

Contents

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Translator's note..... | 4 |
| Foreword..... | 6 |
| Introduction | |
| Swords - the myths and the magic by Helmut Nickel..... | 8 |
| Chapter 1 | |
| What is damascus steel and how is it produced? | 13 |
| Chapter 2 | |
| From the celt to the modern collector's knife..... | 32 |
| Chapter 3 | |
| Bushido – the code of honour of Japan's samurai swordsmen | 52 |
| Chapter 4 | |
| Wootz – the „true“ damascus steel? | 66 |
| Chapter 5 | |
| Oriental pattern-welded damascus steel | 86 |
| Chapter 6 | |
| Kris – the Indonesian weapon of the Gods..... | 103 |
| Chapter 7 | |
| Damascus barrels, service and ceremonial weapons | 116 |
| Chapter 8 | |
| Classic damascus swords, sabres and daggers | 144 |
| Chapter 9 | |
| Fake damask and methods of identification | 184 |
| Chapter 10 | |
| Care and restoration of damascus steel..... | 197 |
| Chapter 11 | |
| Non-weapon damask artefacts and damascene-like articles | 206 |
| Chapter 12 | |
| New developments in damascus steel | 220 |
| Chapter 13 | |
| The wars of liberation and the time of the kaisers | 238 |
| Chapter 14 | |
| Leading lights from the past and the road to modernity..... | 252 |
| Postscript | 281 |
| Sources of illustrations | 282 |
| Index | 283 |
| Bibliography on the subject of damascus steel | 293 |