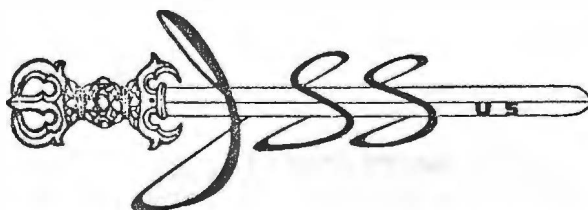


Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 8 No. 1

January - February • 1976

CONTENTS -

Society Questionnaire Report, JSS/US Show in St. Louis, Omi (no) Kami TSUGUHIRA oshigata by John Clark, stolen sword flyer, plus more.

1976 DUES NOTICE -

PLEASE NOTE that most 1976 membership dues are due at this time. If your dues are payable now, a dues notice will be attached to this issue of the paper. IMPORTANT: Remember that all non-U.S./Canada members are being charged \$14.00 dues starting this year, as was explained in the previous NL issue (to cover air post). Your prompt payment (in U.S. Dollars only please) will be greatly appreciated.

SOCIETY QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT -

The Questionnaire which was sent out to the membership along with the November-December NEWSLETTER received about a 60% response. The answers and comments will prove very helpful to the officers of your society in planning our direction in the future. The following is a brief report on the answers and comments compiled from these questionnaire.

An almost unanimous support for a society show reflects the memberships desire for us to sponsor some sort of regular activity. As for 1976 being a good year for a show, only 60% favored an event with the remaining 40% stating that 1976 had enough events already planned. Cities favored for our shows ranked St. Louis first, then Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, N.Y., and a few singles, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Washington D.C. being suggested.

It should be mentioned at this time that we will continue to take an active part in the annual Token Study Group show in Chicago rather than double-up efforts in that locality. Our association with the TSG is excellent and they have expressed a desire that we continue to coordinate some activities with their annual affair.

Some 35 people expressed a desire for a St. Louis show this year, a significant number to warrant plans for such an event.



REPORT (cont'd.) -

The idea of a sword/fitting CLINIC was overwhelmingly accepted. Interests ranked in Koto Blades and Iron Tsuba first. A prime consideration to be remembered in planning such a venture is finding a qualified SENSAI and the setting down of strict ground rules for handling items exhibited. It was obvious from comments made by our more experienced members that security against damage is a real problem. It is felt that this problem can be resolved and more on this program can be expected in a future announcement as plans develop.

Several people offered services in the translating area and they will be contacted as the need arises.

Many people offered items from their collections to be used in our Clinic Project but stipulations on security again would need to be made.

Thanks to all the members who took the time to answer this flyer. Our go-ahead on a St. Louis show is a first result of this report with investigation into a Clinic also being formulated. It should be noted that our questionnaire was not sent to our extremely distant members because of their inaccessability to the programs mentioned. All such programs will be reported on in detail so that everyone can benefit from them even if they are unable to attend personally.

ST. LOUIS JSS/US SHOW -

The society will hold a sword show in St. Louis the weekend of June 5Th/6Th of 1976, in conjunction with the estimated 500 table Missouri Arms Collector Association (MACA) Gun Show as proposed earlier. The show will be held at the SHOW CENTER, 9785 St. Charles Rock Road (approximately 3½ miles from our airport) and will be on the order of the Baltimore show in as much as we will be one segment of a large gun show. The MACA will sponser the event and we will be participants.

It will be a closed show and security will be good. JSS/US tables will be located in a specific area although the entire show will be open to everyone attending. Hotel/Motel accomodations and other such pertinent information will be presented in a flyer at a later date. All inquiries are to be directed to Clarence Siman since he will be our liaison between JSS and MACA. Clarence is also in charge of security for MACA.

Due to an unavoidable conflict of obligations, your editor will not be able to participate in any activities until Sunday, however, someone will be available at all times to represent the society and to give a hand if any problems arise. It promises to be a good show and no doubt will prove a good chance to round up some fresh blades and fittings. Give the show your support - see you there!

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS -

The new Directors of JSS/US for the term of office 1976-1977 are as follows:

Daniel Barc
Edward Dobrzanski
Ron Hartmann
Roy Hashioka
Benjamin Hazard
Robert Lewert
Melvin Oka

On behalf of the society, congratulations. All of these men have expressed a real desire in the past to work with the society and to help us achieve our goals of furthering sword study and appreciation.

NEW MEMBERS -

We have nine new members this issue:

Dr. Walter A. Compton
F. J. Gates
Rod Sayre
Vaughan H. Cottle
Henry J. McGonagle
Keith Evans
Donald Williamson
William M. Randolph
Fred A. Lohman

TREASURER'S REPORT -

(Period from 1/1/75 thru 12/31/75)

Cash on hand 1/1/75			\$582.09
Income: Membership Dues	\$1,290.00		
Supplies, Books, Misc. Sales	579.69		
Total Income	\$1,869.69	\$1,869.69	
			\$2,451.78
Expenditures: Publications, postage	\$725.15		
Items for resale	511.55		
Clerical	227.29		
Total Expenditures	\$1,463.99	\$1,463.99	
Cash on hand, 12/31/75			\$987.79

Respectfully submitted:

SWORD SHOWS -

SOUTHEAST TOKEN-KAI - This promises to be a real good show from all indications. John Yumoto will be on hand and will deliver lectures and conduct a discussion meeting. Remember the date: February 21/22 at the Rodeway Inn, Birmingham. Contact: Paul Couch 1114 St. SW.

TOKEN TAI KAI, 1976 - We are all aware of the significance of this undertaking and an adventure it will be for anyone able to attend! It will be truly a LEARNING SESSION and is geared just for that intent. Remember: July 28th thru August 1st, 1976 in San Francisco. Anyone wanting more information should contact: Roger Dunn,

STOLEN SWORD ALERT - (see page 5)

Two years ago, this very fine tachi became missing from a house in Boston while temporarily in storage. The owner, Mr. Mack has asked that the membership be alerted to this problem. The NBTHK also announced this alert in their magazine No. 204, January 1974, you may recall.

The mounting is ITO-NO-MAKI Tachi with KIRI and KIKU mons. key detail to watch for is that the two sling bands (ASHI) have one large KIRI mon close to the OBITORI, as many other tachi have small mons here. The following drawing explains this: The blade is Bizen SUKENAGA, made in the Kemmu Era (c.1334). Blade length is 2 Shaku 4 Sun 6 Bu (74.5cm) and is in SUGUHA.



If anyone knows of or suspects the location of this beautiful tachi, they should contact Harry immediately. His address is:

WANTED - FOR SALE ITEMS - (Free service for our members)

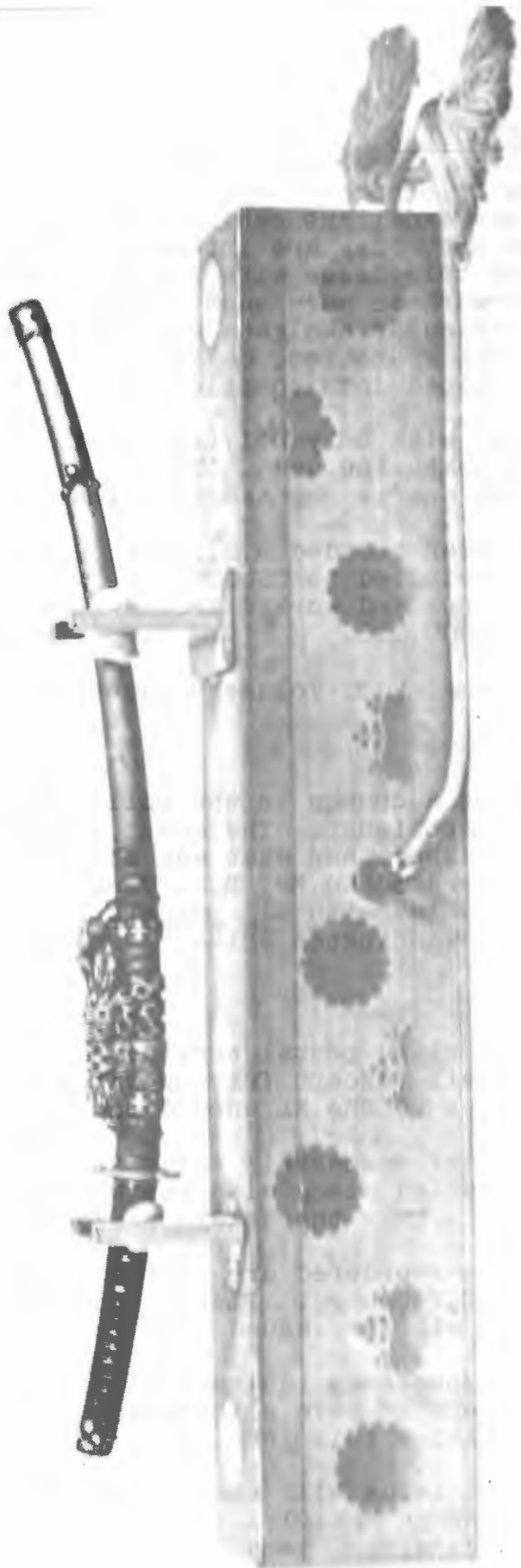
WANTED: INFORMATION ON THE SMITH - KANEAKI (KA 135). WILL TRADE OSHIGATA. Please contact:

WANTED: A copy of Shibata's WAKIZASHI no MIRYOKU. Contact:

WANTED: Menuki - Arrowhead; Bow; Dragonfly motif. Also, blades by Tamba no Kami YOSHIMICHI, family and students. Contact: Andres Rodriguez

WANTED: Will trade fully mounted JU-MONJI YARI for fully mounted NAGANATA. Also have some Matchlock pistols, rifles. Contact: Mel Oka

FOR SALE: Several frames of rare Japanese arrowheads - museum pieces! Contact: M. A. Goodspeed, Jr. Chevy Chase,



OSHIGATA OF OMI (no) KAMI TSUGUHIRA -

Our oshigata this issue is one done by John Clark, who is gaining a very fine reputation for his excellent oshigata. Since these oshigata are in themselves, works of art, they are intended to be mounted and framed. We are experimenting this issue with reproducing these and if all goes well we can look forward to more such beautiful oshigata by John in the future. This particular oshigata was made for the sword's owner, Mr. Jim Hitchcock of San Francisco, California. Credit is also directed to John Yumoto who helped John compile this information.

DESCRIPTION: Katana (suriage) with only OMI (no) KAMI....remaining. Length is 2.29 Shaku (69.4cm). The blade is in very excellent polish and is mounted in shirazaya.

EXPLANATION: This blade has been awarded N.B.T.H.K. Green Papers and has been attributed to TSUGUHIRA. This smith was of Musashi Province and worked around 1684. He was a student of YASUSUGU III.

Ref: NIHONTO NEWSLETTER (A. Yamanaka), Volume 4, Number 9, Page 3 (1971).

POLISHER NOTE -

The NL has been advised of a change in the polishing rate charged by the newly announced Seattle polisher. The agent, Mr. Terao, says polishing will cost \$12/inch rather than what was stated last issue. Also, all letters should be directed to Mr. T.H. Terao, 3601 14th Ave. els being sent to _____.

MISCELLANEOUS -

Due to the unreliable 3rd class postal service, all publications will be mailed via 1st class mail (except foreign which will go air). Anyone missing any recent issues of the NL should contact the editor.

Any delays in the mailing of membership cards is the fault of your editor since these cards are mailed along with the NL issue. Last time they were accidentally left out - thus the delay. 1975 BULLETIN is late.

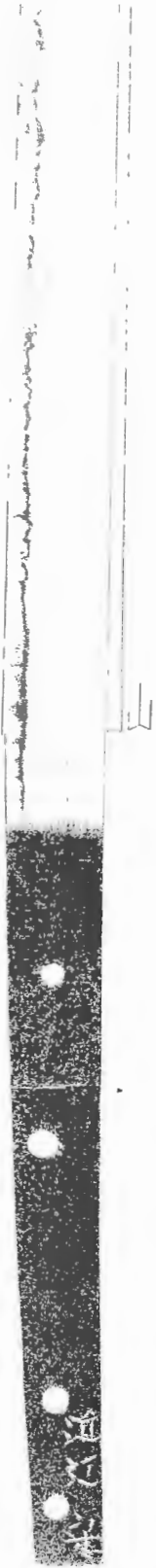
The UCHIKO KITS which were reordered are on their way from Japan and should arrive by the end of February. Please order accordingly. A new a complete SUPPLIES LIST will be issued next month or so.

The shinsa papers by Mr. Yoshikawa (Chicago TSG 1975) are in hand and are most impressive. We hope to have a thorough article on both these papers and NBTHK papers later this year.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - Next issue will come out around the middle of April. Please have all intended material for that issue to the editor no later than the end of March. Send to:

RON HARTMANN

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Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.

SWORD SHOW

TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH

MISSOURI ARMS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

500 TABLE GUN SHOW

TIME: JUNE 5th and 6th, 1976 - 8 AM to 5 PM
(Set-up after 6 PM Friday)

PLACE: SHOW CENTER
9785 St. Charles Rock Road
St. Louis, Missouri

2 4 H O U R S E C U R I T Y

TABLE COST -

\$15.00 for both days. Each renter will be allowed (1) guest FREE OF CHARGE. Those not taking a table must be charged a \$1.00 guest fee. IMPORTANT: Since this is a CLOSED SHOW, Admission will be by JSS/US (or MACA) membership card only. ADVANCED TABLE PAYMENT will get a prompt reply plus GUEST CARD thus eliminating the need to stand in line at show time.

SEND TABLE RESERVATIONS TO -

Clarence Siman

NOTE: During Friday night set-up, JSS/US member Neil Keen will be our on-the-scene coordinator, and will assist with any local problems that may arise. Neil can be reached at (314) 426-6959 or 427-0663. Someone from JSS/US will be readily available during show hours to oversee the event.

ACCOMMODATIONS -

To add to the convenience of those attending, there is a bloc of (50) rooms reserved at the SHERATON AIRPORT INN, 4201 North Lindberg Blvd. (Toll Free Number 800-325-3535). The rate is \$17.50 per day (single), \$21.00 per day (double).

When making room reservations at the Sheraton, you must mention MACA since the bloc is in their name. This motel has (24) hour pick-up service from the airport (FREE OF CHARGE) plus they will provide VAN SERVICE from the motel to the show, also FREE OF CHARGE.

* * * * SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MAP * * * *

MACA will present an award to the best sword display during the show