

Let's have a talk in the

Yamatodamashii

Thank you very much for reading 'We deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII!' always. Fortunately, four years have been passed since we began the newsletters of 'We deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII!' after 'Daimyo Stories'. We have had a lot of feedbacks, opinions and comments from readers. That makes us very happy. Some readers tell me about new histories we did not know until now as well. We have new knowledge of Japanese history, too. We really enjoy reading our customer's feedbacks. We think it is a good idea to offer a place to talk about the Japanese history through this newsletter. Because the reason why we have old antiques we like is that we always have favourable histories or/and historical episodes in them. How about talking of Japanese histories, persons and so on everybody knows on the newsletters? We would be very happy if we could deliver the excellent Japanese histories with you and create 'We deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII!' together. Since the variety of Japanese histories is so wide, we will give a specific subject. We expect you to follow this instruction.

Though we know it is sudden,

the theme in this article is **'the assassination of Ryoma Sakamoto'.**

Though he was a master of swordplay, why was he killed?etc. Please tell us what you think about this accident and so on!! Even though your story is not so long, we have no problem. We are waiting for your talking from our heart.

*We might be unable to show all of stories we will receive in the next newsletter because of the limited space in it. We hope your understanding.

We are looking forward to you.



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



有限会社 **大名**
Daimyo Company Co., Ltd.

Homepage : <http://daimyou-armor.com/>
The 3rd floor, 2-1, Kurihara-cho, Onomichi-shi, Hiroshima, Japan
Mail Address : daimyou51@g06.enjoy.ne.jp
TEL : +81 (0)848 29 3936 FAX : +81 (0)848 29 3937

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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Greetings with One Chinese letter of this year

楽
Raku



Though it might be a delayed greeting, Happy New Year! This is Takashi Hanamoto. Thank you so much for your support last year, too. Under the slogan of Chinese letter, '挑' (challenge), having a lot of new attempt, I spent the last year. But, I felt... my expected results were not given... In 2018, I set a new slogan of Chinese letter, '楽(enjoyment)'. How should I do in order to spend a more enjoyable life than ever before? Are there any ways to make my customers happier? I want to seek for solutions of these two themes. I'm looking forward to working with you this year as well.

How is your day? This is Takako Shimatani.

I was able to spend my New Year holidays with my children in a relaxed atmosphere. I made a big laugh with watching comical TV programs and came alive with saying silly things. I really found it significant to have such a time. I feel I can approach the happiest time as much as possible and make a slogan as '幸' (happiness). I hope your continued kind cooperation to Daimyo and this 'YAMATODAMASHII' newsletter this year, too.

幸
Sachi



律
Ritsu



This is Akemi Nakabori. As my slogan in this year, I use this Chinese letter, '律' (discipline). Because of the reason, 'I am busy', I postpone what I have to do unintentionally. In such a time, I make some mistakes both in office and at home. In 2018, I am going to let myself not spoiled and restrain myself. I want to make my customers (you) not annoy due to my failure. I will do my best not to give in to myself this year!! I appreciate your continued cooperation this year as well.



Hello! I am Akemi Nakabori. I am likely to talk about 'Higo Guard', which was said to be a famous brand in hand guards at that time, in this article.

The story about Yamatodamashii















Who did begin this guard?

Tadaoki Hosokawa (Sansai:1563-1645)



Yusai Hosokawa, Tadaoki's father (Fujitaka:1534-1610), was a military commander. But he was also a well-known man of culture who had excellent talents in Tanka poetry and the Tea ceremony. Tadaoki was a military commander as well. However, he was educated by his father and studied the Tea ceremony from Sen No rikyuu. Afterwards, it was said that he became the best artist in the Sengoku period. After he lived at Yatsushiro in Higo Province (Kumamoto Prefecture), he started the advice and education to a metal worker. After that, the Higo Guard was flourished with the four streams: Hayashi, Hirata, Shimizu and Nishigaki. Under one leader's teaching, every pupil tends to create a similar styles easily. But, Tadaoki did not force his styles on his students. He told only his concept to craftsmen and what they created were utilized by their characters. Because of these reasons, one of Higo Guard's features is no similar style.

Every unique aesthetics

	Characteristics	Works
Hikozo Hirata	 <p>As Samurai, Hikozo basically served Tadaoki. He often used crude copper as materials. It is said that he showed the surface like Akaraku teacups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly, crude copper and brass were used Ornamental borders were settled (It means that it gave pressure to the surroundings as what Samurai had) 	 <p>Akaraku Teacup</p> 
Jinbee Shimizu & Jingo	 <p>He was a nephew of Hikozo. His dynamic design surprised everyone. But the texture like metal is said that he made similarity with Rakuyaki, which Rikyu loved the most.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal surface was often used Raptors, dragons, chickens, cows carps were designed. Bold Suemon inlaying with brass 	 <p>Rakuyaki teacup</p> 
Kanshiro Nisigaki	 <p>He became an apprentice of Hikozo and lived at Yatsushiro. He moved to Kumamoto later. What he created were highly evaluated because of his sensitive skills and original sensitivity. He took distortin of pottery into his works and expressed 'WabiSabi'.</p> <p>*One of Japanese arts. A work to dare to make imperfectly</p>	  
Mataschichi hayashi	 <p>He served Kiyomasa Kato as a gunsmith. After that, he worked under the Hosokawa family and produced Higo Guard. Since he was a gunsmith, his innovative design on the excellent metal surface receives high value even in the modern times as what practical usage and beauty were combined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Openworks on the metal surface Sticky metal feeling Inlaying like texture 	<p>The handguard with SakuraHasen design</p>  <p>*An important cultural property. He dared to design a broken handfan.</p>

Tadaoki and his pupils took in their own aesthetics into their hand guards. I believe that is the very reason why their products became the best. And I was so stunned by the relationship between Japanese Tea ceremony and hand guard. I felt 'WabiSabi', the sensitivity the only Japanese have, in what they created. And I thought it very excellent that they had heightened an equipment of sword which was able to use as a weapon to art. I think only Hidetada, a military commander and an expert in the Japanese tea ceremony, was capable of doing it. What did you think about it? I am very happy to get your opinions!!



Hanaemon's I am going to make you back in the Meiji Restoration

In my last article, I wrote about Hirofumi Ito. So, I am going to describe the man who was sad to be his rival!



The most disliked person

Aritomo Yamagata

Even though he was only 34 years old, he served as Taifu (vice-minister) of Ministry of Army who supported the Secretary of State for War, the top of Ministry of Army. Yamashiroya Wasuke, a merchant and purveyor to the Army, was unable to pay his debt which was from public funds of Ministry of Army without good security and killed himself. Because of this Yamashiroya Incident, Yamagata resigned in order to take responsibility for that case.

*Ministry of Army lent plenty of public money which was over 1% of governmental revenue without guarantees. Many people at that time thought Yamagata who was in charge of the second position in Ministry of Army surely knew about it. So he had had black image about money by this accident. That was the reason of his resignation.

But there was no person for replacement of Yamagata. Yamagata got some supports by Takamori Saigo as well and became the Minister of Army. In spite of his 35 years old, he went to the top of Army. Afterwards, he was appointed to the 3rd Prime minister when he was 51 years old.

Such Yamagata remained a lot of anecdotes to show he was disliked.



1. His Favourable treatment to people from the Choshu Domain

He often appointed those who were from the former Choshu Domain to important posts. The repulsion against him allegedly caused military's being out of control.

2. The Confrontation with party politics

He thought his policies were important rather than parties which consisted of members of the Diet selected by the people. So, he was offended by the members of Diet and people.

3. The state funeral most of the people did not participate.

Yamagata's funeral was implemented as a state funeral in February 1922. But almost all of attendants were only government officials. On the other hand, 300,000 people took part in the funeral of Shigenobu Okuma who was so popular in the people, in January, 1922.



Yamagata, a hated person, was a politician who wanted to avoid reckless wars. The reason why he did not like party politics and politicians was that they thought military forces rather than international cooperation were able to overcome the crisis. The Japanese government started to deploy strong foreign diplomacy with focusing to expand Japanese interests during the World War I by the Western countries. Shigenobu Okuma Cabinet made the Twenty-one Demands on China (aiming at increasing Japanese benefits in China). These demands made the relationship with China worse. In addition, these demands caused the distrust from the US and Britain. Yamagata was said to oppose to the Twenty-one Demands on China because he thought a great deal of international cooperation.

The big misgovernment by Shigenobu Okuma who had huge popularity among the people

The certain political decision by Aritomo Yamagata in spite of his unpopularity with the people

That is also the very interesting story in history! I think Aritomo Yamagata, who paid attention to long-term prosperity in Japan and was able to make action, is one of the politicians of whom Japan should be proud!