

Takako Shimatani profile

- Name Takako SHIMATANI
- Date of Birth 3/11/1982(32 years old) ●Horoscope Scorpio
- My family Husband-good-looking. Three daughters-mischievous
My family almost always goes outside on holidays. We are unable to stay in our house. In my opinion, I want to relax at home once in a while.
- Strong points I can tackle any problems constructively with energy (Thanks)
- Weak points Sentimental-I have tears immediately when I watch moved films and TV programs. After I had a look of movie 'DORAEMON' with my daughter recently,
- Hobby I had wailed. I needed a lot of time to recover from this unstable mind after that.
Playing sports. Now, I play volleyball in a housewives' volleyball club.
- My best antique goods
Lacquer ware and lacquer work. They heal my mind. The bulging design of embossed gilt lacquer work looks three dimensional and beautiful. I like it. Most of my favourite antiques are very expensive. So, I fail to ask for buying them. But, I hope I will be able to save money and buy them.



Ishi-Botan designed Saddle

Customer's comments.



Thank you for your news letters. The quality of articles in this newsletter becomes improved more and more. I have had a couple of dealing with your company. It is very difficult to purchase antique goods whose popularity is so high. NAKABOI'S story about old helmets was very informative. The description concerning with your handling items is interesting. The fiction about Ryouma written by your company's president is exciting as well. It aroused my various imaginations in history. I see the history with some doubts because it has been distorted by a winner.

'The person who had killed Ryouma might be an insider of Tosa Domain for the purpose to obtain compensation for the Yamato Maru ship. This money for compensation might have been the fund to found the Mitsubishi Company. If he had not been assassinated, he would have been surely a big global business man and could have been a person like the 'the Japanese Lincoln' with his untiring free spirits-I believe it. Even though my story had been correct, he would be killed same as before.'

※The left picture is my hand-made helmet whose material was bought from your company. The model of this helmet is the one that Toshirou MIFUNE, a Japanese famous actor, wore in the film of 'Seven Samurai'. I have been broadcasted three times in the NHK's historical programs with this helmet on. I appreciate your excellent items. I am looking forward to your company's more development. (Pen Name :Rober to Ken)

Thank you so much for your attentive opinion. That's right! I also agree with your opinion that history has been rewritten by a winner for convenience. Many historians have argued a real wirepuller of killing Ryouma variously and this argument is very mysterious. I feel this cryptic argument increases the high popularity of Ryouma Your hypothesis Tosa Domain→Tosa Trading Company→Mitsubishi Corporation-persuaded me seriously. Since I had never heard such an interpretation, I unintentionally said to myself, 'Well, it has a reason' after reading your fax. To be sure, Yatarou IWASAKI is said to have done insider trading frequently while he raised Mitsubishi Corporation. The most regrettable point is that the Kaientai had no successor to be able to operate its business managerially after Ryouma's death. But, since Ryouma died in 32year's old, he might have little time to educate his next leaders. Is Ryouma 'the Japanese Lincoln'? This is the best expression for me because I like him. As you mentioned, he may have been assassinated as before. I hope the name of 'Ryouma SAKAMOTO' would have been in the list of successive Japanese prime ministers. (HANAMOTO)

I can easily imagine the CEO and all of your company are working with a lot of smile. I hope to keep up the good work. I will be 70 year's old next December. I will do my best a little to get a antique sword. (Mr. K)

Happy Birthday! Thank you so much for your warm comment. Your words encourage me!(NAKABORI)
We do stock many swords for selling which will fulfil Mr.K's expectation in advance. Thank you so much! (HANAMOTO)

I sympathize with your attitude to consider things profoundly. Please travel back to an old period and bring us its mood and people who lived at that old time to this modern society. (Mr.K)

I appreciate your feedback. We will do it! Your message to feel our company's philosophy moves us. We aims at the firm to travel back to the old Japanese world with our clients Please continue to cheer us up !(HANAMOTO and all staff)

届けますっ! 大和魂 Yamatodamashii Dec.2014 Vol.3

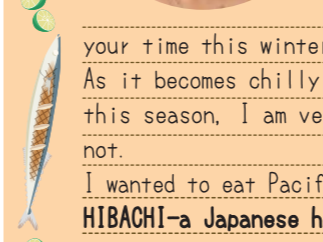
—Company policy—

Daimyo Company Limited's goal is to become a time machine that can provide customers with an authentic account of Japanese history under the name of Yamatodamashii.

1. Some good foods with an antique HIBACHI-a Japanese heating appliances using charcoal as fuel (written by NAKAHORI)
2. The story about 'YAMATODAMASHII' (written by SHIMATANI)
3. I am going to make you back in time (written by HANAMOTO)
4. My profile (written by SHIMATANI)
5. Feedback from our customers (written by NAKABORI)

Thank you for all your helps this year. In this Christmas and New Year season, you might be busy in various ways. We, all of our staff, pray for your good fortune in the next year. And we expect you to take care of yourselves. We are looking forward to keeping good relationship with you in 2015.

Some good foods with an antique HIBACHI-a Japanese heating appliances using charcoal as fuel



Hello! This is Akemi NAKABORI. How do you spend your time this winter?

As it becomes chilly day by day, I can find a lot of delicious foods. In this season, I am very worried about whether I should be on the diet or not.



I wanted to eat Pacific sauries grilled over charcoal fire at any cost. So, I asked my boss to buy a HIBACHI—a Japanese heating appliances using charcoal as fuel. Because I was able to get one finally, I grilled these Pacific sauries soon. My husband made a fire and some Pacific sauries were on a net. Fat which they brought caught more fire and more charcoal burned violently. While they were a little bit scorched, the inside of them were cooked well. Cooking these Pacific sauries was had finished in a couple of minutes. Though I wondered if they might be over-grilled, I ate them with some expectations and anxiety. They were very delicious beyond my expectations. Next, I cooked meat—some of them were on sticks-, vegetables and clams. They were very tasty and gave me massive satisfaction. My son also had them. He usually does not eat vegetables. The good atmosphere in this BBQ, however, enabled him to eat a lot of grilled vegetables.



↑My husband gave some charcoal to the HIBACHI with his serious face.



↑My son's smile in front of the HIBACHI.

A HIBACHI in old days,

In the Edo, Meiji and Taisho periods, this heating equipment was used for heating rooms and boiling water. Risk of causing fire or/and carbon monoxide poisoning made it not used so often after the World War 2 because a stove was commonly spread in Japanese houses. It is very dangerous to use a HIBACHI indoors. In this chilly season, it becomes colder gradually. But, broiling rice cakes and/or making hot sake with a HIBACHI using a pot outdoors increase much fun in winter. I am going to use a HIBACHI frequently in this winter.

* If you are interested in a HIBACHI, please contact us!

I am going to tell you about

大和魂

Yamatodamashii

I am Takako SHIMATANI—the writer of this column. I will address a tobacco tray (Tabako-Bon). Since I like lacquer ware, I will talk of the tobacco tray which has just arrived at my company. A tobacco tray is an equipment to keep a set of smoking tool tidy. As they are very old, there are few complete sets.

Shapes of tobacco trays and smoke tubes had changed variously over time. The stream of changes is as below:

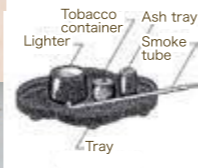
- A tobacco tray with metal decoration
- A tobacco tray covered with lacquer
- A wooden tobacco tray made of paulownia wood, mulberry, etc.
- A tobacco tray with a handle to make it convenient to smoke

Finally, a tobacco tray reached to chest-shaped design in order to keep what was not used for smoking.



↑ The chest-shaped tobacco tray—produced at the end of Edo period

↓ The tobacco tray with a handle—loved by Japanese feudal lords, produced between the beginning and end of Edo period.



↑ The name of parts of tobacco tray

Where this tobacco tray was used?

It was used in tea gathering. Tea gathering was official tea ceremony. The flowchart of tea gathering was:

• Yoritsuke (the place for gathering: beginning) → Koicha (main tea ceremony) → Kaichuseki (meal) → Usucha (dessert)

The time to use a tobacco tray was already scheduled—only beginning and dessert time. In case of big tea gathering, tobacco trays were placed in front of every guest from the beginning. The manner for smoking was very important. It is now same as formerly.

Hideyoshi TOYOTOMI—a lover of new things

Tobacco is said to have been brought to Japan by a ship from Spain and Portugal in 1543—the Sengoku period.

Hideyoshi TOYOTOMI, a lover of new things, smoked leaf tobacco and Yododono, his subordinate wife, was also the first female smoker. Nevertheless, the first Japanese smoker was Ieyasu TOKUGAWA. He was very active in trading with Spain. The historical record, the Burguillos's report in the Spanish



◆ Ieyasu TOKUGAWA

Royal library, shows Jeronimo de Jesusu, a Franciscan monk in the Spanish delegation, presented this leaf tobacco as a gift to Ieyasu TOKUGAWA. We, however, are unable to find any historical evidences that Ieyasu had smoked, in spite of getting the first tobacco in Japan, because he who always took care of his health had known smoking was very harmful to it and stopped smoking. By the way, Hideyoshi also stopped smoking because he found that Ieyasu became a non-smoker. Did he do that in order to live longer than Ieyasu?



◆ Yododono



◆ Hideyoshi TOYOTOMI

From leaf tobacco to smoke tubes

Since 1603, smoke tubes, not leaf tobacco, began to prevail to the Japanese society. Ordinary people also started to smoke and the number of farmers who grew not rice, one of main crops, but tobacco increased. Thus Shogunate banned them from producing tobacco. But, smoking population increased and tobacco agriculture also spreaded widely. Rules to stop growing tobacco had gradually declined and finally no restriction made after the Genroku period (1688–1704). Numerous people in the Edo period usually enjoyed smoking with tubes as favourite items.

Since when a tobacco tray was used?

While leaf tobacco was the majority in the Sengoku and Azuchi-Momoyama periods, smoking tubes were the main streams of smoking item and a tobacco tray was used in tea gathering. At the end of Edo period, it was recognized as one of instruments for tea ceremony.

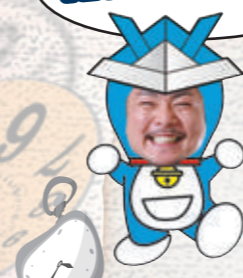
The tobacco tray with which our company are dealing is called as the chest-shaped tobacco tray with a handle. It was made at the end of Edo era. As I mentioned, a tobacco tray has changed its shape with wide varieties over times. Why don't you place it your room quietly? You can find the current of contemporary trend from it.



◆ A tobacco tray

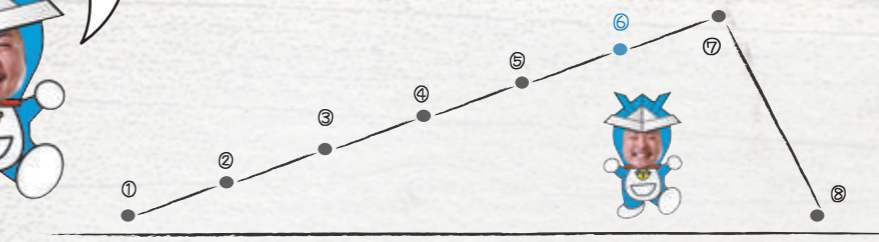
※ The tobacco tray of our company is the chest-shaped tobacco tray with a handle.

Hanaemon's



Make you back in time

Nobunaga ODA



- ① 17 years old—the time to be called or let him called as an 'idiot' → the feud over succession to the head of family
- ② 26 years old—the Battle of Okehazama
- ③ 33 years old—conquering the Mino region
- ④ 34 years old—proceeding the capital of Kyoto and supporting Yoshiaki ASHIKAGA as the 15th Shogun of Muro machi Shogunate
- ⑤ 39 years old—the collapse of Muromachi Shogunate
- ⑥ 41 years old—the Battle of Nagashino
- ⑦ 47 years old—the military parade at Kyoto
- ⑧ 48 years old—The Incident at Honnoji Temple

6. The Battle of Nagashino -41 years old- 1575.

Nobunaga ODA and Ieyasu TOKUGAWA brought a total force of 38,000 men. Their enemy was the Katsuyori TAKEDA's army consisted of 15,000 soldiers which contained the strongest cavalry in the Sengoku period. The former beat the latter. Takeda's army had lost plenty of important military commanders and received huge damage. *The death toll of Takeda's army was various. One historian said it was 1,000. Another one said it was over 10,000. On the other hand, the total number of the dead might have been more than 1,000 if this army had held over 1,000 military commanders.

This battle was very advantageous for the ODA-TOKUGAWA united forces because it had more soldiers than the TAKEDA's forces.

This was the first war to use many matchlock guns—the most cutting-edge weapon at that time—in the world.

These weapons came from Europe and over a few hundred matchlock guns were used in Europe during this period. Still, in Japan, over 1000-3000 ones were used in this Nagashino battle field. Japanese wordsmiths originally modified European matchlock guns and began to make mass production of them. This military confrontation shows the character that Japanese people has been good at creating something excellent.

*In another case, Nobunaga studied how to build war ships from Europe and produced iron-reinforced ones. These wooden ships were covered with metal and had a couple of artillery guns with anti-bullet structure. Gncchi-Soldo Organtino, a Portuguese missionary, wrote and sent a report about Japan. In this report, he commented: Japanese iron-reinforced ships were similar to Portuguese ones and the fact that Japan was able to build these ships was a big surprise. Nobunaga was also presented Compeito (confetti) by Loius Frois whose occupation was a missionary. Nobunaga was going to have a Japanese pastry chef make same sweets. But, the pastry chef was not capable of copying the protuberant shape of Compeito (confetti). Nobunaga condemned him strictly for the chef's poor skill. We can find this episode of Nobunaga



◆ Matchlock guns



The folding screen → of 'Battle of Nagashino'

If not killed at Honnoji Temple....



It is meaningless to imagine 'if.....' in history. But, if Nobunaga had not killed....

After the death of Nobunaga, Hideyoshi TOYOTOMI who succeeded in dominating the whole country sent his army to Korea in order to invade China. The number of soldiers was 150,000 (approximately). Even though he had invaded Korea, he could not have conquered China—I suppose. Because, in China, there had already been a huge war in which over 1,000,000 soldiers engaged in the era that Japanese Himiko was a queen (she sent an envoy to China in 173 A.D.) Some historians say Nobunaga had a plan to occupy Europe via Southeast Asia, not via Korean and China. At that time, the troop strength of war in Europe was between 20,000 and 60,000. Thus, his plan might be possible numerically. But European countries may have felt threatened by him and Japan would have been attacked and colonized by them. I think if Nobunaga had studied most advanced techniques a lot from these European regions and improved them, not planned to invade European countries, he would have contributed to the progress of Japanese modern civilization. The accident that Japanese people were surprised at the appearance of US ships in Japan at the end of the Edo period after 271 years since the death of Nobunaga, might not have happened.