

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 No. 5

September - October 1979

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS -

Nominations for the office of Director (12-Directors to be elected) were requested in the last Newsletter. According to A. Z. Freeman, who is acting as a nominations committee along with our Secretary Bill Miller, membership response was very good and a good slate of nominees will be available for placement on the ballot. The ballots will be mailed along with the November-December Newsletter.

Several other items requiring membership approval will also be placed on this coming ballot. These items are discussed briefly in the following report from your Secretary. Discussion on these items will also be in this issue and the next issue of the paper so that the membership can be kept informed of the issues to be voted upon.

JSS/US MEETINGS HELD IN CHICAGO -

During the Chicago Token Study Group sword show the weekend of October 5th, 6th and 7th, an Officers/Directors meeting held. A General Membership meeting was also held. During the Officers/Directors meeting a number of topics were discussed at length. Primarily the meeting dealt with several proposals which were then presented to the membership during the General meeting Saturday evening. Discussion from the floor was lively at times as each topic was presented and discussed. Minutes of the General Membership meeting are presented below.

October 6, 1979 meeting of JSS/US was held at 8:00 P.M. at the Chicago Token Study Group sword show. Mr. Peter Bleed (JSS Executive Vice Chairman) presented the following to the members present for a general discussion.

- A. That \$25 be paid to anyone submitting and having accepted, articles for the Newsletter or annual Bulletin. The following discussion indicated a feeling that this small amount

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

Meeting (cont'd.)

would not motivate people to send in articles. An alternative suggestion was that a free membership (1 year membership) be given instead. Basic agreement was reached that a token amount such as this, however small, would at least show the clubs appreciation for helping the publications.

- B. That the Editors of the Bulletin and Newsletter, each be paid \$250 expense allowance. The general discussion among members favored this proposal given the time and effort needed to produce these publications.
- C. That the dues be increased to \$15 US/Canada and to \$20 foreign. This proposal brought on the most lively discussions of the evening. Some members felt that we should have tangible plans for the money before increasing revenues.

From the Board of Directors side, the justifications are as follows: The fact that our treasury is now at the highest level in our history we have decided to venture into a program of publishing and translating some basic and more advanced Japanese sword and fittings books. The money we have now will get this program off the ground. To sustain this we have to have a substantial revenue source that we can count on.

Given that fact that dues payment schedule is January of each year, if we do not act on the increase now, it would be 1981 before we would have additional money available, based on planning that is now being worked on. We have never had an increase in dues since the Society has started. But regrettably, inflation has eroded the purchasing power of our dues to the extent that the Officers feel we have no alternative but an increase.

- D. That the Board of Directors be elected as follows: 6 Directors for a 3-year term and 6 Directors for a 2-year term. The Officers felt this was necessary to retain some continuity on the board. We shall always have experienced people administering the Club following these procedures.

These motions will be included on the Election Ballot for Board of Directors. It is hoped that all of the members will take the time and interest in the Society to act on these motions and return their ballot by mail.

(signed) Bill Miller
JSS/US Secretary

A few comments on these motions at this time might give some food for thought with regards to how to vote on them.

Motion A - The paying out of a token honorarium to contributors to the Newsletter and Bulletin was proposed in good faith, but there are some problems to consider. If the honorarium be a cash fee

Meeting (cont'd.)

then it must be determined just when this fee be given. It was mentioned that any article receiving this fee would need to be of some established size at least. Should it include the brief but often time consuming oshigata articles? How often can a contributor receive this fee each year? Should it be restricted? If the dollar-fee fall the the side and a free years membership be given instead, what about Life Members and Honorary Members, how would this be handled? In the past contributors have given their articles to us simply because they wanted to, or had been asked to do such an article. Perhaps the satisfaction of sharing one's knowledge is reward enough. A few complimentary letters from the membership can certainly go a long was in saying thanks. So you see there are a number of things to consider with regards to paying an honorarium type token fee or gift.

Motion C - Nobody really objected to paying more dues when this motion was open for discussion. The objection was that dues would be raised simply to raise dues. It was requested that some projected expences budget be prepared prior to asking for a dues increase. This projected budget will be attempted and will be presented in some respectable form in the next Newsletter.

The question was asked why we should charge our foreign members more dues than US/Canadian members. It should be pointed out that a nominal additional \$4 is added onto foreign dues at present because mailings go via air mail (except Bulletin) and at todays postal rates plus cost of producing the publications we just break even or even lose slightly on each foreign membership. Our distant members seem very happy to pay the little extra just to be able to get air service on their mailings.

One last mention with regards to building up the Society financially. Do not forget that our "paid advertising", if handled properly, can greatly assist us in building up our working capital. Supply sales also assist with books being our most profitable venture. Most other supplies are sold at very little above our cost. All supplies are carried as an incentive to being a member with profits being a side benefit for us.

EDITORIAL FROM A PARTICIPANT OF THE TSG SWORD SHOW -

Once again we have observed conduct by a few of those attending the sword show which, to say the least was very objectionable. Numerous complaints were heard and observances made of the physical mistreatment of swords, etc. We can only hope that this mishandling of items can somehow be stopped. Over the last few years we have seen a rapid decline in items brought for display at the shows. Although the cause of this cannot be pinpointed, mishandling surely has something to do with it. I for one still bring items to show but have resorted to the practice of keeping them under the table to show to only selected people. It is known that others also are doing this, with the result that everyone's sword education is

Editorial (cont'd.)

further restricted. Resolving these problems is not going to be an easy task. Education of participants in these shows is the one solution that I can realistically apply. In the meantime I am going to have a sign made that reads as follows:

PLEASE DO NOT HANDLE WITHOUT PERMISSION!
GIVEN PERMISSION, IF YOU DO NOT KNOW
PROPER SWORD ETIQUETTE, PLEASE ASK FOR
GUIDANCE!

Any other suggestions regarding this problem would be greatly appreciated.

(signed) Bill Miller

The problem of which Bill speaks of is a real one. During the Token Study Group's meeting, this was discussed at length and went beyond simply the mishandling of swords, but also into sword show ethics. These problems have become so real that the TSG plans on imposing "show rules" at future events in an effort to put shows back on the proper ground that they should be on.

One comment was heard that "sword shows are dying". A buyer commented that "so few people at the show seem serious in sword study....only buying and selling". It seems that we as collectors need to "get our act together" so to speak and start to make personal efforts at making shows more "sword study" shows and not just a place to hussle swords. The promoters of the shows are trying to do this. Both the Token Study Group and the Birmingham show usually try to work in some lectures and displays. Token Taikai '79 certainly made this effort with the Meibutsu Room. Let us try and polish up our sword etiquette and floor ethics. Consider bringing one or two "not for sale" items to display and to enjoy. If you are corrected in your actions when handling someone's sword or fitting, take your reprimand as a lesson to be learned. Interest in collecting swords and kodogu is growing by leaps and bounds in the U.S. and it is up to all of us to see that a proper and healthy attitude be cultivated with regards to enjoying these treasures. Sword meetings are a wonderful way to meet and mingle with fellow collectors, to study some fine examples from the collections of others, and to do some buying, selling and trading. It is up to everyone to see that this healthy balance between the various aspects of a meeting is kept.

● TTK'79 SHINSA PAPERS -

The papers issued during the May shinsa are in and have been distributed to their owners by this time. Anyone receiving such papers should also keep the initial data sheet which was given at the time of shinsa. This data sheet should be kept with your papers as it has particulars on it pertaining to your item which went through shinsa. Anyone with papers due but who have not received their papers by this time should contact Ted Wysocky advise Ted that your papers have not been received.

This is a brief translation of an article which appeared in TOKEN SHUNJU monthly magazine, July 1, 1979, issue.

TOKEN TAIKAI '79

STRONG REQUEST FOR THE SPREAD OF BASIC KNOWLEDGE

Nippon Token Hozonkai (Mr. N. Nabeshima, president) conducted a Token Taikai '79 in Chicago from May 23-27. There were more than 400 people gathered. This was the third of such events abroad and was successfully conducted. From the Japan side Mr. Kentaro Yoshikawa, executive director of the society, Mr. Daiko Sasano and Mr. Takeshi Wakayama were invited as judges. There was a group of 28 participants from Japan who toured the U.S.A. and returned on the fifth of June. So the editor of this magazine sent a reporter to acquire information about the trends and thinking of American sword collectors. The following is information gained from an interview with Mr. Yoshikawa.

The Shinsa lasted five days during which time we examined 1,714 items, 80% of them swords. We had agreed to limit it to 150 blades a day; however, because of the unexpected participation and number of items submitted from Europe and Canada, we consequently went beyond the limit. As of now, we do not know the exact number of items which have made the grade. However, there were no extraordinary highly rated swords.

The better blades were Yosozaimon Sukesada of Eisho date, unsigned Unjo and unsigned Chikakage. There were several honest works made by swordsmiths of the Yasukuni group. I have advocated to the Americans their concentration on such honest works rather than on blades with outrageous big names and unsigned blades. On the whole, the majority of them were Kazuuchi (mass produced swords) of the Muromachi period. Comparing this Shinsa with previous ones, I find there were less modern military blades probably due to the improved ability in judging swords.

As for mountings and fittings, there were splendid items such as suite fittings by the Goto Ichijo school and tsuba by Omori Teruhide. Fittings were better than the blades. As we expected, the Kinko items of the Edo period were the majority and good iron tsuba or sukashi (openwork tsuba) were very few.

Most of the blades submitted to the Shinsa were Sabimi (rusted blades) and came wrapped in newspaper and without scabbards. Americans requested introduction to various artisans for maintenance of swords as well as for information on whether blades are worthy of polishing. It will be a long time before we can satisfy their requests and wishes or compromise the expense of various repairs.

The Taikai consisted of these requested events: a film on sword making, lecture by Master Ozawa Masatoshi, demonstration of sand-script carving on blades by Mr. Goda Yasutaka, demonstration of shirasaya making by Mr. Hirato Tkaichi and lectures on swords as well as sword mountings. Their concentration on and devotion to the subject are splendid. When we judged a sword, designating by which master it was done - first, second, third and so on - they asked why that certain master was the one. Such questions were repeatedly asked. The fever for Japanese swords in the U.S.A. seems to be growing by leaps and bounds, and within a few years there will be very little difference between the U.S. and Japan as to their value. It is a fact that there are many who are eager for correct information on swords before they will enter into the field of appreciation and collection.

(The above translation was sent to the Newsletter by John Yumoto for our information and reading)

BOOK REVIEW -

The latest english language publication dedicated to the study of the sword, kodigo, and other arts of the Samurai, entitled "Bushido", has been received and thoroughly enjoyed. The magazine is obviously a first class effort by Co-Publishers Robert Benson and Elton Erickson which will greatly assist all of us in our study of the unique art-forms of the Samurai.

This first issue of "Bushido" contains articles entitled "Club Happenings", "World News" (in which our Token Taikai '79 was reviewed), the first part of a series on "The Shitahara School", discussion of the Main Line Goto family of kodigo artists, an article on "Ezo Fittings", an article featuring the "Tantō of the Quarter", and material on the Nippon Bijutsu Token Hozon Kyokai (NBTHK) and their papers. All of the articles are supplimented by excellent photographs, many in beautiful, crisp color. Aside from formal articles there are both classified and display advertisements which can enlighten the subscriber through items and prices listed.

The quality of reproduction and of the material contained in "Bushido" will make this fine publication a must for all of the serious collectors around the world. For many years the study of the sword, of kodigo and other such artful things has been a most difficult and frustrating pursuit outside of Japan. The publication "Bushido" will most certainly become a break through in the study of the sword and related arts for all of us outside of Japan. Subscription to "Bushido" is most highly recommended.

Subscription is \$30 per year (\$33 for foreign subscriptions) and is available from:

Mino KANEMASU

oshigata by
Ron Hartmann

- SHAPE - Tantō of hirazukuri for (flat without ridgeline), shallow saki-zori (curvature centered towards the tip of the blade). Sori is 2.5mm deep. Ihoremune (two-sided back edge). Blade length is 26.7cm (8.8 Shaku).
- EDGE - The hamon is a bellowing gunome with hako-gunome tendency (mounded pattern with box-shape or squared-off peaks mixed in). Yakiba (edge of hamon) is in nioi basically with nie at top and bottom of the gunome peaks. There is abundant ko-nie in the form of sunagashi (sweeping lines of ko-nie) running through the gunome peaks, plus beautiful deeply made ashi making a splendid and exciting hamon treatment.
- HADA - Primarily in itame (wood grained) with some running itame mixed with masame (itame becoming straight-grained) into the mono-uchi area and into the kissaki (tip). There is ji-nie (nie in the surface area of the blade).
- NAKAGO - The nakago narrows towards its tip with a rounded bottom but flat (no sori) along its top edge. The nakago has a flat mune. Yasuri (file marks) are higaki (checkered) done in rather steep fashion. There are two mekugi-ana as the ha-machi (notch at cutting edge) has probably been altered slightly. Nakago lacks niku (meat) and is somewhat flat in appearance. Nakago length is 10.1cm and has two character mei: KANEMASU.
- HORI - Bo-hi (large groove) carved on both sides of blade.
- REMARKS - From all indications this blade is the works of the smith KANEMASU who worked around 1540 Era, which would make him the 3rd generation according to Mino-tō Taikan. The blade demonstrates many of the characteristics which are described in the Mino-tō Taikan translation.

The blade is a most pleasant tantō polished in sashikomei fashion by Mr. Muneyoshi Nakajima. It is mounted in shirazaya by Mr. Nakajima and has sayagaki by Mr. Fukunaga Suiken.

Hawley reference number is KA-698.

KANEMASU

A translation from "Mino-tō Taikan" pertaining to the various Mino smiths named KANEMASU, translated by Mr. Albert Yamanaka. "Mino-tō Taikan", pages 172 thru 173.

The 1st Kanemasu is a swordsmith from the Onin Era (1467-1469). There is a work dated Onin 1st year, probably a student of the 1st Kanekado or one of the smiths from that group.

The 2nd Kanemasu is said to have been active around the Talei Era (1521-1527), however there being quite a difference in the period between these two smiths there may have been another smith between these two, or maybe that there was a slight lapse in the continuation of the smith between the 1st and the 2nd.

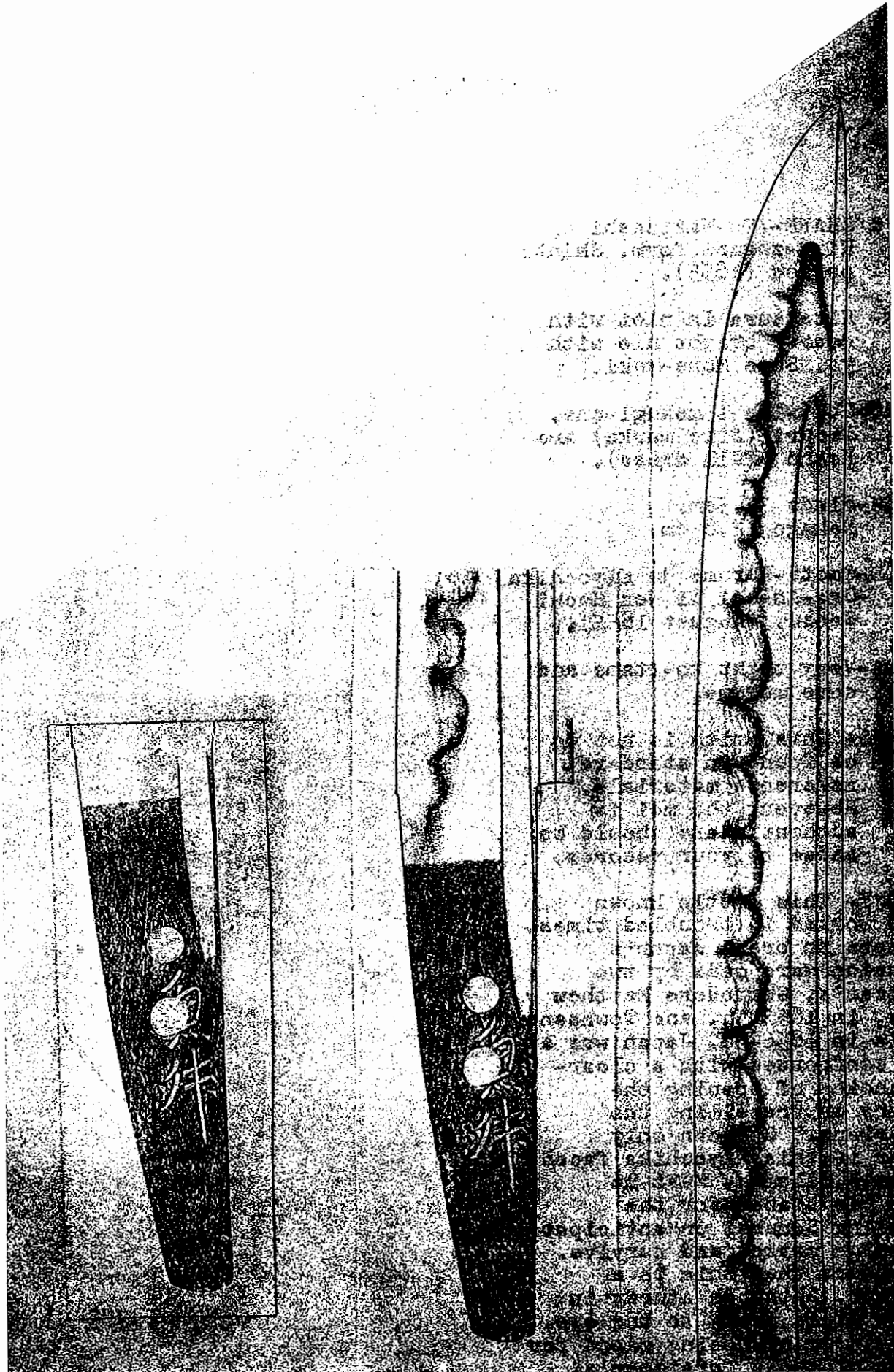
The 3rd Kanemasu was a smith from the Tembun Era (1532-1554) and a version tells that he was from the Nara Taro Group and of the more serious smiths.

Entering the Shintō Period, according to the research made on the Seki smiths, Matajiro, Yosaemon, Magoichiro, Magouemon, Sohichiro, and Genjuro are the six names we see for the smith under the name of Kanemasu. There is a smith named Kanemasu with the title Harima (no) Kami from around the Kambun Era (1661-1672) who most likely was a grandson of Kanemasu and who was allowed to use the name of Kanemasu by Yosaemon Kanemasu as he was a student under this Kanemasu who went to Osaka to make swords there.

Of the many works by Kanemasu, the most we see are from the Genki (1570-1572) and Tensho (1573-1591) Eras and into the Keicho Era (1596-1614). Hardly any katana are seen and most are Hira-tsukuri tantō and ko-wakizashi. This tendency is not only limited to Kanemasu alone but is seen on most Seki smiths of this period and probably reflects the demands made to the smiths of that time.

Tantō are made in length of about 9 Sun or thereabouts without sori and if there is sori, very little. If the blade is made wide then it will be in Sun-nobi (longer than normal) with Sakizori (curvature begins towards the end of the blade in monouchi area).

The Jitetsu (steel texture/forging) is in tight itame (wood grained) or itame/mokume mixed (wood grain mixed with burl grain) and the grain will stand out. The hamon is in nioi and in Gunome Choji (mounded and in triple-mounded form) with tight nioi edge. The peaks of the gunome will be rounded and many will be in Kanefusa midare (irregular gunome characteristic of Kanefusa). There are suguha (straight pattern hamon) in cases. As for the nakago, the nakago-mune will be square (flat). File marks in tantō will be in higaki (checkered) and tip of nakago in Kurijiri or slightly Ha Agari Kurijiri (rounded or slightly leaning to the cutting edge). The signature of Shintō Era will be of large style with bold and large chisel work. On occasion the Nakago end is in moderate Kenryo ("V" shape) or Iri-yama form.



Mino Province KANEMASU
ca. 1540

KURUME KIYOCHIKA KO-WAKIZASHI
by Gary D. Murtha

TYPE & SHAPE- Ko-Wakizashi of
Hira-zukuri form. Shinto
period (1855).

HAMON- Hitatsura in nioi with
coarse bright nie with
yo. Some Mune-yaki.

NAKAGO-Ubu with 1 mekugi-ana.
Yasuri (file marks) are
Kesho (full dress).

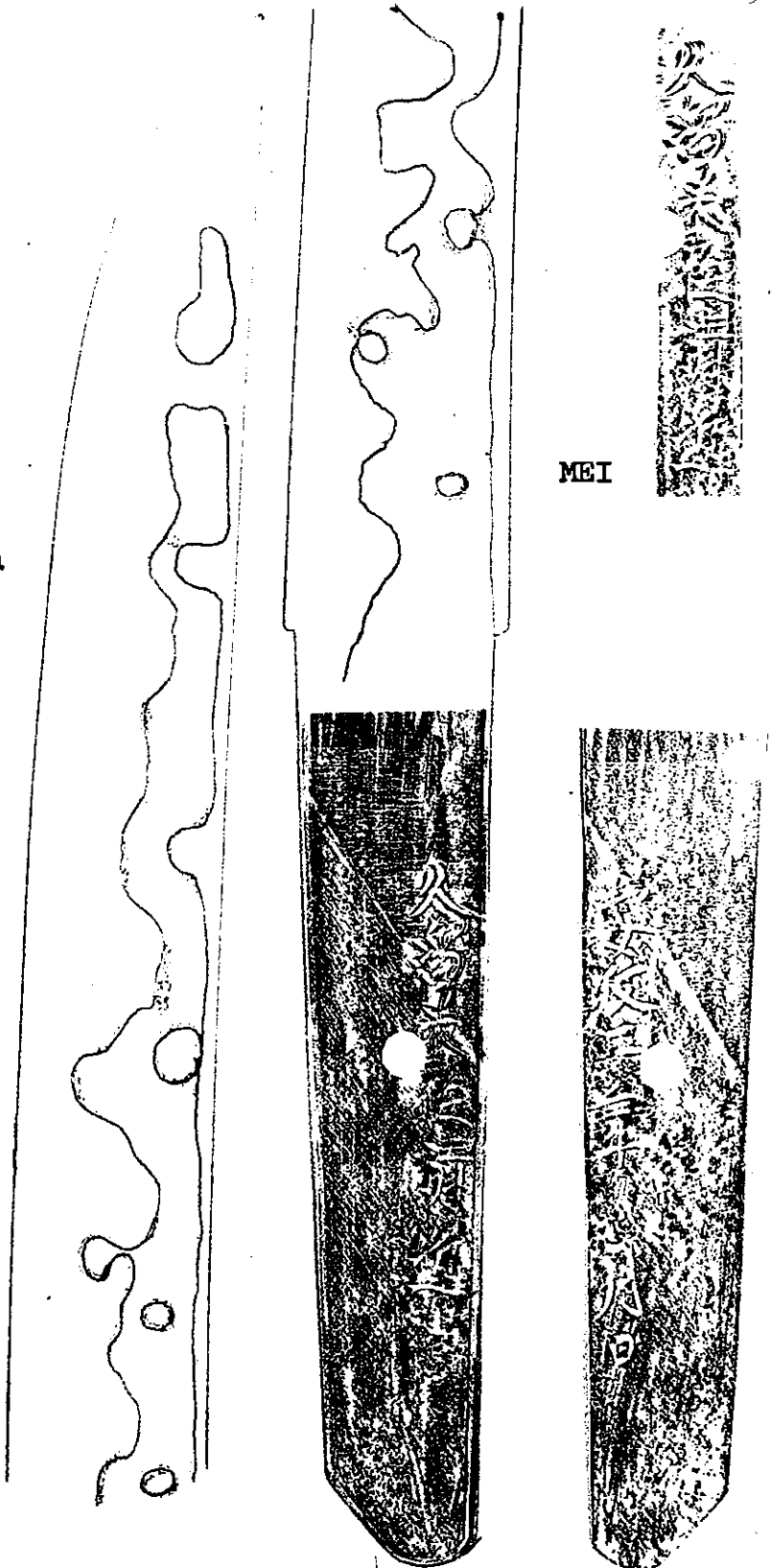
LENGTH-Blade 37.5cm.
Nakago 12.8 cm.

SIGNED-Omote-Kurume ju Kiyochika
-Ura-An-Sei Ni Nen Hachi
Gatsu. (August 1855).

JIHADA-Very tight ko-itame and
some mokume.

REMARKS- This smith is not to
be found in standard
reference materials.
However, the mei is
authentic and should be
added to your records.

HISTORY- This little known
smith worked in troubled times.
Attempts to break Japan's
seclusion were made by two
American's, Commodore Matthew
Perry, in 1853-54, and Townsend
Harris in 1856-58. Japan was at
last confronted with a clear-
cut choice of opening the
country or "repelling the
barbarians." One can only
wonder if this Kiyochika faced
the same dilemma. Must he
forge his blades for the
dwindling Samurai or anticipate
a foreign market and survive.
It appears that this is a
survivor. Although sturdy in
design it is fancy to the eye.
Funny it is now being cared for
by one of those foreigner's!



BOOKS/SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FROM THE SOCIETY -

Although a complete and revised list of supplies will be sent out in January, the following items can be ordered now.

- TOSO-SORAN, by Dr. Kazutaro Torigoye. We have been very fortunate to be able to stock a number of copies of this fine book on kodogu, the last publication of Dr. Torigoye prior to his death. Mrs. Torigoye has given us a very good price on these copies. TOSO SORAN is 308 pages plus it contains several geneology charts. It is excellently illustrated throughout and has english descriptions to each illustration. It is hardbound, 30.5cm x 22.0cm, with card-board slip cover. A must for all libraries!
Price: \$65.00 US/Canada pp
\$70.00 Foreign pp
- NIHON TOKO JITEN, KOTO-HEN/SHINTO-HEN, by Fujishiro. This two volume set is of course our "Bible" so to speak. It illustrates signatures of many top smiths and is invaluable for authenticating signatures. Text is in Japanese but we have been supplied with an english index. Again, a must for any basic sword library. Price: \$90.00 US/Canada pp
\$95.00 Foreign pp
- EARLY JAPANESE SWORD GUARDS; SUKASHI TSUBA - by Masayuki Sasano. Price: \$15.50 US/Canada pp
\$16.00 Foreign pp
- THE SAMURAI SWORD - by John Yumoto
Price: \$8.50 US/Canada pp
\$9.00 Foreign
- MEIBUTSU - Catalogue of Token Taikai '79 Meibutsu Room. (described at length elsewhere this issue).
Price: \$11.00 US/Canada pp
\$12.00 Foreign
- Pressure Sensative Oshigata Paper - A new supply has been ordered and should arrive in mid-November. A most excellent way for making quick and almost photographic quality oshigata! Our old price can be held. Price: \$6.00/roll or 3/\$16.00
(50¢/roll extra foreign)
- Pocket Mekugi Removers - Handy tsuba-shape mekugi removers on a silk cord. Price: \$8.50 each pp
- Sword Oil (large 100cc bottles) - A supply has come in again and is now available. Price: \$7.50/bottle pp

It should be noted that all of these supplies are offered at cheap prices and are primarily intended for members only. Please stress this if approached by non-members. This service is ment to be a "benefit" for our membership....a little something extra.

NEW MEMBERS -

We would like to welcome the following new members into the JSS/US.

Cary Condell,
* Perry A. Barber,
Mary L. Moynihan,
Michael Hagenbusch,
Walter Krupski,
Peter Halvorsen,
John Luhrs,
Eugene W. McNeil,
J.H. Walsh,

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D.S. Inman, David G. Williams,
Jimmy L. Fikes,
Thomas L. Gross,
Robert A. Bull, Robert E. Hamilton,
Richard P. Moriarty, Chris Hashioka,
Michael R. Zomber, Ken Jennings,
Rudolph M. Ott, William E Driver,

NEW LIFE MEMBERS -

Tom Kiernan
Frank Butler

STOLEN TSUBA LIST -

The 31 items of fine kodogu were recently stolen from an exhibit of the Victoria and Albert Museum - London.

Four of the items are familiar to all of us in that they are plates 2f, 3c, 3e, 95c in the "Arts of the Japanese Sword" book by Mr. B. W. Robinson.

Anyone having information on the possible whereabouts of these items should contact the museum at: South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL, England or the JSS/US Editor. The "Hot Line" number can also be used.

The notice of this theft was from Mr. J.V. Earle, Assistant Keeper, Far Eastern Department, V & A Museum - London.

337E-1878	Tsuba, 'bronze', oval, inlaid with flies. Signed <u>Goto Mitsuhiko</u> . 2.85" x 2.7".
1438-1888	Tsuba, 'bronze', with gold, etc. Monkeys. Signed <u>Iwamoto Yonkan</u> . 3.25" x 3.1".
M.227-1910	Kozuka, copper, with gold. Deer.
M.115-1911	Tsuba, iron, circular, modelled as a crayfish. Brass eyes. Signed <u>Kinai of Echizen</u> . Diam. 3".
M.242-1911	Tsuba, copper, etc. Carp and spray. Signed <u>Yasuchika of Shinai in Dewa province</u> . 2.85" x 2.7".
M.246-1911	Tsuba, copper, cruciform, with gold, silver, shibuichi. Pine tree, snow, owl. Signed <u>Yasuchika</u> . 3.25" x 3.1".
M.269-1911	Tsuba, light shibuichi, oval with gold, shakudo, silver and copper. Shun, emperor of China, with an elephant. Shakudo plug. Signed <u>Kondo Hirochika</u> . 2.8" x 2.52"
M.20-1914	Tsuba, iron, circular, pierced with a fox and decorated with the moon in cloud (silver and gold). Signed <u>Suruga Takashige</u> . 2.85" x 2.75".
M.273-1916	Tsuba, iron, cruciform. Five sparrows by a stream. Signed <u>Shiratsuyu of Mori in Choshu</u> . 3" x 2.6".
M.2 - 1916	Tsuba, iron, circular. Stream, shrimp, waterweeds. Signed <u>Nasavoshi of Roshu</u> . 3.07" x 3".
M.456-1916	Tsuba, tetsukoku, aori shape, with other metals. Wolf on plain by moonlight with skull. Signed <u>Ooka Masataka</u> . 3.35" x 3.1".
M.605-1916	Tsuba, iron with other metals. Three dragonflies and other insects. Signed <u>Jo</u> with a 'seal' <u>Keiju</u> . 3.15" x 2.85".
M.636, 636A-1916	Pair of tsuba, iron, <u>nokko</u> , with other metals. Vine and squirrel. 3.25" x 3"; 3" x 2.75".
M.8-1920	Tsuba, iron, oval, formed as three sacred tortoises. Signed <u>Shohakudo Sunagawa Masayoshi</u> . 2.85" x 2.67".
M.33-1920 M.1292-1926	Tsuba, shibuichi and shakudo etc. The foxes' wedding procession. Tsuba, iron, oval, with other metals. Bat, moon. Signed <u>Masanitsu</u> . 3" x 2.8". (3.22" x 3").
M.335-1931	Tsuba, iron, five salmon and weeds. Signed <u>Choshu Nakahara Yukitoshi</u> (after) <u>Horen Doshun</u> .
M.531-1931	Kozuka, shakudo, two quail and millet; back engraved with roofs and clouds.
M.1134-1931	Tsuba, iron; <u>takujin</u> monster. Back with gilt inscription. Signed <u>Yasuchika</u> . Diam. 2.82".
M.1421-1931	Tsuba, shakudo, <u>mokko</u> , with other metals. Ducks, tree, stream, plant. Signed <u>Ichijuken Hidenaki</u> and dated 1857. 2.85" x 2.6".
M.144-1931	Fuchi-kashira, shibuichi and gold. Waves and <u>kirin</u> . Signed <u>Omori Teruhide</u> .
M.1443-1931	Tsuba, iron and other metals. Octopus in cave. Signed <u>Kenkōsai Yasutomo</u> . 2.85" x 2.7".
M.1538-1931	Fuchi-kashira, iron with gold. Bats, cobweb. Signed <u>Chinchō</u> .
M.1601-1931	Kozuka, shibuichi and other metals. Tadpoles and milfoil. Signed <u>Mitsunada of Sendai</u> .
M.2436-1931	Menuki, gold. 'Lions'. H.O.65".
M.5-1936	Kozuka, shakudo, seven 'lions' in gilt.
M.115-1936	Kozuka, shibuichi and other metals. Bears, oak tree. Signed <u>Macavuki (Shōzui)</u> .
M.253-1936	Kozuka, copper, gold and silver. Clouds, crane, moon.
M.358-1936	Kozuka, shakudo and shibuichi, etc. Frogs, plant. Signed <u>Seiseisai Tomotsune</u> .
M.60, 60A-1957	Fuchi-kashira, shibuichi and other metals. Signed <u>Sunenao</u> . 1.5" x 0.875".

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 as short and limited to specific items. Send ads directly to the Newsletter.

- FOR SALE - I have a number of tsuba and menuki for sale. Write for listing and prices. Contact: Ron Hartmann
- FOR SALE - Katana, ubu, Musashi Hojoji Masahiro (MA-83) 28"; Wakizashi, Musashi Hisayuki (HI-550; Several very fine tantō. Serious inquiries only please. Contact: L.C.Smith,
- WANTED - Kodzuka, shakudo, nanako w/gold takabori sparrows and bamboo motif; Daitō by Hizen Tadayoshi 8th; Daitō by 1st Oshu Sendai Iyesada, Kunikane school (IY-122); Cash or trade. Contact: Bob Masamori,
- WANTED - Hartman Auction catalogue. Cash or will make katakiri-bori tsuba, subject of your choice. Contact: Don Hill
- WANTED - Military tsuba and spare seppa for military mounts. Contact: Lars Rosen,
- SERVICE - Steven Winkly has offered to translate oshigata of nakago as a service to members. Steve has studied Japanese and has become very good at it. Contact:
- MISCELLANEOUS - New member Mr. Jimmy Fikes, makes damascus knives and is interested in corresponding with other members interested in studying forging, particularly with Japanese swords. Anyone interested in meeting with or corresponding with him can contact him at:

BIRMINGHAM SWORD SHOW DATES -

Paul Couch has announced that the next Birmingham Sword show will be held the weekend of February 15th, 1980. This is mentioned so far ahead simply to allow members to mark their calendars. With almost a five month lapse between shows we will all be anxious to get together again by that time. More detailed plans will be announced closer to show date.

● MEIBUTSU ROOM CATALOGUE OF TTK'79 -

The first printing of this fine catalogue and study book has been sold out. A second printing has just been received and is now available for ordering. This second printing has been proof read and corrections made. An additional fold-out oshigata has been added. The price has remained the same: \$11.00 US/Canada
\$12.00 Foreign

Price includes surface mail. Please pay in U.S. Dollars only.
Order direct from your Newsletter Editor.

A number of catalogue orders have been back-ordered for many weeks now, awaiting this new printing. All orders will be filled and mailed out by the time you receive this Newsletter. We thank you all for your patience these many weeks.

MINOTO TAIKAN AVAILABLE -

A few copies of this study of Mino swords are on hand and can be ordered through the Newsletter. This is a hard bound book of 26.5cm x 37cm size containing almost 550 pages of Japanese text and many pictures and oshigata. Price has not been established at this time but if interested, contact the Newsletter and you will be advised of cost as soon as it is determined.

BUTTERFIELD & BUTTERFIELD AUCTION -

A very large sword, kodogu, armor auction will be held on Monday, November 19th, 1979 at Butterfield & Butterfield of San Francisco. The catalogue is excellently illustrated with fine descriptions by Bob Haynes and John Yumoto making it a study book as well as a catalogue. For further information contact: Butterfield & Butterfield,

1979 BULLETIN -

The Society annual publication, the Bulletin, will hopefully be put together and mailed to the membership before the end of the year (better yet, within the next five or six weeks). We are still in need of another article or so which would work in with the format of the Bulletin. If anyone is thinking about sending in such an article, please advise me of this so that the issue can be planned. Ideally, articles for the Bulletin would be of a more lengthy and extensive than would appear in the bi-monthly Newsletter. Your contributions for either publication would be greatly appreciated.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - The next issue of the Newsletter will be mailed around the first week of December. Please have all material into the Newsletter no later than two weeks prior.

Ron Hartman

● SHINSHINTŌ TAIKAN -

The very popular "Shinshintō Taikan" which was quickly sold out after it's publication several years ago and which has been demanding exorbitant prices since, has been reprinted. The new edition is in two volumes and has had several questionable blades omitted from the oshigata therefore making the new edition a most useful tool in the study of shinshintō swords. We hope to print a formal review of this publication soon.

PAID ADVERTISING -

The Newsletter is accepting paid advertising. Anyone interested in buying an ad can obtain particulars by writing the Newsletter Editor. Ads must meet the requirements and guidelines of the Newsletter as established by the Editor and Officers/Directors of the JSS/US.

Paid Advertisement

Revised EDITION	August 1979
NEW SHIN SHIN TŌ TAIKAN	
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	• AN ADDITIONAL 260 LIFE SIZE OSHIGATAS
	Written by KASHO JIMURA
	SEND ORDERS TO: OMINO INTERNATIONAL INC

FOR SALE: In the past few months I have moved to Southern California and have taken up residence in Point Loma (San Diego). We are having fun settling in but we've got a big old house that needs a lot of expensive work and so I've decided to sell a few pieces out of my collection. Pictures sent upon request. Contact:

1 New Armor

Newly made example of the craft. Well done and showy.

Complete black lacquer over iron and brass - all laced in purple

Chest portion - Mogami Dō with huge gold mon in the middle - tassets are kabiki laced

Kabuto - 8 plate suji kabuto with brass trim, doeskin, etc. Frontpiece has large mon and large brass horns (maidate)

Kote - Black iron with embossed mons, & chain mail

Sode - Very large kabiki laced and trimmed with brass ornamentation

Mempo - Black lacquer, gold teeth, white mustache

Thigh guard - Rows of black lacquer iron or brass plates with mon

Shin guards - Shino-suneate black lacquered iron or brass

PRICE: \$1,350 plus shipping
(less than the current price in Japan)

2 Full suit Armor (Mostly Edo)

Not matched, but complete with nice parts and in very good condition.

Dō - Mogami style brown russet iron and blue lace. Many brass rivets and colorful trim lace

Kabuto - 8 plate suji kabuto brown russet colored lacquer over iron. Copper fukirin (trim) on the sugi and the brim

Kote - All brown chain mail with oni's (devils) on the hand and elbow

Sode - Large, brown-black lacquer and blue lace

Thigh guards - (Haidate) chain mail and iron

Suneate - (shin guards) shino style - lacquered iron

Mempo - A 20th century but a good one. Blue kabiki laced, white mustache, black lacquer

PRICE: \$1,450 plus shipping

Roger Dunn

3 Full Suit (late Edo)

Fully matched russet iron patina'd suit in dark blue sugaki lace - late Myochin work.

Chest - Mogami Dō, russet iron chest portion, brown lacquered tassets

Kabuto - 24 plate suji Kabuto. Doeskin on the fuki-gaioshi (turn backs) with bronze double mons. 5 lame lacquered shakuro - signed helmet

Sleeves - Shino kote, russet iron splints and chain mail

Underskirt - All chain-mail haidate

Sode - Brown lacquered with blue lace

Suneate - Shino style shin protectors russet iron and chain mail

Mempo - Russet iron and blue lace - with mustache

PRICE: \$3,000 plus shipping

4 Helmet Bowl (Early Edo)

8 plate suji kabuto with approximately 100 rivets. Kaga work. Shakuro missing except for the top lane which still has the fuki-gaioshi with shakudo mon

PRICE: \$625 plus shipping



ACTUAL SIZE

FOR SALE: GOLD TSUBA MEDALLIONS

Edo Period Style. Approximately 3/4 OZ. of 14K gold. Price \$350

Contact:

PHILLIP DAVIS,



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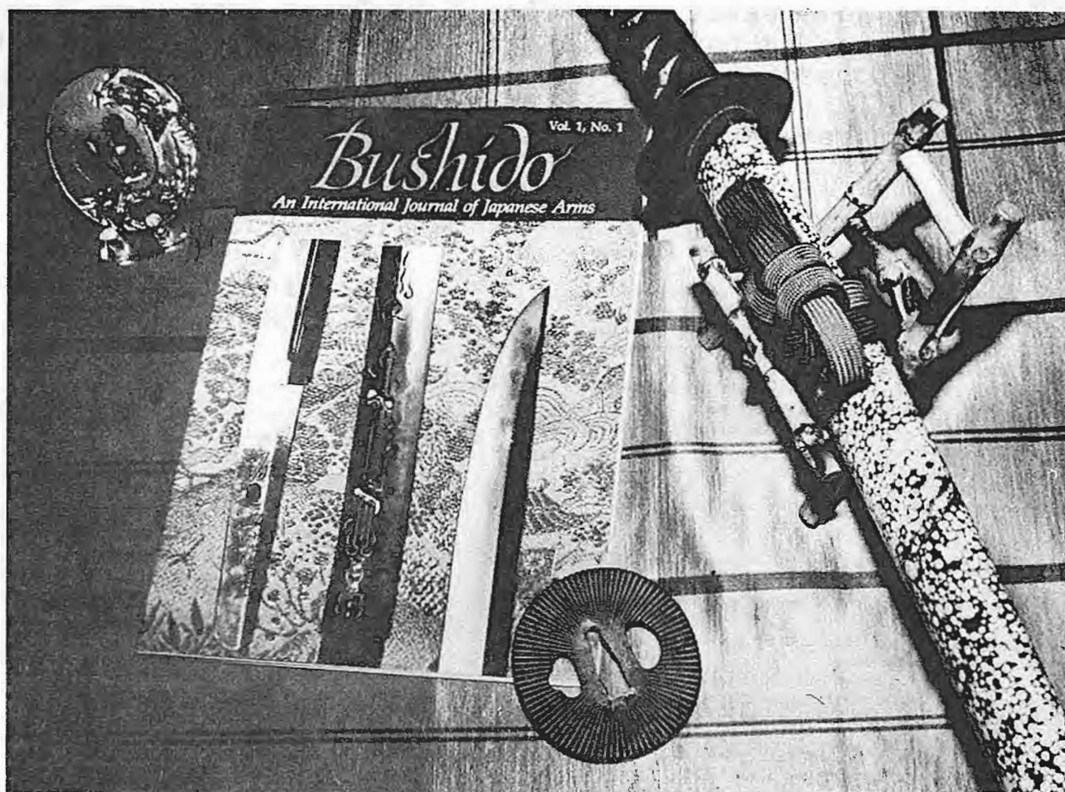
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For collectors of Japanese Swords and Fittings I think we carry some very good titles - and we are improving all the time!

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