

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IV NO.4

JULY-AUGUST 1972

ADDITION TO LIBRARY -

A belated word of thanks to Mr. Craig Brown for donating the following book to our library.

JAPANESE SWORDS by Benjamin Smithlyman.

This is a small paperback of 38 pages containing general information on the sword. This information is from a lecture delivered to the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia in 1890.

KIYOMITSU/SUKESADA WAKIZASHI (ref: Newsletter Vol.4 No.4) -

The liberties taken with the translation of this sword's signing (last issue of NL), brought forth some corrections and explanations of these corrections by Mr. Ogawa. A complete and corrected translation is as follows:

GENBEINOZIYO SUKESADA SAKU
BIZEN KOKU JIYU OSAHUNE KIYOMITSU SAKU
TENSIYO YO NEN HATI GATU HI KAMAYAMATAIZO
ZIU DAI KOREO TUKURU.

Mr. Ogawa explains: written - tukuru kore, but read koreo tukuru. Also, -hune is sometimes read -fune by Japanese and foreigner.
-zō is sometimes read -zo by Japanese and foreigner.
-hati is sometimes read -hachi by Japanese and foreigner.
-jo is read as -ziyo in Japanese today.
-sho is read as -siyo in Japanese today.

The owner of this very fine wakizashi, Mr. Don Winland of Middletown, R.I., dropped the Newsletter a line and filled in some background about this blade and its mounting. The blade's length is 15.9 inches (40.38cm or 1.33 shaku). The mounts are superb! Shakudo nanako f/k by NAOSADA, KANEHIRA as are menuki. A deer and bat motif. Tsuba is by TAKENORI (mito) with gold maple leaves on shakudo. Saya is black lacquer with red maple leaves painted as if on the surface of a pond or lake, some "submerged". All this is in perfect condition. The sword was presented to a U.S. Naval surgeon after WWII as a gift for helping a children's hospital. The Kiyomitsu is Hawley KI-133, Gorozaemonjo Kiyomitsu his father (Sukesada Genbeizo).

Keep
America
Beautiful



SALE - TRADE - WANTED ITEMS:

Wanted: Fuchi and Kashira, Kogai, Kodzuka, Menuki, with seashell (clam or scallop) motif, in iron only. Prefer Kinai School. Will trade tsuba or pay cash.
Contact:

Don Winland

Wanted: Fuchi and Kashira with samurai slders wearing armour.
Mino Goto Fuchi/Kashira with floral design.
Wakizashi tsuba with gold carp design.
Katana tsuba with rabbit design.
Will buy or trade for.
Contact: Andres Rodriques

Wanted: Complete naval sword mounting or proto-army mounting. Also spare parts from standard army mountings.
Contact:

Newsletter Editor

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MARYLAND SWORD SHOW -

The next sword show of the Japanese Sword Society of Maryland will be held on November 25th and 26th. This promises to be a good show again, with many blades and fitting on display and for sale. For information, contact JSS/US member Mr. Stanley Kellert, RD1 Box 256 Falls and Padonia Roads, Lutherville, Maryland 21093.

TOKEN KENKYU KAI -

Another letter has gone out to interested parties with more particulars on this significant event. If anyone is planning on attending and is intending to submit blades or fittings for shinsa, make haste and contact this group today...deadlines are coming fast. For more information, contact:

刀 劍 研 究 会

TOKEN KENKYU KAI
THE FAIRMONT HOTEL
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

INFORMATION POOL -

Members are encouraged to submit their questions and findings to the Newsletter for inclusion in this column, for the benefit of the membership.

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Several questions have been presented in the last couple of issues, and as always, Mr. Yamanaka has come to our rescue with some answers. Refer to your back issues of the NL for the full questions.

1. Pertaining to "blisters": Blisters are found commonly on blades like the late koto Bizen blades - the so called KAZU UCHI MONO, the KUWANA UCHI, TAKABA works and many like works...that is, poorly worked blades. This means that the fusing of the core steel and the outer skin never was done properly, therefore, when the outer layer becomes thin it will cause to rise where it has not fused together. You will never find a blister on a work of a **first class** smith. As for finding blisters on a shinto or even a shinshinto blade, probably if they are polished down enough, those poorly made will produce a blister.
2. Function of file marks: There is no mention of this in any Japanese texts. However, it can be surmised that their function is simply to grip the nakago in the inside of the tsuka. File marks have been recorded in old Heian blades and those of the late Heian period still have some remnants of these present.
3. Yaki kuzure a defect: Yaki kuzure can be considered as unintentional, therefore it is in a sense a defect. This forms when the tempering clay crumbles off during the last firing stage. If the clay is properly mixed and properly applied, it should stay on all throughout the firing stage.
4. Function of the mune yaki: Absolutely none. It is the 'whim' of the swordsmith that makes him put that on the mune.
5. Was the faking of a blade ever punishable: There are some reference to this in old texts, but the study of the sword in Japan does not place any importance on such things, therefore nothing can be said about it of any significance.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT - The comments made in the last issue, pertaining to regular society meetings, has brought zero comments to the Newsletter. These same comments can apply again this issue, with added thoughts about our annual convention which should be **planned**.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Next issue will come out about the 1st of October. All articles, etc., for this issue should be in my hands no later than the last week of September. Ron Hartmann - Editor,

KAJIWARA HIROMITSU Showa-Gendaito

Oshigata provided by R. C. Hartmann - Editor

TYPE AND FORM: Shinogi-zukure Tachi, torrizori (on 22ft. diameter tachi circle), slight fumbari, stout kissaki (5in. diameter circle).

EDGE: Hamon is komidare with konie in nioi, hotsure, jinie becoming more prominent towards monouchi and into kissaki, chikei. Boshi is ichimai with much hakikake in konie. Has many bands of konie 'floating' through the peaks of the hamon.

JIHADA: Tight itame hada with some running itame.

NAKAGO: Long and tapering. Very well snapped with coarsely made horizontal yasuri-mei. One mekugi-ana.

SIGNITURE: (in well-made bold strokes) CHIKUZEN KORE KAJIWARA HIROMITSU SAKU. (dated) SHOWA NINETEEN...LUCKY DAY IN AUGUST...

LENGTH: Blade: 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches-Nakago: 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

REMARKS: This is a very stout and well made Snowa-gendaito. The smith appears to be Hawley No. H299a.

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ATTENTION - MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

If the project of printing oshigata in the Newsletter is to continue, we need some fresh material. Items of interest would be:

1. Blades which have been fully authenticated.
2. Representative work of a particular smith, school, or of a particular period or area.
3. The best of the modern smiths.
4. Any blade which has something to tell us.

Either full or partial oshigata are desired. If a rubbing is of a nakago only, it should be reasonably clear to print well. Please supply full translations of signitures, along with all available data you may have on the blade. This will help your poor editor very much.

If so desired, the owner of a blade can remain anonymous, but this must be specified upon the sending of any rubbings. All rubbings can be returned if desired, with no wear or tear suffered.

My thanks to the several men who have already supplied me with some very interesting oshigata. They have had a good reaction from the members who took time to comment, and it is hoped that such interesting blades can continue to supply us with some education.

RCH.



