

## THE WRIGHT CUTLASS (2015)

By Walt Wright

The cutlass (one handed sword) in this painting shines bright against the satin black background. Due to the contrast it was very difficult to adjust lighting to make a photo. The many hues and values hidden among the lines and angles are a treat for the eye. This work is 12 x 24 which is an odd size but works well for this type of image.

Men of ancient times valued their swords and often spent great amounts of money on custom made weapons. Although often ornate a man's cutlass had to have balance and features that assisted in quick disposal of the enemy. This cutlass has a spike extending from the brass handle, which makes for serious damage to the hand of one's opponent. Two thirds down the back side of the blade there is a thorn. This serves the purpose of creating a serious tear when extracted from a deep stab. Being struck by the brass handle would be the equivalent of being hit with brass knuckles. The back guard running two thirds of the distance on the back side of the blade adds strength to prevent bending or breakage during battle. It also offers somewhere to place your free hand to hold back a stronger opponent pressing down on you. The slots along the back guard allow for the passing of air, creating a whistling sound with the swinging of the blade. This helps to bring fear to the heart of anyone foolish enough to oppose you.

By now you're probably wondering... is this a depiction of a real cutlass? Has such a multi-featured weapon been made by a master blacksmith? The truth is this weapon is from my imagination. It is the weapon I would desire should I have lived in the days of old. One last feature I should mention... the circular end of the handle is an ancient Christian symbol that also depicts the name of the sword. All great swords have names such as Excalibur, Oath Keeper, or Needle. This one I call "Omnipotent".

