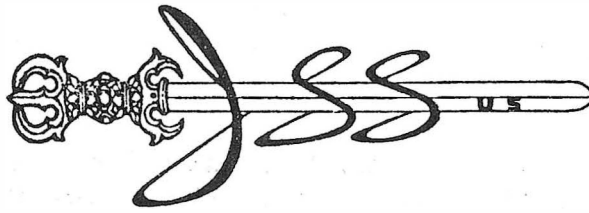


# Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER

The Official Bi-Monthly Publication of the Society. Membership - \$10.00 Annually

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Volume 7 No. 2

March - April • 1975

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### NEW MEMBERS -

Four new members to announce this issue. On behalf of the club membership - Welcome! New members are:

William H. Morgan

A. Z. Freeman

Joseph D. Hart

Jack Landis

### SOCIETY LIBRARY ADDITION -

As was mentioned in the NEWSLETTER awhile back, tapes were made of the lecture series - THE MAKING OF A SAMURAI (University of California at Berkeley, December 1973) - tapes made by Rick Mantegani and Henrik Olsgaard. These tapes have now been forwarded to the NEWSLETTER and are now available for loan. Since a couple members requested them at first mention, they will of course get them first - but requests are welcomed on a first come/first get basis. Send your requests to the NL Editor at this time (until notified otherwise).

Our thanks go to both Rick and Henrik for their thoughtfulness and work in recording this series. The cost of the project was per gratis and the tapes have been donated to our library. For this we are thankful and I am sure these tapes will be an asset to the library.

### MUSEUM COLLECTION -

Our new member Mr. Freeman has sent in the following information for our interest:

The MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia, has some thirty-nine blades, fourteen of them on display. There would be no trouble arranging for any members to see the ones left in the back room. Unfortunately, none of the blades is a very good one, but several are interesting.



MUSEUM (cont'd.) -

Mr. Freeman goes on to say that he had prepared a simple booklet on them, the features of the swords and their period when possible. Our thanks to Mr. Freeman for this info - anyone else knowing of any little known collections should mention this to the NL for general information.

SADATERU Oshigata

by David Pepper

Editor's note: Mr. Pepper, who is affiliated with the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, has offered to send us oshigata on occasion of some of the more interesting blades in the museum collection. The following is the first of many, we hope - a fine presentation!

RH

TRANSLATION OF MEI: (free translation)

Omote: At Takafu in KITA-ETSU (North Etsu) a resident of Akita in Ushu (Dewa Province), SADATERU.

Ura: a) Forged from iron ore produced in Unshu (Izumo Province) in the south, to the order of NAKAMURA HIROSHI.

b) Twelfth year of Bunkwa, Twelfth month, Twelfth day. which is 1815.

PARTICULARS ON THE BLADE: (see following record sheet)

REMARKS:

So far, I have been unable to locate Mr. Nakamura, although he must have been a fairly significant person for the swordsmith to have (presumably) travelled all the way to Shinano from Dewa to forge a sword for him. It is possible that Mr. Nakamura came from Izumo, and specifically requested the use of ore from his home province. As this is a commissioned piece, it is highly likely that the other unusual features of the blade owe their existence to Mr. Nakamura. The number twelve obviously had some very important meaning in this particular case, as must the unusual piercings in the nakago. The two holes surrounding the mekugi-ana combine with it to form a shape reminiscent of certain Buddhist gravestones. The kyotan (gourd) might relate to the mysterious Mr. Nakamura's family MON, or something that had personal significance to him only.

One final word concerning the place-names. To my knowledge, the village of Takafu still exists, although it may now be a suburb of Nagano City. KITA or north ETSU is a very ancient name, dating back to a time when there was one large area known as Etsu, probably combining several provinces. (The character ETSU is the same as the ECHI of Echigo, Echizen, Etchu.) Takafu is in the northern part of this ancient district.

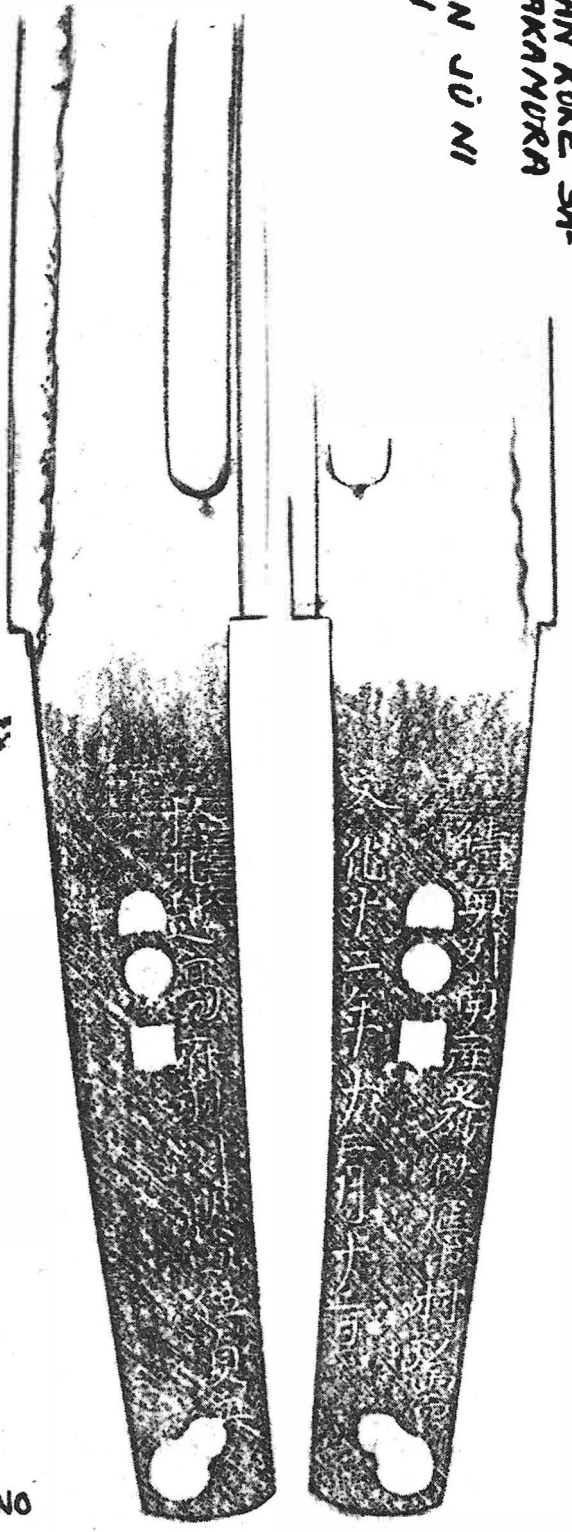
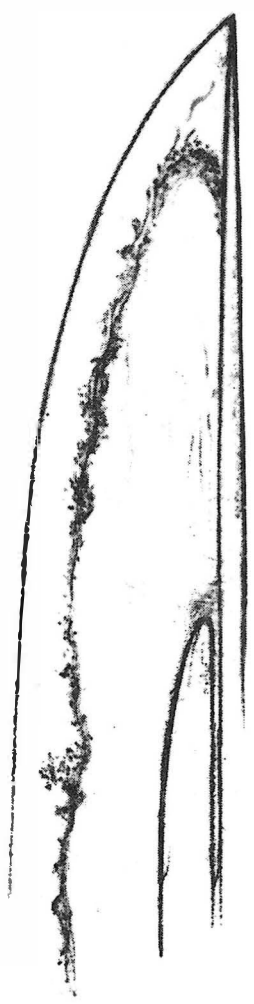
- CHŪ UNSHŪ NAN SAN KORE SA-  
 TETSU MOTOME NAKAMURA  
 HIROSHI (MI) OJITE  
 - BUNKWA JŪ NI NEN JŪ NI  
 GATSU JŪ NI NICHŪ

NOTE: 高府 TAKAFU  
 IS OFTEN WRITTEN AS  
 竹生 (TAKAFU) - BUT  
 IS THE SAME VILLAGE.

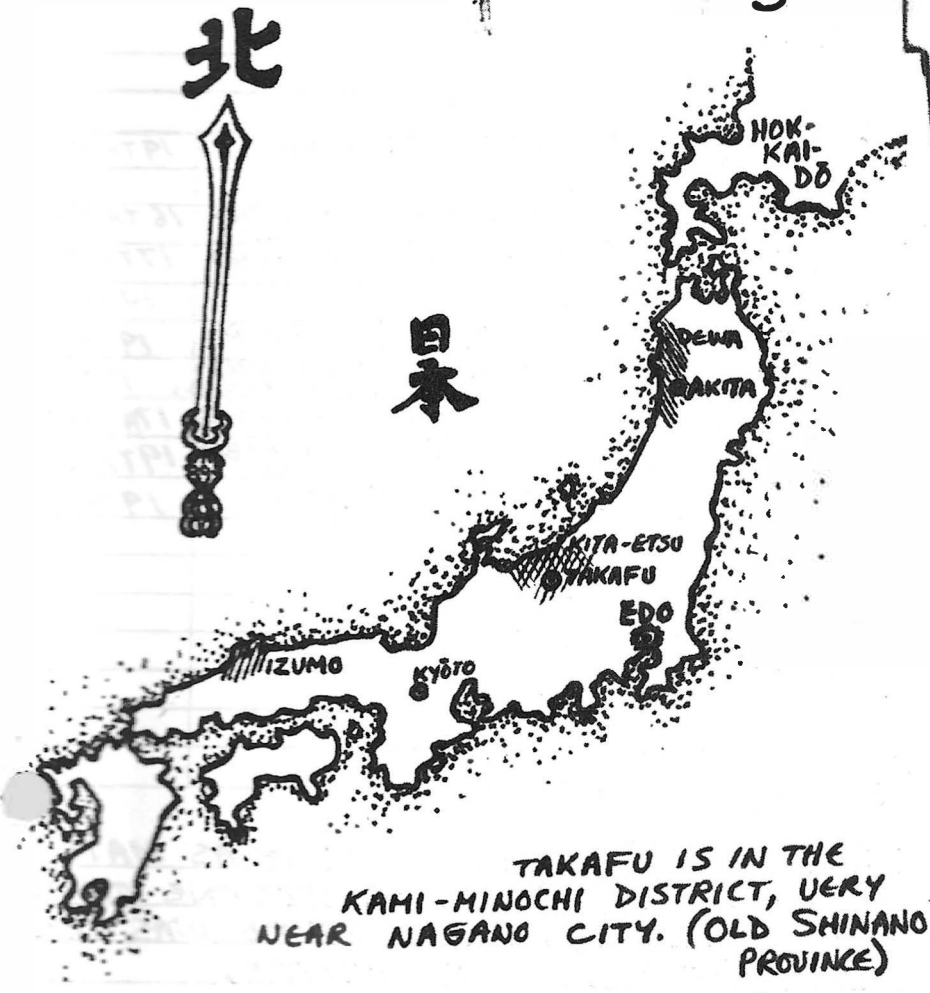
OITE KITA-ETSU  
 TAKAFU.....  
 USHŪ AOTA JU SADATERU

貞英

(SOMETIMES READ  
 AS SADAHIDE)  
 SA 336 (SAME MAN)  
 SA 173b



SADATERU/HIDE WAS ONE OF THE  
 PUPILS OF SUISHINSHI HASAHIDE, AND  
 NORMALLY LIVED IN AKITA. HE USED  
 OTHER NAMES, OR MORE CORRECTLY, TITLES.



TAKAFU IS IN THE  
 KAMI-MINOCHI DISTRICT, VERY  
 NEAR NAGANO CITY. (OLD SHINANO  
 PROVINCE)

**BLADE** /SHAKU / SUN 7BU.  
**LENGTH** 35.4 CM. **STYLE** HIRAZUKURI KOWAKIZASHI

**SORI** TORII-ZORI **DEPTH** 0.6 CM. 2 BU

**HAMON** NOTARE-MIDARE WITH KO-GUNOME ~~THROUGHOUT~~ THROUGHOUT LENGTH. FINE TO MEDIUM ATE THROUGHOUT, SOME FINE KINSUJI AND INAZUMA IN MONO-UCHI AREA.

**KISSAKI** \_\_\_\_\_ **BOSHI** KO-MARU KAERI-ASASHI  
**HADA** ITAME-HADA, BECOMING STRAIGHTER NEAR THE YAKIBA.  
**HORIMONO** MARU-DOME BŌ-HI ON BOTH SIDES.

**MUNE** SHIN-NO-MUNE (MITSU-MUNE)  
**SHINOGI** \_\_\_\_\_

日本刀



**NAKAGO** 3SUN 9BU  
**LENGTH** 11.8 CM **NAKAGO-JIRI** KURI-JIRI  
**YASURI-ME** <sup>KIRI-YASURI OVER-</sup> LAID WITH SUJI-CHIGAI MEKUGI-ANA ONE ~~SEE REVERSE~~.  
**MEI** (ura) CHŪ UNSHŪ WAN SAN KŌRE SA-TETSU MOTOME NAKAMURA HIROSHI (NI) OJITE // BUNKWA JU NINEN JU NI GATSU JUNI NICHĪ.  
 (omote) OITE KITA-ETSU TAKAEU USHU AKITA JU SADATERU

**CONDITION** UBU (oshigata and translation on reverse)

**KOSHIRAE**  
**TYPE OF KOSHIRAE** BUKE-ZUKURI WAKIZASHI

ITEM	STYLE	MATERIAL	DESIGN	
TSUBA	EDO TANAKA HAMIDASHI	IRON, <del>IRON</del> NUNOME-ZAGAN <sup>IRON TEN-ZOGAN</sup>	WAVES WITH BUBBLES	19TH CENT.
FUCHI-KASHIRA	KO-MINO	SHAKUDO, GOLD, COPPER	DEEP-CUT CHRYSANTHEMUM FLOWERS & LEAVES	16TH CENT.
MENUKI	OLD MINO-GOTO	GILT COPPER	KARANISHI AND KAWARA	17TH CENT.
HABAKI	PLAIN	SHAKUDŌ		19TH C.
SAYA		RO-IRO LACQUER, TAITANO IRON KŌJIRI	RED LACQUER CLOUDS ON BLACK.	19TH C.
KOZUKA	MINO-GOTO	SHAKUDŌ, GOLD, COPPER, SILVER	NANAKO GROUND - SPRAY OF KIKU - UNUSUAL TECHNIQUE	18TH C.?
KURIKATA	<del>MINO</del> GOTO	SHAKUDŌ & GOLD	DRAGON, NANAKO GROUND	17TH - 18TH C.
UMABARI		SHIBUCHI & GOLD	DRAGON INLAY (UMABARI IN SHAPE OF KEN)	19TH C.?
SAGEO		BROWN & WHITE SILK	SMOOTH DRAGON PATTERN.	19TH C.?

- SADATERU (HIDE?) SA 336 / SA 173 B ; ALSO KNOWN AS MATSUI HEIKICHI AND TETSUSHINSAI SHŌ-Ō-TENTŌ, WAS ONE OF THE MANY PUPILS OF SUISHINSHI MASAHIDE. THIS SWORD WAS BROUGHT TO CANADA EARLY IN THIS CENTURY, IF NOT BEFORE.

LOCAL MEETING HELD (St. Louis) -

In light of the increased interest in swords and in society membership here in St. Louis, it was decided to hold a meeting of collectors to introduce new members and simply enjoy some swords for an evening. The meeting was held April 2nd at the home of the editor. Attending were: Neil Keen, Howard Sloan, Jack Landis, Clarence Siman, Ron Hartmann, and Paul Maruyama. Dr. Hoopes was invited but was unable to attend.

Since this was an informal meeting with no real direction to be followed, it was spent going over the various treasures which everyone had brought along for conversation. Several 'new finds' were examined including a very well-forged diato with a 41 inch cutting edge recently found by Howard Sloan, and a very interesting Yokoyama school blade signed SUKENAGA with kiku mon and 'ichi' on nakago - a new find of Neil Keens. Other blades of interest were Jack Landis' super (Ho) NORIMITSU (displayed in Meibutsu Room - TKK'72), and his Chikuzen SHIGEKANE (to be featured in a future NL). The editor's collection was available and the main feature being the YAMON NAOKATSU tachi (Newport Beach Meibutsu exhibit 1974), followed by a Hizen YUKIHIRO I tachi and a 'possible' Bizen MORIMITSU tachi.

A good time was had by all and our thirst for a little sword-talk was quenched by handling and examining the items at hand. Mention of this meeting is made here at this time in the hope of encouraging more such gatherings in other areas - with reports given in the NEWSLETTER for all to enjoy.

Another such meeting was held several weeks earlier in Lincoln, Nebraska. Attending this affair was Peter Bleed, Ron Palmer, and Clarence Siman (who had driven up from St. Louis). Most of the time was spent discussing flaws (kizu) in blades - a most important thing to become familiar with and to understand.

WANTED ITEMS -

Wanted: One kodzuka, copper, of the Omori School with the usual design of undercut waves with silver droplets, signed TERUHIDE. Will pay top price or trade. Write Air Mail, condition and price to: Robert Trojan

Wanted: Any works of KOMEI KEININ (KE-1) and Shinshinto MASA-O also known as SANE-O (SA-568). Also want copy of the book SHINSHINTO TAIKAN. Contact: Ailen E. Feldman

Wanted: Interested in a 1st class tanto or hirazukuri Wakizashi with 1st class horimono - will trade other 1st class items of your interest. Contact: Ron Hartmann c/c NEWSLETTER.

(Remember - one of your membership benefits is free advertising in the NEWSLETTER! Wanted or For Sale items.)

SWCRD SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT -

The JAPANESE SWORD SOCIETY OF MARYLAND has advised us of the coming spring Gun-Coin-Sword show to be held MAY 24-25, 1975 at the Pikesville Armory - Pikesville, Maryland. President Stan Kellert tells us that they expect it to be larger than 500 tables this year, with more than half this amount already sold. This is one of the best shows around and draws many JSS/US members from all states and Canada, plus a number of people from Japan who make the trip just for this show!

**For Reservations or Information Contact:  
STANLEY I. KELLERT**

SWORD TOUR TO JAPAN PLANNED -

**SAMURAI SWORD TOUR OF JAPAN**

SPONSORED BY THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA JAPANESE SWORD CLUB

Tour leader:

John M. Yumoto

Travel arrangements:

Jim Nakada

**Cost:** The cost of the tour is estimated at \$1500.00 (not including NBTHK Conference Registration) using round trip economy jet transportation between San Francisco and Tokyo. The price includes first class hotels and Japanese inns everywhere; some meals; all land transportation including entrance fees and gratuities; all tips, fees and taxes in connection with inclusive tour arrangements.

Not included in the cost are passport and visa expenses, laundry, cleaning, wines, mineral water and liquors, and other expenses incurred on a purely personal basis.

**Registration:** A deposit of \$100.00 per person secures a reservation. The deposit is refundable if cancellation is necessary up to August 20, 1975. A small cancellation fee may be charged after this date.

(For more information, contact John Yumoto at the above address.)

**Editor's note:** This is a super event and an educational treat for anyone lucky enough to be able to take the tour. A full report on this group's last tour is promised for our next NEWSLETTER.

SPECIAL BOOK OFFER -

The NEWSLETTER has been advised of a special Limited Edition of the classic ARAMI MEIZUKUSHI (listing of Shinto smiths) in six volumes, by Kanda Katsuhisa Hakuryushi in the year 1721. This is a reproduction of the original books and is accompanied by a fine english translation of the text by John Yumoto.

This is a collector's set which will sell for over \$600, but is being offered in this limited edition for \$250 at this time. If interested (or for more complete description, etc.) contact John Yumoto

CORRECTIONS (ref: last NL) -

Putting out the last NEWSLETTER at the same hectic time as the 1974 BULLETIN meant that several mistakes were incorporated into the copy. Please note: NEWSLETTER was "January-February" issue and not "May-June" as it read! Another mistake was the final treasury balance <sup>was</sup> of the 1st of the year - should read "Cash on hand 1/1/75 \$612.09!" <sup>TWO</sup> other errors - the editor's name and address was omitted from the membership (I am a member), and the zip code for C. Gomes should <sup>"</sup> read rather than as stated.

A. RANDOM Membership Cards - All membership cards of paid-up members have been mailed out and should be in hand. If for any reason your card has not reached you and you have paid, please contact Rick Mantegani and advise him of such.

Supplies - We have a rather large supply of oshigata paper and ink stones in preparation for the expected rush (after the fine article on oshigata-making in the BULLETIN)...but no rush to date. Try your hand at making oshigata for your RECORD BOOK - you will be surprised at how it teaches you to really "see" a blade! See last NL for prices.

Japan Map - Inquiries have been sent out to try and locate a good framable map of OLD JAPAN showing the old roads, provinces, towns - in full color and topographic (hopefully) - something of National Geographic Map quality! This is of personal interest - but it is assumed many of our members would likewise enjoy having such a wall-map to aid in their understanding of the schools. Anyone interested in buying such a map should drop a card to the NEWSLETTER - and if enough interest is shown, perhaps we could purchase X number of maps for resale.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -

The next issue of the NEWSLETTER is due out around the 1st week of June. Please have all material intended for that issue to the editor no later than the end of May.



RON HARTMANN