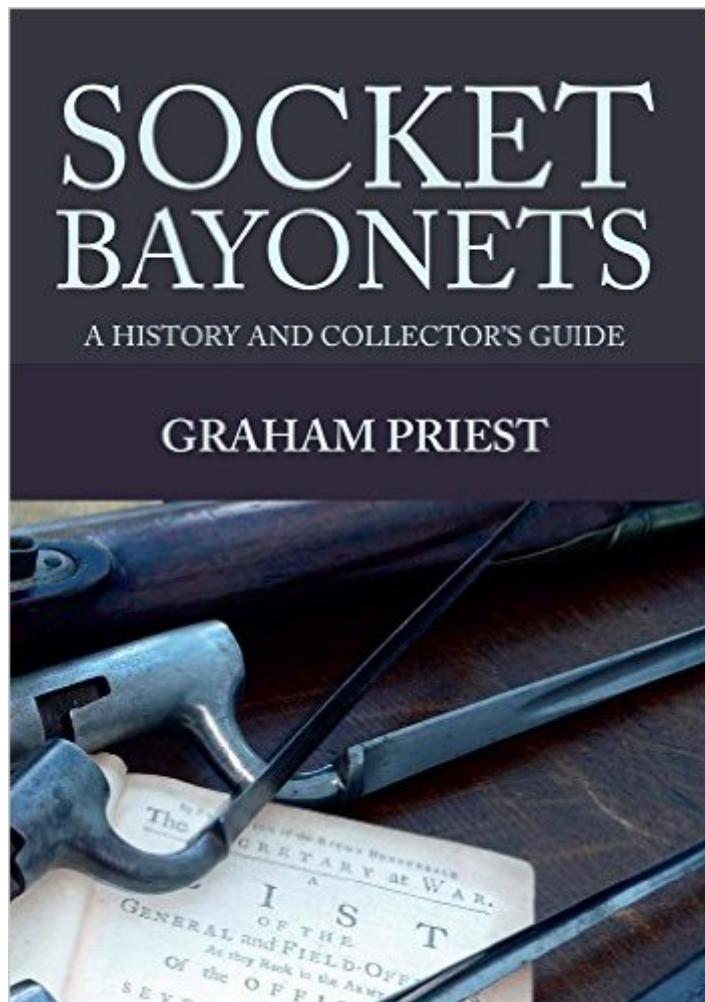


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Socket Bayonets: A History And Collector's Guide



Synopsis

The bayonet was originally developed in the 17th century in its early 'plug' form, probably as a hunting ancillary. From this starting point, it became a military success, helping to abolish the pike as a British Army weapon. Innovative technologies were used to allow both bayonet and musket to be used together, by adoption of a socket, and the use of this weapon in many European wars during the early eighteenth century influenced its international prestige. In the nineteenth century mass-produced, interchangeable and breech-loaded firearms appeared, but the bayonet lived on. Methods of attachment were improved, and single-shot firearms and traditional warfare tactics required its issue in most countries until the 1880s, and in Russia and Great Britain into the twentieth century. Designers at this time attempted to expand the role of the bayonet as a digging tool or sidearm, and produced unusual and decorative examples. Even during the First World War the socket bayonet was Imperial Russia's primary issue, and Austria, Germany and Finland used captured examples. The remainder of the twentieth century saw further development of the bayonet in many countries, such as Soviet Russia, Britain (miniature 'pig-sticker' and later variants), Belgium (tubular version), Switzerland ('luxury' model). Today, Britain's armed forces remain the latest exponents of the socket bayonet. In this book, Graham Priest uses clear, detailed images to guide the reader through the history of the bayonet, showing common examples and rarer versions, to provide a rounded introduction to the topic.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mr. Priest did an excellent job distilling the broad ranging topic of socket bayonets into a comprehensive, well written book. While the book does not provide in-depth coverage of every phase of bayonet development, it covers the important milestones, and describe how the changing technology changed the tactics used by the infantry through time. The illustrations are amazing, and complement (or enhance) the well written text. If you are looking for an identification guide, this may not be the book for you, as it is laid out by time period. If you want a well written treatment of the subject of socket bayonets, this is the book for you.

Excellent book in a small and easy to handle format. Just one single drawback: technical details (length of blades and diameter of mortise) are a bit hard to find as often lost in the text and not figuring below the excellent and clear pictures. Otherwise an excellent basic handbook for collector. Good and useful book. Très bon bon bouquin de base sur les baïonnettes à douille dans un petit format pratique. Pourrait juste être un peu plus clair dans les descriptions techniques (longueur de lames, diamètre des douilles) Elles y sont mais souvent dans le texte et il faut chercher un peu partout. Les photos sont claires et de bonne qualité. Autrement très bon bouquin de base pour le collectionneur. Bon livre utile.

Not a bad little book but the pictures are too small to see any useful detail and associating captions with items in the illustrations is confusing.

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