



Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, many people are spending their inconvenient lives somehow. How do all of our readers spend daily lives? I am now addicted to cooking preserved foods because you can see various effects like which toilet papers and foods have been disappeared from grocery stores. When I saw the phenomena, I was so scared because I felt, 'I cannot get any foods!'. Even though I recognize stocking up on foods and necessities is not a good conduct, I feel frustrated. Since I did not have enough budgets to do that, I searched for some recipes to cook preserved foods which were able to have a life as long as possible, cooked the preserved foods and ate them as my side dishes.

In this situation, I wondered how and what preserved foods people in the old days cooked and when they were eating them. So, I made a research about them and finally had found a recipe of preserved foods, 'Hyourogan,' which were easy to carry for soldiers and Ninja as well. I cooked it!!



Nakabori

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.

Ingredients

●Serves 4

Conservable for about 14 days at room temperature



- Buckwheat flour(flower) - 80g
- Ground sesame - 40g
- Sake - a little
- Rice flour - 80g (high quality powder of non-glutinous rice)
- Honey - 20g
- Kinako (roasted soybean flour) - 80g
- Water - moderate amount

Cooking equipment - Bowl, Steamer and Paper towel

Method

- Put all of ingredients except water in a bowl
- Mix them and add water little by little
- Making it balls with a diameter of three - four cm.
- Place them on a paper towel and steam them with a steamer for about 20-30 mins.
- Bon Appétit!



Kneading softly

Make it as soft as an earlobe

Ninja sweet rice dumplings? I want to make them! I am going to help, Mom!

Can you make it well?

Finished!

I am going to eat actually!
Daishi, my son, likes sweets very much. As he cooked them by himself, he expected a good taste.

Son : 'Um....?Mom, no taste'
I : 'Yes, it has no taste. How about eating with some sugar and roasted soy flour?'
Son : '.....It is too yummy!'

He ate four sweet rice dumplings with some sugar and roasted soy flour in a quick manner. It is said that eating these two dumplings makes a stomach feel enough. For him, it was quite delicious!! Why don't you also cook Hyorogan without fail? You can experience the taste of Ninja!

Why was Hyorogan cooked?

The significant factor to decide the winner and the loser in battle is strong troop strength. For that, supplying a lot of foods to soldiers is essential. In spite of an army with 1,000,000 soldiers, it will have no power if they are starved. (it is just 'an army marches on its stomach'.) A foot soldier is said to receive five Go of rice(0.905litter) a day. He also needed other foods and water. So, it was not easy for a commander to keep on supplying them without interrupting. So, the necessity of foods to satisfy soldier's appetite by eating a small amount of foods was emerged. Hyorogan was produced to make it as easy as possible to supply foods. Some Sengoku Daimyos like Kenshin Uesugi, Shingen Takeda and so on allegedly recognized the importance of Hyorogan and made good use of it. But Hyorogan was not so well-known because how to make preserved foods was a military secret-not disclosed. That is said to be the cause of unfamiliarity of Hyorogan.

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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Covid-19

We really appreciate for your continuous supports. Though it is a sudden decision, we have decided to close our shop for a while temporarily because we need to prioritize the security of our customers and staff and the social responsibility to prevent from the outbreak of Covid-19. Our services will be ended during this period as below. While you might feel inconvenient and annoying, I hope your understanding and cooperation.

Notice for temporary closure;

23rd April and 30th June, 2020 (scheduled)

<Concerning with operating the shop after the period>

We are going to open our shop after the 1st, July, 2020. But, considering some changes of social conditions, there might be a slight possibility of extending the closed period. When we change our plan, we will announce it again.

After this temporary closure, I will confirm my more passion of 'We deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII' again and appeal the fascination of Japanese antique and history. I expect your eternal support. And I and all of staff pray for your good health.



Hanamoto



Shimatani



Nakabori

The president of Daimyo Co. Ltd.
Takashi Hanamoto
All of staff

Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. I am going to describe 'Yahazuba' and 'Midareba' 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
- Hyot
- Jyuzuba
- Touranba
- Kikusuibba



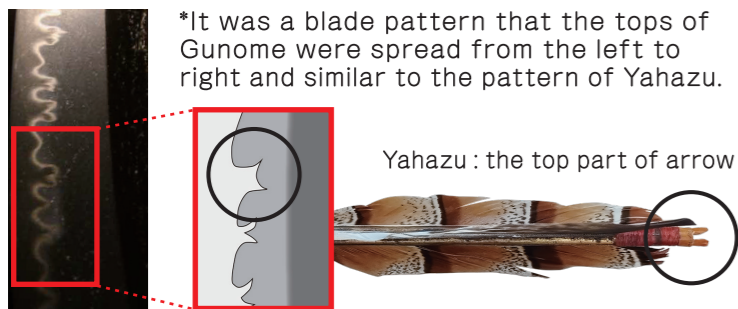
I am going to talk about it

What was Yahazyba and Midareba??

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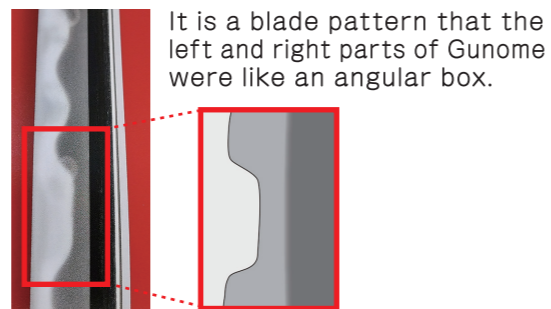
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*It was a blade pattern that the tops of Gunome were spread from the left to right and similar to the pattern of Yahazu.

Yahazu: the top part of arrow



It is a blade pattern that the left and right parts of Gunome were like an angular box.

From when?

It was said to these two blade patterns became popular since the Muromachi Era.

	Mainly produced regions;	Representative sword smiths;	Era;
Yahazu	Mino (Gifu), Owari(Aichi)	Izuminokami Kanesada&Nobutaka	Muromachi
Hakomidare	Ise (Mie), Yamashiro (Kyoto), Kaga(Ishikawa)	Ise Muramasa, Heianzyo Nagayoshi, Kashu, Kanewaka	Muromachi

Concerning with Izuminokami Kanesada

Izuminokami Kanesada was able to create swords with various kinds of sword patterns like Notareba instructed by Muramasa, Gunomeba at Seki and so on. Kanesada was so skilful and it was his character. Because of his ingenious technique, Kanesada might be capable of producing the blade pattern of Yahazuba as well. Kanesada was allowed to use the name of 'izuminomori*' in the swords currently remained. High-classed commanders loved the swords Kanesada created. (~mori* was a title which was given by the Imperial Court as authorized 'you did a good job!'. It was evidence approved as brand-named goods) One reason why Kanesada received the title was because Toshitaka Saito, a governor of Mino Province at that time, made efforts to improve culture. Another reason was because governor's giving the name of '~mori' to sword smiths supported by a governor enabled sword smiths to get power and trust. But, after Kanesada's death, the swords made in Seki region came to change mass-produced swords and their value became low.

As for Ise Muramasa

The swords were very cheap and useful for actual combats. So, many Japanese military commanders loved them very much. In Edo Period, 'the legend of magical swords' was born in Tokugawa Family. In the end of Edo Period, they were the symbol of group of overthrowing shogunate.

Why were they named them magical swords?

From the Sengoku to Edo Periods, there had been few cases to use swords in battle and the appearance of Muramasa declined. But.....
Muramasa was used when Ieyasu Tokugawa was wounded twice.
Muramasa was also used when Kiyoyasu, a grandfather of Ieyasu, was assassinated.
Muramasa was used again when Hirotsada, a father of Ieyasu, was slaughtered.
Muramasa was used as a sword for assistance when Nobuyasu, the first son of Ieyasu, performed Harakiri. Like this, Muramasa had a reputation of magical swords which had harassed Tokugawa Shogun Families and their relatives. Incidentally, the retainer who killed Ieyasu's father and grandfather was murdered with the sword of Muramasa as well.

Why did they become the symbol of group of overthrowing shogunate?

When there was a crucial argument about which group would lead the new coalition government between the anti-Shogunate group and Tosa Domain, the anti-Shogunate group was cornered. However, Takamori Saigo said, 'No problem! Because we have a short sword.' What Saigo said had changed its circumstances. The sword Saigo possessed was, Wow, Muramasa, the magical sword!!! Because it was a really awful sword for Tokugawa Shogunate Family.



What do you feel about this article? Each sword had swordsmith's passion and heart. I focused on having made you back in the times about a swordsmith as well. I will try to issue the best newsletter with telling what a swordsmith imagined together to our readers from now on! Since I need to listen to your opinions, I am waiting for them as many as possible.



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!



I bought a book which had a title to fascinate me. Its title was 'Foodie's Diary at Kyoto' written by a Samurai at the end of the Edo period. I am going to make you back in the author who describe the diary in this column.
*Hachiro wrote the diary when he went to Kyoto in order to escort the Shogun Iemochi. The book was translated to the modern Japanese language.



A small Tengu at Iba

Hachiro was born as the first son of head family of 'Shingyōtō-ryū' which had 'Renbukan', one of four big training halls in Edo at the end of Edo Period. Hachiro had been educated as the elite of sword man since he was little. People thought Hachiro was going to be a sword man while still young. But Hachiro was frail in his youth and liked the study of Chinese and Western classics. It was allegedly when Hachiro was about 16 years old that he started to play swordsmanship actually. It was more delayed than other Samurai around Hachiro. Hachiro, however, was talented about swordsmanship. Hachiro was also a hard worker and faithful. So, Hachiro stood out a lot. Because he was so strong, Hachiro was said to earn the nickname, 'a small Tengu'.



Hachiro was said to have a fair skin and handsome. So, Hachiro was allegedly popular with girls. When Hachiro travelled to Hakodate in order to take part in Boshin War, Oiran (prostitutes) in Yoshiwara were said to pay his travel expense. In addition to that, Hachiro tied the Kobusho topknot, which was very fashionable at that time in Shogunal retainers and lower-ranking vassals in Edo Periods. This book describes that Hachiro shaved part of the forehead. I need to know what kind of face Hachiro had. But, no picture to grasp it easily was allegedly remained.



Lost one of arms in Boshin War

Boshin War, the battle between the former Shogunate and the new government's forces had begun. Hachiro took part in the war as a shogunate retainer. In the battle of Hakone Barrier, Hachiro got a shot in his leg. Hachiro's hand except the skin of left wrist had been cut down from his back. Hachiro turned around quickly and killed the opponent soldier with one shot of his sword. Hachiro's attendant said Hachiro scraped off his skins and bones by himself. After moving to Hakodate as well, Hachiro commanded his army and fought bravely even though he was a one-handed person. However, Hachiro was shot in his chest. Hachiro was said to kill himself finally before surrendering a castle.



At that time, the peaceful times had been continued for long term. So, Samurai who were unable to ride a horse and had not fought with swords were not uncommon. In those circumstances, Hachiro kept fighting as a shogunate vassal to the end with the full extent of his power. I imagined that Hachiro must have described the world, his opinion and so on passionately. But what Hachiro wrote were extremely ordinary-tourism that modern people travel in the same route, his opinion about foods, descriptions about what he purchased, etc. I felt the gap between the modern times and his times. I feel I can glimpse the character of Hachiro. I strongly recommend all of you as well to read this book.

