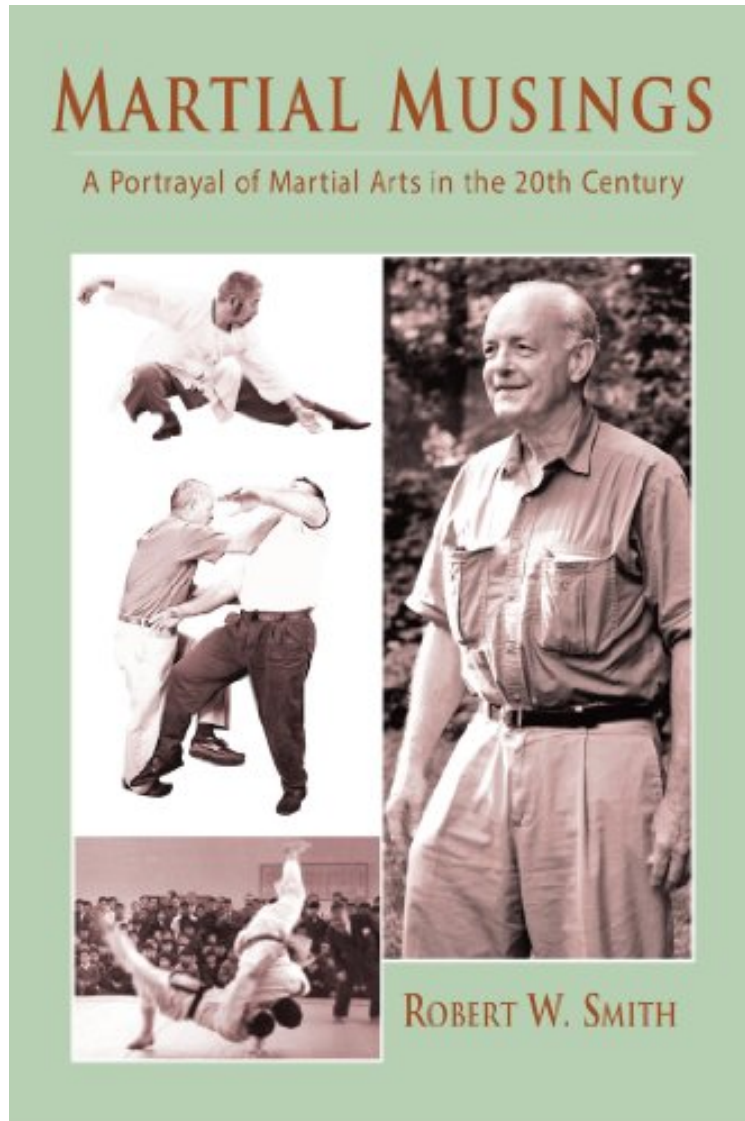


(Read now) Martial Musings: A Portrayal of Martial Arts in the 20th Century (English Edition)

## Martial Musings: A Portrayal of Martial Arts in the 20th Century (English Edition)

Von Robert W. Smith

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**Von Robert W. Smith : Martial Musings: A Portrayal of Martial Arts in the 20th Century (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Martial Musings: A Portrayal of Martial Arts in the 20th Century (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Martial Musings Von Joseph R. Svinth Almost anyone interested in the history and development of the Asian martial arts in

Europe and North America during the twentieth century should find this book a peach; the exceptions will be those who dislike writers who state their opinions bluntly. The photo selection is first-rate, the factual content is sound, and the text reads like a series of letters from Bob Smith. (Not Mr. Smith, the martial arts instructor, but Bob, the guy who helps site shelters for bluebirds.) The sections on judo -- easily a third of the book -- burn with the gem-hard flame of "A Complete Guide to Judo" (1958). The chapters describing Mr. Smith's many notable friends -- E.J. Harrison, Donn Draeger, Jon Bluming, Bill Paul, Zheng Manqing, Ben Lo, Rose Li, and others -- sparkle with insight. And if you read between the lines, then you should find a wealth of how-to, including how to spend life breathing free rather than on your knees and truckling. Major themes include: \* Love (Agape rather than Eros, mind you) is a key to happiness. What blocks most of us from understanding that is ego, which in the martial arts is frequently manifested by the desire to be a master rather than be true to ourselves. \* Internal strength is true strength. Why? Because internal strength is both faster in action and more restful in practice. Relax, breathe, and move from the center; misdirect and avoid rather than confront directly; and seek always for maximum efficiency and mutual welfare. These are keys to success in life as well as the martial arts, says Mr. Smith. \* If you practice your martial arts only in class, for awhile you'll get trophies and become better at your forms but in the end all you'll get is old. But if you pack your love into both fists and carry it with you everywhere you go, then by the time you become as ragged as the velveteen rabbit perhaps you will sometimes catch occasional glimpses of something more. This isn't faith or magic. It just is. One recommendation, though: if you observe significant differences between what you say in church or in class and what you do the rest of the time, then pay special attention to the chapters you probably skipped, namely the ones on books, music, and poetry. \* We all need humor in our lives, if only to keep us from taking ourselves entirely too seriously. Put another way, life is too short to spend infusing everything we do with pseudo-samurai determination. If this includes your practice, then perhaps it is time to take up shag dancing instead. To summarize, this book represents Mr. Smith's best published writing in years and may be his best book ever. And, while its sometimes controversial statements may offend some readers, that is irrelevant because this book is autobiography rather than dissertation. I cannot recommend it enough.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Some Martial Musings by R.W. Smith Von Kim Taylor One of the great delights of being a magazine publisher is getting books like this for review. I've been a fan of R.W. Smith's writings for years, from his academic works like "Comprehensive Asian Fighting Arts" with Donn Draeger, to his inspired lunacy as John Gilbey. For years now I've been calling for a good biography of Smith and his contemporaries, who through their writings, opened up the Asian martial arts to me and my generation of occidentals as a serious study. This book is what I've been asking for. I can't begin to describe how many "names" from the arts acquire "faces" through Smith's distinctive prose (think Philip Marlow in a judo-gi). If there's someone of influence in the post-war western movement of the Japanese or Chinese arts that Smith hasn't met, fought or drunk with I'd like to know who. For all those who pretend to know something about the history of the Asian martial arts in the West, this book had better be in your library. Kim Taylor Editor, Journal of Japanese Sword Arts, and Publisher, Electronic Journals of Martial Arts and Sciences.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Martial Musings: a martial arts life Von Michael Sol This is a martial art memoir, written by a worldly man of vast experience and a knack for writing about it. Smith has studied a variety of martial arts, but primarily Judo and more recently Wushu. He has met a variety of martial notables. He expresses his strong opinions about them, and whatever else happens to strike his fancy, and from that standpoint, this is a wonderfully personal book with asides and comments about this and that. Parts of the book are more like a pleasant conversation. But, at the martial arts level, he has a very low opinion of some well-known martial artists, for instance, and lets you know why in his educated, experienced, analytical way. He has seen a lot of good martial arts and artists, and any number of charlatans. Although he thinks highly of Wushu, he speaks openly of the charlatans in that art as well. Since he has known or met almost everybody, he offers revealing anecdotes about some of the outstanding individuals who have been genuinely devoted to martial arts in the past century. Overall, this is not a book to study, but to read and enjoy. A travelogue through a very interesting life that witnessed and experienced much of the modern history and development of martial arts.

Kurzbeschreibung In every century there are unique individuals whose fate makes them standing symbols of unique merit and accomplishment. Robert W. Smith's *Martial Musings* stands out as the sole literary work which offers readers a special perspective of martial arts as they evolved during the 20th century. Smith personally escorts the reader on a martial arts tour. He starts with his own initial involvement in the arts, then launches outward, across the nation, over to Asia, and eventually home again. Some of the topics covered in the book include martial arts theory and practice, portrayals of leading Asian instructors, profiles of Westerners who studied the arts and brought them back to their respective countries and an historical record of the evolution of fighting arts in the West. *Martial Musings* represents the fourteenth book Smith has written on the subject and is a broader, somewhat historical, semi-autobiographical commentary on martial arts in the 20th century. But, what makes this book such a joy to devour is the literary relish Smith stir-fries in with the book's basic ingredients. He astutely couples combatives with literary

panache, and a ready wit. In short, *Martial Musings* introduces the reader to the individuals who shaped martial arts in the 20th century. The hardbound book has 398 pages and over 300 illustrations with a full-color cover and two-color text pages.

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