

Feedbacks from our customers

I enjoyed the last article very well, too. Especially, the description about the guard was very interesting and illuminated me. I am looking forward to your informative article as well.

From Y's comment (Fukushima Prefecture)

Thank you for your compliments. What opinion do you have about the article of inlay guard in this newsletter?

I like indescribable metallic atmosphere in the simple design of Tosho guard and Kacchushi guard. But, I have been fascinated with delicate skills by Japanese people in the process of researching the inlay guard. This article helped you as much as possible. It makes me happy. If you have any feedbacks, please tell me definitely again.



Nakabori



I really appreciate for your reading my article,' the story about 'YAMATODAMASHII'. This article about the guard was very informative for expanding your knowledge even in the slightest degree. I am very happy to hear that story. I have been studying the Japanese history little by little through writing this, ' the story about 'YAMATODAMASHII'. While I am still a green hand, I will keep delivering information about the Japanese good culture. So, I am waiting for your opinions and feedbacks.



Shimatani

We deliver 大和魂

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— The Philosophy of Daimyou Ltd.—

The Philosophy of Daimyo Company Limited. Under our slogan of 'We deliver the YAMATODAMASHII', 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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I enjoyed fall! the best season for playing sports!



Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. Hot days are still continuing. How is your day? When it comes to fall, most of Japanese people imagine it as 'the best season for playing sports, eating and reading books'.



When I was a child, I was actually an all-round female athlete. For example, I was chosen as a relay player in a sports meeting. I won at a marathon race and the long running jump in my residential city. Still, I like playing sports and belong to a certain club of housewives' volleyball. I have a few experiences of playing volleyball in the physical education lessons. But, I got a lot of sweat and **STRESS** reduction by playing it. At Onomichi-City, in order to promote friendship between teachers and parents in municipal elementary and junior high schools, an annual soft volleyball competition is held. For this competition, every school has training and waits for it. The 38 schools came together and had fierce battles this year as well!!! Everyone chased a ball seriously and aimed for the winner of this tournament. I was one of them and shouted in a loud voice, 'Hey, Come on!', with a lot of sweat. My team surprisingly became ...



I am here! Here!

the WINNER of this game. After the competition ended, I have been waiting for a social gathering party. 'Thank you so much for taking part in the games! We are very happy to have no injury and/or no troubles. Cheers!' I though I was going to keep my good physical condition in order to be able to continue to play sports which I liked like this. If you say, 'I play sports like this', 'That is my health promoting method' and so on, please tell me! I am looking forward a lot of feedbacks and comments

Cheers!



I got a birth of my daughter.

Though my report was delayed a little bit, the first daughter I had been hoped for was born in my family at the end of July.

The first-born daughter of Hanamoto family Tamaki 環

My family members became four-1, my wife, five-years-old son and daughter. She will often make appearances in the 'we deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII!'' I hope your ever-lasting support with my daughter.

How about this Yamatodamashii? 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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Hello! I am Akemi Nakabori. Next to the last article, I am going to talk about 'the decorated guard', in this article.

It is said that the Onin guard was the first one created by specialists who only produced the guard for the first time.
 (*Concerning with the origin of it, please refer to the previous article.)



The story about Yamatodamashi!

大和魂

Onin guard

At the beginning style of Onin guard, its decoration was very simple—inlaid with brass briefly.

At that time, brass was very rare material. So, only influential persons like feudal lords and high-classed Samurai used them regularly.

Nakabori : With the trends of times, some skills of workmanship added to Onin guard and it developed. That is the 'Heianzyo guard' and 'Yoshiro guard'.

Heianzyo guard

They were maximally made and had a high popularity between the end of Muromachi and the beginning of Edo.

They had minute ornaments. Therefore, they have been highly evaluated with excellent technique as well since a long time ago.

Nakabori : Heianzyo is Yamashiro-nokuni—currently Kyoto.

Yoshiro guard

They were very common from the Momoyama period to the beginning of Edo period. The real name of craft man was 'Koike Yoshiro Naomasa'. His name was inscribed on what he created as 'Yoshiro'. He was recognized as a typical technician of this style. He was very good at inlaid with brass. His created guards are called as Yoshiro-style's guard inlaid with brass.

Nakabori : Hideyosi Toyotomi gave him the title of best on earth and he called himself as 'Izuminokami'.

*Suemon inlaying—a skill to heap up a part of patterns highly and insert other metal parts partially.
 *Hira inlaying—a skill to make a part of decoration flat as other parts.

What are differences between each of them?

	Shape	Design	Inlaying
Onin guard	• A thin sheet. 	• Small openwork 	• Framing setsupadai and box holes. • Lines and dots
The beginning Heianzyo guard	• Round shape 	• Arabesque patterns • Openwork of family crest 	• *Suemon inlaying with only brass all over the guard
The latter Heianzyo guard	• Mokko shape • Nadekaku shape etc... 	• Flowers and plants, landscape, animals • Inlaying with brass Inlaying with gold, silver, copper, red copper, etc. 	• *Hira inlaying was also added
Yoshiro guard	• A thin and round sheet. 	• Openwork of family crests with some openwork holes • Openwork screen 	• Hira inlaying with arabesque patterns, flowers, family crests and so on

The most favourite guard is the Heianzyo guard of all three guards because gorgeous and plenty of various skills are used and expressed delicately. The guard was produced as a tool for battle. But the number of war had been declining and the quantity of swords had been reduced. In such hard times, might craft men who produced the guards make desperate efforts in order to prevent from falling into decay? For this reason, I suppose these craft men improved their techniques, made more fine products ... and added the most beautiful and outstanding decorations. I felt that the accumulated high skills by them who were going to resist historical background at that time were shown on these guards. What kind of opinions do you have? What is your favourite guard? Please tell me about it!

Do you know which guard this is?



E-mail address for application:

daimyou-51@go6.enjoy.ne.jp

Please send me your application with answer by e-mail or fax. Two winners selected in a drawing from a pool of those who answered correctly will receive this bathing powder. I will announce the correct answer in the next article.

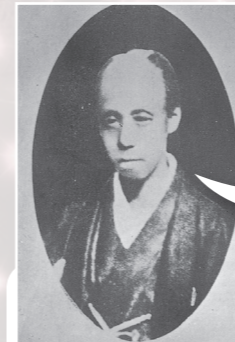
I am waiting for a lot of applications!!

Hanaemon's



I am going to make you back in the last days of Tokugawa Shogunate

Hello! Since I was 33 years old, I made you back in the time of great men's 33 years old who led to the Meiji Restoration in the last article. In this column, I am going to take you back in the time of great men's 33 years old whose Tokugawa regime had been almost collapsed.



1 The man who objected to the rate of exchange wearing a topknot

Tadamasa Oguri

In 1860, the last days of the Tokugawa regime, at Philadelphia, the United States.

The exchange rate between Koban (a small-sized coin) and gold coins is not correct!



The exchange rate which was decided in Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Japan in 1858 was unfair. Commencing with USA, other foreign countries (the UK, Netherland, France and Russia) purchased and collected Koban (gold) with unfaithfully low prices. They intended to weaken and colonize the Tokugawa regime. A Japanese man who had just stopped a policy of seclusion continuing for about 215 years demonstrated the unfairness of exchange rate with his appearance of topknot and Montsuki-hakama (formal kimono with family crest symbol with a separated skirt). How delightful it is ... to imagine such a scene! At that time, many news stories to magnificate his negotiation were published on US newspapers. At that time, he was 33 years old. Afterwards, it was 40 years old when he was caught and killed in the middle of war between new Imperial and Tokugawa shogunate forces (Boshin War) begun in January, 1868.

2 The man who lived like Samurai more than Samurai

Toshizo Hijikata

In 1866, the first year of Meiji, at Hakodate, Japan

At last, I came to Hakodate... Here is a place for me to die.



Hijikata's origin was basically a farmer. He took part in Boshin War as Shinsengumi. He joined it from Osaka But, appearances were against his army. Finally, he died at the battle of Goryokaku, Hakodate..... It was his 33 years old when he fought alone in spite of being overwhelmed by the western-style armament of new Imperial force. He died in a confused combat by bullets when he was 34 years old, one year later. The former Edo bakufu army (the former army of Japanese feudal government headed by a shogun) founded Ezo republic with eight cabinet members and Hijikata was also one of them. It was 'only' Hijikata who died in a battle, in the cabinet ministers.

3 The last Shogun of Tokugawa Shogunate was 'Mr.Keiki' (read kanji with its original Chinese pronunciation)

Yoshinobu Tokugawa

In 1870, the third year of Meiji, at Shizuoka, Japan
 Local people, 'Hello! Mr.Keiki!'

Hello~! What hobby will I be absorbed in today~?



He had been confining himself since April in 1868. But, after Boshin War, he was relieved from his confinement and lived in Shizuoka in September, 1869. He became 33 years old NEXT year. He was affectionately called as 'Mr Keiki', who had no ambition and devoted himself in his hobbies. His hobbies were allegedly photo shooting, hunting, Igo (board game of capturing territory), cycling, etc. Keiki returned the ruling power of Tokugawa shogunate which had continued for 265 years, thought of the Imperial households and Japanese nation and made efforts in order to prevent from civil wars. Thanks to him, the turbulent Japan from the end of Edo Period to the beginning of Meiji Period did not become a colony of overseas countries. This might be one of the reasons not to be colonized by foreign countries.