

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 8 No. 6

November - December 1976

ELECTION OF OFFICERS -

The election of society officers for the two-year term (1977-78) would normally be initiated with this issue of the Newsletter. As it has turned out, completion of the slate of nominees has not been formalized as of yet and therefore, the election must be temporarily postponed. If all goes well, the officers-to-be will have the blessings of a JSS/US shinsa involvement (see the following TSG show report) and consequently, a good and deliberate selection of nominees is of utmost importance. This is one reason for the delay in establishing the slate. The membership will be promptly advised of developments as they occur. Your understanding in this matter is appreciated.

NEW MEMBERS -

We are proud to welcome six new members into our society with this concluding issue of the Newsletter for 1976:

V.R. Porter;
M.S. Martin;
David Cibik;
William Litwin;
Phillip H. Davis;
Donald Michielsens;

BULLETIN MATERIAL NEEDED -

Front-page priority is given this very important message at this time. Material is gathered during the course of the year for inclusion in the society annual, the BULLETIN. As 1977 approaches its end the need for material to be included in our annual becomes a reality, and a plea to our membership will hopefully quench this need by rounding up some good material for this coming publication. Translations, good discoveries, research material - a wealth of material exists within our ranks and all it takes is your time to "rough it out" on paper for it to be presented in our year-end publication. Give this plea your full consideration - share that learning - it is a very good feeling to be able to share one's appreciation and education - do it today!



TOKEN STUDY GROUP SHOW REPORT -

The annual Token Study Group sword show was presented in Chicago during the weekend of October 16th/17th and as expected, was a huge success.

This event was of particular importance due to the presence of John Yumoto, who was on hand the entire weekend to act as sensei to the group. John tirelessly answered a multitude of questions during the course of the show, to the delight of all those attending. An evening of lecture was presented on Saturday and was equally rewarding.

A JSS/US meeting (general meeting) was intended but unfortunately, simply did not develop. Perhaps it would be best to preset a time well ahead of show time for our meetings and not rely on available time at the time of the show. The same lack of a meeting developed during our St. Louis show because of everyone being caught-up in the excitement of the weekend. Next occasion will be better handled as far as at JSS meeting goes.

A lunch-meeting was realized which included John Yumoto, Pete Bleed, Ted Wysocky, Otto Nishida, and Ron Hartmann at which time discussion for a JSS/US and TSG joint venture in a shinsa was held. It was a very basic meeting but prospects look good that a 1978 shinsa/seminar will take place as a joint venture of our two groups. More on this as plans formulate.

Congratulations to the Token Study Group officers and members for a most enjoyable weekend. We all look forward to the next year's event.

NEW POLISHER ON THE SCENE -

During the Chicago TSG show, announcements were distributed for polishing services offered by NIHONTO KEMMA LTD. of Denton, Texas. A letter to the service brought this information which is offered as a service (not an indorsement) to our members.

"Concerning our polisher. His name is William Trevino, and he has studied under the tutelage of Mr. Seikichi Kurokawa of Kamakura, Japan. His apprenticeship lasted approximately three years, during which time he has polished over 130 swords of different types. The quality of his work varies with the quality of the blade and constant improvement is his goal. We hope this will shed some light upon your inquiry."

Other sword services are also offered by this company. For further information it is suggested that you contact NIHONTO KEMMA LTD., It is reminded that this is not an indorsement but only a general information service.

1976 SWORD TRIP TO JAPAN -

The sword trip to Japan under the guidance of sensei John Yumoto had only two participants this year. The benefits of such a small group became evident when visits to the homes of sword dignitaries and rare personal visits were realized. A full report of this educational adventure, reported by Charles Ross, follows:

A REPORT ON THE SAMURAI SWORD TOUR OF JAPAN
2-15 NOVEMBER, 1976

By CHARLES G. ROSS

November 2:

The tour group consisting of John Yumoto, Dr. Nathan Rosenbloom and myself, landed in Tokyo at 5:30 P.M. Albert Yamanaka, Editor-publisher of the Nihonto News-letter, met us at our hotel for an interesting and informative evening of sword conversation. John Yumoto interpreted during all visits and meetings. His proficiency as an interpreter and his vast knowledge of the Japanese Sword were invaluable to the success of the trip.

November 3:

At 10:00 A.M., we visited Mr. Kentaro Yoshikawa, the sword polisher, at his home. Mr. Yoshikawa is the head of Hozonkai, one of the oldest sword study groups, who have published "Token To Rekishi" (Sword & History) monthly for over 65 years. He and his father, Tsunejiro Yoshikawa, are both excellent polishers and are employed by the Imperial household as caretakers of important swords. The father was recently bestowed a great honor by the Emperor. He showed us several fine swords, answered questions, served tea, and allowed us to watch three polishers at work, one of whom was his son. He said that the polishing lines under the Habaki were the mark of the individual polisher and were used to dress up the blade. He said that in the normal polish of a sword (not a newly forged one), he uses eight grades of stones. Also shown to us were boxes of fine examples of various handle wrappings which Mr. Yumoto photographed. Mr. Yoshikawa and his wife took us to lunch at a nearby restaurant.

After lunch we visited Mr. Kosuke Murakami, sensei of the Toensha, at his home. Also present were Mr. Goyama, head of the board, and Mr. Moto Tsuga Aoki, and Dr. Suiken Fukunaga. Laid out for us to handle were twenty one blades, fifteen tsubas and eight sets of fuchi kashira. We spent five hours examining them and asking questions, after which Mr. Murakami and his above named associates hosted us at a many course Japanese dinner. See Note 1 for a list of a few of these blades.

November 4:

We went to the National Museum in Ueno Park, where we were met by Mr. Kashima, head of the sword division. In a back room about twenty swords were laid out for our viewing. Mr. Kashima explained each sword, and we picked up and examined each one. Many of these swords had been designated National Treasures or Important Cultural Properties, and had been part of a previous display that had recently been taken down for return to the owners. See Note 2 for a list of these swords.

We had lunch with Mr. Kashima, after which he led us around the Special Exhibition of Japanese Arms and Armor, which has been called a once in a lifetime exhibit. It commemorates the fiftieth year of the reign of Emperor Hirohito. We concentrated on the blades with Mr. Kashima explaining. These exhibits were all behind glass, and of course we could not handle them; however, it is said to be the greatest exhibition of its type ever conducted. By my count there were sixty-three National Treasure blades, plus many blades designated as Important Cultural Properties and Important Art Objects.

Included in the 584 objects listed in the catalog are National Treasures in armor, sword mountings, bows, quivers, saddles, stirrups and bits. The catalog contains a thirty-three page index in English and is a worthwhile publication.

November 5:

We visited the Sword Museum which was founded in 1970 in Yoyogi, Tokyo. Upon entering we saw the bronze bust of Colonel Carol V. Cadwell which honors his memory for his support in helping to save valuable swords from loss or destruction while he was Provost Marshal of the 8th Army during the early part of the occupation of Japan. We were greeted by Dr. Junji Homma who is curator of the Sword Museum and chairman of the Society for the Preservation of Japanese Art Swords (NBTHK).

We then went to the conference room where eleven blades had been laid out for us. Each blade was explained and we were then permitted to pick it up for study. See Note 3 for a list of these blades.

We then looked at the fine collection of swords in the display room.

While at the NBTHK Museum, our good friend Mr. Toshihira Endo, was kind enough to show us four blades which were to be taken to the Ueno Museum for the 'Buguten' Exhibition. See Note 4 for a list of these blades.

November 6:

We went to the home of Yoshihito Yoshihara, a sword maker whom some feel may be in line for the honor of Living National Treasure. Last year he charged several thousand dollars for a katana and half that for a tanto; this year his prices have gone up. Yoshihara told us that it takes him ten days to two weeks to make a katana, and half that long for a tanto. He said only one sword out of three comes out satisfactory--the other two he destroys: there is the same failure rate on a tanto. He said that the Japanese government allows a master sword maker to complete only two katanas or three tantos per month. He seldom makes a wakizashi since katanas and tantos are preferred. His brother, Soji Yoshihara is also an accomplished swordsmith.

Yoshihara demonstrated how to temper a blade. He and his brother each patiently mixed a different type of clay mixture. One type that let the heat in was applied to the area to be tempered; the other type that kept heat out was applied to the area that was not to be tempered. We watched him heat the blade until it was red, and then plunge it into the water which was the temperature of the unheated forge room. Unfortunately this tanto developed a small crack at the instant it was submerged in the water. Yoshihara said that he heard the crack. Although the crack was just barely visible, he tossed the tanto into the discard pile.

November 7 through 11:

To keep my report short, I will deal briefly with these five days. They were very interesting and consisted primarily of a cultural tour of four cities--Okayama, Osaka, Kyoto, and Nagoya.

In Okayama, we visited the Korakuen gardens, one of the three greatest in Japan, and toured Ikeda Castle.

In Osaka, we toured the famous Osaka Castle, built in 1583 by Hideyoshi Toyotomi and burned down in 1615 with the fall of the Toyotomis. The present castle was reconstructed in 1931.

In Kyoto, we stayed at a Ryokan, which is a Japanese style Inn. We visited a sword store and numerous antique stores that had some tsubas and other sword fittings.

In Nagoya the highlight was a visit by train and car to the town of Tsuge near which is the former house of the famous Ninja leader, Iga. We made a conducted tour of his house with its secret hideaways and exits and of the museum that contains weapons and various articles used by the Ninjas.

November 12:

We took the early morning bullet train from Nagoya to Tokyo. The weather was solidly overcast and foggy, but suddenly we caught a beautiful view of just the top one third of Mount Fuji bathed in sunlight, and in just ten seconds it was again covered by clouds and fog.

The 25th Annual Conference of the Nippon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai was held in Tokyo on the 12, 13 and 14 November, 1976. This conference was scheduled to coincide with the Special Exhibition of Arms and Armor at the National Museum at Ueno, so we went for the second time to the National Museum.

We met up with Randolph Caldwell and Mike Quigley, thus a total of five Americans attended the NBTHK conference. There were five collectors from Great Britain and ten from the European mainland.

November 13:

We registered for the NBTHK conference which was held at the Okura Hotel in Tokyo. The fee was \$93, which included a pair of white gloves, a catalog of displayed items, a luncheon and a buffet dinner. The bare blades were laid out on eight cloth covered tables with the points resting on tiny pillows. The single file line snaked along as each participant picked up each sword in gloved hands and examined it.

Last year the NBTHK conference in Sapporo allowed two days for the viewing; unfortunately this year they allowed only one day which was not enough. During the morning the line moved slowly, however by 2:30 P.M. officials realizing that all the participants would not have time to finish, put a limit of fifteen seconds per blade. I recommend to any members who attend next year, that they get in line as soon as they can, especially if the viewing is for only one day.

It was a remarkable, educational and thrilling experience to pick up these magnificent and historical blades. The hard-cover catalog is excellent and shows 187 exhibits including 158 blades. Unfortunately there is not one word in English. An English index or a mimeographed index supplement would have helped greatly. This situation could definitely be improved if more non-Japanese speaking students participate annually.

November 14:

The scheduled activities for the NBTHK conference called for a guided tour of Tokyo, however, none of our tour group went on it as we had all seen the sights of Tokyo on previous visits to Japan. We decided for the most part to pursue our own special interests on this last full day.

I went to a sword store called Japan Sword, where I met Mr. Inami Hakusui, author of Nippon-To, the Japanese Sword. I bought a copy of his book which he autographed for me and chatted at length with him and his son, who is president of the Japan Sword Company, LTD.

In the afternoon, I went back to the National Museum for my third look at the fabulous display.

November 15:

The morning was open time. We assembled back at the hotel at twelve noon to check out and head for the airport. The flight back to San Francisco took eight and one-half hours.

In my opinion, the tour was highly educational and successful beyond my expectations. It was also a great vacation and a lot of fun.

Next years annual NBTHK meeting is scheduled for 8, 9 and 10 October 1977, in Takarazuka, near Osaka, Japan.

I have been informed that John Yumoto is planning the fourth annual sword tour which will start October 1, 1977, and cover mainly the Western part of Japan including Kyushu, for approximately 15 days. If you are interested, it is not too early to let him know of your intentions.

NOTE 1

A few of the blades studied at the home of Mr. Kosuke Murakami on November 3. All of the Notes are from a tape recording.

TOMOMITSU, Bizen no Kuni Osafune, 1539. It is very common to find this double edged tanto not only in Bizen but all over the country for the rest of the century.

KATSUMITSU, Bizen no Kuni Osafune, 1535. This tanto has a relatively long nakago, which is common for tantos of this period.

NORIMITSU, Osafune, 1515. He was called "Ho-Norimitsu" because Nori can be read "Ho". The shape of this tanto is similar to that of the above two.

KANENAGA, Tegai school of Yamato, 1366. A signed tanto of this school is very rare.

NOTE 2

Two of the many blades studied at the National Museum at Ueno on November 4.

MITsutADA, was the father of Nagamitsu. This blade is listed on page 130 of Nihonto Taikan Volume II of the Koto section. It has a bo-hi with kakudome. Beautiful and wide nioi, choji mixed with komidare, gunome, koashi and yo. There are known to be only five or six signed Mitsutada existing. It is polished in the Tokugawa period. Mitsutada was the father of the Osafune school.

KANETSUGA, Aoe school. Strong Koshizori. Hada is coarser than that of Bizen. The nakago is shaved off to give the "Kiji-momo" shape. It lacks the glorious yakiba pattern of Bizen. This early Kamakura blade is an Important Cultural Property.

NOTE 3

A few of the blades studied at the NBTHK Museum in Yoyogi on November 5. Notes are from a lecture given by Mr. Michihiro Tanobe, an assistant curator of the Museum.

Three entombed CHOKUTO, straight swords, circa 6th century. The study of this area was assigned to archaeologists, who only studied the shape and size; however, by polishing and finding out the yakiba and jihada we might be able in the future to determine the style and school of smiths by the locations of entombment. They usually have coarse lamination and simple yakiba.

TOMONARI, ko-Bizen school, late Heian period. The shape of tachi of the late Heian and early Kamakura period has strong curvature at the base and less curvature towards the tip of the blade. However, from mid Kamakura period on the curvature will continue on to the tip. This blade has a small kissaki and has a great difference in width between the base and that of the tip. It has a very natural and simple ko-midare yakiba, full of fine nie. The two great smiths of this period of Bizen are Tomonari and Masatsune; Tomonari blades have a more graceful shape and Masatsune blades are known for their fine jitetsu. Tomonari blades often have Bo-hi, whereas Masatsune blades seldom have it.

NAGAMITSU, mid-Kamakura period. His blades have continuous curvature. There is a smaller difference in the width at the base and at the tip, and also the kissaki is larger. It is a common belief that all Bizen blades have basically 'nioi' yakiba, however, late Heian to early Kamakura period Bizen blades are of 'nie' yakiba. Bizen blades from the mid-Kamakura period and on have predominantly 'nioi' yakiba.

NOTE 4

Blades shown to us by Mr. Toshihira Endo on November 5.

MITSUTADA. This ken is an Important Cultural Property, and is the only ken signed by Mitsutada. Ken by him are very rare. It is full of chikei and kinsuji. Usually ken are made with masame, however, this ken is itame mixed with mokume.

SADAMUNE. This tanto is Katakiri-shape and is classified as Tokubetsu Joyo Token. It has double-tier carving commonly found among Soshu work. Typical itame and masame grain full of nie chikei.

IKKANSHI TADATSUNA. The carvings were done by him in the 14th year of Genroku, or 1701, and consist of the dragon, bamboo and plum. Mr. Endo thinks he purposely omitted the carving of pine, which would make up three happy symbols, because the yakiba reminds him of a 'wavy line picturesque beach with PINE TREES'!

SUKEHIRO. This katana is by the Osaka shinto master, and is dated the 4th year of Enpo, 1676. The character '4' in Japanese has the same sound as that of 'death', therefore, it is often written 2 and 2 instead of Four. Mr. Endo believes that the jigane of Sukehiro is the best among all Shinto artists work.

JSS/US NEW ENGLAND BRANCH ORGANIZED -

A group of interested Japanese sword fanciers, headed by Betty Killam and Paul Bayarinas, have formed a branch of the JSS/US to be located in the Connecticut area. This energetic undertaking has the goal of bringing more sword study, through lectures and collector association, to this specific area of the states. Their first meeting attracted fourteen people (a real success!) which assured the success of future meetings. Two officers were elected, Paul Bayarinas as the Chairman and Linda (his wife) as secretary/treasurer. Their next sword meeting will be February 4th of next year and anyone in the area is most welcome to join in the event. For further information, contact: Paul Bayarinas; Our best wishes to the success of this branch!

★ INDEX TO (5) VOLUME NIHONTO NEWSLETTER -

At long last, an alphabetical index to Albert Yamanaka's important NIHONTO NEWSLETTER series has been created! A workable (15) page typed index, hopefully will give us a much needed assist in locating specific material with a minimum of effort in this voluminous works. The index is double spaced to allow additions. The index is available for \$6.00 per copy. Order your copy today direct from the Newsletter editor.

WANTED AND FOR SALE COLUMN - (A free service to our members)

★ WANTED: to exchange with other members - 1) Oshigata or sketches of hamon by Ishido Korekazu I and II; 2) Oshigata of the first few Tadayoshi; 3) Oshigata of tangs of the first few Ecnizen Yasutsugu. Needed: a copy of Yasutsugu Taikan and odd copies of NBEHK Juyo series. Contact: Graham Curtis;

★ WANTED: Oshigata and and exchange on the Bizen Sukesada line.
Contact: Curtis Uhls;

★ WANTED: High quality Shintō and Shinshintō katana - any condition.
Contact: Fred Lohman;

★ WANTED: A kodzuka in the style of mokume/checkered work as drawn below (also see p.IV in Peabody):



...or similar

Also needed is a matched kodzuka/kogai in yellow brass with either monkey or pine tree motif. Contact: Ron Hartmann c/o Newsletter.

★ FOR SALE: At present I am weeding out several tsuba from my group ranging from average to expensive quality. Contact: Ron hartmann (above) for descriptions and prices.

★ FOR SALE: A non-collector has a group of tsuba for sale - some too high and some priced right. Perhaps someone might round up some goodies. Contact: There are some nice tsuba to be had here! This is mentioned as a possible benefit to an interested member.

KORYAKU YUKIMITSU

Oshigata by Andrew Quirt

SHAPE AND STYLE - Tantō in hirazukuri style.

KITAE - Hada is O-itame with mokume mixed in. Unfortunately the blade is somewhat tired.

HAMON - The hamon is in niol of gunome-midare with deep ashi in the front third of the blade. The ashi decrease in depth approaching the hamachi until the last inch of hamon, which is a suguha-komidare.

MEASUREMENTS - 7 sun 5 bu (21.35cm)

SIGNATURE - BI(SHU) OSAFUNE YUKIMITSU
(KO)RYAKU GEN NEN JUNI GATSU HI (1379)

"(shu) and (ko)" are at mekugiana (holes).

備州長船幸光 康暦元年十二月日

EXPLANATION:

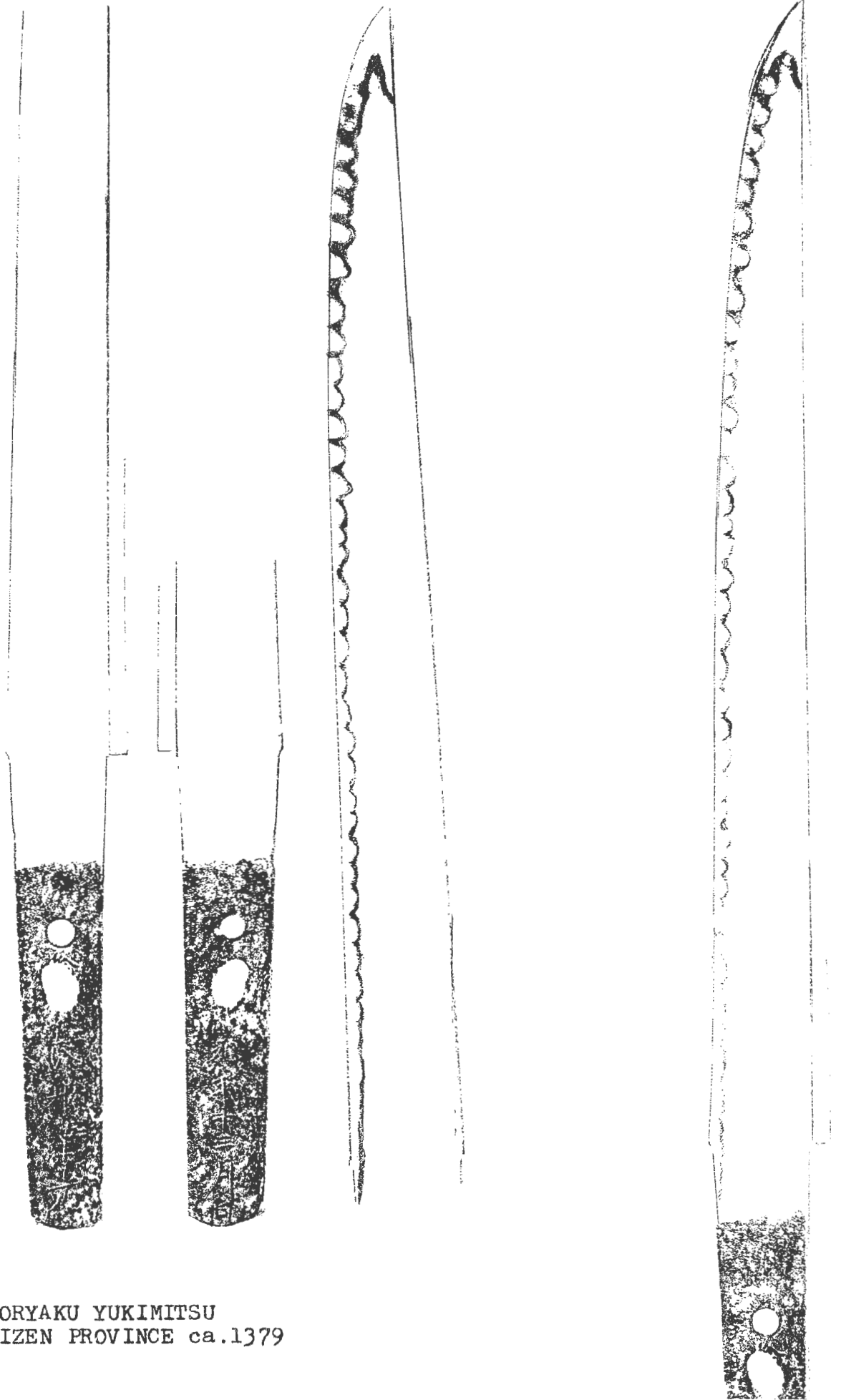
The blade is mounted in shirazaya with sayagaki by Dr. Sato of NBTHK. At the time that this sayagaki was written, KORYAKU YUKIMITSU was an unrecorded smith.

Bizen YUKIMITSU is reputed to be a student of O-Kanemitsu. Examples of his works are illustrated in the new edition of Fujishiro and in NihonTō Bizen Den Taikan. The NihonTō Meikan lists seven dated examples of YUKIMITSU from Oan 2 (1369) through Kakei 2 (1388). Oan and Kakei are eras designated by the Northern Court during the Naboku-chō Period in Japan's history.

EDITORS NOTE:

The full length oshigata gives one a good impression of the small and straight tantō of the times. Actually, the Namboku-chō saw changes in the style of tantō and this particular one is made more like a mid to late Kamakura style: 7 or 8 sun length with no sori. As a point of interest, the following definition on length is given: A tantō whose length is about 8.5 sun is called JO SUN meaning "the prescribed length". Tantō of a length over 8.5 sun are called SUN NOBI and under this length are called SUN ZUMARI.

This tantō by YUKIMITSU is a rare and beautiful blade and a joy to hold and examine.



KORYAKU YUKIMITSU
BIZEN PROVINCE ca.1379

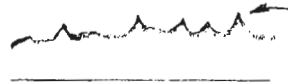
UNDERSTANDING NIE AND NIOI

(Part four of a series on furthering the understanding of
nie and nioi as compiled by R.Hartmann from Nihonto Newsletter)

TOGARI NIOI

In this case, the yakiba (edge of the hamon) is not pointed, but the nioi is pointed. Pointed nioi is quite often mistaken for a pointed yakiba. The two are worlds apart and very different from one another. A pointed nioi from the midare hamon is the characteristic of Bizen blades. A pointed hamon is characteristic of Mino blades.

nioi into ji
like a cloud.



hamon is pointed
nioi stays with
hamon

POINTED NIOI (like inverted ashi)

POINTED HAMON

Such smiths as Sakon Shogen Nagamitsu (Nagamitsu II) have this pointed nioi from the peaks of the kochoji midare. The peaks of the pointed nioi enter the ji area. This is also found on the works of Oei Bizen Yasumitsu.

MISCELLANEOUS

In comparing the width of the nioi line in the valley of the midare hamon and of the peaks of the midare, it will be found that the peak nioi line is much wider than that of the valley.



Nioi is generally found on the top of the yakiba (edge of hamon) or in the form of ashi, forming a sort of profile of the yakiba. However, at times one encounters a blade with a nioi in which the whole of the hamon seems to be made up of nioi and it is just that, the whole hamon is filled with nioi. This type of nioi is what is termed as SHIMARANAI NIOI meaning "not closed". Nioi in such cases is very flat and there is no life in it. The habuchi does not have the vigor one expects of a nioi edge. This type of nioi is usually found on blades of Shinshinto Bizen smiths.

Ashi is the form of nioi which clings together and enters the hamon into towards the cutting edge.



Yo are like footprints within the hamon and are small patches of nioi (tails of ashi) within the hamon.



Nioi Kuzure appears as areas independent of the hamon, a temper in various circular formations. This is often found in works made in Bizen tradition from late Yoshino and well into Sengoku Period. This can be seen in works of Yozozemon no Jo Sukesada, Kiyomitsu or Katsumitsu. They are even found on works which are made in suguha.



CORRECTION NOTED!

The last issue of the Newsletter was mistakenly dated November-December and should be corrected to read September-October. Please correct your files.

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1977 DUES -

Although 1977 dues will be called for with the first issue of the Newsletter in February, payment now would be appreciated. Note your membership cards and anyone with due date 1/1/77 should send their \$10 (\$14 foreign) to the Treasurer. Your cooperation and prompt payment is greatly appreciated.

Several times this year the question came up as to the mailing out of membership cards - why a delay at times. To save postage, cards are usually sent out with the next issue of the Newsletter. At times this means a two-month delay, thus the concern of some members. This policy should had been explained earlier - please do not be concerned if such a delay takes place - it is only our way of handling the matter.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS -

Gary Haulman has asked what significance "notches" or "deep file mark" on the edge of a nakago might have. This question has come up several times before and apparently, these are simply identifying marks which usually appear also on the seppa, tsuka, tsuba (sometimes) and identified the sword with its specific fittings. This is very often found on military mountings too.

Ron Hartmann recently asked for the proper manner of "seating" a kogatana in a kodzuka. Yamanaka advised that most kogatana tangs have a slight bend to them and it is this bend which seats the blade. The paper wedge often found near the machi simply snims the blade to a good solid seat. Albert adds that a kogatana should always be removable and never glued tightly into place.

BIRMINGHAM 2ND ANNUAL SWORD SHOW ANNOUNCED -

The second annual Southeast Token Kai sword show and seminar will be held the weekend of February 19 and 20 in Birmingham, Alabama. This years show promises to be another success with John Yumoto on hand as sensei and lecturer. Plan to attend...the event draws not only the "old hands" but many new faces from this corner of the states, which results in an enjoyable and well-rounded sword event.

For further information and details, contact: Paul Couch;

Editors note: Namban collectors....Paul has (had?) a super unique namban-style wakizashi mounting of importance. This style is often overlooked, thus this mention at this time. Write Paul for details.

A SENSEI IS AVAILABLE -

It is felt at this time that perhaps mention should be made pertaining to John Yumoto's willingness to be sensei to the many sword collectors here in the states. At the February Birmingham show and again during the Chicago event, John expressed his desire to share his knowledge with us. This sharing can be realized by bringing John to your local group for lecturing. As soon as John retires (this coming year?) he will make himself available for just such a teaching venture.

The cost of such an undertaking can easily be off-set by charging whatever the cost divides up to be between the people asking John to lecture. Hopefully we in St. Louis will be able to do this in the near future (nobody has been approached on this as of this time though) in the hopes that such a personalized lecture would greatly benefit us. This is mentioned here as a suggestion in order to make John's very sincere intent as teacher, known to all of us. It is further suggested that anyone wanting more information on this should approach John personally and ask for his suggestions.

SUPPLIES -

An up-dated list of supplies and books available from your sword society, is included with this Newsletter. Send your order and check (in U.S. funds please) to your Treasurer c/o the Newsletter.

Our supply of uchiko kits arrived in good order and we now have a good supply which should last awhile. The stock will be reordered as it goes down.

BOOKS AVAILABLE -

A small supply of the very excellent Christies catalogue for the HARTMAN COLLECTION auction is on hand at \$25 each. An abundant supply of the PEABODY TSUBA COLLECTION and the TOKEN TAIKAI book of lectures is also on hand. See the supplies list for prices and details.

NIHONTŌ NEWSLETTER REPRINT -

Mention was made in our last Newsletter of the possibility of having a limited number of NIHONTŌ NEWSLETTER reprinted. Several of the members have expressed their desire for such copies and from this list we can get some idea as to the feasibility of this. Paul Couch has done some serious research into reprinting this works too and the cost does present a problem. The membership will certainly be kept up on any developments in this matter - it will not be dropped. As a suggestion, anyone having sets available for sale or trade might advise the Newsletter of this and at least some members could acquire a copy.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - The January-February issue of the Newsletter will come out about the 1st of February 1977. Please have material for that issue in the hands of the editor no later than the end of January. It has been a very good year for JSS/US and 1977 promises to be even better!

SEASONS GREETINGS



Order from:

LIST OF SWORD SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FROM JSS/US

UCHIKO KITS (sword care kits) -

Packaged in a quality white wood box, the kit contains uchiko, brass hammer/mekugi remover, sword oil and papers. This kit is the same as sold by NBTHK in Japan. Price \$9.00 per kit.

UCHIKO POWDER POM-POM - \$1.00 each

BRASS HAMMER - \$1.50 each

SWORD OIL - Large Bottle (100cc) - \$5.00 each.
Small Bottle (20 cc) - \$1.50 each.

OSHIGATA PAPER - fine grade Kaga rice paper in 12" x 16" sheets as supplied by NBTHK. Picks up the finest details when making oshigata of a nakago. Price \$4.00 per (20) sheets.

INK STONES - (for use with oshigata paper) - \$3.00 each

MEKUGI REMOVERS - Made in the design of a small tsuba and with cord for attaching to belt. \$5.00 each

SAGEO CORDS, SHIRAZAYA BAGS, KOSHIRAE BAGS - These items are not stocked at this time but efforts will be made to keep a small quantity available for members convenience.

ENGLISH INDEXES AVAILABLE -

NIHONTO NEWSLETTER - A (15) page typed double-spaced alphabetical index to Albert Yamanaka's excellent 5-volume sword study published from 1968 - 1972. \$6.00 per index.

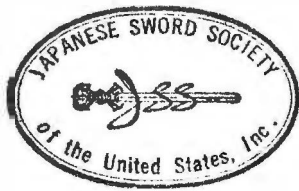
SHINTŌ-SHU - English translation to the index of this excellent book of oshigata, conveniently cross-indexed with Hawley, Kawaguchi Koto/Shinto Taikan, and Fujishiro. \$3.00/index

SUKASHI TSUBA, by Shibata - Index translation. \$1.00

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BACK ISSUES OF SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS - About 80% of the Newsletters and 50% of the past Bulletins are available. Still a lot of important information in these available copies. \$25.00 lot



BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE JSS/US (or at discounted prices) -

TANTŌ, by Suzuki - An english translation of the text of this excellent japanese book of plates showing fine tantō. The translation was undertaken by JSS/US and published in 1973. Although the book of plates is now unavailable, the information contained in the translation is still very useful and educational in the study of tantō. Price: \$5.00

TOKEN TAIKAI, (various authors) - A specially prepared book of lectures and papers presented during the 1976 Token Taikai Shinsa and Sword Seminar held in San Francisco (Northern California Sword Group). A must for all libraries. \$10.00

THE PEABODY MUSEUM COLLECTION OF JAPANESE SWORD GUARDS, by Hamilton. A well-done book of plates with english descriptions showing selected examples of tsuba (and some other fittings) from the Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts. \$9.00

EARLY JAPANESE SWORD GUARDS; SUKASHI TSUBA, by Masayuki Sasano. The finest english book available with excellent plates showing classic iron sukashi-work tsuba. This book is a must for everyone! The excellent photography and the poetic descriptions by Mr. Sasano are guaranteed to create a love for iron sukashi tsuba within all readers. This book is available DIRECT FROM THE PUBLISHER: A special discounted price of \$12.00 per book is available to JSS/US members (note your membership on your order). This discount was given us by Mr. Sasano as a favor to our group.

THE HARTMAN COLLECTION OF JAPANESE METALWORK (Cristie, Manson & Wood) A beautifully illustrated hard-cover catalogue with valuable descriptions of each item. 1976 issue. \$25.00 each.

LIST OF NAMES AND KAKIHAN, by Joly. 1963
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MISCELLANEOUS -

A SHORT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNING COLLECTORS OF JAPANESE SWORDS, by Arnold Frenzel. (copy available free upon request)

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(for info/prices)

write:

BOOKS ON SWORDS - write for list: