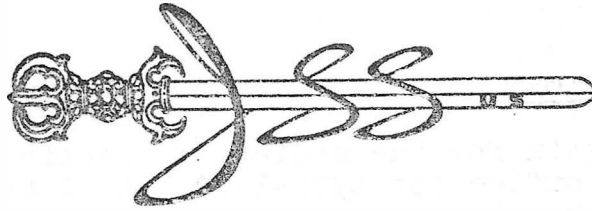


Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 7 No. 6

November - December 1975

CONTENTS -

Chairman's Report, Election of Directors 1976-77, Chicago Report, MONJU (Nidai) SHIGEKUNI paper, NBTHK 24th Annual Meeting report, Show announcements, Questions and Answer section, and miscellaneous items.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT -

This is essentially a postscript to my report to the membership as contained in the September-October, 1975 Newsletter. That report was aimed at bringing the membership up-to-date on the feedback I had received from an earlier "open letter," and at outlining a suggested ranking of priorities.

An annual general meeting was held in Chicago on Oct. 19, and Ron Hartmann is reporting on that elsewhere in this Newsletter. Plans are moving ahead for a show in St. Louis next summer, and by this time you probably have already received a questionnaire asking for your responses to that and other issues. If the Society is to plan in the best interests of the membership it is essential that you return it as soon as possible. There will be a major original translation in the 1975 Bulletin as previously announced, and while I have nothing new to report on a study clinic, the following information on a polisher will be of interest to a number of members.

A variety of solutions to the polishing problem have been investigated over the last year or so, and no ideal solution has been found for the foreseeable future for a number of practical reasons. I know that many collectors have worked out their own solutions through Japan and with polishers elsewhere, and therefore when I say that no ideal solution has been found, I mean one that is unique to the JSS/US and its membership. The fact remains that many collectors, particularly newer collectors, find it next to impossible to make contact with a polisher. It is for that reason that I am glad to announce that a new polisher is working in the United States, and members may wish to contact him and negotiate for his services on an individual basis. The polisher is Tatsuhiko Konno, he has recently been established by a collector in Seattle to work on that collector's blades, but he will additionally consider polishing blades of JSS/US members. I would like to stress that Mr. Konno is not our polisher, he has no formal connection with our organization, and he is not endorsed by the JSS/US. His charges are: polishing, \$8.00 - \$10.00 an inch; shirasaya, \$50.00 daito, \$40.00 wakizashi and tanto; handle wrapping, \$40.00 daito, \$30.00 wakizashi and tanto. Interested persons should write:

Keep



ELECTION OF DIRECTORS -

Time once again for the society's election of Directors, for the two-year term of office for 1976-1977. A slate of seven nominees has been compiled with prime consideration being given to selecting nominees who have shown a true interest in our society and who were felt would respond to the obligations of the office. The slate is as follows:

Daniel Barc (Mt. Clemens, Michigan)
Edward Dobrzanski (Winnipeg)
* Ron Hartmann (St. Louis, Missouri)
* Roy Hashioka (Chicago, Illinois)
* Benjamin Hazard (San Jose, California)
Robert Lewert (Chicago, Illinois)
Mel Oka (Los Alamos, New Mexico) *Incumbents

Since there are no excess nominees in this election (we are allowed a maximum of twelve Directors), their election will be by acclamation, and will be so announced in the next paper barring any objections from the membership.

NEW MEMBERS -

The following new members are hereby welcomed into the society:

Roderick McIlquham
Keith Hostler
Ron Buckles
Mark Goeller
Harry N. Blakeslee
Yunkil Chung
Birney R. Fish
Richard Mangrum
Neil O. Wiseman
Paul J. Bayarinas
John Yumoto

Our membership drive is showing results as is obvious from our continually growing membership roster. As part of this program, an ad has been taken for three months in the newly formed publication, KNIFE WORLD, which is being tested as a potential SHOT GUN NEWS for the edged weapon collector.

The "WHY" of this membership drive was questioned at the JSS/US Chicago meeting and perhaps a brief explanation is in order. First, advertising our "existence" will no doubt reach many obscure collectors who are in need of finding such communication links towards learning such as a sword society. With the limited english material on token, this advertisement will greatly help the many non-member collectors. Second, a membership of over 150 allows our treasury to grow moderate, thus allowing us to venture into future cash-outlay project. Our intent is good and our success will benefit everyone.

JSS/US MEETING AND TOKEN STUDY GROUP SHOW -

The TSG held their annual sword show in Chicago the weekend of October 18th/19th. As expected, with the presence of Mr. Yoshikawa being a key drawing card, a capacity turnout resulted. The JSS/US was very well represented by a large number of members attending, and our ANNUAL MEETING was therefore held as planned.

The show was a huge success thanks to the hard work of the TSG crew. The shinsa was held by Mr. Yoshikawa and his staff and this was truly an experience. Some 212 blades went through shinsa which was enough to keep the team busy for Saturday and into Sunday. Aside from a little on-floor confusion at the start of shinsa time, all went very smoothly with the shinsa itself. The efficiency of the team handling the "paper work" was noted by Mr. Yoshikawa (who was impressed) so perhaps this will help our chances of seeing more such shinsa in the future show formats.

A JSS/US table was set up (one corner of the editor's table) and we grossed \$261.50 in supplies/books sales which is a nice assist to the treasury.

Due to the activity Saturday, the society meeting was postponed until 9:30 A.M. Sunday. Minutes of that meeting are briefed below.

All in all it was a very good show and an excellent relationship between the TSG and JSS/US was evident. Our future sharing in this annual event was welcomed during conversation with officers of TSG and we can all look forward to a mutually good show again in 1976.

MINUTES OF THE JSS/US ANNUAL MEETING -

A meeting of the JSS/US was called at 9:30 A.M., Sunday October 18th, 1975. Attending the meeting was attended by (16) members including several officers. A brief report was given by the treasurer, Ron Hartmann, stating that we had \$751.04 on hand in the treasury with membership standing at 118 at that time. It was further pointed out that in light of the growing membership and the healthy nature of the treasury, no increase in dues would be needed (as was expected several months earlier), and enough excess cash was on hand and more expected thus allowing us to venture into some future projects. It was requested by the treasurer that all foreign members (non U.S and Canada) members be charged an additional \$4 dues (making their dues \$14 annually) to off-set the added cost of air mail postage of their publications. This is approximately (actually a little less) what it costs us to send out those publications via air. A vote was taken and the policy accepted.

A report on the status of the potential St.Louis show in 1976 was given by Clarence Siman. He stated that the show would be a part of the MACA gun show - a section of tables set aside for JSS/US members only. It would be a no-risk show for us with the details and planning being done by the MACA group. We would however be welcomed as part of the show and would benefit dollar-wise by a \$2 per table kick-back on

MINUTES (cont'd.) -

each table rented by us after a minimum of (25) have been rented by JSS members. Tables would rent for \$15/(2) days. It would be a closed show (greatly helping security) and a JSS/US membership card would be required for admittance. If no table is taken, a \$2 charge would be required plus your membership card.

It was mentioned by Arnold Frenzel that a questionnaire was to be sent out prior to the next NL which would poll the membership on their interest in such a show (plus other future projects) and that a full and detailed report will follow pertaining both the the show and to the other topics questioned.

Mr. Roger Dunn of the 1976 Token Taikai event to take place in San Francisco was also present. Roger elaborated on all the aspects of this super event which from the sounds of it, will be a great event to attend. It is intended to be a SWORD SYMPOSIUM with the shinsa being just one facet of the happening. It is intended to TEACH and that it will do if all goes well. A plea was brought forth requesting more lecturers for this event. Anyone who feels that they could do a talk on any area of our interest should contact Roger immediately and advise him of this interest. An up-dated flier will be mailed out to everyone by Roger sometime late December or early January.

The meeting latest around one hour during which time all of the above topics were discussed at length. At approximately 10:30 A.M. the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Ron Hartmann acting on behalf of the secretary, Rick Mantegani, who was unable to attend.

Editor's note: The above mentioned questionnaire has been sent out to all U.S. members only. The Canadian ones are delayed due to the postal strike but will be sent out post haste. A good return has already come back and a tabulation/conclusions/etc., will appear in the next NL.

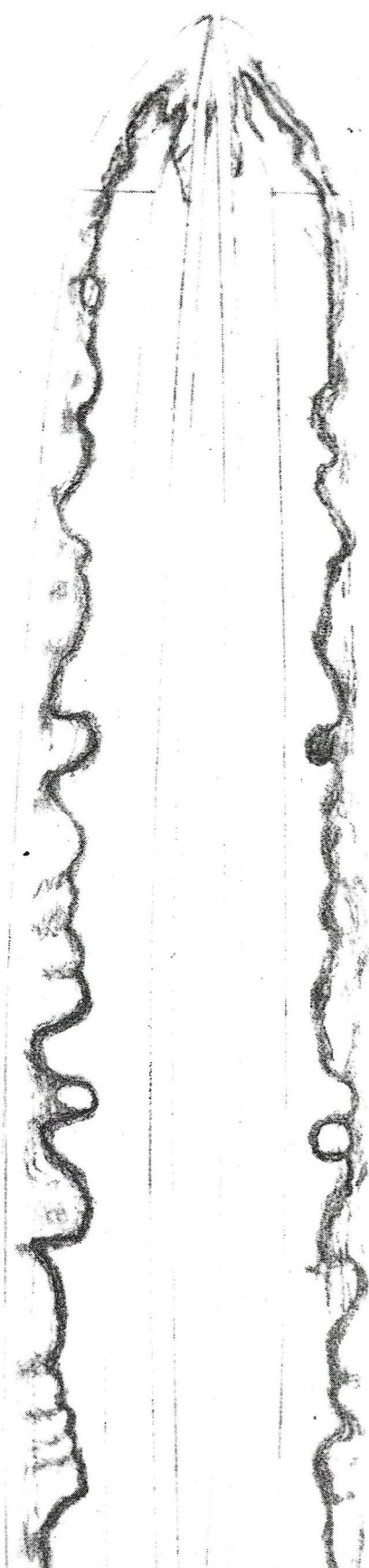
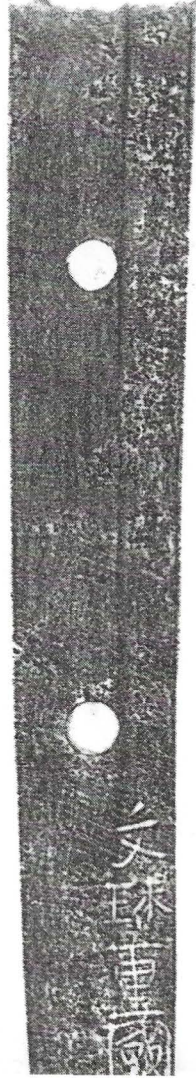
NEW HONORARY MEMBER -

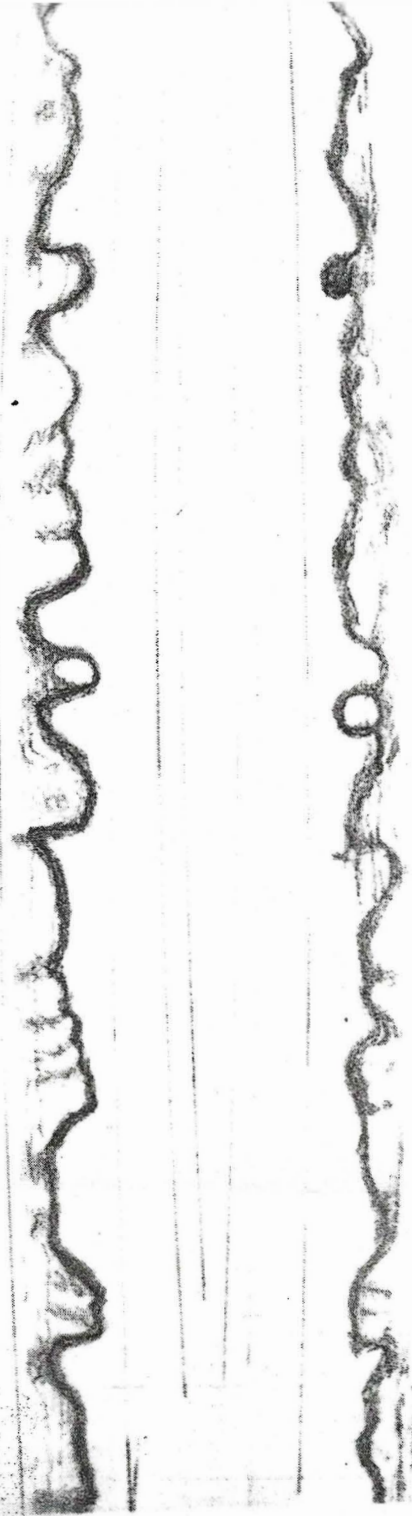
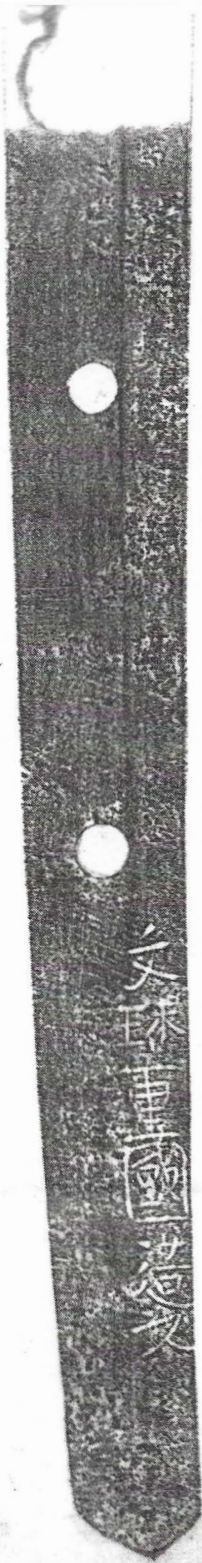
As can be seen on this issues list on new members, Mr John Yumoto has been given an Honorary Membership in the JSS/US. As we all know, John is the author of the excellent book, THE SAMURAI SWORD, and also runs the Northern California sword club.

This membership was given in thanks for the multitude of work John did for our group back in the 1960s. As anyone who reads our early issues of the BULLETIN can readily see, John did many, many lectures for our society and translations, articles, etc., en mass.

John has not only accepted this membership but has expressed a desire to assist us on future ventures - allowing us to use his lectures for one thing - and has stressed future joint ventures between our group and his since we are all driving towards the same goal of learning more about understanding our unique area of study.

On behalf of the membership of the JSS/US, we welcome you John Yumoto, and look forward to our future together.





5.

Oshigata:
MONJU SHIGEKUNI (2nd)

MONJU (NIDAI) SHIGEKUNI

by Robert Benson

There are many fine examples of the first generation's work left for us to enjoy, but this is not the case with the second SHIGEKUNI. Due to the fact that I have in my collection a very fine example of the second generation, I did some research on the Nanki SHIGEKUNI smiths. The following is some information which is not contained in any English texts so possibly it will be of interest to other collectors that might have a SHIGEKUNI II. This is by no means a complete study but perhaps enough to wet ones appetite for further research. I would appreciate an oshigata and a letter from other collectors that have the second generations work along with any comments that might add to further study.

In determining the years that blades were made by the first generation an extensive study has been made of the numerous juyo token, juyobijutsu hin, and juyobunka zai blades. In this study it was found that a determination (presumption) of the year the swords were forged could be done according to the angle of the yasui-meï (file mark stroke). Examples:

- a. Early period works (mid Keicho - early Genwa) angle of yasurime - within 11° to about 13° .
- b. Most vigorous period (from about 5th year of Genwa to mid Kanei) angle of yasurime - within 14° to 16° .
- c. Declining years (from about 4th year of Kanei to about 14th year of Kanei) angle of yasurime - within 17° to 18° .

Nidai SHIGEKUNI on the other hand, was quite different in his yasurime angle. Most of Nidai SHIGEKUNI's blades are 23° with very few 22° and 24° yasurime. Because of this consistency we can not use yasurime to determine dates in which blades might have been forged. It then becomes necessary to look further at the name.

Nidai originally was known as KANESUKE and also had another name of SHIROBEI. He became famous as MONJU SHIGEKUNI and whenever the name MONJU SHIGEKUNI is mentioned it is generally in reference to Nidai even though several other generations used MONJU in their names. MONJU - (Manjusri), the bodhisattva of wisdom and intellect.

So far all that research has turned up is dated swords to show the MONJU SHIGEKUNI made swords for twenty two years from the 1st year of Meireki (when he was about 25 years old) to the 4th year of Empo. A relatively short period for a sword smith. If anyone has a blade dating before or after this period I would appreciate an oshigata. Even with such a short span of 22 years there are some fine examples of Nidai's work so a comparison of signatures can be made.

SHIGEKUNI II (cont'd.)

Compared to Shodai SHIGEKUNI, Nidai's tsukurikomi is narrower, and although the jigane and hamon resembles the works of Shodai, the overall quality tends to fall short. There is only one Nidai Juyo-token while there are about 18 of Shodai's work. The yakiba alone, possibly approaches the Shodai's standards; he was best in the O-midare pattern and made blades which resemble the Soshu den hamon. This can be seen by looking at the Nidai wakizashi in Juyo Token book number 16 and by the oshigata I have accompanying this article.

Nidai SHIGEKUNI used a variety of signatures cut on various locations on the nakago. Following is a chart showing the approximate names and corresponding periods in which they were used. In looking at this twelve year period it can be shown that he didn't have any set pattern or name to use on his blades.

1. Kishu ju Monju Kanesuke Shigekuni tsukuru kore - dated 1655.
2. Oite Nanki Monju Kanesuke Shigekuni tsukuru kore - dated 1656.
3. Oite Nanki Monju Shigekuni tsukuru kore - dated 1656.
4. Oite Nanki Monju Kanesuke Shigekuni tsukuru - dated 1656.
5. Nanki Monju Shigekuni - dated 1659.
6. Kishu ju Monju Shigekuni tsukuru kore - dated 1662.
7. Monju Shigekuni tsukuru kore - dated 1664.
8. Kishu ju Monju Shigekuni tsukuru kore - dated 1664.
9. Oite Kishu Monju Shigekuni tsukuru kore - dated 1667.

These are just a few of his dated pieces as an example to show that he signed in many different ways and at different locations.

In making a close examination of the way his signature was cut it can be determined that the verticle line in the center of the kanji SHIGE is made different. In all of the early works the verticle stroke stops below the top and there is an open space, whereas in later years, (starting in early Kanbun) this troke passes through to the top. To pin point an undated blade of the second generation is impossible due to the numerous signatures used. Only placing a blades as early, middle to late, is all that can be done at this time. During the study to look for trends or similarities of signatures a total of 18 signed and dated plus numerous other signed swords were examined.

In looking for information on MONJU SHIGEKUNI I have extracted the above information from several NBTHK sarticles and several other books. Possibly in the future someone will make a further study of MONJU and bring out other facts which will assist in dating his undated swords.

SHIGEKUNI (cont'd.)

For us that are fortunate enough to have a MONJU SHIGEKUNI we should not be disappointed that we can't actually place it to a date. We should instead be thankful that we have one of his works of art as it appears that there are a lot fewer Nidai SHIGEKUNI works than there are Shodai.

OSHIGATA PARTICULARS

KATANA: MONJU SHIGEKUNI TSUKURU KORE

MEASUREMENTS: Nagasa 2 Shaku 9 Bu. Sori 7.3 Bu.

STYLE: Shinogi zukuri; Ihori Mune; Strong Sori; Small Kissaki; Strong Funbari.

KITAE: Ko itame; a little course hada mixed in. Ample ji nie; has Chikei.

HAMON: O gunome midare mixed; Ashi; has Yo; evenly spread nioi; much nie very well made; Sunagashi and Kinsuji mixed in.

BOSHI: Midare komi; Tip is kaen; has slight hakkake; short Kaeri.

NAKAGO: Machi okuri about 2 Sun; Tip, kengyo; Yasurime, O-suji-chigai; two mekugi ana, inscribed on omote side above the shinogi, close to the mune.

EXPLANATION:

Nidai SHIGEKUNI signed MONJU SHIGEKUNI and is known as MONJU. This is a classic example of the Soshu den hamon that MONJU excelled in. This sword has a Koshu Tokubetsu Kicho Ninteisho from the NBTHK. It also has sayagaki by Junji Homma Sensei. The blade is mounted in a Kin Nashi-ji Sawagata Mon Kin Kanagu Ito Maki tachi koshirae designated as JUYO KODOGU. The Kanagu (metal work) was made in early Edo and put together as koshirae in mid Edo.

Editor's note:

Further references are to be found in Albert Yamanaka NIHONTO NEWS-LETTER, Vol IV Nos.11/12 - page 26 (1971); Fujishiro Shinto book page 432; Hawley ref. #SH95.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS -

Question: Gary Haulman asks, what is the difference between tight and loose forging and how is this evident on a blade?

Answer: A tightly forged sword (steel) is one which has been expertly worked, expelling impurities and creating a beautiful homogeneous end result. When polished, this will appear as a nice consistent hada without open graining or carbon pockets. If a blade shows a grain with openings between the grain or carbon pockets between the grain - this is termed "loosely forged". The other extreme is "hard steel" which would be steel which is over-worked and would show no hada or odd "shiny spots" on peaks of the hamon. All of these things should be noted when recording a blades characteristics.

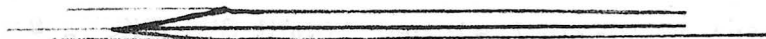
Question: What does the predominate "bright spots" signify on a pointed hamon? example:



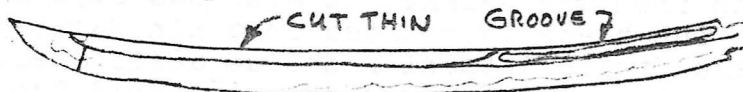
Answer: Signifies a very hard steel and is most often found on more modern swords made with modern steel.

Question: On occasion one sees a sword which has an uneven-sided shape when viewed from the top of the blade. What is this?

Answer: This is a result of poor polishing and should not be. It looks like so:



Question: What is the proper name of this style of sword?



Answer: This is called KAMMURI OTOSHI if it is with yokote, but is called UNOKUI TSUKURI if no yokote is present. Another close style would be a blade grooved as a NAGINATA.

SPECIAL OFFER -

Often, inquiries come in from novice collectors asking for some help in reading inscriptions on nakago. With this in mind, a brief six page "guide" has been put together which might be of some help to new collectors. This guide was compiled from several basic reference books such as Yumoto, Robinson, Hawley, etc., and shows typical nakago and typical inscriptions pin-pointing "key" characters to assist in one's understanding of the total inscription. This guide is definitely of an informal nature and intended as an assist only to the novice. These six xerox pages can be had by writing the NEWSLETTER and sending \$2.00 to cover cost of printing and postage. This "guide" will be mentioned in the future on the "supplies list" which is sent along to all new members to the society. Hopefully, it will save the novice many hours of book-searching in his basic learning steps to collecting.

A REPORT ON THE 24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NIPPON BIJUTSU TOKEN HOZON KYOKAI

by Peter Bleed

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the 24th annual meeting of the NBTHK which was held in Sapporo, Japan on September 28th and 29th, 1975. Since this was indeed a memorable occasion for me and one which I think will interest members of the JSS/US, I have decided to try to describe the event and record some of my observations. In all there were at least twelve Americans at the meeting. These included Dr. Walter Compton, R.B. Caldwell and the members of a tour group led by John Yumoto. The JSS/US was, thus, well represented and I hope that some of the other society members will also write about their observations and experiences. The meeting had so many aspects, and my experience was so rich that I am not sure where to start in trying to describe the event. Let me first describe how the meeting itself was organized and then I will tackle the problem of trying to do justice to the incredible swords and fittings that were on display.

The gathering was held in the brand new Sapporo Park Hotel which is pleasantly situated near large hills on the outskirts of Sapporo. At first it had seemed that the registration fee (\$75) was a bit steep, but when I came to understand what this included it seemed a bargain. Beside the displays, we received a gift packet of typical Hokkaido sweets, white gloves to wear while viewing the swords, a list of items on display, an illustrated book on sword collecting in Hokkaido, and best of all, a well illustrated book on the swords and swordsmiths on Hokkaido. This last item is a real treasure with a fine section on Toshihide and the other Horii smiths. We were also furnished with a lunch and two elaborate evening meals. The banquet on the 29th featured speeches, two bands, and kimono clad hostesses to pour sake. The meeting was, thus, a "big deal" and the participants clearly came to enjoy themselves as well as to study swords. The Hokkaido branch of the NBTHK had clearly worked very hard and had put together a meeting which achieved both ends.

I wish I had some specific information on the people who attended the meeting. There were only a couple of women in attendance, but the age range represented at the gathering was very wide; from the early 20's on up I would guess. Impressionistically I would also guess that a wide socio-economic range was also represented. At least some of the participants were sword professionals - swordsmiths and polishers - but most seemed to be serious collectors. All parts of Japan were represented although Hokkaido and northern Honshu seemed to be heavily in evidence for obvious reasons of proximity (Japan may be a "small" country, but it still is a 17 hour train ride from Tokyo to Sapporo).

Turning to actual displays, I really don't know where or how to begin. The main display consisted of blades with only a relatively few fittings set out by themselves in a separate area. In the main exhibition hall there were 107 superb blades assembled by the NBTHK (all but one of these were Ju-To or better and 7 were National Treasures).

The Hokkaido club had also assembled 66 fine blades as well as 54 blades by Hokkaido smiths. The display closed out with 15 fine blades from the Compton collection. In other words, there were nearly 250 bare blades laid out on tables and we were free to handle them and get as good a look as time permitted. Unfortunately, there was barely enough time and we had to be satisfied with a few minutes per blade. The NBTHK blades were, of course, the most spectacular. They were arranged chronologically and in school or schools. Words, and especially a list of names, cannot begin to describe the display, but some real high points do come to mind. Yamashiro was represented by several blades including a pair of blades - a tanto and a tachi - by Hisakuni that made a very neat point of comparison. The terrific group of blades in Soshu-den included an osuriage Masamune and two very impressive blades by Akihiro. Bizen was represented by a National Treasure Masatsune, an Ichimonji tachi that was absolutely terrific, and a number of other superb blades. Moving into the Shinto period all the big names were there including Myoju, a pair of Kunihiros, a Hankai, and a fantastic Shinkai, as well as a number of other impressive pieces. The Shin-shinto luminaries were also there: Masahide, Naotane, Kiyomaro, Motohira and others. As I said, a simple listing does not begin to indicate what the exhibit had to offer.

The blades by the Hokkaido smiths were especially interesting to anyone - like me - interested in Shin-shinto and Gendaito. There were a number of fine Masao blades, but the high point of this section was a collection of 28 blades by Horii Toshihide who worked at the Japan Steel Works at Muroran. That many blades by one man made an interesting exercise. The last 15 blades were from the Compton Collection. One of these was a Masao tanto apparently included because it was a Hokkaido blade. The remaining 14 blades were Juto! The Japanese were very impressed by this display. Several people told me that they didn't know there were such collections in America. What could I say?

After all of these fine blades, the relatively few fittings that were on display seemed almost an after thought. There were 50 miscellaneous fittings plus an even dozen Juyo rated koshirae as well as a couple of sets of Ainu sword fittings. There were some fine pieces included in this portion of the display, but a day and a half was barely enough to make two trips through the blades and I thus did not do justice to the fittings.

In thinking back on the value of the experience of attending the NBTHK meeting I can think of lots of specific facts that I learned or features that I can appreciate more now. I think, however, that the single most important realization that I made was that whereas we Americans tend to look at what is wrong with a sword, the Japanese collectors look at the good points. This is in part because we meet with lots of fakes and have very few real authorities to help us. We have to be more than a little sceptical for this reason. I feel, though, that if we started to look at the good features, not the bad, we would appreciate our blades more and would probably find that we had overlooked some fine blades.

WANTED/FOR SALE ITEMS -

This section is a free service to our members. Anyone wishing to place a several line ad in the paper should send the ad to the NL Editor.

WANTED: Blades by any of the following smiths:

Sendai KUNIKANE - any generation (KU-159 et al.)
Sendai YASUTOMO - any generation (YA-216 et al.)
Sendai KANETSUGU - any generation (KA-1209 et al.)
Sendai KANEKURA - any generation (KA-664,666 et al.)
Sendai KUNITSUGU - any generation (KU 783 et al.)

I would also like to obtain good reference oshigata of these or other Sendai blades. Contact: Peter Bleed

TSUBA FOR SALE: No repros. Nine tsuba ranging in price from \$15 to \$40. Group price on the lot. All tsuba are iron, katana and wakizashi sizes. Will reply to specific wants in this group. Contact: Clarence Siman,

WANTED: A copy of SHINSHINTO TAIKAN. Send particulars to:
Allen Feldman,

WANTED: Will trade fully mounted Ju-monji yari for fully mounted naginata. Contact: Mel Oka, ,

FOR TRADE: Have several prime 1st class Gendaito available for trade. I am looking for any MISHINA SCHOOL works. Contact:
David Pepin

WANTED: Mino Goto KURIKATA or simple shakudo/ko-nanako plus a horn or shakudo hook (soritsune)- needed for saya repair. Will buy or trade for. Contact; Ron Hartmann c/o NEWSLETTER.

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COURSE BEING OFFERED -

Benjamin Hazard has advised us that a course is being offered this spring by the Department of History, San Jose State University. The course is History 196, Samurai and Traditional Martial Arts. 3 units, in the Spring Semester 1976, Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. It begins 26 January 1976 and concludes 17 May 1976. Instructor: Dr. Benjamin H. Hazard.

A survey of the rise of the martial class and warfare in Japan with a concurrent study of weapons, armor and material arts from antiquity to recent times. Illustrated with slides, films, displays of weapons, armor and demonstrations of martial arts.

This course is open to the interested layman through the extension division.

COMING EVENTS -

Southeast Token Kai - announcing their first sword show to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, February 21,22, 1976. A (50) table show @ \$10 per table. The show will have 24 hour security and will be held at the Roadway Inn. Further info: Paul Couch

Florida Samurai Collectors - Bayfront Park Auditorium, Miami, Florida January 3rd and 4th, 1976. A 250 table sword event. Further info:

TOKEN TAI KAI - An extensive sword-study week and shinsa! San Francisco California, July 29th thru August 1, 1976. The event of the year! Further info:

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POSSIBLE SWORD QUIZ -

The idea of a sword quiz to appear in the NEWSLETTER is being considered. The idea was injected by Bob Benson who says he would work up the oshigata and description and handle the project. This is a great idea - similar to the quiz in NBTHK magazine - which would certainly aid our learning. More on this as it develops.

SUPPLIES - (send orders c/o Newsletter address)

Uchiko Kits - A new supply has been ordered and will probably be available about the end of January. Price will be \$8.00 per boxed kit containing hammer, paper, oil, uchiko ball - similar to the old kits.

Ink Stones - A new supply is in, available for \$3.00 each.

Peabody Tsuba books - These sold like hotcakes in Chicago and had to be reordered. A new supply is in and available for \$9.00.

TO CONCLUDE THE YEAR -

To date, members for the full year should have received a total of (6) issues of the NEWSLETTER, including this issue. The 1974 annual BULLETIN was mailed first of last February, so this should be in hand. Check your issues and advise the NL of any missing publications which will of course be sent to you.

The coming 1975 BULLETIN will be put together in January and hopefully printed and mailed around the 1st of February.

A new membership list was mailed along with the "questionnaire" so everyone should be up-to-date with that. IMPORTANT...check your name and address for correctness on both the membership roster and labels. Advise the editor of any corrections promptly.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Next issue will probably come out around the middle of February. Have all material intended for that issue to the editor no later than the end of January. Send to:

RON HARTMANN

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL !