

Feedbacks from our customers

From Toraemon

I play laido and use Japanese swords. But, I have not appreciated them in earnest. The newsletters told me about the kinds of metal underneath and what to enjoy. Then, I came to feel like looking at my beloved swords this time. I am likely to grow fond of Japanese swords more and appreciate them next to taking care of them after my training of laido in future.

Thank you for your comment. I am very happy to hear that your affection to Japanese swords was increased more. We are likely to tell how the swords are excellent to the world more.



From Soma Zamurai

I also received a couple of photos in the Soma Nomaoi wild horse chase festival in Reiwa era as well.

They were my own favourite horses-Dantsumuso and Forzido Cruzero. In this Festival, both of them were marching in state and returned in triumph without any problems as well.



Thank you! The appearance riding in the horse with wearing general armour was really powerful. Because it is too far away from my place, Hiroshima, to your place, I am reluctant to head to Fukushima. But, I need to visit there the very next year. I am looking forward to meeting the cool horses-Dantsumuso and Forzido Cruzero-from now. I pray for your success in future secretly.

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 reunion of Nakabori family! We are very moved to meet each other after a long time.

歡迎

My sister-in-law and her husband came back to Japan from Ireland this summer. For them, this was the first visit to Hiroshima. So, we made a family trip to 'Miyajima' and 'Peace Memorial Park' which was well known as tourists destinations

Me So, we made a Family trip with all of 21 members!!



Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. Now, the season to feel autumn is around the corner. I will be very happy if you read this 'We deliver YAMATODAMASHII!' in the long autumn evenings. I expect you will enjoy the article as well.

Day1 Miyajima Tsutsumigaura

Children who were in high spirits at the beach! The heat in summer must be gone!



After swimming, BBQ party!



Day2 'Itsukushima Shrine' and 'Peace Memorial Park'



Chris, who was my brother in law and visited here for the first time, was delighted at the sight of Great Torii Gate. Unfortunately, the Gate was under repairing work. But he said he would like to come again after the ending of repair work. Though I failed to write about it for want of space, we made a small trip to Kiyomori Shrines I had described in the previous article about our study tour as well. 'You might get success in career?!'..... I explained the history of Kiyomori to all of tour members and worshipped the Shrine. (See Volume 18/October 2017)

The Peace Memorial Museum

Next, to the Peace Memorial Park



It is very hard or my daughter to say goodbye :-> I hope we can meet each other again!!

I am a person who belongs to a generation that has not experienced the war. But I have heard some stories about the war from my late grandmother. She told me about the repeated air raid warnings, horrified sounds of siren and hardship caused by hunger. In the museum, many photographs of seriously burned victims, historical resources, articles which were left by the deceased and gifted recently by survivors and so on were presented as well. It was hard for me to face them. As might be expected from articles which were left by the deceased, they showed us the hardship and sadness of atomic bomb victims and their survivors vividly. Only seeing them made me so painful in my mind. This place taught me that the peace is very important even though without explaining the reason we should not cause a war. For a while, I was unable to forget what I experienced in the Peace Memorial Park after coming back to my home and I had been talking the war. In addition, the time for current students to study about the war in classes of schools is less than the time for



'I was so scared... The photos covered with agony made me sad'

my generation to do it. Our children thought the Atomic Bomb Dome only as a part of tourist destination. But, the Museum enabled them to recognize the fright, hardship, sadness and importance of life in spite of not experiencing the war.

Our first family trip by all of family members!! The two days were passed in the twinkling of an eye. It was so lively and enjoyable. And we were capable of studying the significance of peace. Finally, this trip was an excellent trip. If you have a chance to travel Hiroshima as well, please make it sure to head to 'Miyajima' and 'Peace Memorial Park'

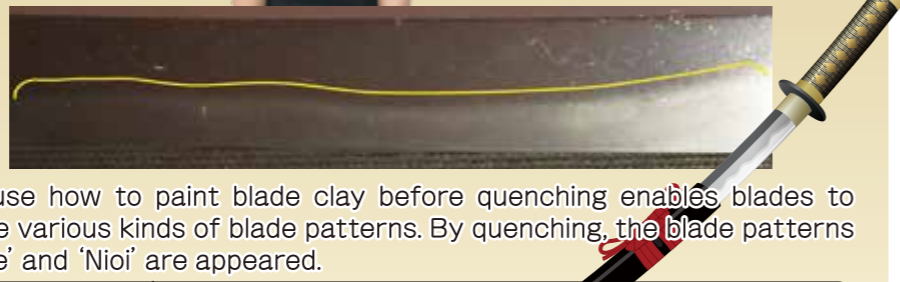
Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. Now, this hot summer has ended. How is your feeling? I have had a lot of feedbacks on the previous article about the effect of Chichu and on the article before last about the metal underneath. I am very grateful of you, our readers!! I am likely to describe 'Hamon', the blade pattern, in this newsletter.



The story about Yamatodamashii
大和魂

What is 'Hamon'?

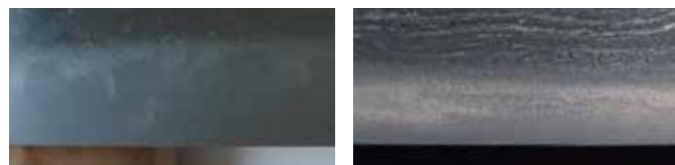
Hamon is the pattern shown on a blade.
(The yellow line)→



Why was it made?

Because how to paint blade clay before quenching enables blades to create various kinds of blade patterns. By quenching, the blade patterns of 'Nie' and 'Nioi' are appeared.

◆ Nie ◆ Its particles are coarse-grained and you can see them with the naked eye



◆ Nioi ◆ Its particle are fine-grained. It is impossible to confirm them by the naked eyes. These particles looks like a fog or frosted glass.



The blade patters consists of these two types. The blades whose either feature is appeared clearly is called 'Niedeki' or 'Nioideki'. In Gokaden (see the article about the characteristics of five regions in 'we deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII' Vol.6), 'Yamatoden' and 'Soshuden' have many Niedeki and 'Bizenden' and 'Minoden' have many Nioideki.

How many kinds of blade patterns?

Mainly the two types of blade patterns- 'Suguha' and Midareba'

◆ Suguha ◆

Towards the edge of a sword, a blade pattern is straight and horizontal.



In addition, classified in more detail

◆ Midareba ◆

To the edge of a sword, a blade pattern seem to be wavy.



Suguha is categorized to four kinds according to the width between the blade and pattern.



◆ Hirosuguha ◆

Typical sword smiths
Tadayosi/Tadahiro/Shigeyoshi/
Kunikane HIZEN/Shigekuni/
Yukihide/Norikatsu NANKI etc.
The times
After Muromachi Period

◆ Chusuguha ◆

Typical sword smiths
None
The times
After the middle of Kamakura Period

◆ Hososuguha ◆

Typical sword smiths
Yoshimitsu/Rai Kunitoshi/Ryokai
Norikuni AWATAGUCHI etc.
The times
After the middle of Kamakura Period

◆ Itosuguha ◆

Typical sword smiths
Kunimitsu SHINTOGO
The times
After the latter half of Kamakura Period

The blade patterns were different according to regions and sword smiths. Even the same sword smith was said to fail to create the perfectly same blade patterns. The method that one sword smith studied in his whole life was only one. Even though the same metal was used, the blade was changeable by how to make quenching and how to warm metal. So, whether the blade was 'Niedeki' or 'Nioideki' depends on these factors. That means a life of sword smith was decided by the place in which he had studied how to produce a sword. Sword smiths had made trial and error in limited materials and methods in order to a strong and flexible sword. I imagined their hardship. We had to tell more about sword smith's passion in producing a sword. I am looking forward to a lot of feedbacks from you. Next, I am going to mention Midareba

The Suguha in my office

How about grabbing it with your hands and feeling the passion of sword smith?



I am waiting for your contact if you have some interests in it. Other gears are also available. Please feel free to drop us a call or/and mail

Contact information is in page 4. Please have a look at it



I am going to make you back in the times!

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

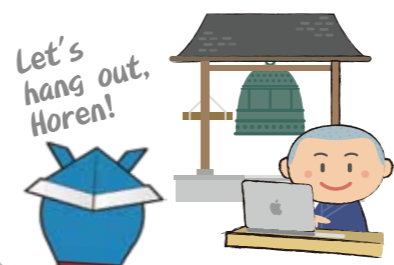
A man whose name and occupation had been variously changed

Dosan was nominated as a typical military commander who had committed the lower overthrowing the higher even though it was natural in Sengoku Period. How was Dosan's life?

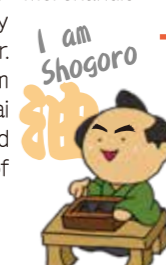
Dosan (Toshimasa)
斎藤 道三 (利政) **Saito**
1504-1556



1 Dosan was left in temple's care in his childhood and underwent a hard ascetic practice day and night. Dosan became a Buddhist priest when he was 11 years old. He named himself **Horenbo** as a priest.



2 Dosan returned to his secular life and named himself **Shogoro Matsunami**. Dosan married a daughter of oil merchant and became an oil-seller. When Dosan peddled, his high-performances were very famous. But, Dosan was humiliated, 'merchandiser's skills after all', by a Samurai warrior. Those words made him decide to be a Samurai warrior and he was said to be a technician of guns and spears.



3 Shogoro who became a retainer of Nagahiro Nagai succeeded the family name of Mr. Nishimura, a retainer of Nagai family, and got the name of **NISHIMURA Kankuro Masatoshi**. Because Kankuro Masatoshi had high skills of military arts and wits to manage, he came to gain massive confidence of Yorinori Toki, a boss of Nagahiro Nagai he served. Kankuro Masatoshi took part in a conflict between Yorinori Toki and Masayori Toki, Yorinori's elderly brother. In the end, Kankuro Masatoshi had banished Masayori from Mino Province.

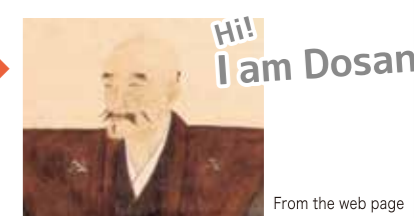


4 Kankuro Masatoshi killed Nagahiro Nagai who let him become a Samurai warrior, took over the Nagai family and got the name of **NAGAI Shinkuro Norihide**.



5 **NAGAI Shinkuro Norihide** inherited the name of Saito family in Mino province and called himself as **SAITO Shinkuro Toshimasa**. Shinkuro Toshimasa was unable to stop his anxiety for success and killed even a younger brother of Yorinori Toki who had believed him. It made Shinkuro Toshimasa involved in the fight against Yorinori Toki. In spite of his hardship, Shinkuro Toshimasa beat Yorinori Toki and became a sovereign in Mino Province.

6 Toshimasa retired, transferred the headship of the family and named himself **Dosan**.



Dosan did not get along with Yoshitatsu Dosan, his son, and made war against his son (Battle at Nagara-Gawa). Dosan was defeated and had been killed when he was 63 years old. There are various opinions why Dosan had bad relationship with his son. One of convincing hypotheses is as below: Miyoshino, a mistress of Dosan, was originally Yorinori Toki's beloved concubine. So, Dosan had some doubts whether Yoshitatsu might be a son of Yorinori Toki. Then, Dosan loved his sons except Yoshitatsu Saito.

Saito Family is a family with an interesting history



It was said that Dosan had risen to a sovereign from a priest in a single generation...

Recent research says Dosan's father had upgraded his position as follows: a priest → an oil-seller → a Samurai warriors (Shinzaemonjo NAGAI). Dosan's father might have allegedly acquired Mino Province with Dosan in two generations.

(No.1-3: the life of Dosan's father. No.4-6: Dosan's life in the previous map)
The reason why this hypothesis was appeared comes from the fact that the letter written by Yoshikata Rokkaku who was a sovereign of Ohmi, next to Mino Province, was found. In his letter, Yoshikata wrote about a plan for getting marriage with Saito Family and was against it. Yoshikata was said to describe the plot to acquire Mino Province in two generations-Dosan's father and Dosan himself. Since Yoshikata Rokkaku was the son-in-law of Yorinori Toki, I suppose the hypothesis has high credibility. How do you feel about it?