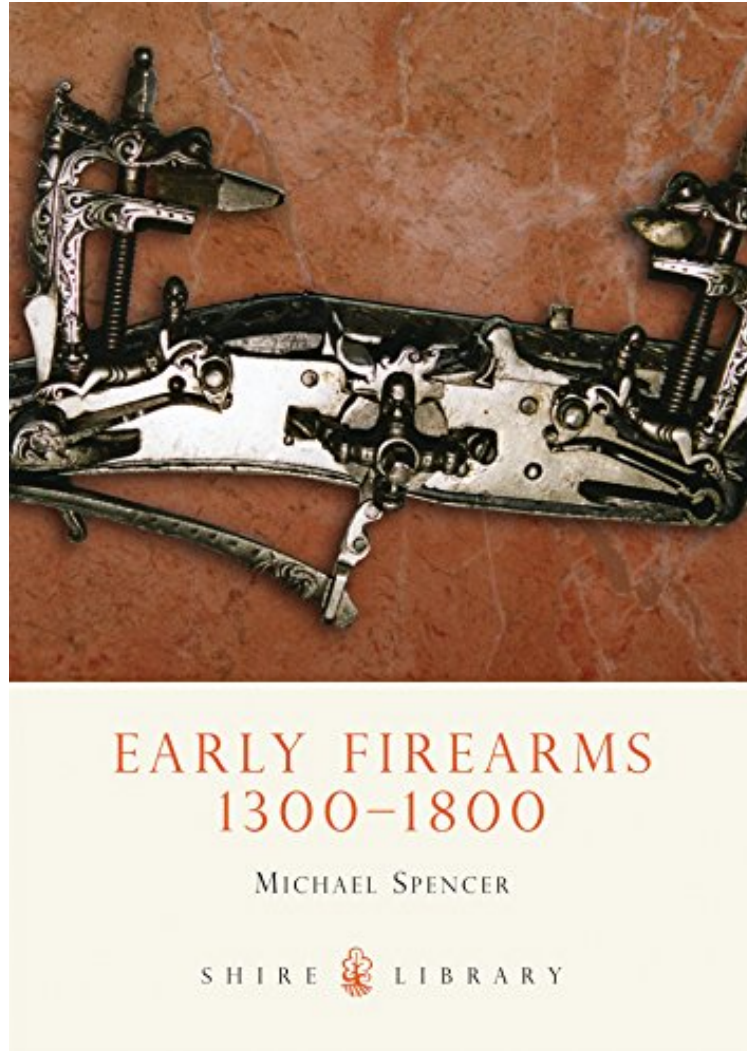


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Early Firearms: 1300-1800 (Shire Library)

Michael Spencer

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Michael Spencer : Early Firearms: 1300-1800 (Shire Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Early Firearms: 1300-1800 (Shire Library):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. interestingBy Robert T. M.I gave this 4 out of 5, because I was in hopes of even more information. For what is there, it is very good.The photos are good, and I discovered new things I never knew.What was shown looked to me like expensive antique arms, and not ones which would be used by the "common soldier."I would like to have seen more detail on the changes in the lock mechanisms: (1) There are many photos, but they are "contrasty." (2) The contrast problems could have been resolved either with graphical enhancements to the photos, or by the simple addition of drawings.Between the small print and the very ornate guns, it made it difficult for me to read the text and to study the samples shown.There is a great deal of minuteae included

throughout. This adds to the difficulty in reading; this also means you get lots of tidbits of data not easily found elsewhere. Now, as to "new" information to me: I never knew, for instance, the Germans developed a breech loader as early as the 1500s! The earliest I was familiar with was the British Ferguson. All-in-all, given what is covered in this book, I would buy it again for my library; I just wouldn't try to read it cover-to-cover in a single sitting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For me this is a must have. By Zen Boulden. Far beyond anything I've found online or currently in print, this short book filled gaps in my study of firearms. Hernando de Soto and other explorers might have used during the 1500s. The text is well written and well referenced. The photographs opened my eyes to the variety and sophistication of early European firearms. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Low quality information. By Ziggy. As an archaeologist and historian, I was looking for a whole lot more from this short book. Reading a Wiki link would be about as helpful. If you need to write a high school level paper, this book might help. If wanting research at any higher level, skip this book.

This book provides a general summary of the history of European firearms, from the earliest designs which appeared during the Middle Ages through to the mechanized weapon production of the Industrial Revolution. Covering the dual inventions of gunpowder and the gun, the development of reliable firing mechanisms, improvements in accuracy and rate of fire and the revolutionary changes brought about by the application of scientific and industrial processes, Michael Spencer explains the technical evolution of the firearm and analyzes what drove these changes. Built around an accurate dating framework, this is an invaluable resource for both military historians and firearms collectors, and includes an array of illustrations of rare firearms, difficult to find elsewhere in print.

About the Author Michael Spencer was educated at the John Lyon School and Oxford University and is an expert in Early Firearms. He has been interested in firearms all his adult life and is co-author of *Early European Hand-Firearms* in Liverpool Museum, along with a number of articles and papers on the subject of early firearms. He lives in Chester.