

Feedbacks from our customers

From Yumicheru

I sympathised with Mrs. Shimatani's mind to love her children very much. It made me reconfirm my affection toward my children. Now, my daughter is now in a tough situation as well. But I recognise the Japanese word of 向 (face the tough circumstances) and am going to do my best.

Thank you for your sympathy. My daughters help my current growth as an adult. Let's get together! Yumicheru!

From Occhin

I am a beginner who loves a sword. I have a long sword, a short Japanese sword called 'wakizashi' and dagger. As all of them are nameless, I am now planning to buy a famous sword next time. The article of 'the story about YAMATODAMASHII' about a tagger is very interesting. I am looking forward to your next newsletter.

Thank you very much. What kinds of swords do you like, Occhin? I'd like to dispatch information in order to let foreign people know the Japanese excellent antiques and history.

From K in Nagano

I was interested in the article, 'I found the Samurai in overseas'. Foreign people have massive passion towards Japanese swords. As a Japanese person, I am very happy to hear that because the Japanese swords are Japanese treasure.

Thank you. I am also really happy as well. I will continue to make efforts to tell overseas people about some good points in Japan more and more!!

From a Daddy at Minato

I knew the kinds of short swords and how to use them from your previous articles. They are very instructive. Then, the fact that some foreign people were creating swords surprised me. Though your newsletters are very informative, I feel sad because they have only a few pages. If you could add more pages to these newsletters, it might be better.

Wow, I was pretty moved by your comments.....: D). I really appreciate what you said. I will make a more detailed research in order to create contents to make readers happier from now on. I hope your continuous support.

From Toripoppo

Evert time your newsletters are interesting because they look down on readers a little bit. Though the articles of your newsletters have homelike atmosphere, their quality are so high. I always read your newsletter with happy feelings. While I usually do not read these kinds of newsletters and throw them away, I read 'Yamatodamashii' without knowing why :-). In the article of February, you described swords I had some interests in. Especially, I have never seen about the inscription of 'Osoraku' in 'Osoraku workmanship'. I was so astonished!

Thank you so much! You do not dispose our newsletters and read them. I am so happy!! It encourages me. Do you have any requests about our article you want to read? We will improve 'WE DELIVER YAMATODAMASHII, which has enough contents to be read, not dumped.

I really appreciated a lot of your feedbacks and comments. If you have your opinions and suggestions, please feel free to tell us. I am looking forward to your cooperation from now on (Nakabori)



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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有限会社 **大名**
Daimyo Company Co., 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.

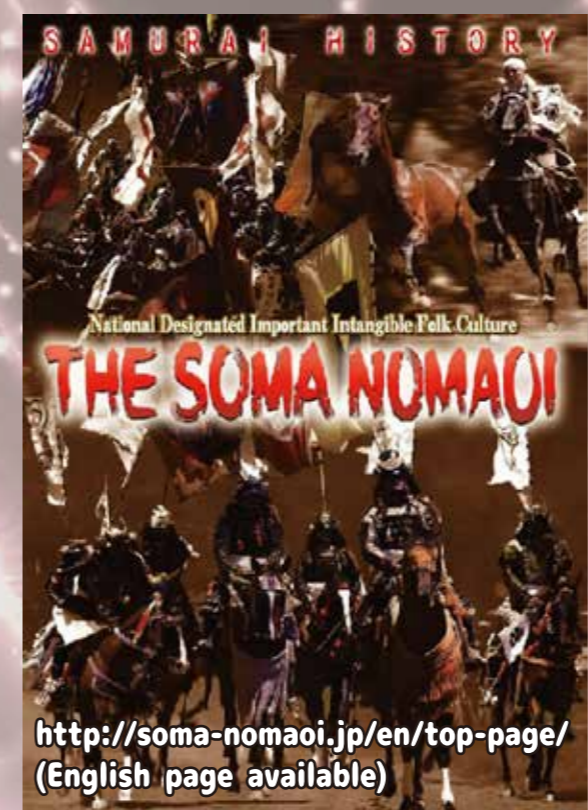
I am going to make you back in Fukushima in the Sengoku Period this year, too

Now, the time of festival, Soma Nomaoui wild horse chase festival, a significant intangible folk cultural asset of the country, is around the corner this year as well! This festival has had the long history over one thousand years from ancient times.

A lot of customers of my company participate in this festival. Masakado Taira, the alleged origin of Soma family, released wild horses to fields and resembled enemy solders. Then, he caught them as his military training and offered them to God. That is said to be the beginning of this festival. More than 500 cavaliers have an armour parade over 3km approximately. They give you full impact and make you feel like taking you back in the time of the feudal period of Japan.

After that, a horse racing by cavaliers wearing armours is held and 2-300 cavaliers fight over two holy flags lifted off overhead. The sound of flags fluttering when they fight is the best! Their tremendous power surely knocked me out!

In spite of the East Japan Earthquake, this festival has been held over 1,000years. I am going to advertise this festival with my humble efforts.

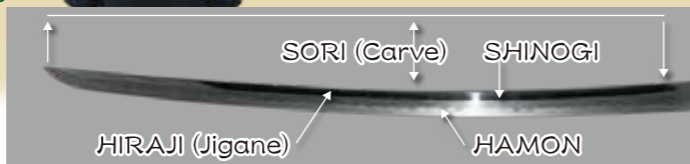


相馬野馬追 **Soma Nomaoui**
Wild Horse chase festival
July 27th (Sat), 28th (Sun), 29th (Mon), 2019

7/27 (Sat)	The Departure Ceremony - Soma Nakamura Shrine / Soma-shi Reception of the Supreme Commander - Kashima-ku, MinamiSoma-shi Yoitori Horse Race - Hibarigahara Festival Field / Haramachi-ku,
7/28 (Sun)	Armed Samurai Procession - Nomaoui street / Haramachi-ku, MinamiSoma-shi Armed Horse Racing - Hibarigahara Festival Field / Haramachi-ku, MinamiSoma-shi Sacred Flag Competition - Hibarigahara Festival Field / Haramachi-ku, MinamiSoma-shi
7/29 (Mon)	Nomakake -Soma Kodaka Shrine / Kodaka-ku, MinamiSoma-shi

Entry fee : 1,000 JPY for day ticket (high school students or older)
Inquiry : +81 (0) 244 22 30 64
(the office of Soma Nomaoui wild horse chase festival 's executive committee)

Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. Are you OK? I received some letters from my customers as below: 'When I go to an exhibition of swords, a lot of technical terms like "Kinsen, Sunanagashi, Nioi" are presented in their captions. But, since I cannot understand what they said, I need to know about them.' So, I am going to talk about the technical terms when you see swords in three parts. This time, I will describe about 'the aesthetic points' and 'the metal underneath'.



'The aesthetic points'

1 Stand vertically (to see the appearance of sword overall)



2 Check where the centre of curve is (to check when the sword was crated)



Between Heian and Kamakura periods, the centre of curve was near the hands, not in the middle because it was advantageous to stab the enemy. During Nanboku-chō period, the centre of curve was not near the hands and its curve is not so curvy.

3 Check the thickness shape and width of blade (to check when the sword was created)

Between the beginning and middle of Heian period, slashing attack was a main stream. So the thickness and width of blade were slim. Between the end of Heian period and the middle of Kamakura era, the width of blade was wide and its thickness was thick. After the end of Kamakura era and Nanboku-chō period, the width of blade was wide. The thickness of blade was thin in order to reduce the weight of sword.

4 Check the metal underneath and blade pattern



What is 'the metal underneath' (Jigane)?

First of all, a sword smith hit and forged steel made from iron sand or black sand used in sword blades (Tamahagane) again and again. It enabled to remove the impurities. In the process of doing it, some

patterns were appeared on a blade. That was the metal underneath (Hada).

The metal underneath shown on blades are different according to the characteristics of sword smiths (forging methods), periods, regions, schools, materials for the metal underneath and so on. The varieties of metal underneath are broadly 'Masame Hada', 'Itame Hada' and 'Mokume Hada'. The others are 'Ayasu Hada', 'Nashiji Hada', 'Konuka Hada', 'Muji (Kagami-mirror) Hada', etc. Because the metal underneath has a similar outlook to the pattern of section of timber, it is called 'Hada'.

Since these patterns are shown on the blade with mixing various kinds, not only one kind, over 20 kinds of patterns are found when you categorise in detail. I will introduce typical six patterns.

Name	Masame-hada 柾目肌	Itame-hada 板目肌	Mokume-hada 杳目肌	Ayasu-hada 綾杉肌	Nashiji-hada 梨地肌	Konuka-hada 小糠肌
Feature	Many lines vertically	Patterns like mountains or/and waves	Patterns like annual rings	Patterns like heaving waves. Another name is 'Gassan Hada'	Patterns like gold satin	Patterns like rice bran. The dots are equal and the surface of blade looks like wet. Another name is 'Hizen Hada'
Picture						
Produced region	Forge in Yamato (Nara)	Forge in Soshu (Kanagawa)	Forge and old blades in Bizen (Okayama)	Gassan party in Oshu (the part of Akita, Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate and Aomori)	Awatagushi party in Yamashiro (Kyoto)	Forge in Hizen (Saga and Nagasaki except Iki and Tushima)

Materials produced in local areas and how to temper change the appearance of metal underneath drastically. I was so surprised at it. A sword smith beat Tamahagane which would be a material of swords with a hammer again and again and bent what had been beaten out in a half. By repeating its process over 15 times, a strong sword was made. Moreover, the quality of materials and climate were never same. It is impossible to produce the same sword again. Each sword was 'unique'. I would like to make myself back in that time and watch a sword smith was fixing materials of sword with care in front of my eyes. Next, I am going to talk about the function of 'the metal underneath (Jigane).



Hello! I received a request from a client. So I am going to make you back in the times of this man

A feudal lord with the longest life



At first, he had been a local lords and samurai. Finally, he became a feudal lord to govern eight provinces in Chugoku region.

After continuing unexpected deaths around him, he became a head of Mori Family.

Motonari was born as the second son of Hiromoto Mouri who was a local lord (equivalent to a town mayor currently?) in Aki (Hiroshima) province. Motonari's mother died when he was three years old. Then, Motonari's father was dead because of alcohol poisoning at the age of ten. After his father's death, the territory his father had governed was taken away by his father's vassal and his family were rejected from the castle temporarily... But Motonari was able to return the castle because the vassal who had forced out Motonari and his family suddenly died. Motonari's elder brother passed away when he was 20 years old. Komatsumaru, a son of Motonari's elder brother, was 2 years old-too young. So, Motonari was appointed as a guardian. When Komatsumaru had been dead at the age of nine, Motonari was nominated by his family's senior vassals and became a head of Mouri family.



Battle of Okehazama in western Japan



Motoshige Takeda who was a head of castle next to Mouri thought the family of Mori was unstable immediately after Motonari assumed Komatsumaru's guardian and started to invade Motonari's territory. Mouri's army had 1,000 soldiers. On the other hand, Takeda's troop had 5,000 soldiers. The wide gap of military capabilities was said to be five times at that time. In addition, Motonari who was the guardian was 20 years old. This was Motonari's first battle and would determine the destiny of the Mori family. At the beginning, Takeda's force which had more soldiers than Mouri's army had momentum. But, Motonao Kumagai who was well-known as a brave warrior was killed by arrows unluckily. Motoshige Takeda also died in the battle. Because of them, Mouri's troop prevailed against Takeda's forces and finally had won.

Motonari's father and elder father all died young as well because of Japanese Sake

Motonari though Mouri family were not strong at drinking and he is said to have never drunk it during his entire life. Motonari allegedly advised his sons as well, 'you should drink in a good manner. Please never drink Sake in order to distract yourself.' But, Takamoto, Motonari's first son, had unfortunately died at the young age of 40 years old.



Motonari became a leader of Mori family though he was young. It might make Motonari evaluated high as a person who had foresight. While he was a small and weak feudal lord, Motonari wandered from Oouchi Family to Amako family, survived and finally concurred them. After he ruled eight provinces in Chugoku region, Motonari carefully grasped the power of Nobunaga Oda who had big momentum at that time and prohibited himself to expand his territory more than that time. If Motonari had intended to invade Kyushu, Shikoku and Kinki regions in order to make the expansion of his territory, Mouri family might have been destroyed soon after aged Motonari's death. If Motonari had had his no foresight, no patriots of Choshu Domain who had led Japan in the time of great transformation-from the last days of the Tokugawa shogunate to Meiji Restoration, might have succeeded.

