

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 No. 1

January - February • 1978

DIRECTORS • 1978-1979

Congratulations to the following newly elected Directors to our society.

Thomas Buttweiler
Louis Chappellear
Paul Couch
Edward Dobrzanski
Allen Feldman
Arnold Frenzel

Richard Hayashi
Billy Johnson
William Miller
John Nettles
Clarence Siman
John Tischmann

A full report on the election is presented elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. On behalf of the members of the society, many thanks to our retiring Directors for their efforts during the past two years. With our ever-growing membership, so grows the tasks of our Directors. Give them your support.

NEW MEMBERS -

We wish to welcome the following long list of new members to our society.

James E. Hofmeister
Frederick M. Pochelle
Donald W. Hill -
Darrel R. Smith -
Barbara A. Blifford -
Brian Murashige -
Frank E. Wigelius Jr.
Vincent Spirito -
Alex Hendrawidjaja
Fred Descombes -
Robert C. Corella -
D.E.ShollenbergerArt Bickers -
cont'd.

The Official Bi-Monthly Publication of the Japanese Sword Society of the U.S./Inc.
Annual Membership \$10 U.S./Canada and \$14 Foreign

NEW MEMBERS cont'd.

John H. Schofield -
Calvin M. Miers -
Robert S. Fore -
Paul E. Kelly -
Burton Sherman -
Jack D. Elliott -
M.R. Notis -
Ruth Scheidman -

TREASURER'S REPORT -

Cash on hand 1/1/77		\$1,295.71
Income:		
Dues	\$2,764.00	
Supplies Sales (mail)	921.75	
Supplies Sales (@ shows)	982.50	
Interest from savings Acct.	64.12	
Total Income	\$4,732.37	\$6,028.08
Expenditures:		
Newsletter (print/post)	\$1,171.18	
Bulletin (1976)	382.71	
Misc. Postage (supplies)	210.69	
Clerical Supplies	262.41	
Items for resale	1,121.87	
Tatara donation	303.00	
Total Expenditures	\$3,462.86	\$2,565.22
Cash on hand 12/31/77		\$2,565.22

Respectfully submitted,



JSS/US Treasurer

Several items of interest should be noted in the above report. On 3/12/77 a Daily Interest Saving Account was opened up for the society so that interest can be earned on our money. As of the end of the year we had a balance of \$1,524.12 in this account. Therefore, the above "cash on hand" reflects both our checking and savings accounts.

In comparing our cost of publications with our income from dues, it becomes obvious that income exceeds expenditures. Therefore not only can we keep our low annual dues, we can expand the publications through more articles and more oshigata reproductions, and still be well within our means.

The state of our treasury is such that we can venture into a translation project, etc., if and when the appropriate tasks are delegated.

JSS/US Directors Election Report...1978/1979

With the final tabulation completed, we thought it might be interesting to those of you who took the time to cast a ballot, to see how things turned out, and at the same time answer questions that came in during the election.

First of all, the red number at the top right of each ballot was used as a control number, in order to keep track of how many ballots were sent out. The numbers were put on by Ron Hartmann just prior to mailing the newsletter, and, the ballots were sent out with the newsletter so that each member would at least see the ballot, while at the same time save the additional cost of a separate mailing of the ballots.

Of the 240 ballots sent out, there were 103 returned for a percentage of roughly 42.5%, which is in line with the returns from the Officers election, wherein we were told that 43% of the membership voted. Of the 1236 possible votes (103 x 12) the highest individual received 136 votes, while the lowest return and still making the cut received 60 votes.

Of the 103 ballots returned, 74 members took advantage of the cumulative system, while 29 voted a one man-one vote ballot. Other interesting things about the election were that we received three adverse comments about the cumulative system; many members voted regionally; we received good response from foreign countries with three voters from New Zealand and Denmark taking part. The cost of the election, printing of ballots and mailing letters to the nominees, was roughly \$25, not inclusive of the postage for the ballots which were sent out with the newsletter.

All ballots and envelopes received by us, along with the final tabulation sheets, were placed in a tie-string folder, sealed and given to the Treasurer, Ron Hartmann to be placed in the permanent files of the JSS/US.

The Board of Directors for 1978/1979 are listed below in alphabetical order, and not the order in which they finished in the election:

Tom Buttweiler.....Minnesota
Lou Chappellear.....California
Paul Couch.....Alabama
Ed Dobrzanski and Arnold Frenzel.....Canada
Allen Feldman.....Florida
Rich Hayashi.....California
Billy Johnson.....Alabama
Bill Miller.....Georgia
John Nettles.....Illinois
Clarence Siman.....Missouri
John Tischmann.....Minnesota

We hope the information contained in this report is of some interest and value to those who took part, and we would like to thank those members who took the time to vote. In the sense of being members ourselves, as well as for all the members of this organization, we would also like to stress to the new Board members the obligation to take an active part in guiding the future of the Japanese Sword Society of the United States.

Election Committee '78,

Neil Keen
Clarence Siman

A SPECIAL BOOK OFFER FROM JAPAN -

Albert Yamanaka has advised the society of the availability of a limited number of copies of MINOTŌ TAIKAN. This very excellent book is the product of Mr. K. Tokuno and the Token Kenkyu Rengo Kai, a study group with branches in all sections of Japan and a membership of around 500 people. This book was originally printed on a limited edition basis in November 1976. Mr. Tokuno had set aside a small number of these books at that time so that what is being offered to us at this time would be the last of the supply.

The book is probably the most complete works of all the smiths of Mino and Seki. The book is 14 3/8" x 10 1/8" in size and has 580 pages with 70 pages of photographs. Each book was numbered as it was finished, therefore, these remaining copies will be the last numbers of the series. Cost of the book will be ¥39,000 which does include packaging and shipping. Copies can be ordered directly from Mr. Tokuno c/o

Token Kenkyu Regno Kai
1

美濃刀大鑑

or preferred (since Albert speaks english)
from:

Albert Yamanaka

If so desired, you may have your copy of this fine book autographed by Mr. Tokuno. Please specify this when you order your copy.

Payment should be made in Yen, via check from any local bank which has an international department.

There are some flyers available on the book and these can be had upon request to the Newsletter. Flyers will also be available at the coming Birmingham Show (at the editor's table).

NIHONTŌ ZUIKAN INDEX -

The large Nihonto Zuikan of shinto, shinshinto and gendai smiths which many members purchased this past year, has an index coming in the near future. A very complete index, cross-referenced to Hawley and Fujishiro, is being finalized by Curtis Uhls at this time. Its availability will be announced in a future Newsletter. Watch for it as it will no doubt greatly increase the value of this fine book. by allowing owner to locate a smith almost instantly.

BIRMINGHAM SWORD SHOW -

The 1978 Southeast Token Kai Sword Show with shinsa and lectures will be held on February 17th (evening) through the 19th. The show will again be held at the Rodeway Inn, I-65 and Oxmoor Road, Birmingham, Alabama.

Of particular interest this show will be the attendance of Dr. Suiken Fukunaga from Japan's Toen-sha sword society. Dr. Fukunaga is a leading authority on the sword and also specializes on writing sayagaki. This will be an event to take advantage of and to have certificates written for your swords. The cost of papers and of the sayagaki will be announced at the show, but it is thought to be very nominal. Dr. Fukunaga will also lecture to the group, with the help of a translator. There will be no limit as to how many items can be submitted for kantei.

Do not miss this event as it promises to be a good one. Write for table reservations to: Paul Couch, 801-C Oakleaf Circle, Birmingham, Alabama 35209 or call (205) 942-1479. Tables will be \$15 for the weekend, or a \$5 admission fee to the show.

Editor's note: To our new collectors of the membership, a shinsa is an event where an authority (an individual or a group) will examine a sword or fitting and pass judgement on it's signiture and quality. Papers are then issued which state the findings of the judge. These papers are usually in various grades, depending on the quality of the sword or fitting judged. A sayagaki is a certificate written directly onto the shirazaya of the sword judged.

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PRESSURE SENSATIVE OSHIGATA PAPER -

In the last two years, more and more of our collector friends have discovered the value of using pressure sensative instrument chart paper in making oshigata (sword rubbings). Although traditional ink stone and rice paper oshigata will always have their advantages, the clarity and handiness of the chart paper is certainly a big plus factor in it's favor. The only draw-back in using this paper is that it does have a grid printed on it since it is a "chart" and it's use for oshigata is simply a secondary function, in the eyes of the manufacturer.

This draw-back may be solved! Inquiries to the manufacturer have produced an offer to run a special order of this paper, without a grid printed on it. Cost will be slightly higher due to the need of a special printing, plus a minimum order of (100) rolls would be required. DO NOT SEND MONEY NOW....but it looks like we can sell rolls (enough for at least 90 osnigata) for around \$6.50 per roll or \$6.00 per roll on orders of (3) or more. If you are interested, write the Newsletter Editor and pledge a quantity of rolls which you would order. This will allow us to see if the "minimum 100" can be reached. NO MONEY NOW PLEASE - a firm price would follow. Your prompt replies would be appreciated. Write c/o NL address.

BISHU OSAFUNE MORIMITSU (2nd)

oshigata by Andrew Quirt

SHAPE: Katana in shinogi-zukuri form.

HORIMONO: Double grooves (one large and one small) which extend through the nakago.

HAMON: Gonome-choji-midare with ashi and yo. Profuse ha-nie, kinsuji and uchinoki.

HADA: O-mokume with some masame. Ji-nie and chikei.

NAKAGO: Ubu with four mekugi-ana. Signed katana-me: Bishu Osafune Morimitsu. Dated Oei ni-ju-ichi nen hachi gatsu hi. (21st year of Oei period or 1414).

KOSHIRAE: Katana mounting of ribbed black lacquer saya. Shakudo fuchi-gashira with theater masks and drum designs. Menuki are of matching motif. Iron tsuba with flower designs.

COMMENTS: This is the work of the second generation Morimitsu who worked during the Oei period. This smith made mostly wakizashi, tachi, and tanto; katana are rare. (Katana oshigata reference see Nihon Bijutsu, vol.249, October, 1977).

Kanemitsu (1321)

Tomomitsu (1345)

Moromitsu (1381)

Morimitsu (1384)

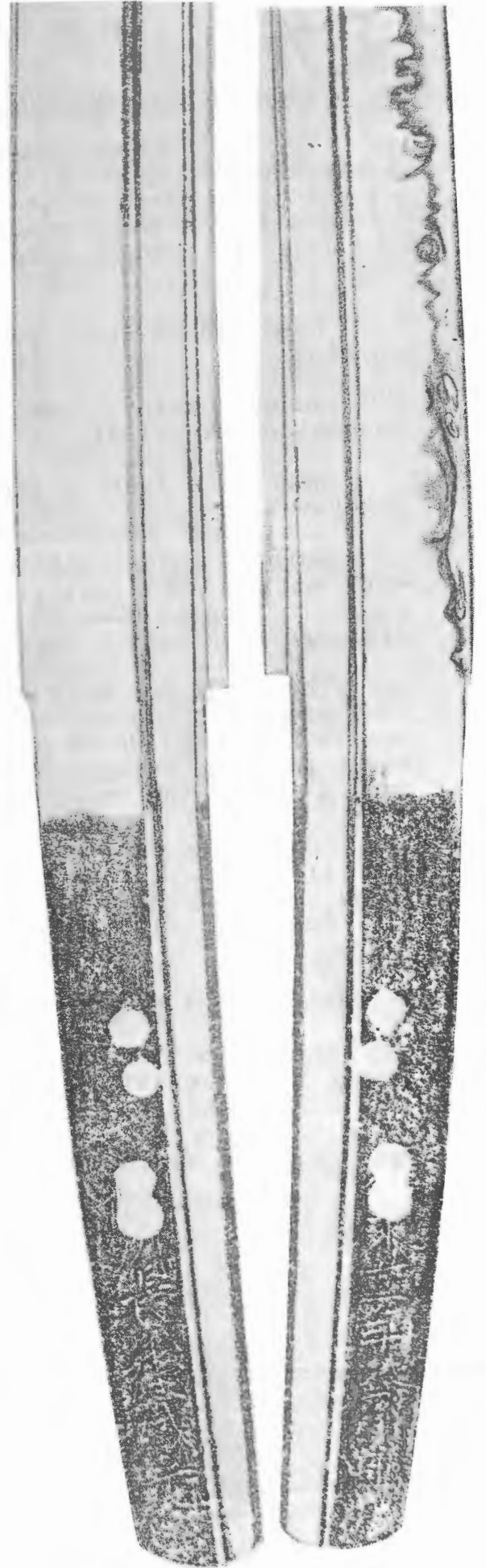
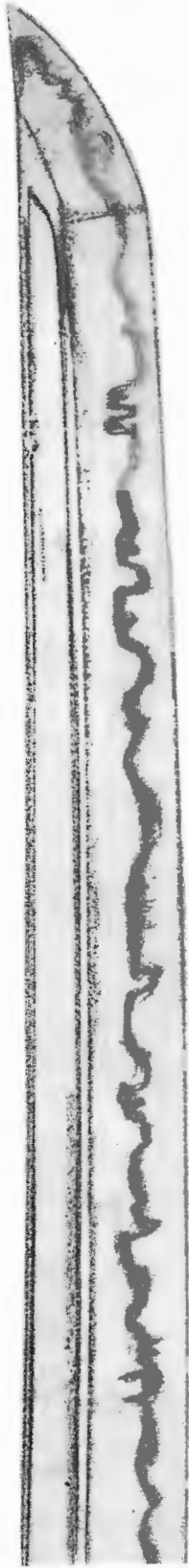
Moromitsu (1394)

Morimitsu (1394)

Nihonto Newsletter, vol.3 No.8 p.8 (in part)

Swordmaking in Bizen Province saw some decline a few generations after the height of the KANEMITSU school, i.e. in the immediate eras after the Embun-Joji Eras (1356-1362). Then, in the early Oei era we see a sudden flourish of swordmaking by YASUMITSU and MORIMITSU.

The earliest blades commonly seen (by Morimitsu) are from the early Oei era, and like Yasumitsu, the works of the 1st Morimitsu are all signed in two characters. Those signed long and with dates are considered to be that of the 2nd and later DAI SAGARI MORIMITSU.



Bizen Morimitsu (2nd Generation)
Oei Period

Newsletter V10/N1

IN SEARCH OF INFORMATION -

Mr. A.Z. Freeman has asked for assistance in identifying the smith of the blade pictured at the right. The blade is shinogi-zukuri, narrow and delicate, medium long kissaki and 25" length.

Hamon is as seen, gunome-midare in nioi.

Hada is tight, fine ko-itame, masame on shinogi-ji.

Nakago as seen, yasurime are yokoyasuri.

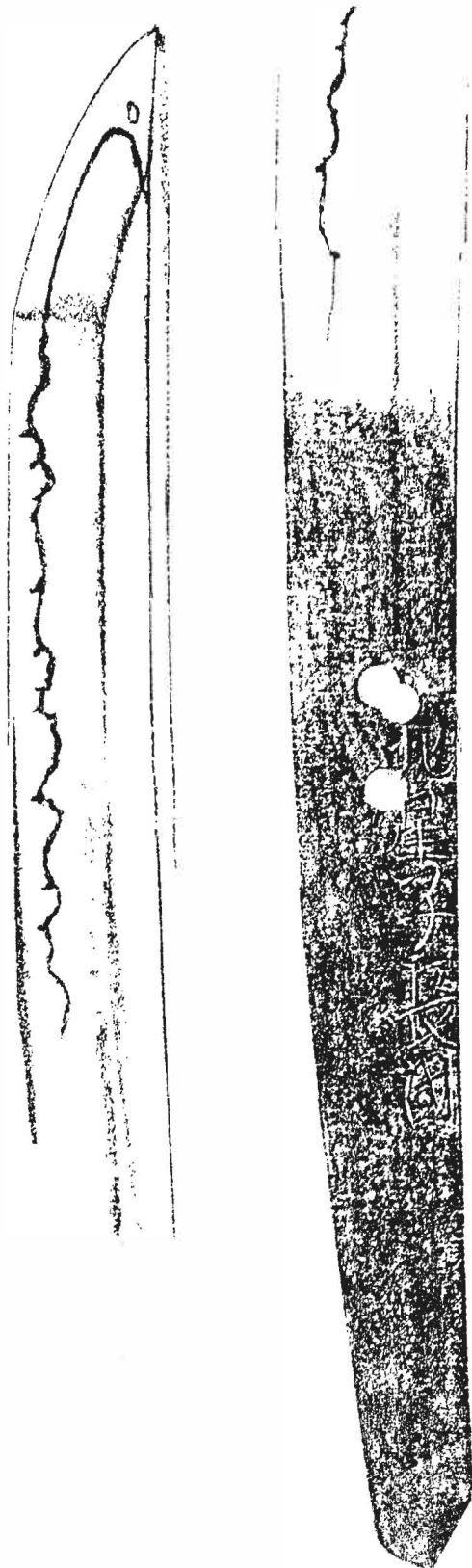
Saya is gold nashiji lacquer with mon of TAMBA family applied overall. Mon is also on all the fittings from kojiri to kashira.

The kanji for both NAGA and KUNI are a bit odd in style. The mei is KITAHOSHI NAGAKUNI. There seems to be no reference to this man in any of the usual books.

Anyone who can assist in the identification of this man can do so by contacting: A.Z. Freeman,

* * * * *

Another member has asked for help on the below gendai smith. Any info on this HIZEN MASAMITSU would be appreciated. Write the NL or Mr. L. Allen



REPATINATION OF SHAKUDO AND SHIBUICHI -

The following article on repatination was sent in to the Newsletter by F. Karel Wiest in hopes that it would prove both useful and interesting to the membership. Certainly it would be worth trying the next time a nice shakudo or shibuichi fittings comes along which has been buffed or rubbed down to it's base metal.

I have long experimented with various chemicals to try to repatinate shakudo and shibuichi. Recently I ran across an article in the 11th edition of the Britannica, written by a man who was obviously an enthusiast about Japanese metal work.

He gives the composition of shakudo as an alloy of 3 parts gold and 97 copper; shibuichi he gives as 1 part silver to 3 of copper. After final finishing and polishing, both are given their final color in the same way. He says, of a sword guard, for example:

It is first boiled in a lye obtained by lixiviating wood ashes; it is next polished in charcoal powder; then immersed in plum vinegar and salt; then washed with weak lye and placed in a tub of water to remove all traces of alkali, the final step being to digest in a boiling solution of copper sulphate, verdigris and water.

To clarify a bit, "lixiviating" is the "kitchen" process by which our grandmothers got lye for soap and for tanning. It is simply done:

Take a large can or an old bucket and punch holes (from the outside) all over the bottom with an ice-pick. Fill it with clear, sifted wood ashes (pine is best), jarred down, but not tamped. Place it over another container of similar size. Then let water slowly seep through the ashes for several days. The resulting solution in the lower container is lye. It can be concentrated, if you wish, by boiling off some of the water and can be stored indefinitely without losing its strength.

The best powdered charcoal is prepared from artist's willow charcoal by grinding it in a mortar and pestle and screening through several folds of cheesecloth.

Plum vinegar is obtainable at Japanese and Korean groceries. Verdigris is known chemically as copper acetate and can be obtained from jewelry supply houses.

The process is simple and involves nothing which would not have been readily available to a 16th century Japanese artisan, so I believe it is probably the actual procedure that was used.

JUYO TOKEN -

The following is the first of many Juyo sword oshigata with text which we will be running in the Newsletter. (trans. J. Yumoto)

JUYO TŌKEN NADO ZUFU - text, plate # 3 (Vol.2)

Reprinted by permission of NBTHK.

- TANTŌ** (signed) RAI KUNITOSHI 來國俊
Accompanied with kin aikuchi¹ koshirae (golden mountings)
- MEASUREMENTS:** 7.3 sun. Uchizori.² Motohaba: 6.4 bu. Motokasane: 2 bu. Nakago: 3.55 sun, no curvature.
- STYLE:** Hira-zukuri; mitsu-mune; uchizori;² this is a very common shape or "Uinjyo"³
- KITAE:** Itame mixed slightly with moku. Has ample ji-nie. The ura side has slight masa with tate-ware.⁴ Contrary to his usual work, the kitae in this blade is sharp.
- HAMON:** Chū-suguha; has ko-nie; nioi guchi is narrow and sharp; ko ashi; has yakidashi with wavy pattern.⁵
- BŌSHI:** Ko-maru; slightly long kaeri.
- NAKAGO:** Ubu. Tip is kuri-jiri; yasurime is karte-sagari; one mekugi-ana; below mekugi-ana is the three character signature in large letter cut with a fine chisel.
- EXPLANATION:** Typical Rai Kunitoshi with hoso-suguha.⁵ However in this blade the jigane is slightly sharper than in the usual work and the nioi guchi is also sharp. The nakago is ubu and the signature is good. Unfortunately it has tate-ware on the ura side. The accompanying aikuchi mountings were done by Kinbara Issō, a student of Goto Ichijō. The work is not classical but is very conscientious.

¹Aikuchi mounting is one type of mounting for a tanto but without tsuba. The kashira and koiguchi fit together when sheathed.

²Uchizori seems curved inward. Commonly found among tanto of Kamakura era. There are, of course, later imitations. Actually has no curvature but visually seems to curve toward the cutting edge.

³The connoisseur considers this shape to be the standard for tantō. The great masters worked in this style contrary to our belief that the wide gaudy blades were of greater rarity. Masterpieces are found among shapes such as this.

⁴Tate-ware are long lengthwise cracks in its lamination.

⁵Masters of the Rai school when making suguha tanto have a tendency to make a wavy yakidashi.

Tantō:
RAI KUNITOSHI



短刀
来国
俊

A MESSAGE FROM JOHN YUMOTO -

The following message was transcribed from a tape, recently mailed to the Newsletter, directed to the membership. As was announced in the last issue of the paper, John suffered a mild stroke on Thanksgiving day. Happily we can report that John is well back on the road to recovery and hopefully after some therapy, will be once again up front, teaching all of us on the study of the sword. The following message is broken up in parts as follows:

TO ALL MY GOOD FRIENDS -

I would like to thank all of the members and friends who were kind enough to send me letters of concern, telephone calls, flowers, etc. I am very happy to have so many good friends thru swords, and that is what you think of when you are lying in bed in the hospital. I thought about it and thought how I should have given more of my knowledge to english speaking collectors. So now I dedicate myself to giving out all I know on swords, try to introduce techniques and experts, introduction of books, etc.; I have a handful of work to do!

Time being, I can not type very well so I need someone who could transcribe lectures from tapes. (This will be no problem and the Newsletter will see that this task will be done.). For now, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all my wonderful friends - bless you!

ON THE TATARA PROJECT -

Many thanks to all of the people who donated quite a sum of money towards the Tataru Project. As I promised, one of the donors names was drawn to win the replica of the Important Cultural Property tsuba reproduction made by me. The winner was Mr. David Cibik of Leechburg, Pennsylvania. The tsuba will be sent to him along with my stamp.

I would like to report on the progress of the Tataru forge. The Tataru forge was completed and the ceremony of firing was held on the 18th of November. The firing was witnessed by many important people who were responsible for seeing the completion of this project. Prince Takamatsu, younger brother of Emperor Hirohito, was one of these dignitaries.

The forge is in Shimane Prefecture, village of Yokota. Shimane Prefecture faces the Japan seacoast of western Japan and nearby is the famous Hoki Province which has produced such great smiths as Yasutsune.

NEXT SWORD TOUR TO JAPAN -

In October we will make our 5th Samurai Sword Tour to Japan. We hope to visit the Tataru forge site at this time. This year, NBTHK is celebrating their 30th anniversary and therefore they are having the Taikai (great convention) in Tokyo, to commemorate this anniversary.

YUMOTO cont'd.

We will visit Japan a little early, leaving the states on Saturday, October 7th and attend the NBTHK convention in Tokyo the weekend of the 20th. We will leave Japan on the 26th, for home. If anyone who could swing the time and money, I hope that they will come. I hope many participate in this program. All interested parties should contact me. (John Yumoto).

BIRMINGHAM SHOW -

Due to my illness I will not be able to attend the Birmingham show this time. Dr. Fukunaga will still attend and will be issuing papers and doing sayagaki. Dr. Fukunaga is a great historian aside from being a connoisseur of swords and fittings. His strongest area is on swords of Kyushu island and his calligraphy is excellent. If anyone has a nice sword in good shirazaya, I recommend his doing a sayagaki for them. It is a beautiful addition to your sword.

DEATH OF MIYAIRI YUKIHIRA -

It was very sad news to hear of the passing away of Miyairi Yukihiro last November. He was the 3rd person to become designated "Living National Treasure". The first person to be given this honor was Sadatsugu and the second was Sadakazu.

Miyairi Yukihiro was born in Teisho 2 (1913) and he died on November 24th, 1977, at the age of 64. He was at the opening ceremony of the Tatara a few days before. It is a great loss to the sword world.

MODERN SWORDS -

I would like to volunteer, if anyone wishes to have a modern sword made to order, I will take the order for them. You would then express your wishes as to what you would like made. Price range is from \$1,000 to \$4,000 for a daitō, with tantō being about half that cost. This is for a completed blade, in polish, habaki and shirazaya. A very beautiful thing to have if you have some dollars available. Such orders will also create incentive for the many swordsmiths who are trying to carry on this work today.

POLISHING PROJECT -

I would like to talk a little about the polishing project using the Kajihara Kotoken company. The first batch of blades went out last September and have since returned in perfect condition. I am happy to say that the owner's comments have all been good. All are satisfied with the work and many are waiting to send more blades for polish. Out of the 1st batch of blades, a few received the top notch certificates from NBTHK. Incidentally, it will cost approximately \$100 to have your blades put into shinsa and receive papers. Two or three blades of the 1st shipment came back with recommendation that they be submitted for Juyo shinsa, which is held once a year in Tokyo, in September. Anyone interested in doing this should do so now.

YUMOTO cont'd.

I am very satisfied with the quality of work done by Mr. Kajihara Kotoken, as an example, on one tantō he felt it was exceptionally high quality work and he did special Juyo Class polish on it and even threw in a new saya for it! I am sure he can not do this all of the time, but it is this type of thing which he does for us and we should therefore keep him busy. I have revised my announcement (details on the polishing project) so anyone wishing to send swords for polish should send me a self addressed stamped envelope for a copy of these revised instructions and guidelines for polish. The price has not changed much but the cost is higher now due to the decline of the Dollar. I am thinking of sending a batch of swords off late in February or early March, so please contact me as soon as possible. I will continue to do this service for club members only.

In conclusion, my very best to everyone for all they have done for me.

John Yumoto

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JUYO SHINSA REPORT -

Roy Hashioka has sent along a tabulation of the last Juyo Shinsa. The breakdown is very interesting and is given below for all to see.

1. 1,042 items submitted (apparently this figure represents the residue of an earlier call.)
2. 424 items were classified Juyo.
3. Blades (Kotō) 450 pieces with 250 going Juyo (55.5%)
 - a. 143 Mumei (31.8%)
 - b. 169 Katana and Tachi
 - c. 34 Tantō
 - d. 33 Wakizashi
 - e. 7 Nagamaki
 - f. 7 yari

Blades (Shintō/shinshintō) 369 pieces with 91 going Juyo (24.6%)

- a. All have mei (100%)
- b. 54 Katana
- c. 19 Wakizasni
- d. 9 Tantō
- e. 6 Naginata
- f. 3 Yari

4. Koshirae - 32 items with 22 going Juyo (68.8%)
5. Tsuba and Kodogu - 191 pieces with 57 going Juyo (29.8%)

JUYO SHINSA cont'd.

6. 13 Juyo pieces where from the United States (3.05%)

a. 8 blades

- 1) 7 kotō (2 with mei and 5 mumei)
- 2) 1 shintō

b. 5 kodogu

AN OPEN LETTER TO JSS/US MEMBERS (From Betty Killam) -

The following "Open Letter" (in part) was received from Mrs. Betty Killam of the East Coast branch. Her proposal is a good one and those interested should advise her of your thoughts.

"Let me ask all of you a question. Would you attend a seminar session at which you would have the opportunity of meeting in small groups with a leader to really discuss the elements of collecting? You would be able to attend as many as six or eight different sessions. To hear speakers in allied fields? To have the joy of meeting old friends and making new ones? The seminar format is the most stimulating and best way of communicating and learning. It is geared for both advanced and beginner collectors.

Having attended both the Newport Beach and San Francisco meetings, I have met many of you. Some of you are collectors whom I have helped. I'll throw down the glove. If you want it, I am sure that the New England Branch of the JSS/US would back me. We would gladly invite you to Hartford, Connecticut which has opportunities galore. We are talking about the summer of 1978, not 1990. Let me know. (signed) Betty Killam,

TSUBA COURSE OFFERED -

Henry Rosin has advised the Newsletter that a study course is being offered at the "The New School". Detailed information and registration can be accomplished by writing the school, referring to the course #3888 in "Japanese

Metals - a course on Tsuba". There will be eight 1½ hour lectures Thursdays, at 7:45pm beginning February 9th. Registration fee is \$60 to the University.

The date of the Newsletter is a bit late for registration and perhaps a phone call to the school would be best to confirm that one may still register. It sounds like a wonderful and most informative course to attend, and anyone able to do so is encouraged to do just that.

FOR SALE/WANTED/TRADES -

A free advertising column for members in need of locating specific items or have a limited number of items for sale or trade.

- WANTED: Tadakuni katana (TA-40). Will trade swords or pay cash. Contact: Ken Sawitzky,
- WANTED: Tsuba by Hosono Sozayemon Masamori. Will buy or trade.
- WANTED: Blades by the following Sendai smiths: Kaneyoshi 1-8, (KA361-364); Kanekura 1-9, (KA186-192); Kunikane 1-14, (KU159-171); Kunitsugu 1-8 (KU784); Shigetsugu 1-5, (SH322); Yasutomo 1-10, (YA216-224). Also would appreciate reference oshigata of these or other Sendai smiths. Contact: Peter Bleed,
- WANTED: Approximately (10) swords for sale or trade. Will trade for sword or tsuba reference books or on good quality tsuba. Contact: Phil Davis,
- FOR SALE: Some nice fittings, tsuba, misc. odds and ends plus blades. Write for list (SASE please). Contact: Keith Evans,
- FOR SALE: Several old swords and tsuba for sale. Contact: Don Beck,
- FOR SALE: (10) copies of monthly journal of Shibata Sword Club of Tokyo. Japanese text. For information contact: R.K.Hayashi,
- FOR SALE: (7) blades, no koshirae. Each has something of interest. All shinogi-zukuri wakizashi & daito. contact: A.Z.Freeman,
- WANTED: Blades by Hokyoin Ojisada, Sashu Masafusa, Masayoshi, Ujifusa, Tadakiyo and Satsuyo Shi Oku Motofusa, Motohira, Mototaka. Trade or cash. Trade includes Wakizashi, late Mihara WP, wakizashi Tomoshige JoJo saku, Tamba Yoshimichi wakizashi Jo saku, Yamato Yoshimichi wakizashi. Also need Goto nanako, gold dragon on shakudo waves tsuba for wakizashi. Have dragon fly f/k and tsuba for sale (\$600 pair); Dragon fly fuchi (signed) \$50; Kashira - iron, gold/silver details Fudo (super) \$75. Contact: Andres Rodriguez,
- TRADE:

A number of nice menuki available. Prefer to trade on 1st rate shakudo menuki or iron sukashi tsuba. Contact: Ron Hartmann,

cont'd.

- FOR SALE - Tsuba for sale. List with photocopies of all items sent upon request. Contact: Richard Pohrt,

HARTMAN CATALOGUE -

Our last order for copies of the Hartman Catalogue from Christie has gone afoul somehow. Please do not order copies of this book until this problem is solved. A note in the NL will announce availability once again. Those waiting at present (for their order) can wait a bit longer or simply get your money back, if so desired. Hopefully the problem will be cleared up in a couple weeks.

UNDERSTANDING SWORD TERMS -

As our membership grows, so does the number of relatively new collectors. Frequently, these collectors write in to suggest that the Newsletter define the terms used in articles and with oshigata. A very good suggestion and one which will be attempted to follow as time permits during the writing of the paper.

Every collector runs into the "terminology" problem and soon realizes that he must learn basic terms if he is to understand and appreciate swords. Therefore, we can add these definitions from time to time but still everyone must do their homework and study the terms in order to really learn them. Perhaps the most complete listing is in Hawley's book of swordsmiths. Read these over and over and eventually you will find yourself understanding these things. Many of us "old timers" had the benefit of John Yumoto's past writings along with the many lectures of Albert Yamanaka. The new-comers do not have ready access to these lectures unfortunately, but we will do our best to bring some of this learning into the format of the paper.

Perhaps the insertion of a few at random definitions at the end of each Newsletter would help. Also, help can be had simply by asking via a letter. Anyone wishing to discuss a particular "term" via an article (if only a few short sentences), feel free to do so.

HAKIKAKE: Mostly found on blades made in SUGUHA and with the steel in MASAME HADA. The border of the hamon will have streaks as though marks left by broom strokes. This also refers to the boshi which ends in brushed stroke effect.

HA: Refers to the whole area where the tempering was done. Realizing this, other words fall into place, like HAMACHI: (notch in edge of blade), HAMON:(the tempered pattern), HANIE: (nie found in this area along yakiba).....etc.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - The next NL will be mailed about the 5th of April. Please have all material into the editor a week or so prior to this date. IMPORTANT: A NUMBER OF PEOPLE STILL OWE DUES. IF YOU RECEIVED A DUES NOTICE LAST ISSUE OF THE NL, YOUR ACTION WOULD BE APPRECIATED. Thank You.

POSTSCRIPT -

DUES: See the "reminder" on page 17 (bottom). Occassionally letters come in asking about our dues policy. Perhaps a few brief words would be appropriate at this time.

Normally when a person joins the society, they are recorded as joined (due date) as of January 1st date. Those joining on into the year, through July, are still entered as of this 1/1 date and are simply mailed all of our publications up to their actual joining date. Those joining after July are put down as of September 1st (9/1) due date. In order to simplify bookkeeping, it is going to be attempted to put everyone into phase with a due date as of the 1/1 date. You will be notified if this takes place. Nobody will be hurt by this, in fact, the mid-year members will simply gain a few months. Board approval would need to be had to do this.

Dues are \$10 for U.S. and Canada with mailings going 1st class. Foreign members pay \$14 but get air delivery on Newsletters but 1st class on the Bulletin (which would cost around \$5 to send via air). We still have a LIFE MEMBERSHIP for \$100 for anyone interested.

Occassionally our "old timers" lose interest in membership and sometimes do drop out. We ask anyone in this position to think of their membership as an assist to us towards future projects and publications. Dues money is needed for us to function.

One last thing; anyone who decides to drop out of the society could do us a great favor by simply writing a letter to inform your treasurer. In the past six years possibly only two people have bothered to do this. This means that even though they do not pay dues, they receive mailings which cost us money. We are very casual about a cut-off date in order to give any late payers a benefit of a doubt. Hopefully that consideration will be repaid.

ANNUAL BULLETIN:

Our annual publication, the Bulletin, is truly hurting for material this year. Several weeks ago around six or eight letters were written to our "old reliable" members, asking for material. As always, several have responded, but we still need some articles. So please consider this a "call to arms" directed to any member who might be stimulated (pushed?) into doing an article for this annual, be it one page or twenty. Lets give the old guard a break and let us see some sharing of knowledge from others of the membership. Send all articles c/o the Newsletter. A rough draft is acceptable as long as it is clear and readable. Thank you.

Jc