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Okinawan Kobudo: A History of Weaponry Styles and Masters

Christopher M. Clarke

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Okinawan Kobudo: A History of Weaponry Styles and Masters" is a comprehensive and complete book on the origins of the Okinawan kobudo (weaponry). It contains a description of the early history of weaponry in the Ryukyus; the relationship of kobudo to karate; and several myths and misunderstandings about Okinawan weaponry. In addition to profiles of nearly a dozen ancient kobudo masters, this book includes detailed histories and analysis of the major lineages/styles of Kobudo, including the Yabiku-Taira, Yamane, Matayoshi, Ufuchiku, and Motobu Udundi (Gotente) schools of kobudo. In each case, the book provides a history of the masters--from the founders to today's masters--analytical assessments of the style's characteristics, descriptions of their curricula, and lineage charts. It contains chapters on each of the weapons of Ryukyu kobudo, including extensive bibliographies on where to find more information about each. The book is lavishly illustrated with photos, art work, maps, tables and charts, including a detailed table of all the major recognized kata for each weapon in Ryukyu kobudo. Its footnotes provide access to a wide array of sources in English, French, German, Spanish, and Japanese--including available videos on the styles and masters--for those who wish to learn more. As the companion to the author's two volume, five-star rated "Okinawan Karate: A History of Styles and Masters," this book is an absolute “must-have” for all serious martial arts students.

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