

European Weapons and Armour: From the Renaissance to the Industrial Revolution By Ewart Oakeshott

Both a work of scholarship and a treasury of information for anyone seeking a factual and vivid account of the story of arms from the Renaissance period to the Industrial Revolution. The author chooses as his starting-point the invasion of Italy by France in 1494 which sowed the dragon's teeth of all the successive European wars; the French invasion was to accelerate the trend towards new armaments and new methods of warfare. He shows how armour attained its full Renaissance splendour and then suffered its sorry and inevitable decline culminating in the Industrial Revolution with its far-reaching effects on military armaments, The author describes the development of the handgun and the pike the use and style of staff-weapons mace and axe and war-hammer dagger and dirk and bayonet. Above all he follows the long history of the sword queen of weapons to the late eighteenth century when it finally ceased to form a part of a gentleman's every-day wear, EWART OAKESHOTT was one of the world's leading authorities on the arms and armour of medieval Europe. His other works on the subject include Records of the Medieval Sword and The Sword in the Age of Chivalry: European Weapons and Armour: From the Renaissance to the Industrial Revolution I think both myself and Oakeschott are less enthused by the later-period stuff. Lavishly illustrated. though I did enjoy the discussion of armor. English

