

I am going to make you back in the Meiji Restoration (Hanamoto)



Hello! I received a request from a reader about a person to be focused. So I am going to take you back in the time of this man.

The god of war who liked Tofu very much

Masujiro Omura

大村 益次郎 1824-1869



Originally, he was a doctor

Even though he was called the god of war, he was born in Suō Province (Bofu-shi, Yamaguchi Prefecture) as a child of doctor. In his younger days, he was studying Rangaku, the studies of Dutch and of Western sciences, culture and technique through Dutch, in order to succeed a doctor in the village. Afterwards, he is said to take over a doctor. But, because he was unfriendly and did not like medical examination, he quitted a doctor.

A hot summer day

Patient: 'So hot, isn't it?'
Omura: 'It is hot because it is summer, now.'
Patient:



His skills for translating was excellent

When he was 29 years old, the Black Ships arrived in Japan. After this incident, the knowledge of scholar of Dutch learning was in high demand. He got a job in Uwajima Domain (Uwajima-shi, Ehime Prefecture). After that, he also got a position of professor in Kobusho, a military school founded by the shogunate which would be his enemy.

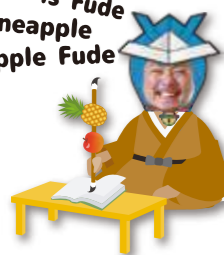


He allegedly had the most excellent skill for translating in Japan at that time. As he had translated the latest Western books completely, he got a medal by the shogunate.

The beginning of War God

When he was 36 years old, he delivered a lecture for military science at the office of Chōshū Domain. In this lecture, he met Kogoro Katsura, later Takayoshi Kido. Because he and Kogoro Kido were the persons from Yamaguchi, he was appointed as a feudal retainer of Choshu Domain. When he was 42 years old, the second conquest of Choshu, Shogunate's sending troops in order to make a disciplinary measure to Choshu Domain, was occurred. Omura defeated the shogunate forces completely with the latest arms and tactics.

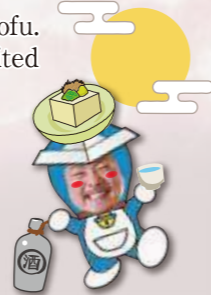
This is Fude Pineapple Apple Fude



He was a doctor and had been learnt Dutch studies. But why did he have magnificent abilities in military strategy? He read a lot of specialized books written in Japanese language in targeted fields for translation, gained the enough knowledge and translated Western books. These facts are said to be the reason why he improved his high technique of translation. And it is said that he read foreign books written about cutting-edge weapons and tactics, applied those knowledge which the Samurai in those days were not available and unable to use them in actual battlefields. After this war, he suppressed the Shogitai, a group of former Tokugawa retainers, in Boshin War in a day and got unbelievable results as well.

Such Masujiro Omura, the War God, spent a frugal life and he liked to drink Japanese Sake with Tofu. His most favourite foods was Tofu and he often served only Tofu to his visitors even someone visited his place. He gives what he likes, not thinking about how his guests feel. It is same as his anecdote in his doctor's days. I can find his clumsy character in it.

By the way, he was a original proposer of Yasukuni-jinja Shrine where the souls of war dead after the closing days of Tokugawa Shogunate were worshipped. Even his idea was different, he made every efforts to build Tokyo Shokonsha Shrine (later Yasukuni-jinja Shrine), a place to enshrine a lot of war victims in Boshin War.



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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.

Our thoughts are with those who are affected by this disaster caused by the heavy rain in the western Japan. All the staff wish your safe lives and quick recovery in the disaster hit area.

Fish Fish Fish



It is her first experience to touch a shark. Kanae, my daughter, showed her indescribable face. She was so excited with great joy!!

Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. Hot summer is coming as well this year. How is your daily life? In spite of the serious hotness, I visited the festival of Innoshima Amenity Park with my children!! Since this event was held near the sea, small sharks we were usually unable to touch were released in a fish preserve at a beach. But, I had small mixed feeling to the sharks when I saw they were chased by a lot of children. Next, I made grabbing live fishes!! Children over one year old can join in this program.



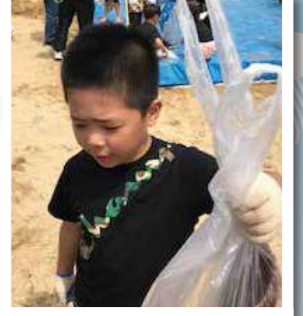
I got a small sole!!



In the fish preserve, there were various kinds of fish like sea breams, soles, Monacanthus, black porgies, etc. Can you get a lot of fishes?



My daughter was frightened of fishes. She held her friend's elder sister and never.



left her..... Meanwhile, my son, Taishi, had caught a bream and black porgy!!



I am going to enjoy this summer completely!



Sashime

You need advance reservation to join the event of grabbing live fishes. 700 JPY per person (max 2 fishes)

I added one more dish in this day's dinner. Since the black porgy was so big, I cooked Sashime. It was so tasty.

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!
This is Takako Shimatani.
It is a hot season.
How is your day?



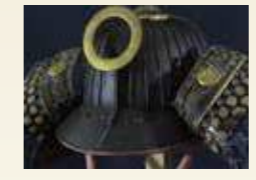
Decorations for intimidating an enemy and showing Samurai's presence and pride of strength.

When Samurai got a certain level of power or/and impact from the outside, Tatemono was broken and off. By these effects, Samurai did not receive any damages to his head.



It was a protector for head. This helmet has Tatemono (decoration). For what this Tatemono was attached?

Such Tatemono's names are changed according to the attached places



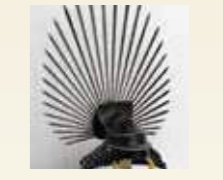
Front:
Maetate



Left and right sides:
Wakitate



On the head:
Zudate



Backside:
Ushirodate

Types

Helmets were found from Kofun Period (250-592). The beginning of decorating helmets was from Heian Period (794-1185). Their shapes had been changed over time.

1 Heian Period

Kuwagata (hoe-shaped) Maedate · Wakidate

- Japanese original shapes
- Between the late Muromachi and Edo periods, Maedate was used with Kuwagata. (family crests, dragons, lions, etc)



The change of Kuwagata mounts



High relief of Shishigami (Heian Period)



Simple and curvy (from Kamakura Period to the period of Northern and Southern Courts)



Both edges were squared and not crescentic (Muromachi Period)



Curvy (Edo period)

2 The late Heian Period

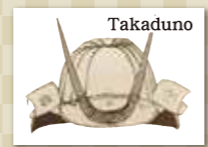
Dragons & Lions

- At first, only the head of dragons was used. Afterwards, all shapes of dragons were formed in the period of Northern and Southern Courts.
- From Muromachi to Edo periods, dragons were made of wood carvings with gold leaf. Lions were wood carvings covered with black lacquer, vermilion lacquer and gold leaf. Various kinds of small and big Tatemono were produced in those periods.
- In Edo period, lions got horns. Their shapes were similar to the faces of demons from their appearances. So, everybody came to call it 'Shikami'.



Tkaduno · Tentsuki · Shikatsuno · Horns of buffaloes

- Takaduno, what the tops of horns were sharpened, came to changed to the shape of Tentsuki. Tentsuki which was too big was divided into tow pieces and used as Wakidate after Muromachi Period.
- In Azuchi-Momoyama period, Wakidate using Shikaduno and horns of buffalo came to gain high popularity.



Takaduno



Tentsuki



3 The middle of Kamakura Period

Animals

The design of dragonflies symbolizing winning was used from the meaning of going forward only, not retreating. Caterpillars which meant eating enemy's blade were also used. The shape of praying mantis was also formed as showing to scrape games with sickles. They were kinds of superstition.



Dragonfly



Caterpillars



Praying mantis

4 The period of Northern and Southern Courts

Sun & Moon

- They were used as physiolatry, a worship of nature, and the symbol of brilliance.
- The distinction between the sun and moon was as below; Vermilion or gold: Sun Silver: Moon



Plant

It was spread left-right symmetry, which made good-looking. It was adopted as shrine crest as well. That meant lucky. It was often used both Maedate and Wakidate.



5 Muromachi period

Mirror · Sword · Fan

- Sword had a meaning of warding off evil spirits.
- Fans were applied in a lucky event. So, they were usually used for military and military training use.



Shinto deities & Buddhas · Weather

- Shinto deities and Buddhas were common for religious military commanders (ex: Kenshin Uesgi-Bishamonten)
- The design of weather was used for Wakidate repeatedly



Family crescent

This design was applied for Tatemono most frequently. It is said that most of Samurai used it as identifying mark, too, in order to discriminating enemy and supporter.



Declining

After the late Muromachi Period, Tatemono came to be attached generally except outstanding helmets. Some Tatemono for fun which were not appropriate for marks showing Samurai were made as well. In the Edo period, toys for children were used as Tatemono, which lost the meaning of original Tatemono, too.

According to change of times, the types of general armours and helmets had been changed. The decoration of helmet was also changed. At first, Tatemono was for intimidating an enemy. But, it had been changed to what appealed own character freely. Like this, Tatemono has so many varieties of types. If I were a general, I would choose the Tatemono of praying mantis because of bad outlooks and superstitions. How about your selection? I recommend you to choose different Tatemono in order to change the atmosphere of your helmet a little bit.

From O's comment (Hokkaido Prefecture)

I read your newsletter with great interest. I am looking forward to your sending the next newsletter as well.



The previous article (June)

Feedbacks from our customers

Thank you! Of course, I will make it sure to send it to you. I expect your continuous support from now on. Nakabori



From T's comment (Okayama Prefecture)

I knew that the name of Hatsukaichi in Hiroshima Prefecture was famous for cup and ball. But I have not known its origin is in France. I am waiting for your next article.



The previous article (June)