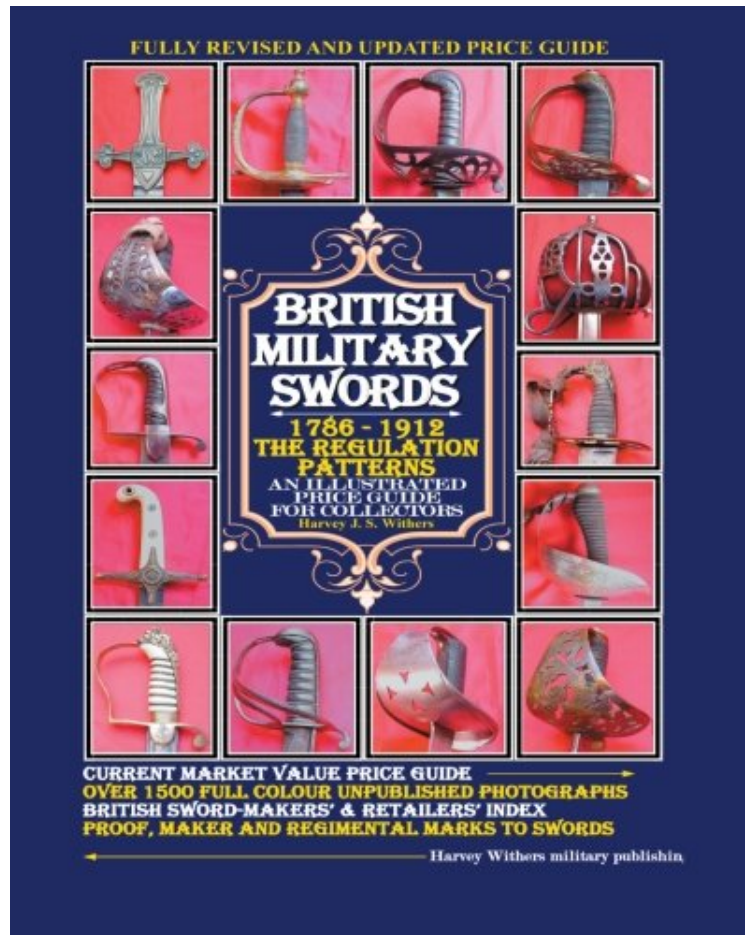


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About the Author Hello. My name is Harvey J S Withers and I have been both writing about and collecting antique swords for over 25 years. My passion for the subject stems from an ongoing love of history and particularly military history. The panoply of arms used by combatants might have changed considerably over the centuries but the sword has fulfilled a number of functions, including lethal weapon of destruction, indicator of nobility, honour and mirror of superb human creativity and artistry. It is this combination of dynamic factors that I hope to describe in my books.