

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 No. 2

March - April 1978

As many of our members have already heard, our good friend Dr. Kanzan Sato, Executive Director of the Society for the Preservation of Japanese Art Swords (NBTHK) and Vice-Director of the Sword Museum, passed away this last February 26th. Dr. Sato's passing will certainly be felt not only in Japan, but also around the world wherever sword student exist. His contributions towards the preservation and study of the sword are many and his absence from the sword world will be missed. A memorial gift in the name of the JSS/US has been sent to Japan. A complete article on Dr. Sato is presented elsewhere in this Newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS -

On a brighter side, we are happy to welcome the following new members to our society roster:

Milton C. Clark,
Robert D. Masamori B. Disney
F. Blix Winston Leon J. Sill Jr.

Jerry Duccilli George S. Nalle III
Henry G. VandeVelde Harry Tadao Imoto

Frederick W. Conley M. Flanagan David S. Mathews
G. F. Bailey,
Philip A. Natta, Tobin, James

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Dr. Kanzan Sato
(1907 - 1978)

Dr. Kunzan Homma

A letter from Dr. Homma has arrived, thanking the JSS/US for the memorial gift which was sent in our name and presented during the funeral services for the deceased Dr. Sato. The above picture was also received and pictures Dr. Sato and Dr. Homma during the October 1977 meeting of NBTHK in Takarazuka City.

Dr Homma adds: "The NBTHK official service was solemnly and magnificently held on March 30th at the Kichijoji Temple in Tokyo. There were about two thousand people who attended it and prayed for the soul of Dr. Sato."

JAPANESE SWORD EXPERT PASSES AWAY -

The following is a translation of a newspaper article pertaining to the death of Dr. Kanzan Sato. The translation was supplied by JSS/US member, Richard K. Hayashi.

Collectors and admirers of Japanese swords throughout the world and Japan are mourning the death of Dr. Kanzan Sato who is recognized as one of the foremost experts on the history and artifacts of the Japanese sword and accessories. On February 26, 1978, Dr. Sato at the age of 70 died of pneumonia at the Teikyo University Hospital in Tokyo. He entered the hospital on December 24, 1977.

Before his untimely death, Dr. Sato was able to attend the official opening ceremony held on November 8, 1977, for the completion of the Tatara Project located in Shimane Prefecture. The Tatara Project is the special mining operations of sand iron and smelting process to produce very high quality and impurity free iron for forging Japanese swords. Dr. Sato has been working on this project which began during the 1930s and suspended during and after the war. Monetary contributions were received from donors and patrons of the art of Japanese swords from all over the world to support Dr. Sato's lifelong wish to establish the Tatara Project.

Dr. Sato was born in 1907 in Tsuroka City in Yamagata Prefecture. He is a graduate of Kokugakuin University. After he graduated he taught at various high schools in Yamagata, Akita and Tokyo. In 1944 he worked in the section for the preservation of the National Treasures of Japan under the Ministry of Education. Three years later in 1947 Dr. Sato was appointed as head and chief curator of the Japanese swords and martial arts section of the Tokyo National Museum in Ueno Park, Tokyo.

In 1960 he earned his Doctor of Letters degree by writing a research paper on the works of "Gomon Yasutsugu", a famous swordsmith of Shinto period. Besides his doctorate he was later awarded the title "Kanzan" to be used with his name.

For his continuous interest and devotion to the preservation and promotion of sword making, the Japanese government awarded him the Order of Merit, Third Class.

After the war when all the Japanese swords were confiscated and doomed for destruction by order of General MacArthur, Dr. Kanzan Sato and Dr. Kunzan Homma pleaded with and convinced the Occupation Forces that certain Japanese swords were works of art and of historical value and should be preserved for posterity and not destroyed. With the help of a very understanding Provost Marshal of the 8th Army, Colonel Cadwell authorized Dr. Sato and Dr. Homma to search through piles of confiscated swords to be destroyed and save all swords of historical and art value.

DR. SATO cont'd

Dr. Sato retired from the Tokyo National Museum in 1968 and became the Executive Director of the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Swords and Vice Director of the Japanese Sword Museum in Tokyo. He was also a member of Cultural Properties Protection Commission under the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

He authored a number of books, magazine articles and select papers on the Japanese Sword. He was always in demand by the Japanese sword societies and clubs in the United States and Canada to lecture on the Japanese sword.

With the passing of Dr. Sato, the sole leadership in the world of Japanese swords will be the responsibility of Dr. Kunzan Homma.

Funeral and farewell services will be held on March 30, 1978 at the Kichishoji Temple in Tokyo. Dr. Sato's eldest son, Junichi, will act as chief mourner for the Sato family. Dr. Homma, Chairman of the Society for the Preservation of the Japanese Art Swords will be in charge of the services.

Editor's comments -

It is with fond memories that we remember Dr. Sato's visit to the first U.S. shinsa which was held in Dallas, Texas in 1972. His sincere efforts during that affair both during the shinsa and also during his extensive lecturing that weekend assured the success of that effort. Japanese sword collecting was truly an infant field of collecting for most of us at that time, and Dr. Sato's giving and participation that weekend gave many of us our first big shove into this unique world of collecting. Dr. Sato will be greatly missed by all of us.

JUYO SHINSA REPORT FOLLOW-UP -

The report on Juyo Shinsa which appeared in the last issue of the Newsletter (Vol.10 No.1), was apparently a bit misleading. Judging from the many letters of inquiry received by Roy Hashioka, in reference to the apparent "odds" that a sword will go Juyo as was inferred by the numbers stated in the article indicates that further clarification is in order.

Initially, approximately 5,000 items were actually submitted for shinsa. This number was "boiled down" to a manageable number and then this "cream" was submitted to the Juyo shinsa team. Of the initial number, approximately 50% were eliminated, and of those submitted, only about 20% actually made the Juyo judging. So we can see that the odds for an item going Juyo are very difficult to win by which of course explains why Juyo papers are so highly rated.

Thanks to Roy Hashioka and Bob Lewert for bringing the need for this clarification to the attention of the Editor.

A MESSAGE FROM DR. KANZAN SATO -

The following is a translation of the New Year Message from the late Dr. Sato. The message appeared in the January issue of the NBTHK journal, Token Bijutsu and the translation submitted by Bob Lewert.

At the Beginning of the New Year, by Dr. Kanzan Sato

A Happy New Year to all of the NBTHK members!

Thirty years have passed since the NBTHK was established. We will celebrate a memorial anniversary in this coming October, although it will be just a small celebration. We are now making arrangements and preparations for this anniversary. I would like to ask each of you for your kind cooperation and advice.

Reflecting upon what we have done through the past period, I recall many progressive changes which were all designed, organized and carried out by the thought that would be the best for the sword world. For instance, judgements (Shinsa) for Kicho Token and Juyo Token, training seminars of polishing and other techniques on swords, etc., which I think are regarded to be useful and profitable to the sword world. Thanks to cooperation from you, the rebuilding of the Tataru furnace, together with an annual contest of the newly made swords, has been successfully started out. I trust that these will be remembered as the most meaningful projects in later ages. All of the NBTHK members, I think, are qualified to walk through the world with a proud and a dignified attitude. We should behave ourselves to satisfy a qualification of being a member of the NBTHK. We should make the NBTHK as a gathering of highly qualified people.

On my New Year's card, I wrote a sentence meaning that although getting old I am still young at heart, like a boy. It sounds exaggerative, but it is my present state of mind. My wife and daughters laughed at me and said, "Like a boy? It would be all right if you say a young man or a middle-aged man." However, I prefer to use the word "boy" since there is no disgusting and erotic elements in a boy's mind. So, I am satisfied with being a boy. I am now a man of no avariciousness and no enemies ("Muyoku-Muteki" in Japanese expression). I like this word and have often used it lately. However, a friend of mine advised me that a man of no avariciousness is not always a man of no enemies. It would be true that even though I am always unavaricious an enemy will be born according to the way of his thinking and each different position.

Anyway, let's enjoy this year as usual! The only hope I have now is that the Tataru Project will be successfully continued with your kind cooperation. Please do not say, "For the Tataru again?", but please do your best for this project. In closing, I would like to solicit each of you for your continued cooperation and effort.

Editor's note: A follow-up article by Dr. Homma will appear in the next issue of our Newsletter, with regards to the 30th anniversary of the NBTHK.

PRESSURE SENSATIVE OSHIGATA PAPER AVAILABLE NOW -

The company which manufactures the pressure sensitive paper which many of us have found to be so useful in making oshigata, has supplied us with (100) rolls of plain (no instrument grid) of this paper, at a very good price. Therefore, orders are being filled now.

Price: \$6.00 per roll, postage paid. Orders of (3) rolls or more, deduct \$2.00 from your order. Send U.S. dollars only please. Foreign members (outside U.S. and Canada) should add \$1 to order if Air Mail is desired (1st class will otherwise be used). Please limit your orders to maximum of six rolls until all members have a chance at buying this paper. It will continue to be stocked by the society in the future.

Order direct from: Newsletter Editor

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BOOK AVAILABLE -

The Peabody Museum of Salem, Massachusetts, has produced a rather interesting catalogue which is now available from the JSS/US and would be of interest to a number of our members. The book is a 198 page, paper back 8½" x 11" size excellently illustrated book described as follows:

JAPAN DAY BY DAY, An exhibition honoring Edward Sylvester Morse and Commemorating the Hundredth Anniversary of his arrival in Japan in 1877, by Money Hickman and Peter Fetchko.

This is the first catalogue of Edward S. Morse Collection at the Peabody Museum, recognized as one of the finest collections of Japanese Folk Art in the world. It includes a short biography as well as 19 color photographs, 168 black and white, 72 reproductions of Morse' line drawings, three maps and a selected bibliography of Morse's writings.

As noted above, the book is of interest to us because it depicts many items used in everyday life in Japan of the 1870s. The only criticism of the book is that the binding (gluing) is a little less than desired, but the book is still well worth it's price.

Order direct from the Newsletter, price: \$8.00 post paid. U.S. dollars only please.

FUJISHIRO ENGLISH INDEX AVAILABLE -

Apparently the results of a request made during the Dallas interview with Mr. Okisato Fujishiro (JSS Newsletter, Vol.9 No.5), an english index has been made available for the Nihon Tōkō Jiten, the Shintō/Kotō Fujishiro volumes which we all rely on. The index is supplied FREE and is available for the asking, as Mr. Fujishiro states: "I hope that this leaflet will help your understanding toward the Japanese sword. For your request we will be glad to send you this leaflet."

It is suggested that those requesting the index, type their request (to ease the language problem) and that they mention being very grateful for Mr. Fujishiro's concern for us.

NIHON TOKO JITEN

Perhaps it is a good time to elaborate a bit on the collector's "Bible", the two-volume Nihon Tōkō Jiten (Kotō-hen and Shintō-hen) as published by Fujishiro. All of us soon discover our need to have this set of books which depict oshigata of true signatures of over 1,000 smiths. Because of a number of inquiries which come in to the Newsletter from time to time asking about these books, I have asked Albert Yamanaka to translate the "Explanatory notes" which preface these volumes. I think they will certainly assist our newer members and collectors and just might teach some of the "old guard" a few things too. The notes read as follows:

FUJISHIRO KOTO EDITION

Explanatory Notes:

1. This book has been edited from swords in existance and only those with signatures. Those without signitures have been omitted.
2. We have tried to depict those with HAMON as much as possible with the intent for the aid in identification of swords that are not signed.

Teacher-student relationship have been listed under our new concepts as well as those under the old methods, therefore there may be some inconsistencies from the standpoint of periods in the old-new ideas.

3. The kotō have been divided into three phasis:

KOTŌ	Tenkei Era 938 - 947 to Bumpo Era 1317 - 1319
SHU KOTŌ	Genno Era 1319 - 1321 to Choroku Era 1457 - 1460
SUE KOTŌ	Kansho Era 1460 - 1466 to Bunroku Era 1592 - 1596

4. The classification of the swords have been made under those made by the writer and it has not been followed on

FUJISHIRO cont'd.

the old system. The classifications are:

SAIJO SAKU 「
最
上
作
」 (highest rating)

JOJO SAKU 「
上
々
作
」

JO SAKU 「
上
作
」

CHU (no) JO SAKU 「
中
上
作
」

SHU SAKU 「
中
作
」

5. Those classified as WAZA MONO (as to sharpness and ability to cut) have been taken after the records made by Yamada Asaueemon Yoshimutsu. (Yamada was a famous sword tester).

SAIJO OWAZA MONO 「
最
上
大
業
物
」 (Ultimate finest keen blade)

OWAZA MONO 「
大
業
物
」

YOKI WAZAMONO 「
良
業
物
」

WAZAMONO 「
業
物
」

6. The oshigata depicted in this book are those that we have judged as true works of the smith listed. If the readers find there to be doubts, please contact the writer.

FUJISHIRO SHINTO EDITION

Explanatory Notes:

1. The signatures of the smiths depicted here are those from the early periods to late years of that smith and we have tried to show the changes in his signature through the years.

We have tried to depict as many as possible of these smiths even though they may be rated 2nd class or lower.

2. The HAMON of the smiths have been depicted under each smith and those of the relationship of teacher-students or those of the same school and those closely similar have been added and the characteristics of each smith can be noted as well as compared.

FUJISHIRO cont'd.

3. This SHINTŌ Edition has been divided into two sections:

Shintō Keicho 1596-1615 to Horeki 1751 - 1764

Shinshintō Meiwa 1764 - 1772 to Taisho 1912-1925

Those swords of the Showa Era (1926 - present) have been separated from the Shinshintō.

4. (same as for Kotō Edition)

5. (ditto)

6. (ditto)

SAMPLE FORMAT OF A PAGE FROM FUJISHIRO - (see next page)

Editor's comments:

The two-volume set of Fujishiro Nihon Toko Jiten are readily available from all of the swordbook dealers. Willis Hawley lists them on his latest booklist at around \$90 for the set. It is believed (not confirmed at this writing) that they are available through the NBTHK and very possibly, direct from the Fujishiro shop.

The mention of the WAZA MONO rating in Fujishiro is very interesting. The JSS/US printed a discussion of this rating in a past Bulletin, many years back. Perhaps this article should be reprinted in the near future, for those who have not seen it.

NEW PUBLICATION OF "MEITŌ ZUKAN" -

Mr. Matsuo Fujishiro has sent the Newsletter the following announcement. A small supply of "samples" are here if anyone wishes to see them. Write the Newsletter if a sample is desired.

We would like to announce that "Meitō Zukan" (photographs and rubbings of celebrated Japanese blades) will be quarterly published in Japanese and English from this April. We will provide you with clear rubbings of Hamon and Mei inscription, enlarged photographs of Hamon and brief explanations of each item, so that "Meitō Zukan" will be of great help for your Japanese sword study.

Size: 265 mm. X 188 mm.
Number of plates: 10 sheets per issue
Subscription Rates (Postage - airmail postage abroad - is included):
Domestic - ¥4,000
Abroad - ¥6,000 (For a group of ten foreign subscribers, we will send ten sets of each issue together at the price of ¥51,000 per year.)
Order from: Mr. Matsuo Fujishiro
6-14, Minami 4-chome, Kudan
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Sample of a typical page showing the format which is used throughout both volumes.

index key ("NA" for Naga...etc.)

smiths on this page.

The various signitures used by this smith.

smith's name

his title or family name.

era of his peak years.

province he worked in.

period (shinto or whatever).

classification of ability.

waza mono rating if this man has been given one.

page no.

various other information such as different years of a man's signiture, etc....

初期銘

【な】長國・長幸

【刻銘】攝州大阪住長幸

【刻銘】多々良氏長幸

【刻銘】攝津國作之

【刻銘】長國中津

【刻銘】豊前長國

【寛文 豊前】

【天和 攝津】

新刀 中上作

新刀 上々作

本國紀州、河内守康永門に入る、通稱四郎兵衛、大阪石堂の名がある、時代裏銘より見るに天和、貞享間、貞享は最も圓熟せる頃と思はる、作品初期は五ノ目丁子横山砧定の如く、晩年は主として丁子双を作り備中守康廣に似る、よく備前傳に終始して新刀備前傳中第一の作者、又業物として聞え高い。(最上大業物)

作品稀である、著者の見たものは鎬の低い、地鉄本目申直刃のものである。(業物)

ADVANCE NOTICE FROM NEW ENGLAND -

YOU SAID YOU WANTED IT....SO HERE 'TIS.....

August 18, 19 and 20, 1978

The New England Branch of JSS/US invites you to a
SWORD SYMPOSIUM

at the Hartford, Connecticut Sheraton Hotel

- Small informal seminars to discuss the elements of collecting.
- Special Seminar.....'Not for Women Only'
- See prime examples
- Questions and Queries
- Secret sales shop
- Cocktail parties
- Surprise exhibitions.

Advanced Registration Fee: \$50/person - \$90/couple
(Late registration fee: \$60/person - after June 15, 1978)

For Registration and further information, write to:

Betty Killam

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NIPPON-TŌ ZUIKAN ENGLISH INDEX -

For members owning a copy of the excellent book, Nippontō Zuikan, will be happy to hear that an english index has been worked up to this text. The index is a typed 22 page 8½" x 11" format and is cross-indexed to Hawley, Fujishiro volumes. The index is available direct from it's creator, Curtis Uhls. Copies are \$6.50 post paid. Order direct from:

NIPPON-TO ZUIKAN

A number of people have been asking for information about this new book. A brief review follows:

The book is by the authority, Mr. Ginsaku Kataoka and pictures 1,100 life-size oshigata of Shintō, Shinshintō and some Gendaitō (nakago and kissaki portion of blade), done in excellent quality printing and binding. Book size is 9" x 12" x 2½". The printing was a limited edition of 1000 copies. Price was ¥48000 at last notice. A Kotō volume is to follow in three years. Text is in Japanese, but with the new english index it's usage is easily learned.

The availability and firm price should be verified. Write: Mr. Kyoharu Omino, 2-21-16 Nakamachi, Musashino-shi, Tokyo 180 for this information. The book is highly recommended to all members.

O-SURIAGE MUMEI WAKIZASHI
(shortened and unsigned)

owner - Dr. Keith Evans

LENGTH - 44.8cm (1.48 Shaku)

WIDTH - 2.9cm (1 sun)

THICKNESS - 5.5mm (1.75 bu)

SORI - 1.1cm (4 bu)

NAKAGO LENGTH - 10.8cm (3.55 sun)

FORM (Sugata): The blade is flat-surfaced (Hirazukuri) and the back (mune) is three surfaced (mitsu-mune). It is broad in width (mihaba-hiraba) and is thin (kasane usuku) with slight curvature (sori-asaku).

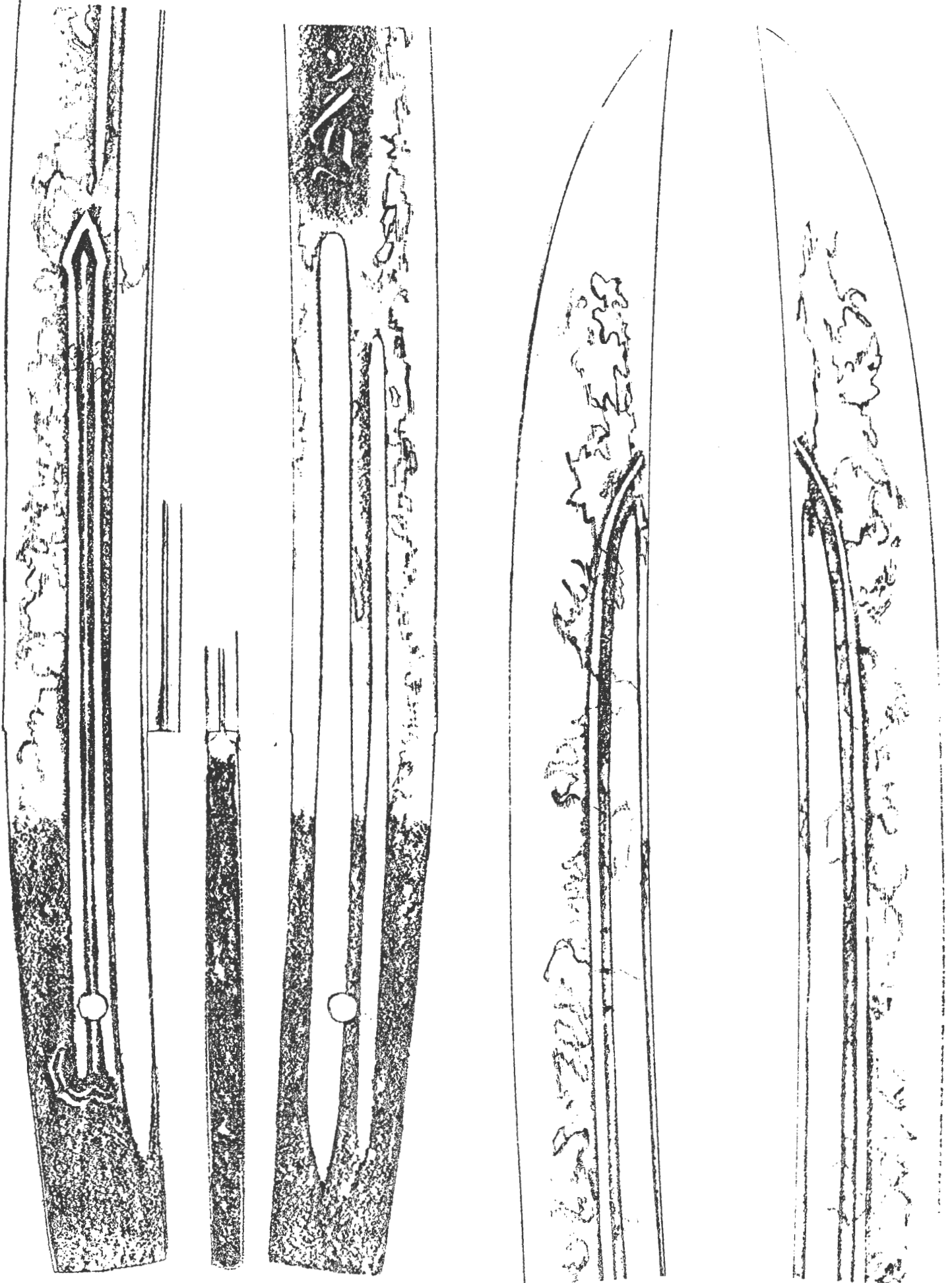
SURFACE TEXTURE (kitae hada):
Wood grain (itame-hada) with some burl grain (mokume-hada) in places. There are some ji nie and chikei. There are islands of temper (tobayaki) and temper on the back edge (muneyaki).

TEMPER LINE (HAMON):
Full temper all over the blade (hitatsura) of clove (choji) and zig-zag (gunome) patterns. There is much nie in the hamon, and some ashi, yo, kinsuji and short strings of sunagashi can be seen.

TEMPER LINE OF POINT (boshi):
Irregular (midare-komi) with a long turn back (kaeri). The boshi is pointed.

CARVINGS (horimono):
Front side (ura) has complex grooves with sanskrit (bonji) characters. Back side (omote) has complex grooves with sword (ken) carving.

TANG (nakago): Greatly shortened (O-suriage) with no signature remaining (mumei). File marks slant a little upward to the left (katte-sagari). The tip is straight across (kiri) and there is one hole (mekugi-ana).

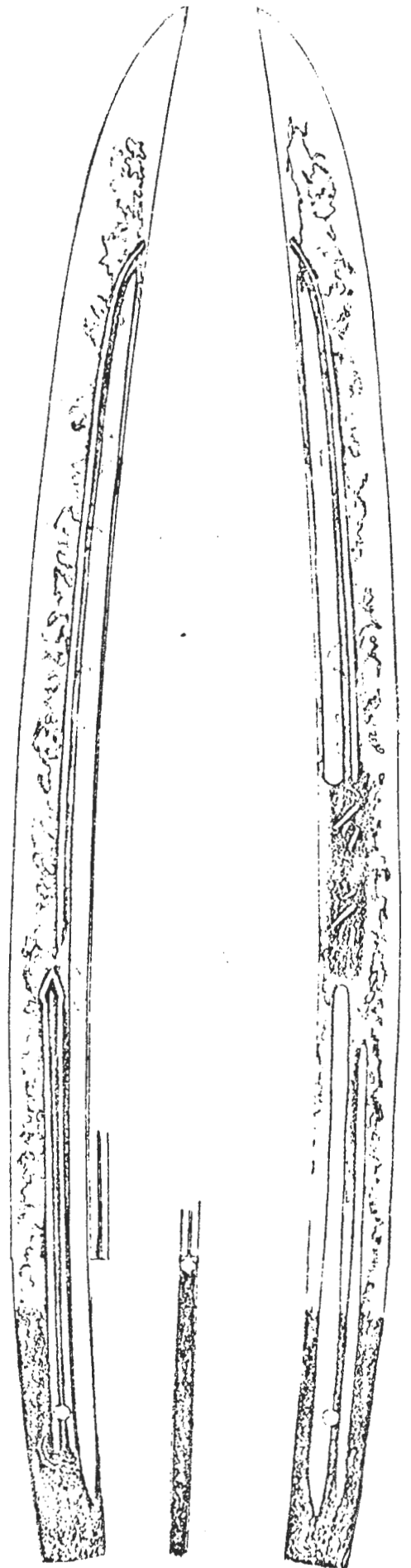


Although this wakizashi exhibits all of the characteristics of kitae of the early Nambokucho Soshu smiths such as AKIHIRO and HIROMITSU, it's original size (1.75 shaku or 53cm) and somewhat soft style of hamon places it in later Nambokucho times. Therefore, it may be more likely a second generation HIROMITSU or of HIROMASA or MASAHIRO make.

Although the Hasebe smiths also worked in this style, their swords usually show some masame hada near the mune and in the yakiba, and their boshi is not so pointed. Soshu blades after Oei period made thicker blades with sakizori and they had much less ji nie than this blade exhibits.

Therefore, I would kantei this wakizashi as HIROMITSU II, circa 1380 A.D.

Editor's note: An article on the Soshu smiths, by Dr. Keith Evans, will appear in our society annual Bulletin which will be coming out in a few weeks. It would do well to study both this kantei and the coming article together.



BIRMINGHAM SWORD SHOW REPORT -

The Birmingham show took place mid-February and as always, it was a most enjoyable success. A good crowd showed up and there was lots of action on the floor.

Dr. Suiken Fukunaga was on hand as promised and a mini-shinsa or kantei was held for those interested. Approximately 250 blades went for kantei (the detailed tabulation has become lost in your Editor's files!). Papers were issued by Dr. Fukunaga and everyone expecting papers should have them by this date. (Anyone missing such items should contact Paul Couch). Dr. Fukunaga also lectured to the crowd, with the help of Koji Sugimoto as translator.



Dr. Suiken Fukunaga



The Kantei Room: Left to Right,
Dr. Fukunaga, Paul Couch, Bill
Miller, Charles Ross, Paul Bayarinas.

During the course of the weekend, the attending JSS/ÚS Directors managed a meeting. Those attending were: Ted Wysocky, Ron Hartmann, John Tischmann, Tom Buttweiler, Billy Johnson, Bill Miller, Paul Couch and Clarence Siman. The main topic of discussion was the 1979 Chicago event. The dates scheduled are May 24th through 28th, 1979. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. The membership will be kept advised of plans as progress is made.

The entire Birmingham show was a good one and we must thank Paul and all the others who helped to make this show possible. Thanks too to Kiyoharu Omino who was on hand to assist with translations during the kantei sessions.

MUMEI KATANA (NORISHIGE OF ETCHU)
(Tokubetsu Juyo Token Vol.3, Plate 15)

by Brian Murashige

KATANA: Mumei attributed to Norishige of Etchu Province.

MEASUREMENTS: Nagasa----70.8cm Kissaki----- 5.6cm
Sori----- 2.0cm Nakago-----18.3cm
Motohaba-- 3.1cm Nakago Sori-- 0.1cm
Sakihaba-- 2.3cm

SUGATA: Katana, shinogi-zukuri, ihori-mune, O-kissaki.

KITAE: Itame, mixed with mokume, nagare (running hada), abundant chikei and small ji-nie. Hada is very pronounced. Also known as "Norishige had" or "Matsukawa hada". Steel has blackish tint which is characteristic of Etchu blades.

HAMON: Komidare mixed with gunome. Chikei, kinsuji, yubashiri, nijuba, yo and ashi. Nioi-guchi is shizumu (indistinct) which is characteristic of Norishige's work. Chikei is very prominent in this work.

BOSHI: Shallow midare-komi, ko-maru with hakekake.

HORIMONO: Bo-hi on both sides extending through the nakago.

NAKAGO: O-suriage, tip is kuri-jiri, yasurime o-sujikai, two mekugi-ana.

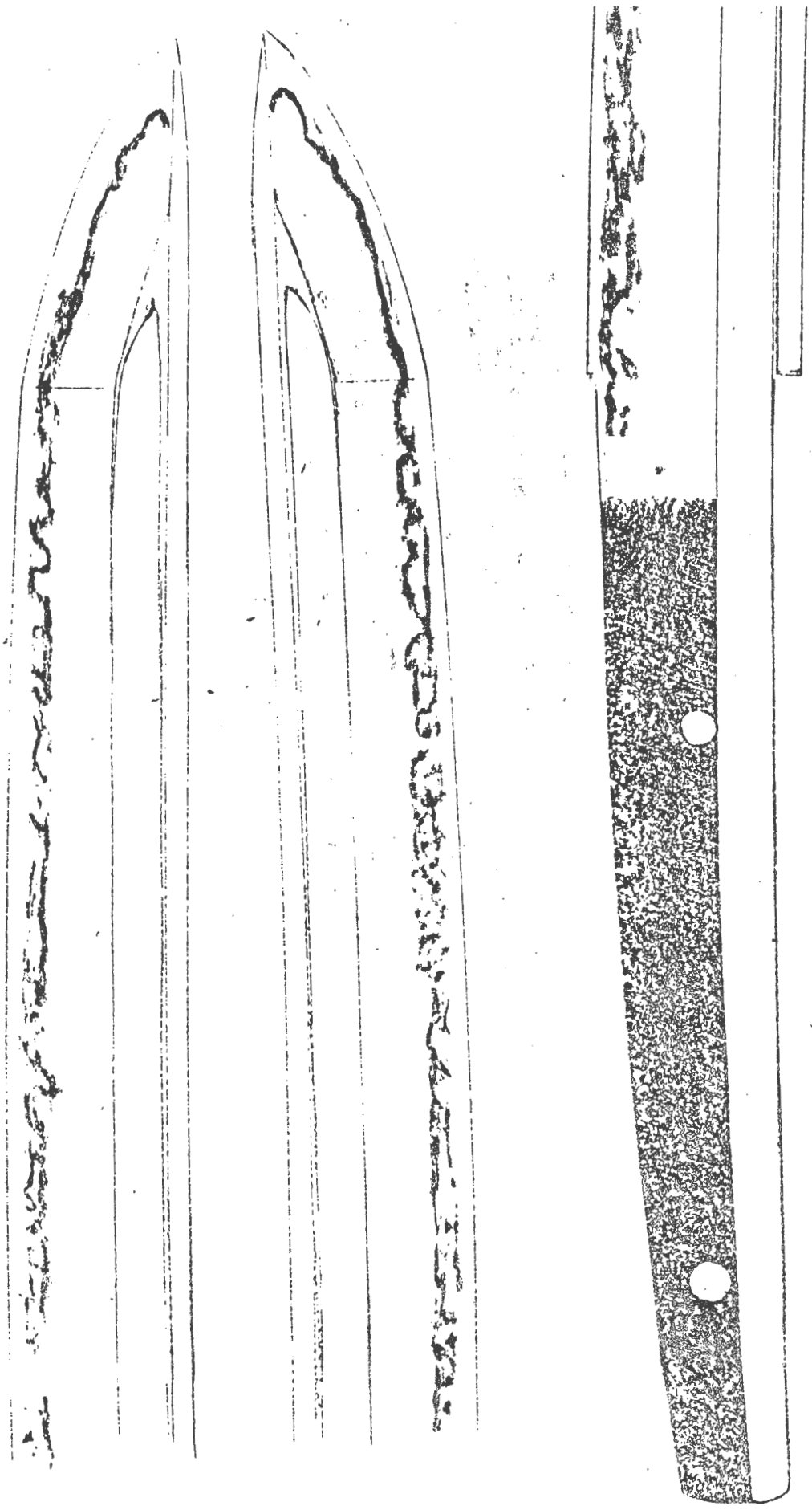
EXPLANATION:

For a long time, Norishige of Etchu Province was thought to have been one of the ten disciples of Masamune. However, it is now believed that norishige, along with Masamune and Yukimitsu, were students of Shintogo Kunimitsu. As with his teacher, Norishige was especially adept at making tantos. Many of his existing signed works are considered to be masterpieces. This blade illustrates many of the fine characteristics found in these masterpieces.

The steel texture is a combination of itame and mokume hada characterized by beautiful chikei formation. This unique jigane forms the distinctive pine bark pattern better known as Norishige's Matsukawa Hada. The komidare gunome hamon on this blade is a predominant characteristic found on blades of the late Kamakura Period. Within, an abundance of nie, sunagashi, ashi, yo and kinsuji can be seen. Yubashiri and nijuba are also present.

The large proportions of this blade make it an unusual and unique example of Norishige's work. Blades of this size were rarely found during the period when Norishige flourished and it is believed that this blade was an O-dashi before it was unfortunately cut down. Despite this, the blade has maintained it's excellent proportions and shape, demonstrating the mastery of this craftsman.

(This blade was awarded Juyo Token in June 1974 and upgraded to Tokubetsu Juyo Token in October of the same year. It was once owned by a distinguished member of the JSS here in the U.S.)



NORISHIGE

FOR SALE/WANTED/TRADES -

A free advertising column for members in need of locating specific items (motif, etc.) or who have a specific item for sale.

- WANTED - I can use some large G.I. sword handles (tsuka) in fair to good condition. Also need single menuki, fuchi and single kashira in good condition and priced fair. Write: John E. Ryan,
- WANTED: Yari and Naginata, all types. Write: Ray Deadman,
- WANTED: Shishinto Taikan. I realize that this book has greatly appreciated in value. Will pay cash. Contact: Charles G. Ross,
- WANTED: Any armor, kabuto, menpo, etc. Contact: Ed Hicks,
- WANTED: Copy of Koson Oshigata. Contact: Bill Miller,
- FOR SALE/TRADE: Russet iron dō with engraved dragon on front. Yokohagi type (horizontal plates) with Namigata (wavy edges). The metal is in excellent state but it needs relacing. Contact: Louis Chappelear,
- WANTED: Oshigata of 9th Tadayoshi, needed for research. Write: Gary Murtha
- WANTED: Wakizashi by BUNGO TAKATA SADAYUKI. Contact: Mel Oka,
- FOR SALE: Set of Shinto Taikan (swords and fittings). Contact: Mel Oka (see above).
- WANTED: Signed blades by BISHU MIHARA JU NIN MASAMORI (MA 275). Will trade or pay cash. Contact: Robert D. Masamori,
- WANTED: Katana from Hizen TADAYOSHI line plus blades from Bizen Osafune school. Send information to: Gary Kawabata,
- WANTED: 1st rate shakudo menuki or any first rate signed menuki. Cash or will trade tsuba. Contact: Ron Hartmann,
- ★ Notice: The Newsletter is regularly receiving requests for sword books (used). Anyone having books available should contact the editor and your list forwarded to those asking for those books...or advise in this column that you have books available.

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN YUMOTO -

The Newsletter has been advised that due to the cancellation of the 1978 annual NBTHK Convention (cancelled because of Dr. Sato's death), the 1978 Sword Tour by John Yumoto has also been cancelled. Hopefully the tour will be presented once again in the next year.

John has also advised the Newsletter of the soon to be published book by Dr. Kazutaro Torigoye entitled, Tōsō Sōran (Collection of Sword Mountings.). The book will be 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " size and will illustrate a 300 page photo-collection of (mostly) never-before published fittings. The key point of interest to us is that it will have english text! The book will consist of 101 pages of tsuba, 58 of kodzuka, 65 of fuchi-gashira, 21 of kogai and 19 of menuki. It will be a limited edition and will be a truly significant addition to all of our libraries.

The book will be available around May and will cost approximately \$50 plus probably 10% handling. The final cost will depend on the dollar/yen relationship at that time.

Those interested should send a SASE to John Yumoto (and marked "Dr. Ts Book". As soon as the book becomes available and a firm price established, you will be advised via this SASE. Important - do not send money at this time. Wait until you are advised by John.

Another recommended book which John has reviewed for us is entitled, Nihontō (no) Shingan (genuine and fake swords), published by Kogei Publishing Co., Tokyo. Hardbound, 227 pages of Japanese text.

Basically, the book deals with discussion of buying swords and what to look out for. The author has sent out questionnaires asking collectors for their experiences. These experiences have then been reviewed and analyzed by the sword experts, Messrs. Inuzuka and Tokuno in the form of a critique. Part one deals with general mistakes made by collectors. Part two deals in faults discovered after purchasing a blade. Part three pertains to experiences with polishers, saya makers, etc., and part four goes into the very daring and controversial topic of shinsa results and questions the opinions and actions of some of the "experts" of the sword world. Of course the opinions are of the book's authors, but still this makes for thoughtful discussion.

John forgot to mention price and availability of this book but I am sure a SASE with an inquiry to John will bring you that information.

One last note.....John continues to express his desire to help us via articles. Perhaps it would be good if members would drop him a line on occasion, suggesting topics for such material to be discussed. I am sure John would welcome any suggestions.

MINO-TŌ TAIKAN -

A reminder that flyers are still available upon request, for the publication Mino-tō Taikan (Mino Swords), by Mr. K. Tokuno. The book is available through Albert Yamanaka, while limited supply remains. Price: ¥39,000

Albert has sent us about a dozen copies of the Token Kenkyu Rengo Kai (Mr. Tokuno's sword society) publication, Toren, to be distributed to potential club members. Membership in The TKRK is ¥4500 which includes the quarterly journal Toren. Write the NL Editor if you wish a copy. (include a couple stamps please) Write Albert if you are interested in joining this group.

AUCTION OF GREAT INTEREST -

On May 17,18,19 and 20th of this year, Eldred Auction will be selling one of the finest single collections of Japanese swords and sword fittings ever offered at auction. To the buyer's advantage, the items will be sold WITHOUT ANY RESERVES whatsoever! The members will be receiving a mailing on this auction from Eldred Co. in the next few weeks. The auction will be held in Houston, Texas. For further information, contact Eldred Co., East Dennis, MA 02641

SWORD THEFTS -

It seems that stealing swords has become "the thing to do" of late! Mr. Bumpei Usui has once again been "hit" with around fifty swords being stolen. The John Woodman Higgins Armory Museum in Worchester, Massachusetts also lost their collection last January. Stanley Kellert of Baltimore, Maryland was cleaned out several months ago too. What is the answer? It has been suggested that the sword societies establish a "hot line" by which suspected stolen swords can be reported and investigated...also possibly pressuring the Japanese dealers who might receive such stolen goods. For the present, caution is the word.

HARTMANN CATALOGUE -

Our back-ordered catalogues finally arrived and have been sent to those awaiting it. This order was the last supply available from Cristies, therefore, we can not offer this catalogue any more. Please strike the book from your supply listing.

ANNUAL SOCIETY BULLETIN -

The society Bulletin is in the process of being typed, thanks to those who responded to our plea for material. If all goes well it will come out probably about mid-May.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - The next issue of the Newsletter will come out around the 1st of June. Have all material intended for that issue into the Editor no later than the last week of May.

RON HARTMANN