

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V NO. 4

JULY-AUGUST 1973

NEW MEMBER -

We are happy to welcome another new member to our society:

Leo M. Monson Jr.

On behalf of the membership....WELCOME!

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING -

On July 22nd, the annual Board of Directors meeting was held at the home of Rick Mantegani. Several important topics were discussed and resolved as can be seen from the following minutes.

After the board meeting was concluded, a general membership meeting was enjoyed by those attending. Although the turnout was small and a little discouraging to the organizers, it was great to see our first gathering in many many months actually take place! Many thanks to Rick, Henrik Olsgaard, Alan Harvey and anyone else who helped to get this show on the road.

A particularly deserved thanks to Alan Harvey for his help in many areas of society business during the course of this year. Alan has served the society in years past and has earned the reputation of being a hard worker and a most sincere member of our club. It was asking a lot of Alan to serve as Chairman again, and he has as in the past, given his whole towards making our society a better one.

MINUTES - Annual Directors Meeting -

Board members and officers attending included: Chairman Alan Harvey, Board Members Henrik Olsgaard, Steve Crotty, and Rick Mantegani. Proxys were secured from the following officers and board members: Jim Mitchell, Mel Oka, Roy Hashioka, Ben Hazard, Ron Hartmann, Peter Bleed, and Reginald Bretnor. Also attending were members Bill Edick, Ira Duncan, and Clifford Gomes. Leo Monson attended as a guest of Steve Crotty.

At 1:35 PM July 22, 1973, Chairman Harvey declares the meeting open. Richard Mantegani is recording secretary in Mel Oka's absence.



MINUTES (cont'd.)

The proxys are read and the issues of the April 1st letter by Ron Hartmann to the club officers are now to be dealt with.

1. INCORPORATION STATUS: There was a mix-up concerning the misplaced check (filing fee). Harvie stated that the state had contacted him and informed him that all was now well and the society had been and still was INCORPORATED. Regarding the future status of the society, the members - officers voted as a majority to maintain the Incorporation status.

2. TANTO BOOK TRANSLATION: Board members and officers agreed that the project must be carried out to completion. Regarding any loan to aid in publication, the board agrees by majority to approve such a loan if necessary. Chairman Harvie as a recommendation, proposed a tentative profit margin of 20% for the publication. Any great deviation in this figure either higher or lower should be brought before the board for consideration. This proposal was seconded by Olsgaard and carried by majority vote of the board. Questions raised by Mantegani acting for Bleed's proxy concerning copyright laws and cost of the book. Harvie confirmed that the translation was cleared and was within all the laws governing the copyrights of the original book. The chairman requests that the cost of the book for the membership and public be arrived at as soon as possible. Note in regards to future loans if needed: The board voted that any such loan must be brought before the board for approval.

3. RETIRED OFFICERS STATUS: The question was raised as to whether a retired officer automatically becomes a board member and if so, for how long? The constitution as reviewed by Harvie states that board members shall be in number no fewer than seven nor greater than twelve; and indicates nothing concerning placement of retired officers on the board to add to the present elected roster. Steve Crotty added that the constitution as written answers the question of this issue completely for the articles do not state anything in regards to retired officers becoming board members. He concluded that if this question was true, the elected roster would be swollen with retired officers and could exceed the limits set in the constitution. Chairman Harvey proposed that the election committee should specify and recommend that a retired officer be placed on the board of directors if and when the committee so deems it necessary or desirable. This could apply if and when a full elected roster could not be reached. The proposal was seconded by Steve Crotty and was carried by a majority vote of the board.

This concluded the discussions of and resolutions for the issues raised in the before mentioned letter of April 1st, 1973. Additional proposals were brought before the board. Proposed by Harvie: That all members receive on request, and each new member receive automatically the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the JSS/US, and information concerning the laws, by-laws, and goals of the club. This is to be done thru the society Treasurer. Mantegani seconded, and the proposal was carried by majority vote of the board.

MINUTES (cont'd.)

The chairman wishes to appeal to the membership for aid in securing a translator for use in developing future society publications. Material, ideas and help are needed. Direct your correspondence to Henrik Olsgaard or Richard Mantegani (see membership list/addresses). Harvie recommended the NBTHK Bulletin as a future possibility for translation. Harvie will be looking into this and will be contacting other officers whose help would be essential to the success of the hoped for continuation of the translation of books by the JSS/US.

The chairman moves for adjournment. Seconded by Richard Mantegani the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM.

Afterwards a general meeting took place where several swords were discussed and studied by the members attending. It was felt by many that the club is more of a correspondence society by mail, than an active membered and group participating society. This was evident again by a poor membership turnout to the meeting. Those attending decided that another meeting will be held before the end of the year and this will hopefully be in the form of a field trip to San Francisco's DeYoung Museum for a close look at swords in the Brundage Collection presently not on public display. Steve Crotty is looking into this and will contact people at the museum who will make this unique event possible. The general meeting was concluded at 5:00 PM. The date for the next meeting is to be announced.

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SAMURAI SYMPOSIUM AND STUDY SERIES -

To be held at the University of California Berkely campus during the first week of December. The symposium will include movies, lectures on samurai life styles and history, demonstrations of Iai, Kata, Kendo, Yari-do, Naginata and a special lecture on Armor - some displays of swords and armor to be included. More information on this interesting event will be included in future Newsletters.

COLLECTOR'S HINT -

Reg Bretnor has passed along the following 'device' which works well in removing tight blades from tsuka. An obsolete rubber stamp (about medium size) makes an excellent gadget for taking really tight blades out of the tsuka. Remove the lettering (usually it will peel off if you work at it) and you'll find you have a block of wood with a readymade handle and a rubber face. It helps to glue another piece of rubber to the end you put against the tsuba or tsuka. Then you tap with a wooden hammer with a minimum risk of hurting anything.

(There must be many such useful suggestions and hints learned by the many serious collectors in our club. Pass them along and share the wealth if you care.).

SALE - TRADE - WANTED ITEMS

Members wishing to place items in this column should send them to the Newsletter editor. No charge for this service.

WANTED: Works by JAKUSHI of Nagasaki - any generation or off-shoot school Jakushi work. I will take signed or unsigned pieces. Any of Jakushi motif are acceptable, example - dragons, chinese landscapes, etc. Need tsuba, kozuka, kogai, wari-bashi, menuki, and fuchi/kashira. Will pay cash or trade. CONTACT: Mike Quigley

WANTED: Fuchi/Kashira - iron with gold dragon design.
Wakizashi tsuba with "rabbit" design.
Mino Goto Fuchi/kashira with butterfly or floral design.
Fuchi/kashira - samurai warriors.
Menuki - dragons.
Menuki - butterflies.
Katana tsuba with stag or boar high relief design.

CONTACT: Andres Rodriguez

WANTED: Have you always wanted to unload your hoard of "fake" KANEIYE tsuba? That long awaited chance is now here. I will buy all I can get if they meet the following conditions:

- a. Any metal decoration other than gold or silver must be at a minimum.
- b. The thickness at the seppa-dai must not be much if any in excess of .125", 3.3mm, or 1.05 bu, though it can swell considerably at the rim.
- c. Patina and any decoration must be in good condition.
- d. They need not be signed, but a removed mei is not acceptable.
- e. Width is not a major factor, but I would prefer them at least 3.2", 80mm, or 2.7 sun.

Send a rubbing of both sides along with your price to:
Arnold Frenzel

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SUPPLIES AVAILABLE -

Just a reminder that the society has some supplies - uchiko kits, some sword oil, mekugi sticks, oshigata paper and ink stones, plus the Kakinan book and back issues of the society Bulletin. Check the back issues of the NL from this year for prices, or write the NL editor.

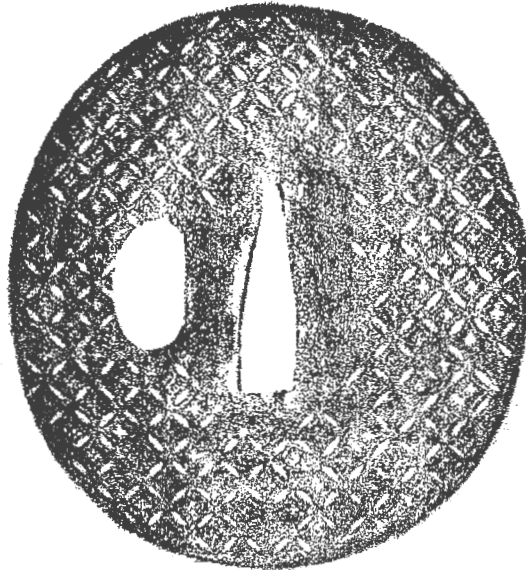
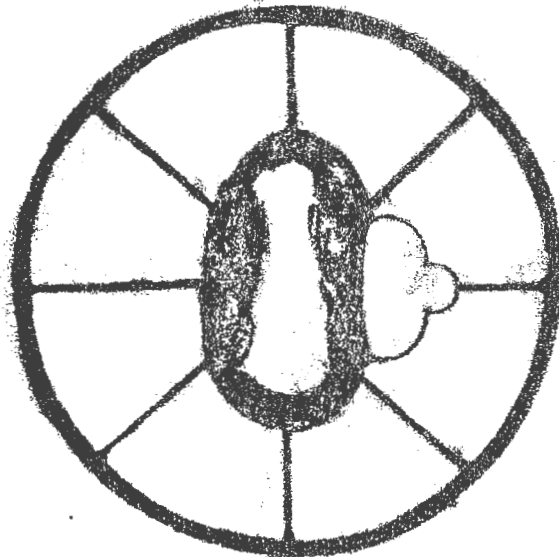


Diagram of design
detail

MUMEI SENDAI-YAMAGANE (BRONZE-PATINATED GREEN BROWN)
 Height (round) 7.5 cm Rim thickness .3 cm
 Seppa-Dai .4 cm
 Design is Shippo Tsunagi Bun
 (A floral-like repeated punch pattern)
 Kodzuka hitsu
 Circa mid 18th century Green paper T.K.K.*
 *See comments following



KO OWARI SUKASHI ca. MUROMACHI (IRON)
 Rounded square rim Other cuts square Height (round) 7.4 cm Rim
 thickness .5 cm Seppa-Dai .5 cm Sharply cut kogai-hitsu
 The tsuba was struck with a sword above the kogai-hitsu leaving a
 distinct mark on the rim

TSUBA OSHIGATA (ref. page 5) -







The owner of these fine tsuba, Rick Mantegani, wishes to make the following comment in reference to his tsuba no. 1. as follows:

This particular tsuba was submitted at the shinsa in Dallas. The results of it's submission are noted but I do wish to state my opinion and stand by it. I have seen several examples of tsuba in the same style in books and one signed example in a members collection. All, including the signed example are Goto works of the middle 1800s. One long time collector of tsuba whose opinion I hold in high regard, also feels this tsuba is late Goto work. If anyone in the membership owns a similar work or has additional information, please contact me at my address given. Thank you.

CONTACT: Richard Mantegani

TADAHIRO II OSHIGATA (ref.NL Vol. V No.3)

Roy Hashioka of Chicago has sent in some comments worthy of mention in reference to Hizen Hashimoto Tadayoshi - Tadahiro.

1. The long blades are almost without exception signed TACHI MEI.
2. The shorter blades are signed the conventional KATANA MEI.
3. The yasuri-mei is kaku (horizontal).
4. The glyph "wara" of FUJIWARA is a noteworthy I.D. in that the  portion is formed so:  (triangular to diamond shape rather than square).
5. Tadahiro I has a diamond  on the top of HIRO  and the two "legs" are pointed upward  whereas Tadahiro II has the left leg pointed downward .

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AT RANDOM -

Everyone is aware of the buying 'craze' going on today at all the gun shows...Japanese swords are \$\$\$! It was said once that a dealers scrupuls ~~are~~ indirect proportion to the buyers knowledge. So these speculators shouldn't cry when they buy a junker....all the more reason for one to learn, learn, learn....know what is 'art' and what is not.

Note: Anyone who has written for info or whatever and has not received an answer, be sure to write again...sometimes things get lost.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -

Next issue of the NL will come out about the beginning of October. All material, notices, oshigata, etc., intended for inclusion should be in the hands of the editor no later than the end of September.
Ron Hartmann

YOSHIKUNI Tanto

by Mr. Jack Landis
St. Louis, Mo.

Hirazukuri Tanto

signed: YOSHIKUNI SAKU (Chikuzen Nobukuni
group - early Shinshinto period)

Blade length: $9\frac{1}{2}$ " (25.1 cm)

Sori: almost none

Width: $\frac{7}{8}$ " (2.4 cm)

Thickness: $\frac{5}{16}$ " (0.79 cm)

Nakago length: $3\frac{3}{4}$ " (9.53 cm)

Remarks:

A most beautiful 19th century tanto. The hamon is slightly notare suguha in rioi, with ko-maru boshi. The hamon becomes very alive with ko-nie and ji-nie into the boshi. The hada is very tightly worked in mokume hada with some O-mokume hada. It is in Ihore mune. Nakago has slight sori, slightly rounded mune, Kengyo end. Yasuri-mei are Suji-Chigai with Kesho-yasuri. A very stout tanto but still most graceful and beautifully worked.

TOKUBETSU KICHO (Green Paper) - TKK 1972

