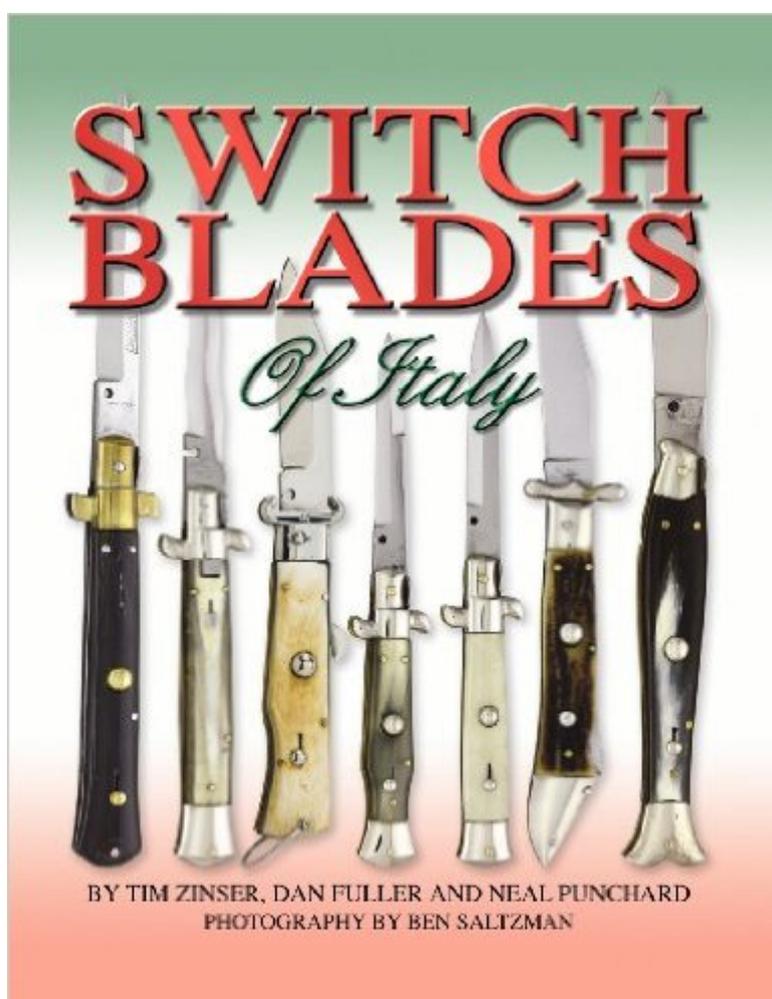


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# Switchblades Of Italy



## Synopsis

This book starts the reader on a journey through time, with a short history of folding knives, leading to the evolution of the first switchblade. Progressing through time, wonderful photos illustrate the descriptions of switchblades. Throughout the book, highlighted sections showcase specific details that will be most helpful to collectors. Also included are facts about knifemakers styles, patterns, tang stamps, and a complete illustrated glossary. Contents Include: The first ever comprehensive publication about Italian switchblade knives, featuring knives and history from the late 1700s to the 1970s. Pictured within this hardbound book are nearly 200 beautiful photos and ephemera of the most unique and rarest Italian switchblades. Actual-size photos span more than two centuries of knifemaking history. Also pictured are catalog pages and advertisements, as well as historical photos. Extensive research has gone into this book to present never-before-published information which clears up and dispels many myths. Entire sections are dedicated to the most sought-after knifemaking companies, such as: Latama Coricama Mauro Mario Details about the knifemakers and businessmen involved behind the knives reveal who the major players shaping the switchblade industry and who made knives for other companies.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

The serious collector as well as the curious automatic knife buyer will find this author's work to be extensive on the subject of Italian Automatic Knives. With 128 pages, including high resolution photography of "tang stamps," this title covers topics ranging from the evolution of the automatic knife in Italian production to the ignoble standing this type of cutlery has been labeled with by the

media over the years. Detailed information on specific manufacturers and the history of these companies give the reader specific information that is not easily found elsewhere, proving this book to be an invaluable source of information for the collector seeking to authenticate rare Italian Stilettoes. A must for the knife collector or dealer.

Switchblades Of Italy Forbidden things have a degree of attraction for many of us and the information available on these has been concealed or hidden just as the knives themselves were removed from common experience. That is just as well but these originally utilitarian and sometimes decorative novelties were also clever inventions. Many may remember seeing one in their youth and being fascinated and mystified as to its mechanics. This book explains how a relatively small community in Italy exploited and were exploited to produce the world's supply of the Italian variety of these knives. How a few post-WWII American entrepreneurs imported the fruits of that community's labors and helped sponsor the switchblade boom in America until the ban. The ban increased the desirability of these forbidden devices and made some of the more exceptional examples into rare collectables. This book traces the history and details various Italian manufacturers of switchblades with time spent looking at some of the mechanics and the innovations within the industry. Many questions about who made what and what they looked like are answered in this nicely prepared book dealing with rare collectables rarely seen.

Listing says "featuring knives and history from the late 1700s to the 1970s." This is correct. The book was copyrighted in 2003. There is little or nothing regarding Italian automatic knives from the 1980s, 1990s, or twenty-first century. This book was not up to date when it was written. there was a big 25 Year gap in it then. If one is interested in an Italian knife from the last 30 years little or nothing is about it in this book. Current knife makers such as Frank Beltrame and AKC are only briefly mentioned. Others like Armando Beltrame are not mentioned at all, or if in this book could not be found. (No index is a major deficit of any reference book and this book has none, just a glossary.) Quite a few pages are devoted to Latama knives and Sam Polk of that firm. Latama and Sam Polk are not of any note in 2013 and likely were not in 2003 when this book was written. Nothing is mentioned of the many current Maniang knives or their manufacturers. If you are primarily interested in Italian Switchblades that are currently available, or that were available in the last thirty years, you will find little or nothing that deals with them. If You are interested in the history of these knives prior to 1980 this book will interest you.

Good introduction to the Italian auto knives of the 1950's. It is by no means a comprehensive guide but provides information about the various Importer/brands, styles, etc. Given the very reasonable price, it is well worth the money.

Book is getting hard to get now. Mine was used but in great shape. IMO a must if you collect switches from Italy.

This is a Very Informative Book. Just as good as the Mayer's book . Lots of photos , Great Reviews and Rare Desings and History. A Must Have Book for any novice ,collector or historian. Highly Recomendaded !

Well written book with lots of information on vintage switchblade. A must for a collector. I am very satisfied with this book .

This is great book, full scale color pictures. great historical information of vintage switchblades knives from italy.highly recommended.

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