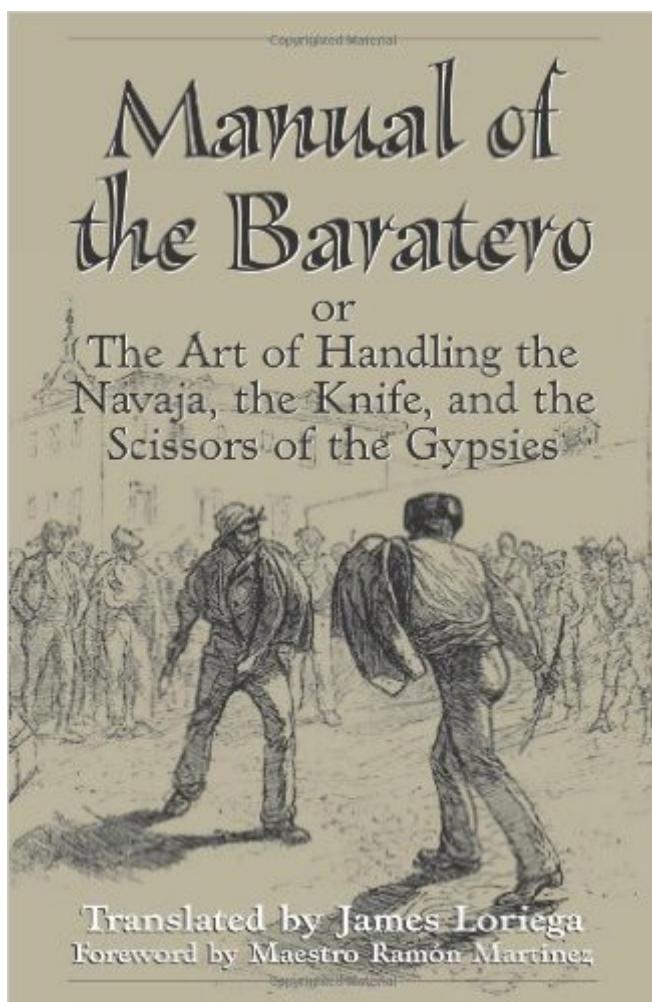


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Manual Of The Baratero: The Art Of Handling The Navaja, The Knife, And The Scissors Of The Gypsies



Synopsis

This is the oldest manual on Spanish knife fighting ever published and is the only known historical text on the subject. This annotated translation provides a window to the methods of knife fighting practiced by the working class, the criminal class and the Gypsies in 19th century Spain. With original drawings, it offers a revealing glimpse into the ways in which *armas blancas cortas*, or small edged weapons, were used on the dark and grimy cobblestone streets of the Spanish underworld.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Any serious scholar of the knife has undoubtedly heard of the "Manual del Baratero." However, while many have heard of it, few details have been available in regard to what exactly is contained within those ancient pages. Every once in a while whispers in the wind could be heard, hinting at its content. It was said to be a mid-19th century text written by the mysterious M.d.R. The techniques and tactics were supposed to be based on the use of the *navaja*, a large Spanish folding knife.

Partial manuscripts and even rough (and not highly regarded) translations would occasionally appear, yet always the "Manual del Baratero" was shrouded in mystery from the English speaking world. Thankfully, author and martial arts expert James Loriega has removed the veil of secrecy and published the first official translation of the manual in English. Upon reviewing Mr. Loriega's credentials, it is quite clear that he is the right man for the job. A fluent Spanish speaker, Loriega is also a scholar of old Spanish dialect and literature. Translations are never an easy task, and this is all the more true when dealing with centuries old texts. Loriega spent years translating,

proofreading, and critiquing his work before he was satisfied enough to take the finished product to the publisher. Continuing with the theme of scholastic honesty, a transcription of the original Spanish is included for anyone who wishes to check the translation themselves. However, the most impressive aspect of Loriega's background is his martial arts training. An expert in Filipino and Japanese bladed arts, Loriega also had the unique privilege to train with one of the few surviving and authentic teachers of the knife in Spain.

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