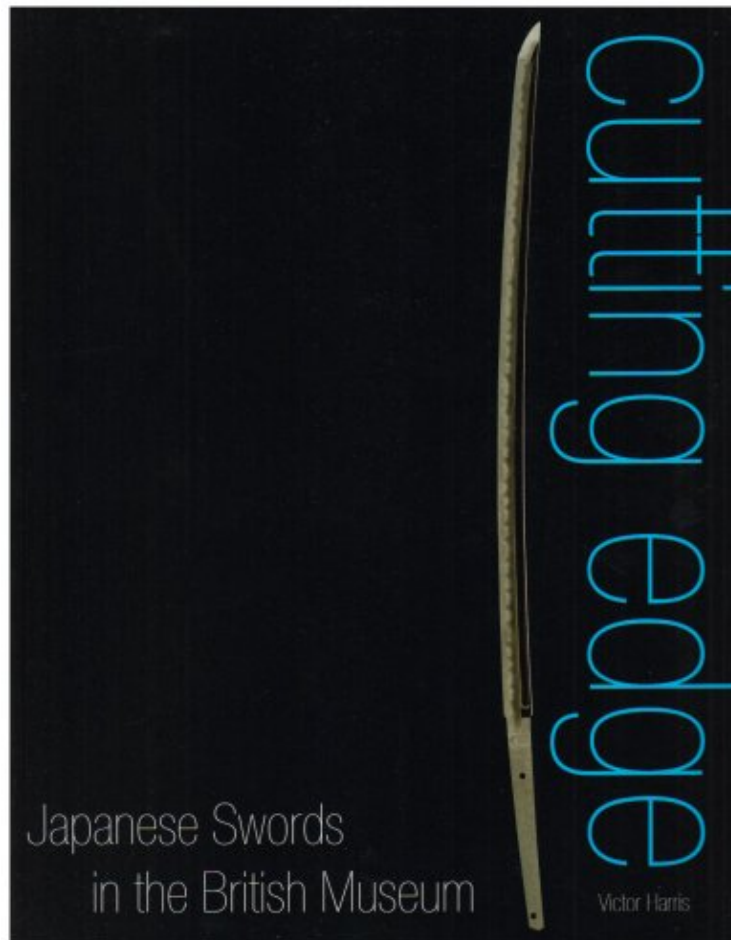


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Victor Harris recently retired as Keeper of the Department of Japanese Antiquities in the British Museum. He is a world expert on Japanese swords and is the author of *Shinto: The Sacred Art of Ancient Japan* and *Japanese Imperial Craftsmen* and co-author of *Swords of the Samurai* and *Japanese Art: Masterpieces in the British Museum*.