords of the Samurai* and *Japanese Art: Masterpieces in the British Museum*.