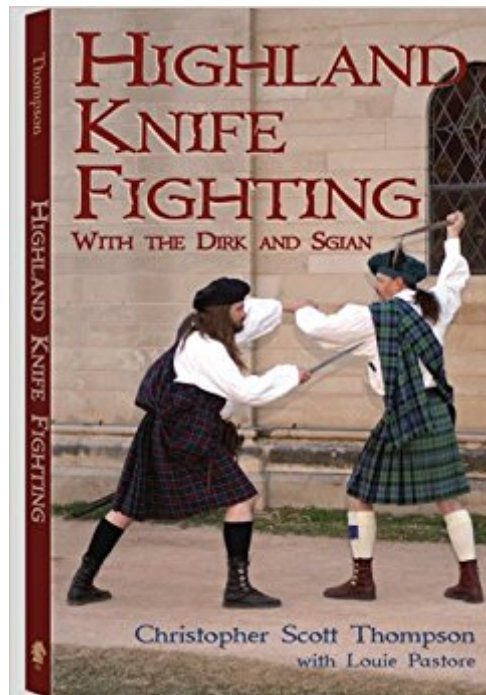




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# Highland Knife Fighting: With The Dirk And Sgian



## Synopsis

In this entertaining and informative look at the Highland dirk, author Christopher Thompson examines a number of Scottish historical and oral sources to document the role of the knife in Gaelic society. Although worn by all classes of society, the dirk was the primary weapon of the common clansmen, and since it was worn indoors as well as outdoors, it was the favored weapon for acts of revenge and self-defense. Highland Knife Fighting traces the historical roots of the dirk, which is believed to be descended from the medieval ballock dagger, and provides step-by-step instructions and photos in how the Highlanders used the knife. Lessons include holding, carrying and using the dirk with a sword and targe; choosing the proper guards; responding to sudden attacks from in and out of distance; using the dirk for the seven principal "bone-breakings"; and executing the throw from Highland wrestling. Also included are exercises and drills, including the advanced quickdraw drill, and combative techniques of the Scottish dirk dance positions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Christopher Thompson is the author of *Lannaireachd: Gaelic Swordsmanship*, a training manual on the use of the Highland broadsword. A resident of Portland, Maine, Thompson is the president of the Catheran Society, a national organization that promotes historical fencing with Highland weapons. In 200, Louis Pastore began researching martial arts that were practiced throughout Scotland and Europe. In 2004 he was accepted as a pupil of John Wesencraft, the only surviving teacher of the Highland dirk dance, as taught to Tom Flett in the 1950s.

This book in combination with the info available on the authors websites are exactly what you need to learn this style. I've practiced martial arts for 30 years and have learned many forms from books. It can be difficult. Not so with this book, and especially if you join the organization and/or use the videos. Most, if not all of the information is given freely other than the cost of the books, which I find quite admirable and rare. I tried at first to learn from the videos alone, but the book gives more information and detailed instruction. Makes learning much easier because of the extra detail, and more fulfilling due to the history shared. All of the books in the series are very good and there is plenty of history, diagrams and reference. Again, quite rare these days. If you are interested in authentic information for the Highland and Gaelic martial culture, you probably wont find better than this. I will repeat this message on all the books because I feel the same for all of them. Each provides great instruction and history for the various weapons.

I find myself not wanting to write a bad review as the book isn't bad. However, the information (which is well researched) is fragmentary. This is not the fault of the author. Much was lost when Highland culture was suppressed by the English, but also Europeans abandoned their traditional martial arts readily, or so it seems, when guns became dominant. It is only recently that European martial arts have been reconstructed, or are being reconstructed. European dagger fighting in general is based on wrestling, and the author points out this is the case with Highland knife fighting as well, but the explanations and techniques described in the books are not very helpful unless you already have a familiarity with Highland wrestling. Since I don't have much experience or exposure to Highland wrestling (actually I don't have any), the book offered little in the way of practical insight. Someone with a wrestling or grappling background may find the book to be more revealing than I did. This book worked out to be a decent scholarly/historical analysis of Highland dirk fighting, but it is not a practical manual of any great depth. Again, for the right person with the right background, it could be very useful, but I am not seeing it.

A fun read and silly coffee table book. Very informative but definitely not a "read this and put on a kilt and become the William Wallace of knife fighting". For anyone interested in Highland culture/history, HEMA-bros; or anyone interested in martial arts or knife fighting looking for a unique take on wielding a big freaking knife.

This is a good book and I think it's almost a five star book; I just wanted more material. What there

is is well written and interesting. Good historical background and the illustrations are well done. A nice addition to the knifists library.

More than a curiosity, nicely written manual on some appropriately ancient and yes, dangerously appropriate maneuvers, given the subject matter! Arrrrgh!

This book is very informative and easy to understand.

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It was a gift for someone, he said he loves the book. he was so happy we gave it to him.

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