

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V NO. 5

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1973

NEW MEMBER -

The society welcomes the following new members into our association:

Charles R. Whitney

Don Beck

John Tischmann

L. L. Vanice

Akio Katsunuma

BOOK SUGGESTION -

Arnold Frenzel has sent along mention of the following book (in German) which might be of interest to us.

ANMERKUNGEN FUR KLINGE DES JAPANISCHEN SCHWERTES
by Offermann, Adalbert u Hans-Martin Schmitz
Koln 1971 price about \$6

Arnold received his copy from: C.P.J. Van der Peet B.V.

Offermann's address is (dealer): Japanischekunst

The book consists of about 20 pages of text along with drawings and photographs. A basic knowledge of german will be all that is necessary to understand this book.



MIDWESTERN SWORD FIND -

A recent letter from Daniel Barc to the Newsletter has resulted in the meeting of our new member Mr. Akio Katsunuma and learning of his recent visit with Mr. Kiyoharu Omino, professional sword connoisseur of Tokyo. Mr. Omino apparently came to the midwest to examine and polish a particular sword presently located in the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri.

According to an article forwarded to the Newsletter by Mr. Katsunuma (Examiner, 9/5/73), the sword is one by MASAMUNE circa 1291 with gold Honami seal. The blade was presented to President Truman by Aung Sang of Burma in 1946. The article of course does not go into much detail, but the blade appears good although in poor condition, according to Mr. Omino.

Hopefully, arrangements can be made to examine this blade and to meet with Mr. Omino when he returns to the states in six or seven months to complete his work on this blade. It looks like some interesting information and oshigata will materialize out of this find, thanks to the cooperation of the above men and the Truman Library.

MARYLAND SWORD SHOW -

The Japanese Sword Society of Maryland will present another show this November. This is one of the largest gatherings of the year with many swords and fittings being offered for sale and trade.

J.S.S. of Md.
PRESENTS
**GUN - COIN - SWORD
SHOW and SALE**
Pikesville Armory - Baltimore (Pikesville), Maryland
FROM BELTWAY EXIT 20 GO SOUTH 1 3/10 MILES,
BUILDING IS ON THE RIGHT
NOVEMBER 24-25, 1973
HOURS: SATURDAY 9 TO 7 - SUNDAY 9 TO 4
Armed Guards Will Be on Duty

17 Awards in the Following Categories
6 Awards for Arms Display 3 Awards for Japanese Sword Display
2 Awards for Coin Display 4 Judges Choice Awards
2 Dealer Awards for Outstanding Arms
Mr. Ken Liggett of the Gun Report will present an Award for an Outstanding Arms Display
ADMISSION TO PUBLIC \$1.00
415 TABLES ARE AVAILABLE
Tables are 6 ft. long & 30 inches wide - cost is \$12.00 for both days
wall tables for coins with electricity available \$15.00
Exhibitors may set upon Friday 7 to 10 p.m. Every one must leave by 10:00
Tables will no be held after 10 a.m. and revert to club if vacated.

For Reservations or information
Contact: STANLEY I. KELLERT

JSS LIBRARY BOOKS ON LOAN -

Jim Mitchell has asked the Newsletter to remind members who have library books out on loan to return these books on time, and not hold them far beyond the one month period. Our library can function only if everyone cooperates and returns books on time so that other members can use them.

SUKASHI TSUBA BOOK -

A recent notice from Japan Publications has advised many of us of a special publication offer on the much discussed book, EARLY JAPANESE SWORD GUARDS: SUKASHI TSUBA by Masayuki Sasano. The "special price" is now \$12 postpaid. This is a terrific price on this beautiful Book and it is suggested that anyone who does not already own it, write Japan Publications for an order.

A letter was sent to Mr. Masayuki Sasano recently, thanking him for his efforts in Dallas last November (TKK) and expressing our excitement and gratitude for his new book. A delightful letter was then received from Mr. Sasano in which he said, in part "From now on, I shall be very happy to be in contact with you and your friends who have common liking towards the beauty of things." This speaks for the sincerity of this man. Hopefully we will see more books from him in the future.

SUPPLIES AVAILABLE -

A supply of cord has recently been purchased by a St. Louis collector and it is being made available to anyone who is in need of such cord. The colors are black and brown and price is 50¢ per foot (his cost). If anyone is interested in buying some, write the Newsletter and your request will be forwarded.

A new supply of oshigata paper and ink stones will be ordered from Japan in the very near future. Prices will be: paper \$2.50 and stones \$3.00 postpaid. Write the Newsletter for your order.

ANNUAL BULLETIN -

All articles to be included in this years Bulletin are now in hand. IMPORTANT - If you have an article which you would like to include in this Bulletin, contact the editor (Hartmann) without delay so that it will be added to the scope of this coming issue.

AT RANDOM -

It is obvious that this issue of the Newsletter is somewhat lean. To help round out future issues, please send in your findings, questions, oshigata, whatever.....this is what makes for an interesting and worthwhile paper. Personal obligations have made it very difficult for me to do very much 'digging' not to mention the time delay in printing the NL recently. Your sending in of material greatly eases this jobs demands, and is appreciated.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -

Next issue of the NL is due out about the first of December. All material intended for the November-December issue should be in my hands no later than the end of November.

RON HARTMANN

"KANSHO" NORIMITSU

oshigata by

John Clark

WAKIZASHI, shinogi-zukure style

SIGNED: (omote) BISHU OSAFUNE NORIMITSU
(ura) KANSHO 3 (1462)

DESCRIPTION:

The blade is 1.65 shaku long (suriage) with a curvature of 4 bu. The yakiba is CHOJI and the hada is ITAME. The boshi is KAERI-SUKUNORBI. The blade has BO-HI with MORO-CHIRI. Yasurime are KATTE-SAGARI.

There are (5) mekugi-ana, (4) of which are plugged with silver. There is one 'nick' on the ha.

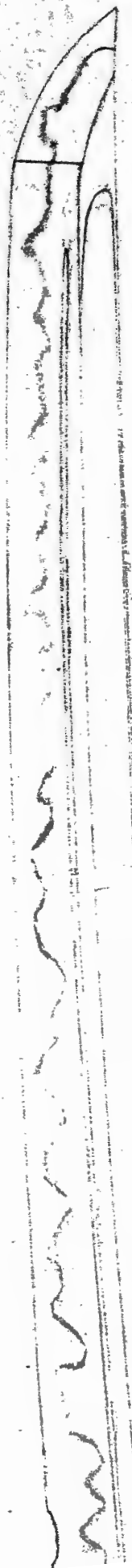
COMMENTS:

This blade is not in the National Treasure class, but most likely could be put into the Important Cultural Asset group. It has recently returned from Japan after being polished and refitted with new shirasaya and habaki. The blade is very light with a beautiful slim appearance and a most graceful blade to look at.

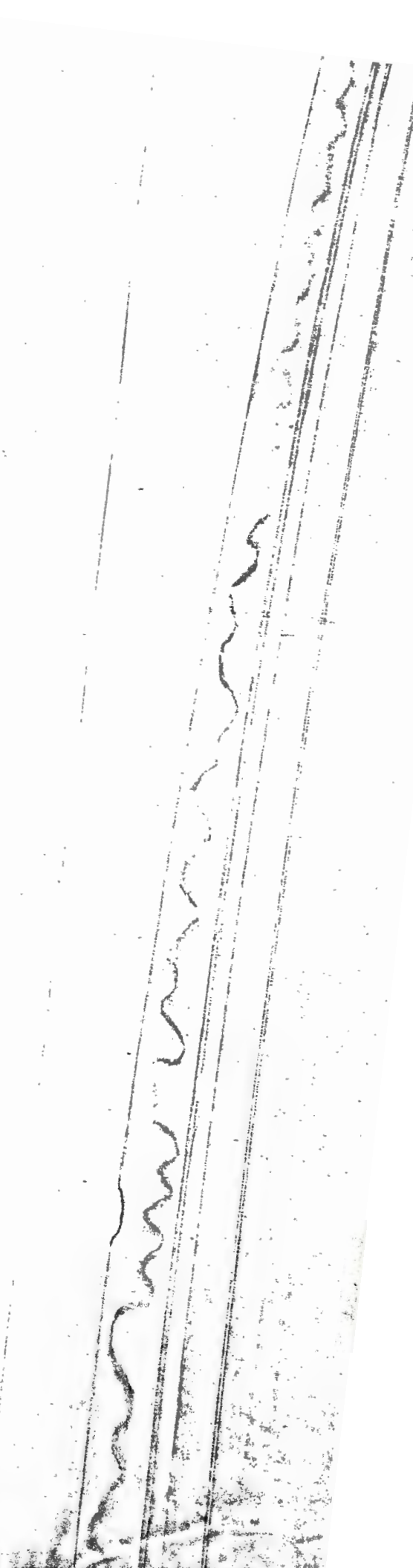
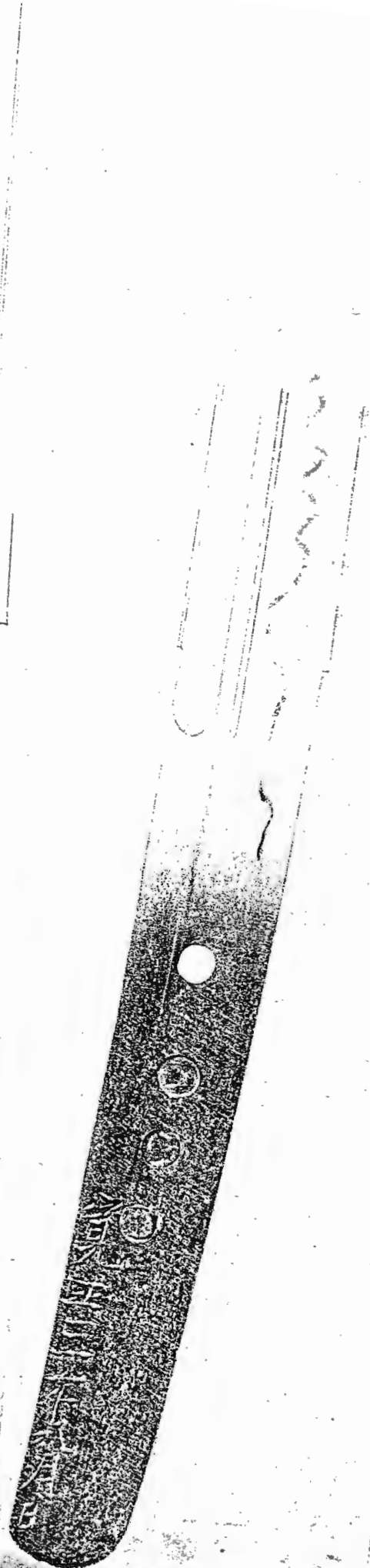
"KANSHO" NORIMITSU is considered to be the best among many Norimitsu. He is listed as Number NO453 in Hawley.

This group of smiths was covered in Nihonto Newsletter Volume III No. 9 - Bizen Osafune smiths.

This particular blade is owned by Mr. John Yumoto. John Clark is working with Mr. Yumoto, learning to perfect the art of oshigata making. It was through Mr. Yumoto's offer that we were able to get this most interesting oshigata for our Newsletter. Many thanks to John for this.



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