

# Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER

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Volume 11 No. 4

July - August - 1979

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### TOKEN TAIKAI '79 REPORT -

The following is a report on last May's Token Taikai '79, as promised. Follow-up reports on this event will continue to be presented in the Newsletter as they become available. It would be most interesting to have some feed-back on the various aspects of TTK'79 by those who attended and any such commentary should be directed to the Newsletter for inclusion in future issues. Token Taikai '79 was a most successful venture both financially and education-wise. It is this success which will assure us of holding future events of this kind in the United States.

### CHICAGO LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORT -

Apologies for having delayed this report so long but several Committee members started vacations right after the meeting and are still working on shinsa records, finances, and other aspects still to be completed.

Total registration for the event was 215 with members coming from England, France, Switzerland, Holland, Australia, Canada and Japan. A good sized group on tour from Japan attended and there was wide representation geographically from the United States. Items for shinsa were submitted by 131 individuals which included 747 blades and 342 kodogu. Rejects numbered 392 with 697 origami issued.

The meeting was a financial success even though when the doors opened the TTK'79 bank account was almost empty and there where obligations outstanding in excess of \$10,000. The following is as complete accounting as can be made at the present time since the books cannot be closed until all expenses are paid and all origami received and mailed to their owners. Part of the current balance is being divided equally between the JSS/US and the Token Study Group, \$3500 to each group, as agreed upon prior to the holding of TTK'79. The final balance will be similarly divided.

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

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## FINANCIAL REPORT cont'd.

The balance remaining in the Token Taikai '79 account will pay for the origami mailings, secretarial help and supplies, and catalogue revisions. It is expected that this account can be closed by the end of 1979. Some money is still owed to TTK '79 but this is less than \$200. All of the display cases made for the Meibutsu Room were sold except for one which is slightly damaged. We have on hand, to be sold by the JSS/US, the remaining copies of the Meibutsu Room catalogue. Over 350 copies have already been sold. Proceeds of future catalogue sales will be divided between the two Societies. An errata sheet is being prepared and will be made available through the JSS/US for those who already have catalogues.

The suggestion has been made that perhaps the two Societies should bank some of the proceeds of this meeting in reserve, to be used as a substantial seed money contributions for the next serious, well-organized national meeting of the type held in Chicago.

The Local Committee would like to express great thanks to those individuals who did contribute seed money as it was badly needed. The number of members at large who did contribute were disappointingly few. Preregistration and table rentals prior to the show are an absolute necessity and fortunately slightly exceeded the expectations of the Committee.

The Token Taikai '79 Local Committee:

- George Blucker
- Barry Brundsden
- Bob Coleman
- John Hanacek
- Roy Hashioka
- Hiroshi Kaneko
- Bob Lewert
- Rod McIlquham
- John Nettles
- Ted Wysocky

### MESSAGE FROM BOB LEWERT -

The following is a note from JSS/US Chairman, Bob Lewert, who headed Token Taikai '79, directed to the JSS/US, the Token Study Group members and all others attending Token Taikai '79.

Setting up Token Taikai '79 and producing a good meeting, has been a long, time consuming, and often frustrating job for your local committee. As local Chairman I want to thank each one of the members of this committee, as each took on the responsibility for major sections of the work that had to be done, working throughout the past year, often spending weekends and even vacation time on your behalf. In addition to time they also had to contribute thought, muscle, money, and equipment to make the meeting a success. This was a collaborative effort and the credit for Token Taikai '79 is theirs. We should also not forget the important contribution

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LEWERT MESSAGE cont'd.

made by our JSS/US Treasurer who had the responsibility of preparing and sending out the three large Newsletters preceding the show.

We also want to thank all the members who shared their collections with us and the volunteers at the show who pitched in and made it possible to open the Meibutsu Room on time, who worked at the registration desk, and who helped in the shinsa room. In spite of some hitches, small disappointments, and last minute changes in plan, we are well satisfied with the overall result and feel we have given the next group to try such a show something to shoot at.

On the negative side: We suggest that for any future shinsa there will be prepared in advance and enforced, a brief set of rules of conduct for those who as a courtesy are being permitted in the shinsa room with their material. Although there were only a few boorish and contentious individuals at the shinsa, these few unfortunately left their mark on the local committee, the volunteers, and on the shinsa team.

PLAQUE PRESENTED TO CHAIRMAN -

During the banquet evening, held the evening before the closing of TTK '79, Bob Lewert was presented with a beautiful inscribed ceramic plaque picturing Mt. Fujiyama. The award was presented by Ron Hartmann on behalf of the JSS/US and the Token Study Group in appreciation of his great personal contributions towards producing Token Taikai '79. The plaque was a gift to the occasion from an appreciative patron who wishes to remain anonymous. It was a warm and emotional moment for everyone in attendance.



Bob Lewert is shown holding his plaque. From left to right: Messrs. Yoshikawa Kentaro, John Yumoto, Ted Wysocky, Bob Lewert, and John Nettles.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF TOKEN TAIKAI '79 -

## Pre-meeting income -

Registration and table rentals	\$ 9,290
Seed Money (Individuals and Societies)	2,360
	<u>\$11,650</u>

## Meeting Income -

Registrations, Table Rentals, Banquet Tickets, Catalogue Sales, Display Case Sales.	\$ 8,087
Shinsa Team Kantei Charges	16,125
Shinsa Origami Charges	20,000
	<u>\$44,212</u>

Total Income	\$55,862	\$55,862
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## Expenses -

Ramada Inn Services (Rooms, Banquet, Tables, Shinsa Team Room Charges).	\$ 5,785
Guard Services	3,010
Insurance	800
Meibutsu Room	2,780
Catalogue	4,300
Photographer (Shinsa and other)	850
Phone, Secretarial expenses, Flyer Printing and Mailing, misc. Printing Charges, Office Supplies.	2,169
Air Transportation, Shinsa Team and Speakers	7,812
Shinsa Team Kantei and Origami Charges to date (6/2/79)	15,250
	<u>\$42,764</u>

Expenses	\$42,764
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Seed Money Returned	2,360
JSS/US Profit Share	3,500
TSG Profit Share	3,500
Current Unpaid Depts (estimated)	1,700
	<u>\$11,060</u>

Total Expenses	\$53,824	\$53,824
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6/2/79 Token Taikai '79 Balance		\$ 2,038
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## THE SHINSA -

Participation in the shinsa aspect of Token Taikai '79 was certainly a highlight of the week for at least 60% of those attending. It was a tough shinsa with happy results, and often sad results, for those submitting items. Although some opinions were questioned at times, as with all shinsa, the qualifications and strict guidelines of the team make the papers issued good papers to be honored and respected in years to come. Mr. Ed Dobrzanski of Winnipeg, Manitoba, long time JSS/US member, spent a good number of hours working in the shinsa room during this event. Ed was asked to give his impressions of this phase of TTK'79 and his candid report is as follows.

### SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TTK'79 SHINSA

by Ed Dobrzanski

During the Token Taikai '79 shinsa, I spent four out of five days helping out in the shinsa room, passing swords back and forth to the shinsa team and the owner. Besides giving me a chance to see many fine blades, it also gave me a close look at the procedures used by Mr. Yoshikawa. Prior to working in the shinsa room, I had many misconceptions about papers, how a shinsa team worked, etc. Those four days really opened my eyes, and have entirely changed my outlook on shinsa. I would strongly advise anyone who hasn't been involved with a shinsa to do so if they can get a chance. It is a learning experience one should not miss.

In most articles written on how to kantei a sword, it is usually stressed that one should look at the nakago and mei last. One is supposed to study the shape, hada, hamon, first. One of the first things that struck me was that Mr. Yoshikawa almost always looked at the mei first. However, when you think about it, it is really the only way of going about it at a shinsa. When examining a couple hundred swords a day, the appraiser must suffer a lot of eyestrain. It appears Mr. Yoshikawa was rejecting the obvious fake signatures right from the start, and saving his eyes for the good swords.

In most cases, the decision as to whether a sword should receive origami or not was made very quickly. In a few cases, Mr. Yoshikawa picked up a sword and rejection sheet at the same time! Only in the case of a big name or a good mumei blade, did he spend much time over the blade. In especially tough cases, he handed the sword to his son, who obviously has better eyesight. Then Mr. Yoshikawa would ask questions, and his son would look at the sword and give the answers. On those swords that Mr. Yoshikawa especially liked, he made comments to the interpreter, who then passed these remarks on to the owner.

It was interesting to note that the state of polish of the blade did not really effect the points a sword got, unless it was so far out of polish that nothing could be seen. In mentioning polish, one

SHINSA cont'd.

little incident comes to mind. A sword had received origami, and was passed on to the oshigata men, when the owner mentioned to me that he had been told the sword had been polished by Mr. Yoshikawa's father. When I had this information passed on to Mr. Yoshikawa through the interpreter, he called to see the sword again. He ran his eyes from habaki to kissaki, glanced at the other side and said "No, I polished it.". It really would be interesting to know if a polisher can always tell his own work, or if in this case he recognized the sword.

During the first day or so, a great number of really poor swords went through shinsa. Obviously the dealers were trying to upgrade their wares. However, the shinsa team was strict, and a lot of "pink" was issued, until the dealers realized that they could not slip junk through. After that, fewer really poor swords were submitted. No doubt it was quite discouraging for the shinsa team to see so much poor stuff. However, it did go towards paying for the shinsa!

Very few mumei swords appear to have gotten high points. Even if Mr. Yoshikawa really liked a sword, he was reluctant to give high points for mumei blades. Most of the good mumei swords seemed to get points in the 70-74% range. It would appear that the uncertainty in the case of mumei swords made the shinsa team cautious. They assigned a point value that indicated a fine blade, and left it at that. During a slack period, I took the opportunity to ask the younger Mr. Yoshikawa this question: "If two swords, identical in every way, except one was signed and the other not, what would be the difference in points?". The answer was that the signed sword would score "much higher". I myself would interpret this to mean at least one "grade" higher.

I couldn't help noticing that the shinsa team rarely went to any reference material. Only Occasionally would they look up a particular smith, mainly, it appears, for his working period. One couldn't help getting the feeling during the shinsa that judging swords is much more an art than a science. Intuition plays a very great part, at least that is my impression with this team.

One rather unpleasant thing about this shinsa was the great deal of whining and complaining that went on among the owners of swords. One character was even complaining about the rating he would receive even before his swords were looked at! If a person is so sure his sword will get bounced, why submit it? Feeling pretty sure himself that it is a poor sword, he certainly should not blame the shinsa team if they throw it out.

One final note. I was amazed at how little attention most people gave the Meibutsu Room. Whenever I had time to spare, I tried to study some swords there, and often found that I was the only person in the room! The contrast between the Meibutsu Room and the sale-swap room was unbelievable. Perhaps if the collectors spent more time in the Meibutsu Room, there would be fewer rejects and disappointments in the shinsa room!

SHINSA cont'd.

My four days in the shinsa room have had a profound effect on my view of swords and shinsa, and have given me a broader, healthier outlook. I urge all other collectors to seize the opportunity in the future to try and work in such a shinsa for a true learning experience.



Photo 1 - The shinsa team at work.



Photo 2 - Mr. Yoshikawa and his son, Yeichi Yoshikawa.

Photo 3 - Volunteer bookkeeper John Nettles who spent many hours recording what was sent through shinsa.



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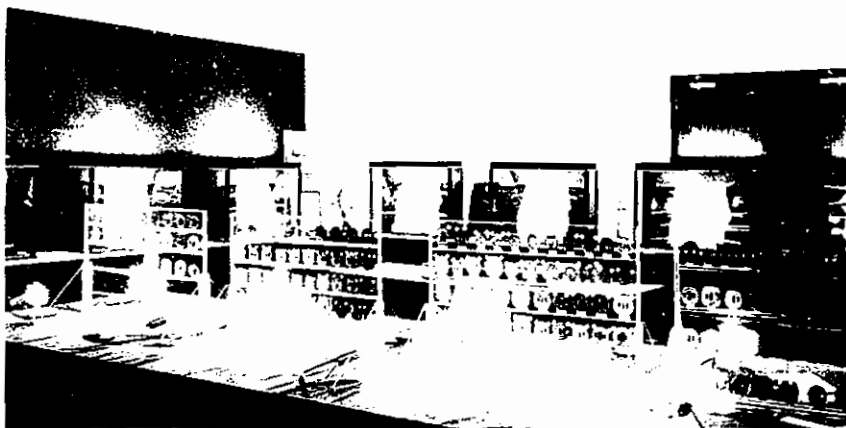
## THE MEIBUTSU ROOM -

A walk-through of the Meibutsu Room exhibit was an awe-inspiring and humbling experience for the viewer! For the exhibitor it was a proud moment to be treasured throughout ones collecting years as a memorable experience. Perhaps the exhibit was not fully appreciated and often over-shadowed by the high-key atmosphere of the shopping mall and it's wheeling and dealing, but for those who did take advantage of the exhibit, it was the most rewarding phase of Token Taikai '79!

The Meibutsu Room was set-up in a most excellent manner, a product of much planning. Upon entering the room one was confronted with a dazzling array of exhibits. At the door one was immediately struck with an exhibit of selected tsuba provided by Mr. Sasano himself. Textbook tsuba were at hand, familiar to all of us by our study of Mr. Sasano's book, "Sukashi Tsuba" owned by most of us. Difficult as it was to tear oneself away from these treasures, other treasures awaited study. Next one found an exhibit of tsuka-ito, various types of tsuka wrappings found on swords. A most interesting exhibit provided by one of the tour which came from Japan with Mr. Yoshikawa. (Photographic record of this exhibit is in the JSS/US library and available for loan). At this same time one was confronted with a table full of the most beautiful display of abumi one could ever ask to see, followed by a selection of classical matchlocks.

The perimeter of the room was arranged so as to present the visitor with a chronological study of the sword. An exhibit of the historical period initiated this study, followed by an exhibit which showed the steps in forging a sword. Enter the kotō period with a Masatsune sword of mid-Heian times followed by a classical sword by Masazane from early Kamakura times, showing us just what Tōken are all about! On around the room through era after era and treasure upon treasure. By the time the viewer arrived at the exhibit of modern day swords, it was time to begin again. There were exhibits of armour to dazzle one's mind, plus the multitude of fine tsuba from the Gunsaulus Collection on loan from the Chicago Field Museum. There was also a display of fine kodzuka from this collection showing the finest examples of the kodzuka artist's craft. Still more was to be enjoyed, the large selection of fine tsuba selected from private collections which presented the viewer with a wide variety of schools and periods of first rate examples of the tsuba makers art. Another display showed a good number of excellent menuki and fuchi/kashira of breath-taking quality.

All in all it was almost too much to really see, with one's mind being clouded by so many treasures. The very excellent catalogue of this exhibit transmits the quality of this display most adequately. Not only does this catalogue describe the various exhibits, but it gives background on the various schools and swordsmiths represented, thus becoming a valuable tool in our study of the sword, a worthy addition to all sword libraries. All in all the Meibutsu Room can only be described as humbling to all those who took the time to visit it. Nothing but praise can be directed to the people who made this exhibit possible.



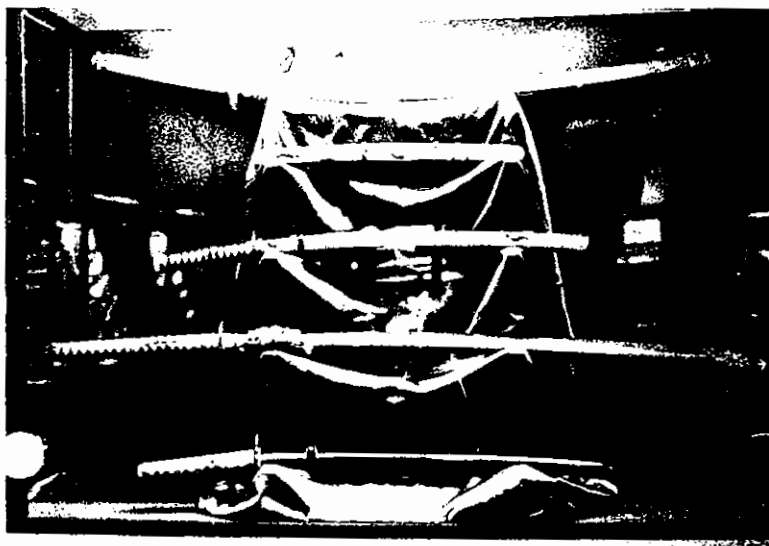
The Meibutsu Room with the Gunsaulus exhibit  
in the foreground.



Mr. and Mrs. Han Bing Siong from Holland  
viewing the Yamashiro kotō exhibits.



Kabuto Saotome Iesada  
62-plate bowl ca.1650



Fine koshirae exhibit



Henry VandeVelde from New York and  
your editor at the Shinshintō case.

## THE LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS -

A number of fine lectures were presented during the course of meeting. Several members have recorded these lectures and hopefully, in due time, transcripts of these lectures can be presented in the Newsletter.

Two demonstrations proved to be of great interest to those attending. The horimono (carving of a bonji on a blade) demonstration along with the making of a shirazaya was a rare opportunity for one to actually see and better understand just what artfulness goes into this craft.

## THE SHOPPING MALL -

The buy-sell-trade room was certainly the hub of activity! Many respectable swords were available and it seemed like a greater number of fittings were available, as compared to the usual show. Comments from foreign visitors and visitors experiencing their first encounter with a really large sword show have been most interesting. Generally they were awed by the number of swords available on tables but also taken back at times by the large price tags. It was a circus, but an enjoyable one!

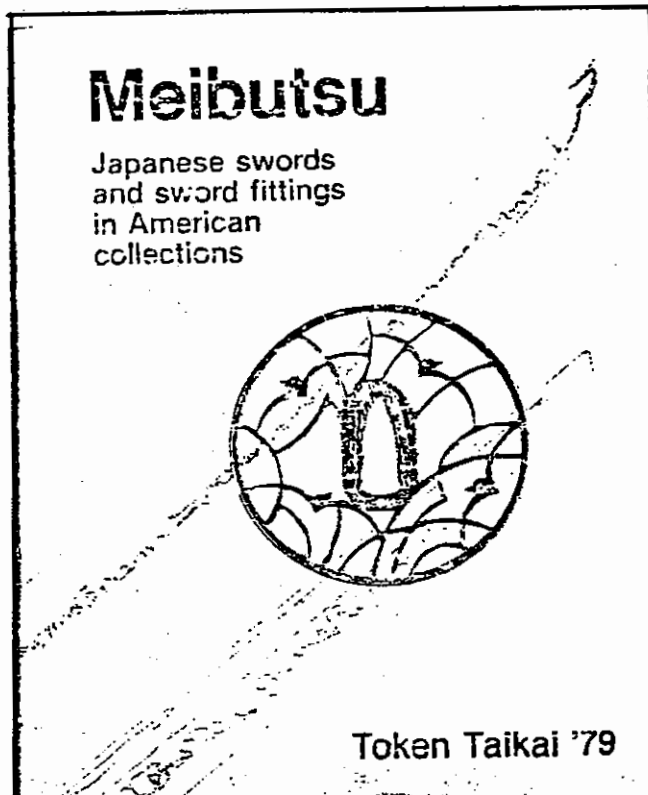
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The entire Token Taikai '79 was a success to be remembered by all of us. Frustrations caused by things not always working smoothly as intended usually fell to the wayside upon spending an hour in the Meibutsu Room or after having an item receive a good rating at shinsa or perhaps after finding a new treasure to take home. Also the many hours of visiting with fellow collectors made one forget the commotion of the day. Many a glass was raised in good fellowship well into the early morning hours each evening while the topic of swords seemed a never-tiring subject. What a strange sight it must be to non-collectors upon seeing a katana produced during dinner or at the bar!

TTK'79 is over but hopefully other such meetings will take place in future years. It was suggested that we (JSS/US) and the TSG set aside a good portion of the "profits" to be made available as seed money for our next venture. To this end a portion of our excess cash will be placed into a time certificate in due time. This amount will probably be discussed at a future meeting.

There have been some questions regarding the papers which will be distributed to their owners soon. Please direct any such questions to Ted Wysocky although many of these questions will be answered as soon as the origami are mailed out. This should take place within the next month. The Newsletter will continue to have additional information on such matters as information is made available.

Thanks to everyone who contributed towards making this a great success. This success will assure future Token Taikai!



## MEIBUTSU ROOM CATALOGUE

The excellence of this book with its many oshigata (several full length), research text on the smith and his school for each oshigata, and the many fine photographs of the Gunsaulus Collection tsuba, make this a valuable addition to any sword library.

Orders via the mails are now available. Order your copy today, direct from your Newsletter.

Price: \$11.00 U.S./Canada  
\$12.00 all others

Please send your order in with check payable to the JSS/US and in U.S.Dollars Only.

Prices include surface post.

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## BIRMINGHAM SWORD SHOW -

The Southeast Token Kai summer show is scheduled the weekend of: AUGUST 31st thru SEPTEMBER 2nd. Reservations indicate that this will be a well attended show so anyone not having plans made at this late date should do so quickly. Contact: Paul Couch @ 801-C Oakleaf Circle, Birmingham, AL 35209 - Phone (205) 942-1479

## TOKEN STUDY GROUP SWORD SHOW -

The annual TSG Sword Show will be held in Chicago (Des Plaines) at the Ramada O'Hare Inn as before. This is always a fine event and very well attended so early reservations are suggested. Show dates are: OCTOBER 5th thru OCTOBER 7th, 1979.

No table prices are available at this writing but reservations can be made by contacting Mr. Ted Wysocky @ 1811 N. 73rd St., Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213. Table costs can be gotten at that time.

Ramada O'Hare Inn is located at Mannheim and Higgins Road, Des Plaines, Illinois. Reservations can be made by using any Ramada toll free number listed in your phone book.

Plan to attend! It will no doubt be an excellent and fruitful show for all as past experience has proven.

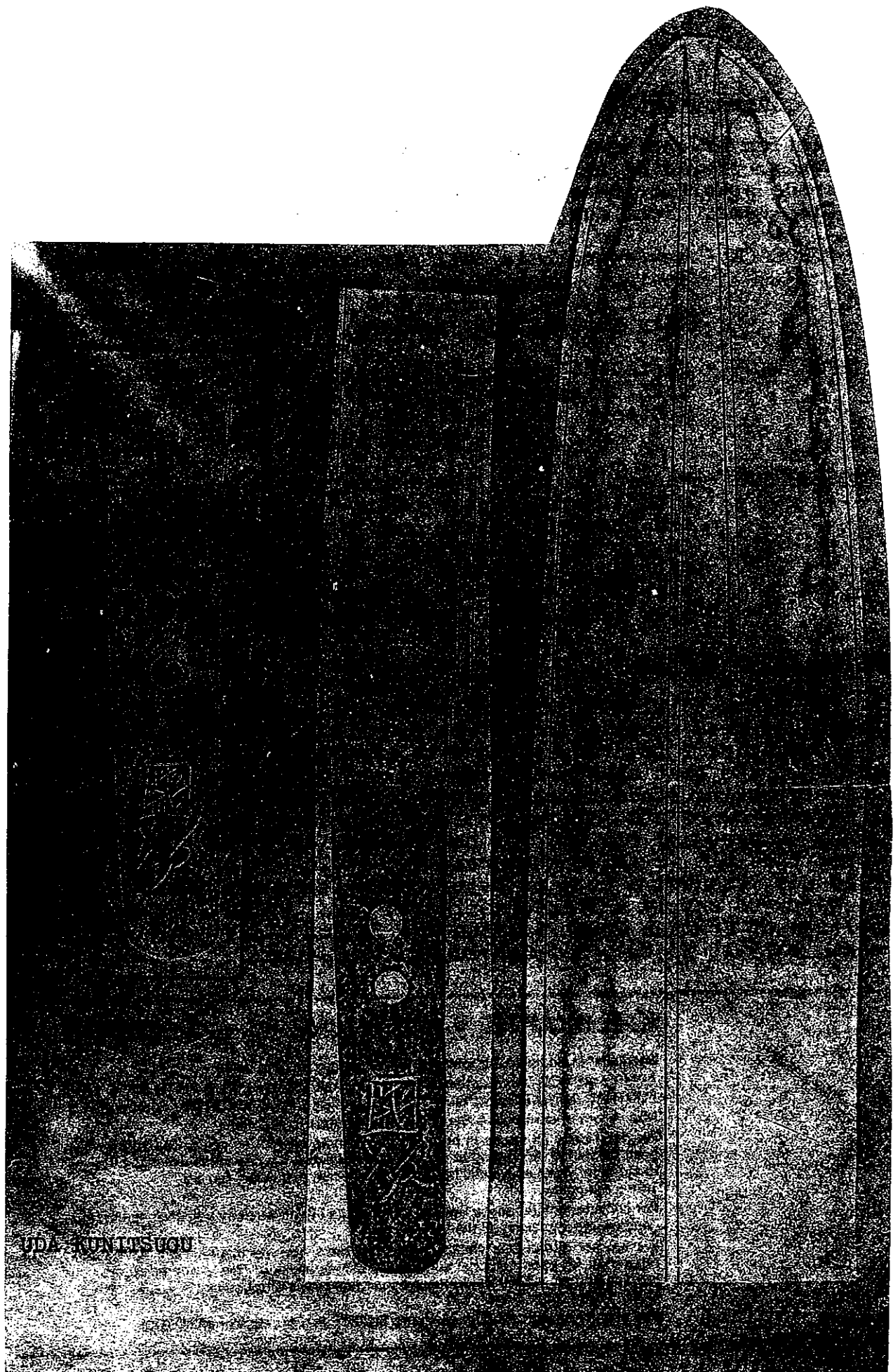
UDA KUNITSUGU KOWAKIZASHI

by Ron Hartmann

- SHAPE - Kowakizashi of hirazukuri form (no ridgeline), shallow even sori (curvature) 2.5mm deep. Ithore mune (two-sided back edge). Blade length 31.2cm (1.03 Shaku). A fairly thin blade giving it a gentle appearance.
- EDGE - Hamon (edge pattern) is midare-gunome mixed beginning narrow and becoming progressively wider and more peaked as it goes into the monouchi and through to the boshi. Yakiba (edge of hamon) is basically nioi and ko-nie with sunagashi (lines of nie) undulating along within the yakiba. The nie becomes slightly large particularly within the monouchi area. There is some tobiyaki (small patches of nioi within the ji) and slight muneyaki (temper along the mune). Boshi is midarekomi (irregular pattern with small rounded turn-back) with medium long kaeri (turnback down mune). There is prominent utsuri (reflection type tempering above hamon) sweeping up from the yakidashi (beginning of hamon) and all along the blade.
- HADA - The hada is large pattern but well forged itame mixed with areas of undulating running itame (itame mixed with mokume). Pattern becomes smaller and undulating along the edge of the blade. The hada stands out very prominent.
- NAKAGO - Wide in shape with slight sori. Very shallow maru-mune (rounded mune). Yasuri are kiri form (straight across) and end is kurijiri (regular evenly rounded). Two mekugi-ana with a crack from the top hole towards ha. The nakago is 10.8cm long. Two character mei: KUNITSUGU.

REMARKS - The founder of the Uda School, KUNIMITSU, originally came from Uda district of Yamato Province. He had two students, KUNIFUSA and KUNIMUNE. They are supposed to have studied under Etchu NORISHIGE, being active around the mid-1300s. Uda smiths began to prosper with the appearance of a number of smiths from around the Oei Era and later. (late 1300s). The maker of this blade, KUNITSUGU, is a descendant of the second KUNIFUSA and worked in the Shocho Period (1428). Examples of his signature are rare. (Hawley #KU-760)

This particular blade is unique in that it is the same blade pictured in Fujishiro's "Nihon Toko Jiten", Kotohen, page 309. It was recently polished in sashikomi style by Mr. Kajihara Kotoken and associates. It was awarded KOSHU TOKUBETSU KEICHO certification by NBTHK since polishing.



## BUY-SELL-TRADE COLUMN -

This section of the Newsletter is offered as a free service to the membership, providing an opportunity to locate specific needs or sell/trade specific items. Please keep ads short and limited to specific items. Send ads directly to the Newsletter.

- FOR SALE - New sword bags, all sizes. Material of oriental design. Specify size needed. Katana \$6.75, Wakizashi \$4.75, Tanto \$3.00 (incl. postage). Contact: Gary Murtha
- FOR SALE - Fujishiro's Nihontoku Jiten (Shinto and Koto volumes). \$125.00 plus postage/insurance. Shipped C.O.D. Contact: Steven Winkley,
- OFFERING - Wanted on loan. Katakiri-bori tsuba. I will make a duplicate of your tsuba for \$25 (cost of copper and preparing blank only). Tsuba will not be harmed in any way. Engraving is done by hand in traditional fashion. Offer limited to first 25 tsuba. Send tsuba and check via Registered Mail to: Don Hill,

## ENGLISH NBTHK JOURNAL -

The first edition of the english version of NBTHK's Token Bijutsu has been received and it is excellent! The high quality of the magazine's printing along with everything being in english makes this the best source of learning yet to be presented to the english speaking student-collectors. It is highly recommended to all serious sword and fittings collectors. Cost is ¥10,000 for present members and ¥11,000 for new members of NBTHK. It is assumed that all JSS/US members received notice of this from NBTHK but if not, request a copy of details from them and they will be most happy to supply all information to you. Write to: Planning Committee of English Token Bijutsu c/o Nippon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai, 4-25-10 Yoyogi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan.



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That's our policy.

For collectors of Japanese Swords and Fittings I think we carry some very good titles - and we are improving all the time!

We are not particularly cheap, but for 15 years now we maintain an international reputation for good personal service and secure packing. This is appreciated by our loyal customers who prefer to receive their fine books of art quick and in perfect condition.

You may try us with confidence. Yours SKAFTE (happy member of JSS/US).

### NEW MEMBERS -

We are happy to announce the following new members into our sword society:

David M. Kraut,  
Gerald J. Krieger,  
Ronald S. Shibata,  
Randy Shibata,  
William C. Holt,  
Henry Y. Mikasa,

Han Bing Siong,  
Raymond A. Krajenke,  
David Borsari,  
Richard L. Armosky,  
William Kerwin,  
Robert G. Hansen,

### NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIETY -

Two books have been stocked for resale to our membership. Please add the following information onto your Society Supply List.

Early Japanese Sword Guards; Sukashi Tsuba - by Masayuki Sasano.

This book is listed on the list but it had to be ordered from the publisher. That information is outdated. This book is available from the Newsletter direct. It is a must for all sword libraries and a bargain at its price. \$15.00 / 50¢ post (\$1.00 foreign)

The Samurai Sword - by John Yumoto.

Of course this little book remains a must for all novice collectors and a useful tool for the more advanced. It is now available through the Newsletter. \$8.00 / 50¢ post (\$1.00 foreign)

### OUT-OF-STOCK SUPPLIES -

A number of sword items are presently out of stock and orders for these items should be curtailed until further notice. They will be restocked as quick as possible and go-ahead on ordering will be announced in the Newsletter. The items are:

Ink stones (for making oshigata)  
Uchiko pompoms (individual ones)  
Pressure Sensative Paper (we will need to contract with the supplier for this and it will be several months before a supply is available)

Book: Robinson's Primer of Japanese Swords. (no more available anywhere!)

### STOLEN SWORD "HOT LINE" AVAILABLE -

As mentioned last Newsletter, information on possible leads about stolen swords (or the reporting of a theft), can now be phoned in to the F.B.I. by calling the toll free number (800) 435-5119 extention 700. Calls can be anonymous. The information will immediately be passed on to the F.B.I. This "Hot Line" has had the approval of the F.B.I. and is for the benefit of all of us.

### A WORD TO THE WISE -

The Newsletter has been asked to make known that several of our members have had problems in receiving payment for items sold and also the return of items being restored, when dealing with a dealer-restorer of antiques and swords (who must remain un-named) but who operates out of a town named TUJUNGA in California.

Anyone concerned about their dealings in Tujunga, California can get further information by contacting:

Mr. Karel Wiest

Mr. Don Hill

or

A little checking might save you some serious problems!

### NIHONTO NEWSLETTER REPRINT -

The announcement last Newsletter stating that the well-known Nihonto Newsletter 5-volume set by Mr. Albert Yamanaka was to be made available as a reprinted and bound 2-volume set caused a landslide of orders to be sent in to the handler of this reprint.

Mr. Joe Naemura, who was kind enough to financially back this project and also handle distribution, reports that (as of two weeks past) all but a few copies have been sold. It is suggested that anyone wishing a copy, contact Joe first and ask about availability. Price was \$100 per set (incl. Postage) with orders being mailed to

Remember, a workable cross-index to this set is still available from your Society for \$6 per copy.

A copy of this 2-bound volumes of the complete Nihonto Newsletter has been given to the Society library and will be made available for loan as soon as it can be given to our librarian. It is suggested that when asking to borrow this set that one volume be requested at a time. These will be available after mid-September.

Most important - many thanks to Joe for suggesting this project and seeing that it was completed so quickly. Thanks to Joe, many more sword students can now increase their knowledge through their ownership of this unique study works.

## NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS ARE OPEN -

The time to think about electing a new JSS/US Board of Directors is upon us once again. To keep on schedule with this important election, nominations are now being accepted. Nominations should be mailed to:

Mr. A. Z. Freeman - JSS/US Director

Nominations will be accepted through OCTOBER 20, 1979

Present Directors (1978-1979) are:

T. Buttweiler	R. Hayashi
L. Chappellear	B. Johnson
P. Couch	W. Miller
E. Dobrzanski	J. Nettles
A. Feldman	C. Siman
A. Frenzel	J. Tischmann

Twelve (12) Directors must be picked. They will serve for two years, 1980 and 1981. Their primary duty will be to review and pass judgement on any proposals with regards to the Society, which are presented to them. Certain proposals will then be voted upon by the Directors and Officers or if of significant status, by the membership.

We need to get some members into office who are interested in the running of the Society and who will be willing to give up some "show time" on occasion to attend meetings and discuss Society business. Therefore we need to get some good nominees. Once a list of nominees is compiled (each nominee will be contacted and asked to accept his nomination), a ballot will be mailed to each member which in turn will need to be filled out and returned to the Election Committee. The ballot will give a brief background of qualifications, etc., for each nominee.

Please take this serious and respond by submitting some good and willing workers names to the Committee.

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## 1979 JSS/US BULLETIN ARTICLES -

It is time now to get any material intended for the up-coming annual Bulletin, into the Newsletter. We need some lengthy and in depth articles...original or translations. Help! What have you?

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - The next issue of the Newsletter will come out around mid-October (after Chicago show). Please have all material into the Newsletter no later than the first of October.

