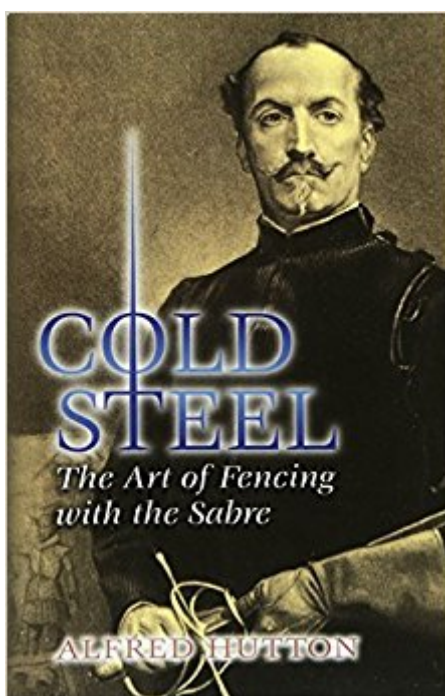


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# Cold Steel: The Art Of Fencing With The Sabre (Dover Military History, Weapons, Armor)



## Synopsis

A pioneer of modern fencing, Alfred Hutton was the first president of the Amateur Fencing Association and a father of modern research into the Western combat arts. In addition to his lectures about ancient weapons and his demonstrations of their use, Hutton created this 1889 classic, a continuing source of instruction and enlightenment to modern readers. The techniques associated with the sabre differ markedly from those of the *épée* and the rapier. This study offers both technical and historical views of the art of the sabre. It begins with a look at the weapon's construction and its grip, followed by explanations of a variety of different strokes and parries as well as methods of combining attack and defense. Additional topics include approaches suitable for left-handed fencers, ceremonial aspects of the art, and contrasts between the sabre, the bayonet, and the French sword. Descriptions of associated weapons cover the great stick and the constable's truncheon, and the book concludes with considerations of the short sword-bayonet, or dagger. Fifty-five illustrations demonstrate how to hold the sabre, how to parry and guard, seizure, and numerous other aspects of the art of fencing with a sabre.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Cold Steel: The Art of Fencing with the Sabre" was originally published by Alfred Hutton in 1889. The book is a classic instruction manual in the use of the saber in one's defense. There are several illustrations showing proper guards, defense and use of the saber. In addition to discussion of the use of the saber, "Cold Steel" also discusses: >The Game of the Sword (The Fencing Sword)>Saber

Against Bayonet>The Saber Opposed to the French Sword>The Great Stick (The 5-foot Stick)>The Constable's Truncheon>The Short Sword-Bayonet or DaggerFor anyone interested in the Western / European martial sciences, "Cold Steel" is recommended reading. For those interested in developing skills with sword, stick, and dagger, "Cold Steel" is a must. Written at a time when men relied on these weapons for their personal defense, "Cold Steel" offers excellent instruction for one's defense.Highly Recommended!

I fenced a bit in college. Although I was never particularly good, it was fun and helped foster a life-long interest in history. This is one of those books which brings history alive because the author was writing to his contemporaries about the subject which was his passion. Moreover, the author is himself a student of history and presents his understanding of fencing in a historical context which illustrates how important the art was to gentlemen for a period of centuries. There are probably better modern books to read if you want to learn fencing as it is practiced today (just for fun), but if you want to understand the evolution of fencing, you could do a lot worse than this book.PS - the author's sketches are a treat in their own right.

Hutton was one of a handful of Victorian military men who had spent time with real military weapons and who actually used them. His manual on the use of the military sabre is a classic in the field. Hutton was a member of a club that included Egerton Castle and Arthur Conan Doyle who practised the combat art of 'Bartitsu', which combined jiu-jitsu, stick fighting, cane fighting, and Savate.

Well written and with reasonably useful illustrations. I also enjoyed the additional sections near the back on single stick and bayonet. One note is that the author assumes that the reader is already familiar with foil so, if you are not, I would recommend reading a bit on the basics of foil (guards and attacks) first. The prose has a good flow and focuses on the practical needs of a gentleman of the time...a time when "gentleman" meant "a rough and capable man who prefers education and civility when possible".

It's written in an old style, where words are used less for terminology than for communication purposes. I've been combining it with a lot of other martial sword books, and let me state, you've got to put a lot of effort into understanding what is meant, you can't just follow it like a 1980's karate manual (not that those were very good)If you've already had some real life study in fencing, then pick this up, but if you're a newb, start with something more recent. Martial arts are complicated

enough without sifting through flowery speech.

Alfred Hutton's famed saber treatise. Great for the historical martial artist or history enthusiast. If you need some historical perspective on 19th century swordplay this book can't be beat. Hutton's descriptions are detailed and he provides images for clarity, which many other treatises lack. It's an informative read.

This book is a straight forward manual on training to use a saber. That means there is little to no historical stories and no nice chit chat on the personal belief of the author. From the first chapter we are thrown straight into grip of the saber to the guards and to the basic cuts. A saber fencer should have no problem understanding and picking up many techniques and exercises that is given. A Foil or Epee fencer should be able to quickly pick up much of what is written and learn much of saber techniques. A non-fencer might have trouble remembering all the numbers attached to the cuts and parries, but the book has good illustrations and the writing explains things well enough for even a beginner to pick up quite a bit from this book. (although it'll be hard to tell whether you are applying the techniques correctly without a properly trained fencer to fence against you)

I got this to pair with Silver's Paradoxes of Defense, and I am glad that I did. In the absence of a live teacher, this text works as hard as you do. There are drills, practice techniques, and advice on how to deal with certain weapons, certain kinds of opponents, and certain contexts.

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