

Medieval Military Technology, Second Edition

By Kelly Robert DeVries, Robert Douglas Smith



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First published in 1992, *Medieval Military Technology* has become the definitive book in its field, garnering much praise and a large readership. This thorough update of a classic book, regarded as both an excellent overview and an important piece of scholarship, includes fully revised content, new sections on the use of horses, handguns, incendiary weapons, and siege engines, and eighteen new illustrations.

The four key organizing sections of the book still remain: arms and armor, artillery, fortifications, and warships. Throughout, the authors connect these technologies to broader themes and developments in medieval society as well as to current scholarly and curatorial controversies.



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Medieval Military Technology, Second Edition By Kelly Robert DeVries, Robert Douglas Smith Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #1155399 in Books

• Brand: Brand: University of Toronto Press, Higher Education Division

Published on: 2012-05-01Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.02" h x .87" w x 6.02" l, 1.36 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 384 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

The first edition was pioneering and this edition is eagerly awaited by those who study military history as well as those who work on the history of medieval technology. Especially important is the integration of recent work on gunpowder weapons and siege technologies. (Bernard S. Bachrach, University of Minnesota)

This is a full and authoritative treatment of the subject which illuminates our understanding of the medieval world and its warfare with remarkable clarity. (John France, Swansea University)

Many sections have been substantially rewritten to reflect recent scholarship, and the book as a whole is much improved by a more precise table of contents, many new illustrations, and revised introductions and conclusion. (Fiona Harris-Stoertz, Trent University)

Without any doubt this is the most comprehensive and best single volume on the subject...a book one should always have at hand. (Robert C. Woosnam-Savage, Curator of European Edged Weapons, Royal Armouries)

Far more than just a second edition of DeVries's 1992 classic, this represents a complete rewrite, with significant new scholarship on almost every page. It is hard to imagine a more comprehensive, wide-ranging, and intelligent treatment of the topics covered. The updated notes and bibliography alone are worth the price of admission. Scholars, aficionados, and libraries alike will have to use DeVries and Smith or be considered hopelessly out of date. (Bert S. Hall, University of Toronto)

Added to DeVries's compendious knowledge of medieval warfare is Smith's deep understanding of the arms and armor of the period, including how they were made and used. The result is that rare thing: a book that can be trusted in what it says about both military history and the hardware used in fighting. (Guy Wilson, Past Master of the Armouries, Royal Armouries)

About the Author

Kelly DeVries is Professor of History at Loyola University Maryland, an editor for the *Journal of Medieval Military History* and an Honorary Historical Consultant for the Royal Armouries. He is the author or editor of 18 books and more than 80 articles. He frequently appears on documentaries airing on PBS, and the History, History International, Discovery, and National Geographic channels.

Robert Douglas Smith is an independent museum consultant who spent 15 years as Head of Conservation with the Royal Armouries. His published works include *Artillery of the Dukes of Burgundy 1363–1477* (2005, with K. DeVries), *Medieval Weapons: An Illustrated History of Their Impact* (2007, with K. DeVries), and *Rewriting the History of Gunpowder* (2010).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Hofmeister:

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