



Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. There is a few remaining this year as well. Nowadays, I am really surprise at the year passing very shortly. Then, this is the last article about the series of blade patterns. I am going to describe 'Toranba' and 'Kikusuiba' in this newsletter.

The story about Yamatodamashii
大和魂

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
- Kikusuiba

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I am going to talk about it



From When? Who?

Toranba

The blade pattern created under the image that big lapping waves are being collided

Blade pattern



From when :

The first half of Edo Period (approximately Kanbun era)

Historical background :

Samurai warriors did not swing downwards swords from horseback. They crossed swords one to one. The style of fighting had been changed.

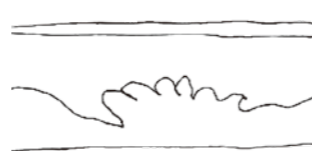
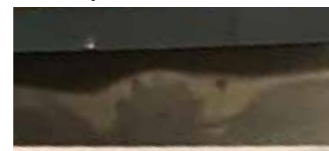
Typical swordsmith :

The second Tsuda Echizenokami Sukehiro

Kikusuiba

The blade pattern designed as flowers of chrysanthemum making a stream

Blade pattern



From when :

The first half of Edo Period (approximately Genroku era)

Historical background :The isolation policy caused the prosperity of domestic economy. In the fields of literature and art, works showing flourishing culture were appeared as well. In this situation, the desire to buy swords declined domestically. So, swordsmiths ranked their created swords and came to raise their value of swords.

Typical swordsmith :

Tanbanokami Yoshimichi, Iganokami Kinmichi, Kawachinokami Kunisuke

In the East, 'Nagasone Kotetsu', In the West,

Edo(Tokyo) in the eastern Japan was the town of Samurai. The sword of *Wazamono had huge popularity. On the other hand, Osaka was the town of merchants in the western Japan. The more artistic and bolder blade patterns became fashionable. In the East, 'Nagasone Kotetsu', a creator of Wazamono, and in the West, 'Sukehiro', a producer of artistic swords-many people said like that. *Terribly sharp swords

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A productive swordsmith

Sukehiro was said to create 1,700 swords in his entire life. An ordinary swordsmith can allegedly make two swords in a month. If this formula had been applied, the ordinary swordsmith could create 24 swords a year and over 70 years would have been needed to make 1,700 swords like Sukehiro!! It is said that Sukehiro had died in 46 years old. But, how on earth did Sukehiro produce such many swords? I failed to find an answer. If anybody know about it, please tell me.

This is the last article about the series of blade patterns. I like 'Hososuguha' the best of all blade patters I have described because I feel the beautiful and narrow blade patterns along the swords are very outstanding. But, after having seen various kinds of sword patterns, I also like the blade pattern of 'Juuka Choji' because the shapes that some petals are accumulated are very beautiful. How about you? I recognize that each sword remained currently-even though steel, temperature, the quality of water, created regions, fashion, swordsmith's thought to swords and so on were different- is very precious. Now, I am going to tell existed swords with the historical backgrounds. Let's take a sword in your hands and make yourself back in time together! I am looking forward your opinion. Please feel free to send them.



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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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.

Greetings

I really appreciate your continued favour to 'the Daimyo Company Limited' in 2020 as well. There is only a few remaining in 2020. I pray for your healthy lives with smiles and greeting the year of 2021. I am looking forward to your support to 'We deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII!' next year as well.

Darkness fell upon the scene while I was reading YAMATODAMASHII!

It means that the sun has gone down when I gaze at YAMATODAMASHII.



Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. Time flies. There's only a few remaining left this year. This year has been a year tossed by the COVID-19. Do you know 'Cholera', an infectious disease spread very widely like COVID-19 between the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate and Meiji Period?

What is Cholera?



This disease is contagious though water and/or the perishable. Those who get infected repeat diarrhea and vomits. Because of them, they lose their moisture in their bodies. When they become dehydrated, they will die. This Cholera bacterium is so scared. Some people died by this disease withing a couple of days after appearance of symptoms. People die 'KORORI' -suddenly- by Cholera. And Cholera was called -'Korera' in Japanese language. Japanese people at that time played on these two words and called 'KORORI'.



Cholera came to Japan!

Originally, it was a specific disease in the Ganges Valley of India. When Britain had governed whole country of India completely in 1817, the first pandemic of Cholera was occurred. In August 1822, Cholera was also found in Japan for the first time via China. In 1858, some crew members of US Navy ships which entered into Nagasaki Port got infected Cholera. Then, many Japanese lives had been lost because of this Cholera.



People came to rumour;

'Because of a vengeful ghost!','No, due to an animal making a monstrous apparition!','A fox brought by US people who anchored Nagasaki Port transmitted Cholera.' Japanese people at that time carried a portable shrine and held a dance with a lion's mask. They were going to kick out this Cholera by them.



The ghost of KO-RO-U-RI(虎狼狸)-the mixture of KORORI「狐(Fox)狼(wolf)狸(raccoon dog)」and KORORI「虎(tiger)狼(wolf)痢(diarrhea)」. It was depicted as a weird animal having tiger's head, fox's body and the huge balls of racoon dog.



Next to the inside

The worst year that an epidemic of cholera had been occurred in the Japanese history

The cholera is mainly infected by water. In summer, its activity becomes brisk. So, in 1879, the Japanese Government spread more concrete measures against Cholera virus as below: 'Do not drink well water thoughtlessly' 'Keep a room dry by ventilation' 'Do not eat perishable foods and/or spoiled foods.' The Emperor Meiji announced the imperial instructions to stamp out Cholera during its epidemic. It said:

The worst disaster of life is sickness. The most painful is an infectious disease of all. A lot of poor and/or weak people get infected. They are so pitiful. The causes of sickness are found. The methods of treatment are also established. Patients do not die and everyone can take preventative measures against it easily. People can keep public hygiene successfully. I hope these things.

The Emperor Meiji



The preventative measures

The preventative measures

- 1 Wear a belly band in order not to cool down your belly.
- 2 Do not eat unripe fruits and/or vegetables
- 3 Drink boiled water
- 4 Do not make yourself too tired
- 5 Sterilize inside your house. Keep your bathroom and kitchen clean.
- 6 Do not gather in large numbers

The preventative measures as above were taken.

While the differences between COVID-19 and cholera are very big from the viewpoint of features of diseases, medical system and social environment, I think these two infectious diseases have some similarities about preventative measures.

In Japan, the spread of Cholera improved awareness of hygiene at once. It came to said, 'the infectious diseases were the mother of public health.' In 1874, Robert Koch, a German bacteriologist, found Cholera germs were infectious disease. Afterwards, curative medicines beginning with penicillin were developed one after another. Many lives were saved. The population in 1904 was about 4,613,000. The total number of deaths by Cholera reached to 370,000 approximately (only in Japan). This figure was much bigger than the total war dead of the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War—about 84,000.

These numerals make me really scared. Even though the cause of Cholera and the method of treatment have been already found currently, Cholera are not allegedly annihilated completely. Everyone paid attention to Cholera. Each person was strongly aware of Cholera. I suppose they were the very reason to stop the epidemic of Cholera. The lessons from KORORI might decline the total number of deaths by COVID-19. I believe a specific medicine will be produced and people can return their normal lives. Till that time, let's take care of your health regularly and get over this difficult situation with letting of stress! I pray for the end of epidemic of COVID-19, everyone's health and heartiness in 2021. I'm looking forward to working with you again next year.

Nakabori



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!



In this article, I am going to make you back in time of this man whose face is used as the design of current Japanese 10,000 JPY banknote, who had a close relationship with Mr. Shibusaburo Kitazato I had mentioned in the previous newsletter.

Yukichi was born as the second son of a lower-ranked feudal retainer of the Nakatsu Clan (Nakatsu-Shi, Oita Prefecture). Yukichi was a well-known man as the founder of Keio Gijuku University. Yukichi was an educator who also spent his energy to establish Hitotsubashi University, Inst. of Medical Science, The Univ. of Tokyo (Shibusaburo Kitazato's Institute of Infectious Diseases) and Kobe Commercial High School. 'Heaven does not create one man above or below another man'-these famous words made Yukichi well-known. However, do you know that the words of '~To Ieri' were actually added after what Yukichi said? It meant 'it is said~'. These words are said to be a part of United States Declaration of Independence. In the book of 'Fukuo Jiden', Yukichi's autobiography is translated into modern language. Since this book is so interesting, I am going to introduce some recommendable stories from the book.

The great of educator, but he had unexpected features

Yukichi Fukuzawa 福沢諭吉
(1835 -1901)



A heavy drinker

Yukichi is said to drink about one liter of Japanese Sake smoothly. In addition, Yukichi had liked Japanese Sake when he was a child. Yukichi did not like being shaved Sakayaki, shaved part of the forehead, in his childhood because it was painful and itchy for him. His grandmother said 'you can drink Japanese Sake after shaving'. Yukichi allegedly endured being shaved on the promise with his grandmother. Such Yukichi declared to stop drinking while he studied at Tekijuku - a private school established by Koan Ogata who was a doctor and a Dutch scholar. Yukichi's schoolmates said Yukich would be unable to continue to stop drinking for more than three days and had a big laugh. Contrary to expectations, Yukichi had been still stopping drinking for 10 days and next 5 days. A certain course mate gave Yukichi some bad advices; 'You are patient. You are a wonderful man. But it is not a good idea for you to make a sudden change of your habit. How about starting to smoke instead? If you do not have something to make you happy, you cannot stand stopping drinking.' Yukichi did not like to smoke. However, the friends bought a smoke pipe and pipe tobacco and gave Yukichi them as gifts for him. Yukichi thought it was sorry for the class mates not to use them. Yukichi began to smoke against his will. Then, Yukichi became a heavy smoker. But, Yukichi failed to forget drinking, either. Yukichi gave up stopping drinking as well. Yukichi had been a habitual smoker and drinker.

Yukichi cheated his friend and let him eat a poisonous globefish

Yukichi seemed to like to eat Sashimi and livers of globefish. Yukichi actually used to eat them. Yukichi told a lie to one of Yukichi's friends who were reluctant to eat a globefish and made him eat them, saying that they were fillets of sea bream preserved in miso. After about two hours, Yukichi confessed, 'actually, they are globefishes'. His friend got angry terribly because he had some medical knowledge and what he ate had been already digested. His friend knew it was impossible to detoxicate the poison of globefishes, either.

Hey! Where is my pillow?

During his school days at Tekijuku private school, Yukich put his head on Kukurimakura, a pillow stuffed with buckwheat chaff, rice husks or similar material, when he was sick in bed. Since his temperature went down, Yukichi wanted to use an ordinary pillow and searched for one, But Yukichi was not able to find one at all. Yukichi spent all his time studying day and night. Yukichi had a sleep when he felt sleepy. When he waked up, Yukichi began to study again. That was his life at that time. So, Yukichi found for the first time that he had never used an ordinary pillow.

Yukichi invented the first system of collecting tuition in Japan

Yukichi gave the name of Keio Gijuku to his private school for Western studies in 1868 and started to devoted himself to education. In general, a pupil paid a reward when he/she entered a private school. And he/she gave some money and/or gifts to teachers two times in a year- at the Bon festival and the year-end. They were common customs at that time. Yukichi thought this way prevented education system from working lively. So, Yukichi created the word of tuition and change the system to require tuition every month. This is said to be the origin of current custom to get tuition.