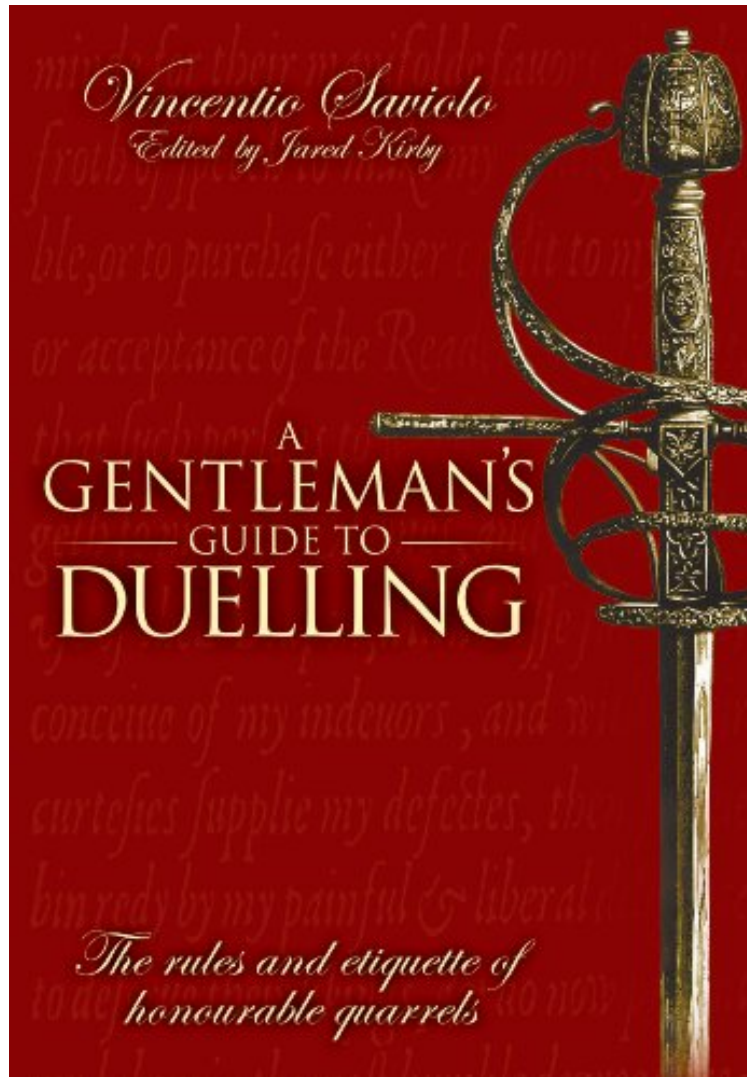


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Vincentio Saviolo : A Gentleman's Guide to Duelling: Of Honour and Honourable Quarrels. before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Gentleman's Guide to Duelling: Of Honour and Honourable Quarrels.:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerMy boyfriend loves it!0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Nice Library AddBy Stoney RichardsA good background book if you have an interest in fencing or as an actor, to give reality to your on stage combats(which is why I bought it)2 of 2 people found the

following review helpful. A guide not only for duelling, but for lifeBy Ben Miller"A Gentleman's Guide to Duelling" is an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the culture, etiquette, procedure, and philosophy of the Renaissance-era duel. Saviolo's treatise, beautifully presented here by Jared Kirby (and including period woodcuts and illustrations), is the most influential and comprehensive English-language dueling code published during the Renaissance. In modern times, the duel itself has been greatly misunderstood, often assumed to be a sort of legalized (or societal-condoned) form of revenge, which it most certainly was not. Rather, the duel was a civilized and highly sophisticated method of settling quarrels in an age when honor was held in higher regard than life, body, or property. Although duelling is no longer practiced or condoned by our society now, many of the lessons and procedures in Saviolo's treatise can be applied to conflict situations today--whether they be violent or non-violent. Acting with dignity, humanity, having coolness and presence of mind while under pressure---these are things everyone can benefit from, even if they never pick up a sword. Also, whereas nearly all dueling codes state that only gentlemen may participate in the duel, Saviolo's treatise is the only English language dueling code that I know of which examines the minutiae of what makes (or does not make) a "gentleman." Here is but a sampling of some of my favorite quotes from this book:"Nobility is seated in the mind and by the mind it is shown." "It seems to me a most gentleman-like thing to speak honourably of his enemy in all manner of writings. For a gentleman, or a cavalier, does honour to himself showing to have quarrel with an honourable person. Otherwise he dishonours himself and shows himself rather to have a mind to fight with the pen rather than with the sword." "It is shameful to do any dishonourable act, so it is more shameful and opprobrious to maintain the same and stand in defence of it." "A man finding himself innocent and wrongfully dishonoured should not fear any danger, but venture his life at all times for the righting either of private or public wrongs and in all things, considerations and circumstances, have a special regard unto justice." "The duty of every gentleman is to temper his courage with wisdom so it may be known that he neither sets his life so highly that he will commit any vile act to safeguard it, nor that he regards it so slightly that without just cause he will deprive himself thereof." "A knight who acknowledging his fault and seeks to amend it does not only deserve no blame but is worthy of much commendation. He is like a man governing himself by reason, like a knight takes justice for his guide..." "Force that is not accompanied by ripe counsel is that with which the ruin of nations overturns all divine and humane laws." These are but a few of the wonderful maxims contained in "A Gentleman's Guide to Duelling." The book also includes the most detailed biography of Saviolo to date, painstakingly researched by Kirby. Even if you are new to the history of dueling or the Renaissance, you won't be lost here--everything has been put into its proper background and context. So pick up the book. Sit back, and drink in Saviolo's wisdom as you would a fine, twelve-year old Scotch. It won't disappoint.

'A humorous and instructive guide to Elizabethan etiquette which should interest gentlemen of any century'-James Shapiro, author of 1599: A Year in the Life of Shakespeare A Gentleman's Guide to Duelling is a beautifully illustrated, lyrical guide to duelling etiquette in Elizabethan England. Its author, Vincentio Saviolo, was one of the great Italian fencing masters and a contemporary of William Shakespeare. In the 1590s, both Saviolo and Shakespeare were based in London's Blackfriars; and Shakespeare used Italian fencing terminology in Romeo Juliet which was written shortly after Saviolo's book was published.

'A humorous and instructive guide to Elizabethan etiquette which should interest gentlemen of any century.' James Shapiro, author of 1599: A Year in the Life of Shakespeare 'An excellent reference tool for scholars and a wonderfully practical one for historical fencers, fight directors and actors seeking information or inspiration on swordplay in the 16th century.' Richard Ryan, Fight Coordinator for Sherlock Holmes I II, Troy, Stardust and The Golden Compass