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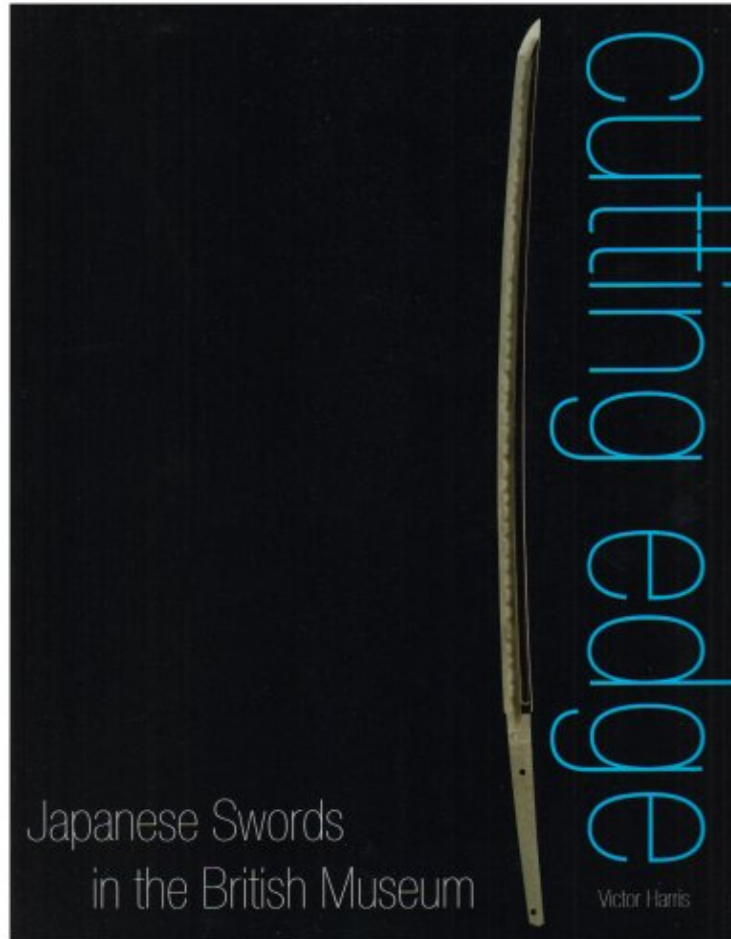
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The Japanese sword has long been appreciated both as a weapon and as an object of art. No culture, besides the Japanese, has developed the sword to such a level of technological excellence, or raised it to such a position of spiritual importance. As a cutting weapon, the fully developed curved sword of the samurai was uniquely effective. As a cultural object, it offers invaluable insights into the social and spiritual history of the Japanese people.Cutting Edge

offers a fascinating introduction to the design, manufacture, and collecting of these Japanese weapons. It covers the development of sword designs, traditional forging methods, regional variations in style, and signature works by legendary craftsmen, and includes hundreds of photos, with 16 pages in full color.

"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*.