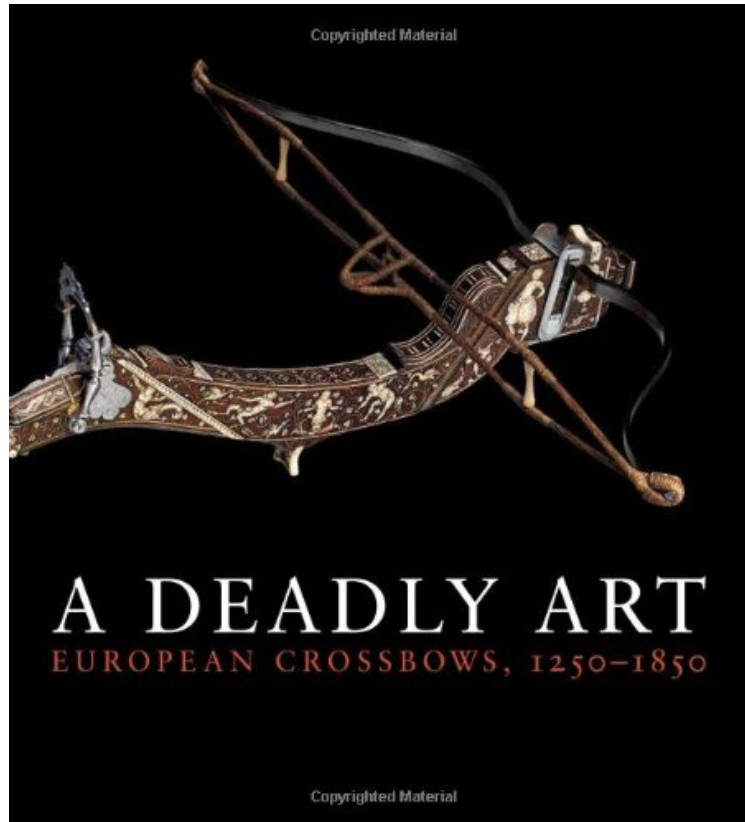


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## A Deadly Art: European Crossbows, 1250–1850

*Dirk H. Breiding*

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**Dirk H. Breiding : A Deadly Art: European Crossbows, 1250–1850** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Deadly Art: European Crossbows, 1250–1850:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book but too short By Alexander The book is small and short. These are two major drawbacks, therefore 4 stars. Everything else is great - highlights of crossbow and spanning devices collection from Met are lovingly selected and described, text is highly accurate, narrative clear and passionate and references extensive. There are several chapters - on early crossbows, renaissance and later crossbows, spanning mechanisms, bolts etc. Each chapter starts with short discussion summarising sources, old and current theories, and is illustrated by small and elegant catalogue of relevant Met artefacts. While most items pictured are from museum collection, there are photos of several items from other museums and many contemporary illustrations from collection all over the world, some of them quite rare. It will be a wonderful addition to library of historical crossbow enthusiast and a great starting point for newby

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good overview. Would have preferred detailed dimensions especially of ... By James Beck Good overview. Would have preferred detailed dimensions especially of the bows to allow for reproductions. A bit too much emphasis on the highly decorated bows but then again since more of them survived..... Useful information on bolts and loaders (whippes, cranequins). All in all a very useful book highlighting some crossbows that have shown up in other sources.

0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Very good book at an excellent price. By Rick Henion This book does an excellent job of illustrating and describing the various European crossbows and their related equipments in the collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Obviously most of the pieces included are richly decorated, very well photographed, and have complete descriptions of their histories and sources.

The advent of the crossbow more than 2,500 years ago effected dramatic changes for hunters and warriors. For centuries, it was among the most powerful and widely used handheld weapons, and its popularity endures to this day. *A Deadly Art* presents a lively, accessible survey of the crossbow's "golden age," along with detailed descriptions of twenty-four remarkable examples. Beginning in the middle ages, the European aristocracy's enthusiasm for the crossbow heralded shooting competitions and pageants that featured elaborately decorated weapons bearing elegant embellishments of rare materials and prized artistry. In addition to being highly functional, these weapons were magnificent works of art. *A Deadly Art* includes fascinating descriptions of crossbows used by Margaret of Savoy and Holy Roman Emperors Maximilian I and Charles V, among others.

About the Author Dirk Breiding is J. J. Medveckis Curator of Arms and Armor at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.