

Feedbacks from Our Customers

From T, at Shizuoka

Hello! Takashi, Takako and Akemi, are you OK? I always read the newsletters, 'YAMATODAMASHII!', with happy feelings. Time flies and one year has been almost passed. Same as always, I am so busy for painting works and for running my art school. I will have a joint art exhibition of my art schools next year. Please take care!

●Thank you! Mr. T, are you all right as well? I have no problem and in a good healthy condition. The picture I was gifted by you is my favorite and I am decorating my room with it. I will be looking forward to eating Ramen Noodles with you when you visit Onomichi. Nakabori

From Blue Laid

I was so much surprised at the variety of blade patterns. I did not know that Choji is a plant, either. Your articles are very informative. I suppose it is not an easy task to continue to write columns. But, I am looking forward to them. Good Luck!

●I really appreciate your comment. It is very interesting for me to know that many kinds of blade patterns have every meaning and origin. I will do my best to produce deep articles which will make you feel joyful. I hope your expectation to my next column as well. Shimatani

From Poppo

I have received your newsletters over many years. First of all, I suppose it is very hard to keep creating high-leveled contents of the newsletters like these. Your newsletters have a lot of things that even I, a dealer with the Japanese swords, did not know and many curious contents. I have never known that the name of Choji comes from the bud of clove. The episode in 'I am going to make you back in the times!' was also funny, too. The pictures of all staff members with smiles in your company tell me that they did their best in their daily lives. I support your firm secretly. I am looking forward to your next newsletter.

●I can get some warm and encouraging feedbacks like Poppo. That is the reason why I can continue our newsletter. Thank you very much! From now on, I am going to learn much harder in order to let you feel as; 'Interesting!'; 'I got it!' and 'It is so maniac!'. I hope your continuous support from now on. Hanamoto



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.

Due to the pandemic caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, many people might have lost their freedom globally. Some people might be confused, too. We pray for its settlement as soon as possible and your good health from my heart.



Is a demon in my house a Gorilla!?

Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori!! Have you carried out a tradition event of throwing dried soy beans in February this year? In my house, Kanae, my daughter, had thrown dried soy beans until four years old because she was so scared of a demon. But, when she became 5 years old, she said calmly, 'A demon is not so scared'. To be sure, a facemask of demon recently has some smile. 'What kind of demon will make my daughter frightened?' - I consulted to my husband. So, he made **an appearance of Gorilla's mask! No way!**



I had not heard anything about the facemask from my husband. So, I was seriously surprised and shouted with a big voice 'Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!'

At that timing, my daughter was crying bitterly (;^_^A. Daishi, my son, instantly took beans and threw them to the Gorilla. Looking at this scene, my daughter also began to throw them. The demon.... No, the Gorilla ran away secretly. I was moved to see my son's courageous action!! 'Not Scared?', I asked. Then, my son replied with his innocent face, 'Not scared. My mom is much more scared than the Gorilla. You should become a devil next year!'



A demon <Gorilla(Father)<Mother I will play a role of Gorilla-no, a demon- next year

The origin of Setusbun



In Nara Period(Keiun Era<706>; governed by Emperor Monmu), an outbreak of epidemic was said to occur in all of Japan. In order to stop the outbreak, Emperor Monmu performed the ceremony of Tsuina(Oniyarai) at the night of December 31st in the old calendar(around February 3rd in the new calendar). It is said to be the origin of Setsubun. Concerning with 'throwing beans', the story of origin says as below; During the period administrated by Emperor Uda (887-897) in the Heian Era, a demon who lived in Souzyogadani valley was likely to intrude into Kyoto. So, the people in Kyoto threw beans toward him, damaged his eyes and drove him away. Throwing beans to 'Demon's eyes(Mame)' had same sounds like 'extinguishing the evil(Mame)'. So, it is said that the tradition of throwing beans was originated. Afterwards, in Muromachi Period, the original style of throwing beans came to change to the other style of throwing with saying, 'Out with the demons! In with good fortune!'

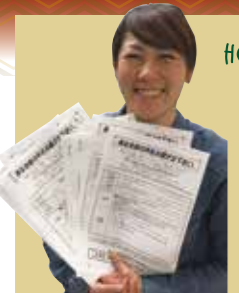
How about this Yamatodamashii? We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

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



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Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. I feel really grateful for many feedbacks! "Your explanation about Choji is very easy for me to understand. Especially, what you described blade patterns with photos is very excellent. I have already known oil was used for maintaining swords. But I knew the buds of Choji were similar to the buds of cloves for the first time." "Your explanation about the blade pattern of Choji is easily understandable and very informative. I have not ever known various kinds of blade patterns of Choji like these." "Your clear illustration made me understood with ease." The writing and pictures about the kinds of Choji Midare in the blade patterns were very interesting and helpful. "You did a good job! I will give you five stars!" and so on.



I received many comments to make me happy. I am very pleasant to know that I have many readers of my stories. I am likely to create fruitful articles moreover. I hope your continuous support and help. I am going to describe 'Hitatsuraba' in the category of 'Midareba' in this newsletter.

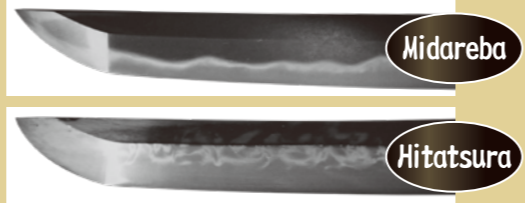
Main styles of Midareba

It is said that some of these blade patterns were mixed and reached to as much as 20 or 30 kinds.

- Notareba
- Gunomeba
- Chojiba
- Hitatsuraba
- Yahazuba
- Hakomidareba
- Sudareba
- Hyotanba
- Jyuzuba
- Touranba
- Kikusuba

What was Hitatsura?

It is a blade pattern that 'Tobiyaki' (see the article vol. 30), a fine pattern on the surface of blade (Chichu), was spread all over the blade. The letters of Kanji, '皆焼' are called 'Hitatsura'. 'Hita' means 'all'. 'Tsura' means 'the surface'. A sword smith hardened a blade on all over the surface. Because of it, everyone came to call it Hitatsura.



From when?

Hitatsura was said to start at Sagami (another name: Soshu, now Kanagawa Prefecture). In order to produce a tough sword which was fit for actual combats, Hitatsura was made with the combination of steel and the temperature of quenching. Sagaminokuni Hiromitsu and Akihiro in Period of Northern and Southern Courts came to establish Hitatsura.

Hitatsura- not only Soshu?!

The toughness of sword and modern blade pattern had affected swordsmiths in every place.

Sengoku Era	Yamashiro koku	Hasebe Kunishige Hasebe Kuninobu		A lot of Kinsuji and Sunanagashi on the surface of blade
Sengoku Era	Bizen	Sukesada		Because the temperature of quenching was lower than Soshuden, there were not so many Tobiyaki
The latte half of Muromachi Era	Mino	Minokoku Sekiju Kanetane		This Hitatsura utilized a sword with a sharp point, a characteristic of Minoden.
Edo Period	Echizen Tanba	Echizen Yasutsugu Tanbanokami Yoshimichi		Not so hard Hitatsura, but slow Hitatsura

I thought Hitatsura was an original blade pattern in Soshu because it was a blade pattern that Tobiyaki which was hardened in high temperature was spread all over the blade. However, a swordsmith in every place feel, "This is a marvellous blade pattern!", The swordsmiths used thier skills and experiences and created thier original Hitatsura blades which was different from Soshu, with changing steel, temperature, the quality of water and temperature in quenching. This fact moved me. Then, I recognized again, "That is the craftsmanship and each sword is very precious." So, I feel I would like to tell our readers about it in the newsletters. Since I can endure some critical feedbacks from you, I need to listen to your opinions.

Because Hitatsura looked like the blade pattern being alive and moved, it might have fascinated everyone.



Hanaemon's I am going to make you back in times!

I am going to make you back in this man I received a request from our customer to write about in this article. Thank you for the maniac request!



Not so well-known as Musashi Miyamoto. But his ability was higher than Musashi Miyamoto, a great sword man

a master sword man Bokuden (1489-1571) 塚原卜伝 Tsukahara



An invincible man

Bokuden, a founder of Shintoryu which has been prospered until today, had travelled all over Japan in order to gain skill in combat since when he was 17 years old. Bokuden had had fights with real swords for 19 times and had taken part in real battles for 37 times. And Bokuden had killed 212 enemy soldiers. They were his results of travelling all over Japan in order to gain skill in combat. While he had had so many battles and fights, Bokuden had had no injury caused by swords. Bokuden had had only six wounds caused by an arrow.



Bokuden's pupils were said to be Yoshiteru Ashikaga, the 13th Muromachi Shogun, Fujitaka Hosokawa who established the foundation of Hosokawa family in Higo province, Kansuke Yamamoto who was called a legendary tactician, Jinsuke Hayashizaki, a founder of Iai; the act of drawing his/her sword, and so on. They were full of amazing people.

Winning without fighting

Once, Bokuden rode a ferryboat. Bokuden got a proposal of duel from a certain man who was on the same boat. Bokuden felt troublesome and was reluctant to accept the proposal. But this man was annoying so much. 'If you insist, I am going to make it at that small island.' Bokuden and this man transformed to a small boat. When the boat was approaching to the small island, this man jumped to the island immediately.

'Let's go! Let's go! What? What?...Why?'

Bokuden left the man on the island and changed the other direction of small boat.

'Hahahahahahaha! This is the winning without fighting!'



A method used to win without fighting, which means undefeated with minimum damages. Bokuden felt it most important. This episode was very suitable for Bokuden.

When Bokuden decided which adopted sons would be succeeded the Bokuden family, another story was remained as well. Has someone ever played a prank like this as well on you in your school days? Bokuden played a practical joke that a wooden pillow would drop when someone opened a sliding door. Then, Bokuden called three adopted sons.



The third son cut the wooden pillow in two equal pieces and entered a room. The second son went back when seeing the wooden pillow dropping. After that, he confirmed what the dropped item was and entered a room. The first son found the prank, removed it, opened the sliding door and enter the room. Looking at what these three sons did, Bokuden was said to make the first son a successor of Bokuden family.