

Keiko Shokon

Classical Warrior Traditions of Japan, volume three

Edited by Diane Skoss

Discover “the arts that look upon the profound and clarify life and death.”

Take a look at the martial arts section in your library and you'll find a huge selection of titles, ranging from the ridiculous to the sublime. What you won't find is much in the way of accurate information on the authentic fighting traditions of the Japanese samurai. The “Classical Warrior Traditions of Japan” series fills that gap. The eight essays in volume three, *Keiko Shokon*, include a translation of the eighteenth-century warrior's parable, “The Cat's Eerie Skill;” advice on the dangers and possibilities in training in more than one classical martial art; an interview with the headmaster of Toda-ha Buko-ryu *naginatajutsu*; hints on learning to observe the classical arts; an overview of the Itto-ryu style of swordsmanship; a discussion of the meaning of the Japanese word *soke*, or headmaster; at look at innovation in the classical martial arts; and some musings on the professional perspective by a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marines.

Editor Diane Skoss is well qualified to present this collection. She lived in Japan for more than ten years, researching and training in the classical martial arts. She holds an *okuden* (highest technical level) license in the classical tradition of Toda-ha Buko-ryu *naginatajutsu* and is the world's highest ranking non-Japanese in the modern martial art of *jukendo*, or way of the bayonet. She brings to this unusual technical expertise a background in librarianship and English literature (MLS & MA, Indiana University) and seven years as managing editor of the international magazine *Aikido Journal*. Her first book, *Koryu Bujutsu: Classical Warrior Traditions of Japan* (ISBN 1-890536-04-0), was hailed as “probably the best book on martial arts this year, if not for several years past and hence,” by Wayne Muromoto of *Furyu: The Budo Journal*.

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208 pages, 6 x 9” trade paperback.

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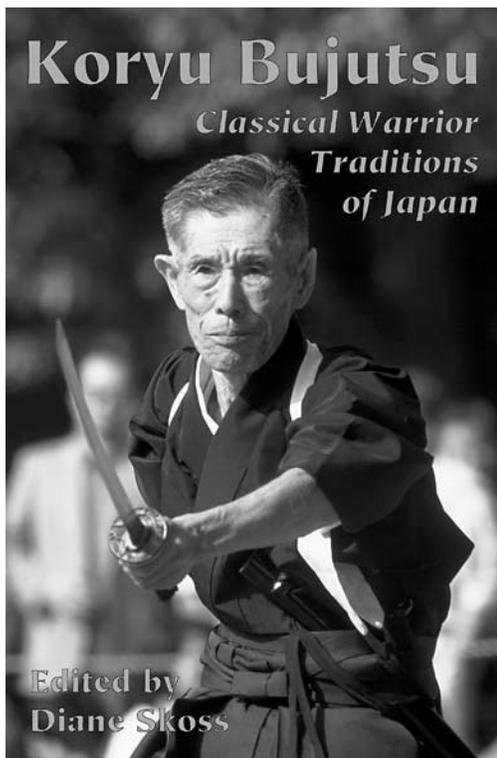
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Wayne Muromoto, *Furyu: The Budo Journal*
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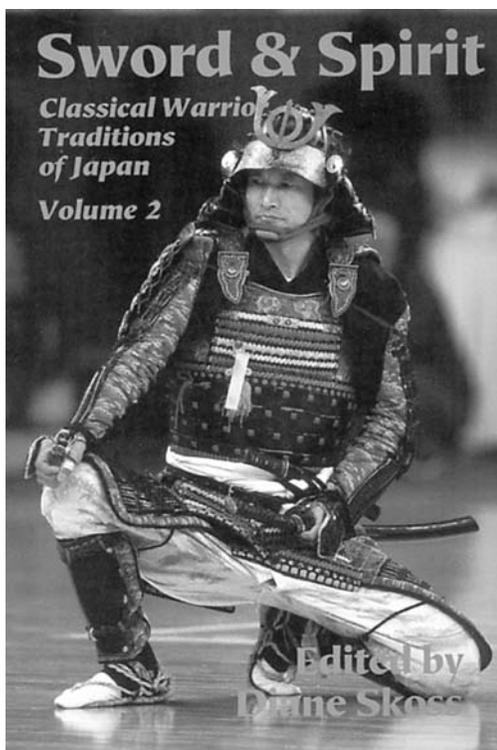
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