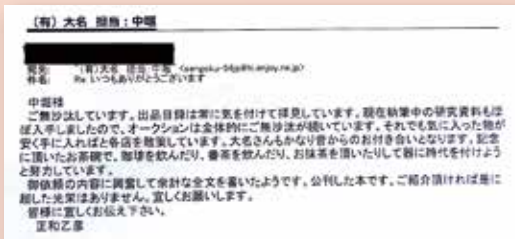
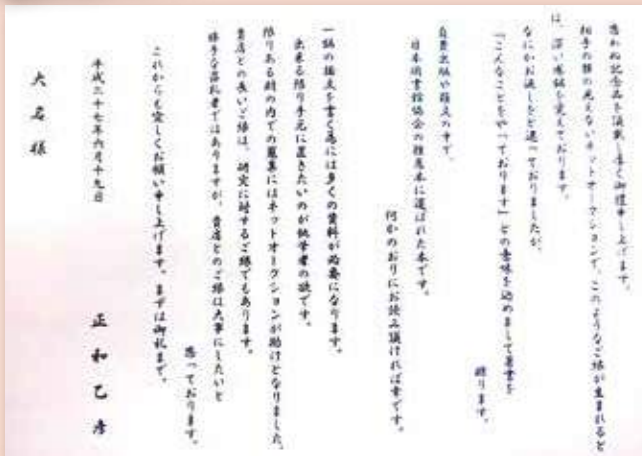


# Feedbacks from our customers

I received a letter and own writing work from Mr. Masakazu, who had collected point cards of our company and applied for a prize to give an original teacup\* produced by Daimyo co. ltd. I am so happy to receive them that I am going to introduce to these two writings.  
 (\*It is a teacup created by Mr. Konno which I introduced in my report of making ceramic art. On the surface of this original teacup, your own name which is the only one in the world is printed)



◆Masakazu's e-mail

◆Masakazu's own writing work

◆Masakazu's letter

He and I have been together for a long time. He has often participated in my company's auction since four years. He is very kind and writes polite replies. I am always looking forward to his e-mails. Since I was so happy to have received this letter and own writing book from him, I asked him if I could introduce them to the readers of this newsletters. He accepted my request happily. The fact that the original teacup became a part of his daily life makes me pleasant. The book given by him about Kutani ware was very precious for me because I do not have enough knowledge yet about what our shop sells.

I had no idea from where to begin to study and acknowledged I should learn Kutani ware at certain timing. But after I had finished reading this book, I was able to study the history of it with ease. At first, the Kutani ware was not named as Kutani ware but 'Daizyouji-Yaki, Daizyouji-Sometsuke'. This history surprised me.

His book contains a lot of photos as well as description. In this book, he introduces some equipment to make Kutani ware. It is very informative for me to study about it. I cannot wait his new book. I am the one who appreciates your continued support in the future.

- 1. 序
- 2. 九谷焼の歴史
- 3. 九谷焼の産地
- 4. 九谷焼の窯元
- 5. 九谷焼の産物
- 6. 九谷焼の産物
- 7. 九谷焼の産物
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- 49. 九谷焼の産物
- 50. 九谷焼の産物



How about this Yamatodamashii? We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

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Homepage redesigned

# We deliver 大和魂 Vol.8 October 2015

**—The Philosophy of Daimyou ltd.—**  
 Under our slogan of 'We deliver the YAMATO DAMASHII', the Daimyo ltd offers information about the Japanese history and antique goods and aims at guiding our customers to the old Japanese world by fulfilling our customers demands to antique gears.

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- 1.I experienced decorating ceramics (written by Shimatani)
- 2.The story about 'YAMATODAMASHII' (written by Nakabori)
- 3.I am going to make you back in time (written by Hanamoto)
- 4.Our customers' feedback (written by Nakahori)

## I experienced decorating ceramics

Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. As I wrote in the previous article, I experienced decorating ceramics at Mr. Tsuyoshi \*Kano's studio. (\*He is a producer of our company's original teacups.)  
 This time, I had an experience to scrape away a base of teacup and decorate ceramics. The poor scraping works sometimes have made a bottom hole of teacup and finally caused a leak of liquid. Finally, I might fail to use the teacup. So, I should do it more carefully. My president was able to do it successfully and seemed to be satisfied.

I begin with the coffee cup after the process of rounding soft soil like mud and putting it on the center of hand potter's wheel.



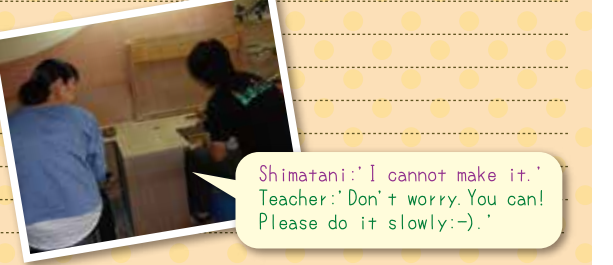
I made this surrounding flat and did it with a method of scraping only the center part.



Miss Nakabori... her bottom was too thin and had made a teacup with a very low foot. For her, it was very dangerous to imprint her signature in it as well. She wrote her name with coloring materials.



Next, I scraped away a teacup. But, it was very difficult. I was unable to make my work a flat shape. So, even though I had fixed it, it rounded with collapsing its shape and was about to get out of potter's wheel. I thought I should make no hole on the bottom of teacup. That caused turning potter's wheel very slow and I failed to scrape the foot of teacup. What was a vicious circle! My teacher gave me gentle words. What he said calmed down on me. While I spent a lot of time, I was able to do it better. Next, all I have to do is to wait for firing my works. Thank you, Mr. Konno.



## Comments after experiencing ceramics

**Hanamoto**  
 'I have never ever made ceramics. So, for me, it was very good to achieve the steps of scraping away the foot of teacup and decorating ceramics. After doing that, I really felt that I had created my works by myself finally. Though it was so difficult, scraping works was the happiest time in the processes of making ceramics.'

**Nakabori**  
 'Drawing on the surface of my work was the best! Because I am good at painting, drawing freely on my own works made me happy.'

**Shimatani**  
 'My greatest time was the process of rounding soft soil like mud and putting it on the center of hand potter's wheel. Feeling the touch of mud was very good and soft. I could make my favorite figure as I like. That made me comfortable. A cup of sweet tea served by my teacher during breaks was also delicious.'





# 大和魂

I am going to tell you about Yamatodamashii written by Nakabori

I am Akemi Nakabori—the writer of this column. In this article, I will have a talk about 'Yamashiroden', Japanese swords, in Gokaden.



In the middle of Heian era, Munechika Sanzyo—the year of birth and death unknown—was a court noble living in Kyoto and his job was to produce swords. He was the origin of this Yamashiroden and it spread from here, Kyoto. At that time, there were few battles and many people did not ask for swords for combat scenes so often. It is said that a lot of narrow swords with beautiful figures were created according to emperors and the nobility. Yamashiroden is said to have the most wonderful shape in Gokaden.



Can you understand that Yamashiro sword is narrower than Bizen sword?

Since Muromachi period, the five swords which were especially called the great swords were named 'Tenka Goken'. The most beautiful one is allegedly the 'Mikazuki Munechika' sword.



'Uchinoko', one of the blade patterns, was similar to a crescent. The origin of this name came from this reason and this name became very common. The sword is very narrow and its bend is so high—2.7cm. The width of bottom is wide and the width of top is narrow. The gap between top and bottom is very huge. Because of this shape, this sword has been highly evaluated as a wonderful and excellent work which has round shape with funbari (a kind of folding-fan shapes).



In Kamakura period, Awataguchi group flourished at Awataguchi, the northern edge of Higashiyama-ku in Kyoto, like replacing Sanjo group. Hisakuni Awataguchi, the master of Awataguchi group, was appointed by the system of \*Gobankaji as one of Hojukos, sword smiths to teach retired emperors how to make a sword. Like this, Awataguchi group played an active part vigorously.

\*Gobankaji system ... In order to suppress and take power from Hojo family, the retired Emperor Gotoba (1180-1239) founded the system to gather masters of sword smiths from all over Japan to Kyoto and made them produce swords on a monthly rotating schedule.

But Hojo family won. So, Awataguchi group which had strong ties with the retired Emperor Gotoba began to lose its power. At that time, the new raised group of sword smiths in Kyoto was Raiha. Later, Awataguchi group and Raiha were called two major streams of sword smith groups and they were said to complete Yamashiroden.

### Style of work in Awataguchi group

Nashijihada

- Koitametsumu / Nashijihada
  - \*Tsumu
  - The surface of well-forged blade is very fine
- Konie / Deki
  - \*Small Nie
  - which is difficult to distinguish Nie from Nioi
- Suguha and A lot of Komidare

### Style of work in Rai Group

Itamehada

- Itametsumu / Jinie Yokutsuku
  - \*Jinie
  - The pattern that Nie attaches except the parts of blade
- Irregular Choushi like Suguha and its tone
- Ashi and Yo are made

At the end of Kamakura period, Kyoto had had many battles. Sword smiths in Kyoto moved their workshops to rural areas and had declined. Yamashiroden had lost its energy which it had from the middle of Heian to the end of Kamakura periods. Simultaneously, Soshuden which matched to the spirits of Samurai started to be popular.

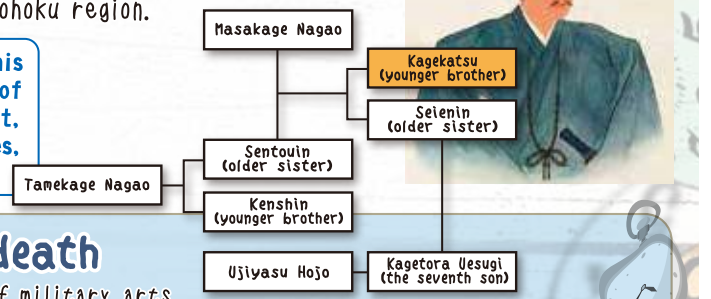
In modern times, many Yamashiroden swords are designated as national treasure and important swords. I suppose the sword smiths at that time created swords politely and delicately. They sought elegance and beauty in weapons, which might be a characteristic Japanese sensitivity. I felt Yamashiroden Swords taught me that.

In the next article, why Soshuden became so popular? I am going to talk about Soshuden.

# Hanaemon's Make you Back in time Kagekatsu Uesugi

Next to the previous and last but previous article, I have written about feudal lords in Tohoku regions. In this column, I will also talk about Kagekatsu Uesugi (1556-1623) who was a Daimyo in the Warring States period and governed Tohoku region.

Compared with the good reputation of Kenshin Uesugi, his father in law, and Kanetsugu Naoe, his minister of Daimyo, he did not get so good reputation as them. But, in spite that he realized he would surely die three times, he was able to survive. He had the devil's own luck.



## The first recognition of certain death

His mother was an older sister of Kenshin Uesugi called a god of military arts in the Age of Civil Wars. He was Kenshin's nephew. When he was eight years old, his father died suddenly. Kenshin had no his own child. So, he became Kenshin's adopted child. When he was 22 years old, Kenshin died a sudden death. He involved in a trouble about who should inherit Kenshin with Kagekatsu Uesugi who was also Kenshin's adopted child. Since Kagekatsu was a son of Ujiasu Hojo, Katsuyori Takeda interfered with it based on the Koso Alliance between the Hojo and Takeda families. He was surrounded by Takeda's army and Kagekatsu. He was extremely in a disadvantageous position. He recognized the first death in his life. He wrote a letter: 'I am ready to kill myself in this Kasugayama Castle.' As he had already occupied Kenshin's treasure house ahead, he gave his small territory and a part of his gold to Hojo's clan. Moreover, he got engaged with Katsuyori's sister and made an alliance with Hojo family. The tide of this battle had turned. He drove Kagekatsu into committing suicide. Finally, he inherited Uesugi family when he was 25 years old.

## The second recognition of certain death

He won the dispute over the matter of succession, but it was only temporary. Next, he faced Nobunaga Oda against whom he had been fighting since the Kenshin's time when he was 26 years old. Nobunaga clinched to the unity of whole country at that time. He was sandwiched between rebels of his retainers and Oda's 40,000 troops whose commander was Katsuei Shibata. He was in a serious crisis. Furthermore, Takeda Army, his last hope, was collapsed by Oda and Tokugawas' united forces. He recognized the second death in his life. When he was 27 years old, he wrote a letter: 'I was born in a good time. I would have confronted the enemy from all of Japanese and been killed. That would be the best memory in my life after my death.'

At this timing, he had devil's own luck! That was Honnoji Incident!!! He was capable of saving his life. While Oda clan was in chaos, he showed the flag to Hidesyoshi Hashiba who was Hideyoshi Toyotomi afterwards. Though it was not as big as previous Kenshin's one, he expanded the territory and made recovery to 900,000 koku. According to the order from Hideyoshi, he moved his land to Aizu (Fukushima) region (1,200,000 koku) as a watchdog to Tokugawa family.

## The third recognition of certain death

After the death of Hideyoshi, a person who had ruled the nation, he conflicted with Ieyasu Tokugawa, a next candidate who wanted to control the feudal lords and rule the whole country. He repaired some castles in his territory and built new ones. Ieyasu had something to be anxious about his doing. Then, Ieyasu wanted to hear the reason why he did such things and ordered him to come to Kyoto, Ieyasu's place. But, he rejected it. Because of his declining, Ieyasu began a war to subjugate Aizu, his controlling region. He recognized the third death in his life. At that time, 45-year-old Kagekatsu allegedly said to his soldiers, 'Whatever I say, Ieyasu always blames me one sided. Now that things have come to this, I am ready to battle against all of feudal lords. Unless you can agree with me, get out!' Mitsunari Ishida heard the news that Tokugawa's forces started to move to Aizu area. Mitsunari was going to raise his army in order to make a pincer attack against Tokugawa's troops from east and west. Then, Tokugawa's forces changed its direction toward west. That was the battle of Sekigahara. He ran away from the brink of extinction again.

After this battle, he surrendered himself to Tokugawa clan and was forced to reduce its territory—300,000 koku in Yonezawa province. However, he experienced several battles against successors of Uesugi family, Takeda clan, Nobunaga, Hideyoshi and Ieyasu. In such a difficult period, he had survived for long time. This devil's own luck of him fascinates us. Even if there were no prospects to win, Kagekatsu showed his high spirit to fight, when he had to do that. Kanetsugu Naoe, his confidant who had supported Kagekatsu and endured together, left these words: 'Man can complete anything unexpectedly if he recognizes his certain death.'



◆Kagekatsu (left) and Kanetsugu (right)