

—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.

Only one month is remained this year.

Now, it is in December. This month is the beginning of busiest days in a year. The new year begins in the blink of an eye.



How are you doing? We really appreciate your continued favor to Daimyo Company Limited this year as well. This newsletter is issued every other month. What do you feel about it this year after reading? Your comment and feedback, even short words, encourage us. So, we are looking forward to them next year, too. We expect that Daimyo Company Limited will be able to keep good relationship with you and you will read the newsletter 'we deliver YAMATODAMASHII' next year, too. We pray for your best year in 2016, a new year.

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Feedbacks from our customers

Mr. S's comment (from Toyama prefecture)

The dramatic big change before and after

Mr. Masamichi Isotake's comment (Tsu-Shi, Mie prefecture)

I used a cushion for horse riding as a floor cushion for visitors at the entrance of my house during the term of Owara-Kaze-no-Bon Festival (Toyama). I got plenty of good reputation from everyone.

I produce armor as my hobby. I provide my works to exclusively local festivals. At the same time, I hold seminars of making hand-made armor in my local area. I made facemasks with my works of armor only but my students request me to teach how to create them.

Our reply to this comment

Thank you very much for your praised comment.

Our reply to this comment

Thank you very much for your feedback. I got a picture that the facemask we sell in our shop has been reborn like this.

What is the Owara-Kaze-no-Bon Festival? It is a traditional Japanese festival since the Edo period which is held every year from September 1st to 3rd in Yat-suo-Cho, Toyama-Shi, Japan. Participants dance 'Kaze-no-Bon dance' and people pray for no damage brought by typhoon and huge harvest of the five grains on the 1st of September, the 210th day, when is the unlucky day that many typhoons hit. Approximately, over 25,000 people attend this festival from all over Japan and many celebrities are said to visit Toyama.

Mr. S opens temporary accommodations for tourists during this festival term. Like this picture, he uses this cushion for horse riding which was sold in my shop. If I have a chance, I'd like to take part in the Owara-Kaze-no-Bon Festival and have a look at the live views of it.



You can watch the footage of Owara-Kaze-no-Bon Festival

The previous facemask has some rust and no care was given to it. But, excellent works by a good skilled craftsman give a new life to this facemask...What a big surprise! I can easily imagine why you are required to teach how to make it by your students. It is amazing. Another picture shows a new facemask which was unveiled at a local festival for the first time this year. I would be very happy if I could help Isotake's works to produce armor even slightly. I hope Japanese great history would reach many people even just a little bit.



↑ Isotake's student. His posture with wearing armor is very cool!

The taste of coffee is completely different!?

Hello! This is Akaemi Nakabori. I wrote my experiences of ceramics in the newsletters in August and October. This chart shows the process of making ceramics till now.



Making shapes: softening soil like mud, putting it on the center of hand and electric potter's wheel and making shapes finally



Scraping away a base of teacup



Decorating ceramics



And finally completed!



Wow!

Creator: Takashi Hanamoto
Name of works: Only going forward



Like a dragonfly which is unable to fly backward, I always need to spend my life with positive attitudes.



Creator: Takako Shimatani
Name of works: Hot coffee break



In order to drink a cup of coffee with relaxed feeling when grabbing it, I made the handle easy to hold.



Creator: Akemi Nakabori
Name of works: Smiles with sunflowers.



I want to have a happy daily life with bright smiles at any time. So, I designed a sunflower on the bottom of cup.

We drank cups of coffee by our accomplished works shortly.



The taste of coffee to drink by using only one cup in the world was the best with being fulfilled with the feeling of accomplishment. We are likely to be crazy about the charm of ceramics more and more after this.

Extra Edition by Akemi Nakabori



←The CEO scrapes away a base of teacup which he made previously confidently. Shimatani also scrapes her teacup with her happy face. (Since I spent too much time in scraping it, I failed to make my teacup)

Mr. Konno looked at and advised me, "How about producing a statue of monkey?", which is the next year's animal in Chinese astrology. So, only I made it while the other two members were scraping bases of teacups.



◆Mr. Konno's Work



That made me completely enjoyable. Somehow, I had made it by watching and following my teacher's sample. I was very happy to be praised by everyone.

Thank you very much for all your help this year as well.

I wish you would keep good relationship with my company and read this newsletter, 'Yamatodamashii', in 2016, too.

I pray that you will have a lot of excellent time in 2016.

Have a good year!



Please have a look at the inside. We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

Please write as 'Sub: reply to the newsletter' and send it to us



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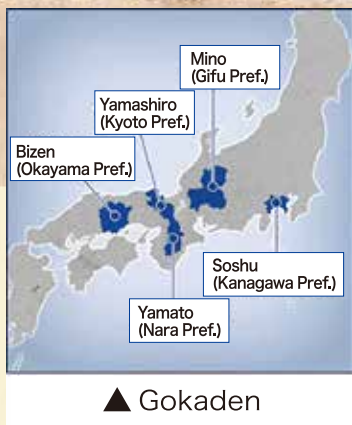
I am going to tell you about

大和魂

The story about Yamatodamashii
written by Shimatani

I am Takako Shimatani—the writer of this column. In this article, I will have a talk about 'Soshuden', one of Gokadens, Japanese swords.

The history of Soshuden

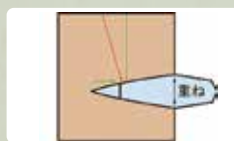


Shintogoku Kunimitsu who was born in Soshu, now in Kanagawa prefecture, in the end of Kamakura period was the origin of this Soshuden. Kamakura Shogunate was afraid of Yamashiroden's decline and requested skillful craftsmen to come toward Kamakura from all of Japan. Kunimitsu gained the skills of Yamashiroden from his father and studied the techniques of Bizenden from Bizensaburo Kunimune. He made use of both of these parties, Yamashiro and Bizen, and had researched methods to create new swords. As a result, Kunimitsu completed a sword with strong surfaces. Then, Masamune, an apprentice of Kunimitsu, succeeded his know-how. Honami family, connoisseurs of swords, argued, 'A sword with O-itame hada (large wood grain pattern) and Dairan Hamon (wavy blade pattern) is defined as Soshuden'. However, one of sword's features Kunimitsu made was Suguha; a straight temper line on a sword. On the other hand, Masamune, an apprentice of Kunimitsu, created a lot of swords with irregular blade pattern. That was his characteristic. So, he is said to be a master-hand who had accomplished Soshuden.

Why did Kunimitsu begin to research?

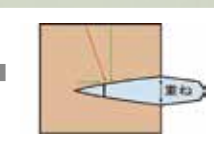
A cross section of thick sword

Pros : able to cut enemy's armor deeply
Cons : huge reaction from objects to be cut



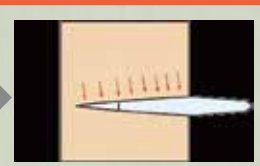
A cross section of thick sword

Pros : very sharp
Cons : easy to bend



Till the Kamakura Era, Samurai wore heavy armor. So, they needed thick swords when making a combat (written about Yamatoden in the previous newsletter of August). But, when they fought against the Mongol Invasion, they saw its soldiers put on light armor and battle elastically. After that, Japanese armor became light. Then, a thin, wide and sharp sword came to be required. After proceeding research activities, Kunimitsu found that wide blades were very effective to increase friction and make a sword stronger and completed this skill. A sword with wide blade is one of features in Soshuden.

A cross section of thin and wide sword



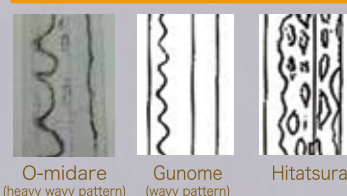
Another distinction

Blade pattern is very outstanding. The technique to heat strong and tempered steel in high temperature and cool down it spontaneously was very difficult. Thus, only skillful sword smith was able to do it. Soshuden began in the end of Kamakura period and spread over all of Japan in the period of the Northern and Southern Courts. It ruled the times. This skill was, however, not easy to teach essential know-how and information to other swordsmith and had declined in the middle of Muromachi period.

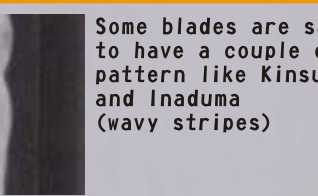
Jihada ; Itamehada (wood grain pattern)



Hamon (blade pattern)



Kinsuji (golden stripes)



Some blades are said to have a couple of pattern like Kinsuji and Inaduma (wavy stripes)



We have an excellent Hitatsura sword as well. It has Kinsuji and Inaduma pattern on the blade. If you are interested in it, please give me your contact! (No swordsmith's signature. The length of sword:70cm)

Why most of Masamune's swords have no signature?

Soshuden combined high functionality as swords and beauty of blades. Since it was very difficult to make, it had lost its momentum. 'The swords that I created have no signature. But, if a person of future looks at them, he/she can surely understand that the person who was able to make them is only I.'—Masamune thought. His imagination made his sword no signature on blades. This shows his genius confidence.

Hanaemon's Make you Back in time

I visited Yamanashi



Thank you very much for your always reading this 'I am going to make you back in time' article. Since I made a business trip to Yamanashi, I am going to report about it.



Is Hoto like this?

First of all, I went to the restaurant 'Chiyoda' in order to eat Hoto and fulfill my hunger. Hoto is the dish with stewing flat Hoto noodles which is bigger than Udon noodles and vegetables in miso soup.



The restaurant, 'Chiyoda', has a variant, which is named 'Ozara'. You eat Hoto noodles with dipping in a sauce based on soy sauce and chicken soup stock. This tasty dish made me finish eating within in a couple of minutes.



There are various theories about the origin of Hoto. One of them is as below: Shingen Takeda used Hoto for field ration because this dish stewing seasonal vegetables was very nutritious and easy to cook. It is said that this was the beginning of Hoto.



Why was there Tokugawa's Family Crest on the top of temple of main building Shingen Takeda founded?

Next, I visited Kai-Zenko-ji Temple. Shingen Takeda, a Sengoku daimyo, had believed in Buddhism seriously. So, he was afraid that Shinano-Zenko-ji temple might be burned down by war. So, he built this Kai-Zenko-ji Temple in 1558. After Shingen's death, Takeda family was ruined by the allied forces of Oda and Tokugawa. Tokugawa family which killed Shingen allegedly repaired the temple in order to hold a memorial service for Shingen.



Tokugawa family who had collapsed Takeda family was reconditioning the temple Shingen made. With what kind of feeling did Shingen see from heaven? As I described, Shingen had a firm religious faith in Buddhism. So, he might have regrettable feeling but he might also have happy emotion-I had such a thought and visited this temple. The history from prosperity to decline of Takeda's family.....and many vassals who had served Takeda family previously were succeeded to Tokugawa family. This temple let me feel the history.