

# Feedbacks from our customers



## From Mr.A

Your description about spears was very easy to understand and attracted my interest. I thought I would like to get one as well. You did not explain the structure of spears in a cool way, but you made the story that hitting by spears was more effective than stabbing by them and another story that the spears had a long history from the times of stone spears in order to produce the reasonable story of reason why such shapes of spears had been created. Your stories about them had enough power to persuade me. Your firm has a lot of Jumonji Yari (cross-shaped spears). So, I recommend you to write about them. I believe the viewers who browse your official homepages will increase when you do that. I got it in sight the story that Eiichi Shibusawa used to practise Japanese fencing and had read it to the end. I have the same training of Japanese fencing as well. The readers of this newsletter are those who are interested in battle-gear. So, if you write about the connection between the persons and the battles or arms you are going to write, even though it is a small description, the readers will attract your articles.

Thank you for your feedback. Our newsletter let you understood. It is very happy for us. We make efforts to write articles to answer your questions, 'why?', 'how?'. So, when you have something to feel doubtful, please feel free to send them to us. We are likely to describe the story about Jumonji Yari from now on. Thank you for your advice.

## From Mr.I

Your articles about the spears in the previous newsletter gave me enough knowledge. Mr Hanamoto made the slogan of Chinese letter, '出' (out) in 2021. I need to say hello with the same slogan of Chinese letter, '出陣' (going into battle) in 2021. Is it OK:-)? The spread of Covid-19 prevented us from the departure for the front with horses at the event of Soma Nomaoi wild horse chase festival at Minami-soma City in Fukushima Prefecture. I hope we will be able to make it this year.

Thanks for your message. I really expect we will be able to return our normal life as before after the end of spreading Covid-19. I cannot forget the sound that the horses were running like a wind at the Nomaoi wild horse festival. I really pray that you will be able to go into battle with a horse in the festival this year.



## From Mr.N

Your every column, I am going to talk about YAMATODAMASHII has a very interesting story about swords. I really enjoy them. While we are now in the spread of Covid-19, I hope you will keep this column for long periods of time.

Thank you for your comment. We hope to create a substantial newsletter which does not make you bored. We need your expectation to our next newsletter. We hope your continuous support to 'We deliver YAMATODAMASHII!' from now on as well

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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**The Philosophy of Daimyou Ltd.**  
 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.

Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. How are you going? Shimatani family has a yearly event in my home perfectly even though the outbreak of Covid-19.

The day of March, third is the Doll's Festival. I have three girls and this event is one of essential events in a year. Getting together with families and friends is not permitted this year. So, I had a 'small girls-only gathering', called 'the Doll's Festival' with my daughters. Decorating dolls and dishing up were made by the three girls. My three daughters had this to say each other like, 'it might be better!', 'it is a good idea to place these flowers here.' This scene made me feel my three girls had grown up.

- Hishi-mochi (rhombus-shaped mochi)**  
means cleaning and protecting against misfortune and sickness, and praying for the sound growth of children.
- Hinaarare (grilled bits of rice cake)**  
means the mindset of saving money.
- Shiro Zake (sweet white sake)**  
means removing all of sickness by floating the leaves of peaches on Shiro Zake.
- Hamaguri (clams)**  
means hoping that a lady can find a life partner suited to her and spend a happy life
- Chirashizushi (sushi rice in a box or bowl with a variety of ingredients sprinkled on top)**  
contains these ingredients: Shrimps - praying for a long life Lotuses - hoping a foreseeing life Beans - hoping a healthy and diligent life.



Each girl selected the foods which are suitable for her wish and moved them to the mouth simultaneously.  
 Honoka, the first girl, chose Shirozake with her hope of 'no disease'.  
 Haruka, the second girl, chose the lotus with her hope of 'being happy'.  
 Fuuka, the third girl, chose Hamaguri with her wish of 'getting a boyfriend'.

'Though Fuuka is only eight years old, you say such a thing?' Her eldest two daughter teased her. I was able to recognize the growth of my daughters as well. I had a really happy day. I talked of the story with my daughters about the foods they ate and the fact each food had a special meaning. I expected my three girls would make sound growth and could spend their lives to smile every day forever. I also prayed that they would be able to have happy lives with my wish to spend a long life as their mother.



## What is the modern 'Doll's festival' ?

The origin of this festival was said to be since the Heian Period. The old Chinese custom to remove misfortune by floating a doll on the streaming water and the old Japanese original custom to keep of evil by using a doll instead of actual person were mixed. Then the seasonal festival only in Japan was born. The official name is called 'Joshi no Sekku' and it is the second seasonal festival of 'the five festivals' (January 7, March 3, May 5, July 7 and September 9) of annual event. Since the Edo Era, the name of 'Peach Festival', 'the Doll's festival' was in common reportedly. One reason is that around March 3rd, the flowers of peaches are in full bloom. Another reason is that the parents wish their girls would become beautiful and spend their happy lives without meeting any misfortune by presenting Hina dolls.





Hello! This is Takako Shimatani.

After the column of Kikuchi spears, I am going to mention 'Ohmiyari' (the long spear) in this newsletter.

The long spear was one of spears developed in Japan. A spear whose length of blade was over 30cm or more is called 'Ohmiyari'. Since the length of spear was long, soldiers were going to use its strength and were able to aim at the legs of horses the cavaliers of enemy were riding and slash them off horizontally in confused fights. So, it was a weapon to threaten the enemy. But, the longer the length of blade was, the heavier and more difficult to use it was. Those who were able to use it were the only soldiers using it with superior muscular strength. The three famous long spears of many spears in Japan are;

◆ Nihon-go / Hinomoto-go  
(日本号)

◆ Otegine  
(御手杵)

◆ Tonbogiri  
(蜻蛉切)

These three spears were called 'The three well-known spears in Japan'. They were all long spears.



**Nihon-go/Hinomoto-go**

the Fukuoka City Museum on display The total length: 321.5 cm / The length of blade: 79.2cm / The length of blade / base: 80.3cm / The weight including Koshirae: 2.8kg (approx..)

① Hira Sankaku



② The relief sculpture of Kurikara Dragon



③ Jitetsu: Itame



④ Blade pattern: Suguha



**Who named this spear??**

This spear belonged to the Imperial Court originally. Yoshiaki ASHIKAGA, the 15th Muromachi Shogun, got it from 'Ogimachi Tenno' (1557-1586). Afterward, 'Nobunaga Oda' succeeded it and 'Hideyoshi Toyotomi' took it in his hands.

Some researcher says Hideyoshi received this spear as a gift from 'Go-Youzei Tenno' (1586-1611). Hideyoshi felt it was too gracious for him to get what the Emperor had touched and ordered his men to create the Koshirae which was suitable for this spear. The Emperor listened to this story and was so delighted with saying 'a nameless spear has become great!'. The Emperor presented the spear with the \*Shosanmi (Senior Third Rank). Hideyoshi named the spear Nihon-go/Hinomoto-go and treated it very carefully.

\* Shosanmi (Senior Third Rank) was one of the ranks in Ikai (court ranks) and Shinkai (ranks granted to Shinto gods).

**An expert with handling spears**

Masanori Fukushima, Hideyoshi's vassal, took part in 'the battle of Shizugatake'. Masanori was the first spearer and the first warrior to take the head of enemy general whose name was Ieyoshi Haigou. Masanori was one of 'the Shichihonyari (Seven Spears) of Shizugatake'. Hideyoshi thought Masanori was the best person to possess this great spear and gave it to Masanori.



**The spear got by drinking**

Motonori Mobu, the Feudal Lord of Fukuoka Province and retainer of Kuroda Family, was also called as an expert of spear. Tomonobu was one of the Twenty-Four Riders of Kuroda (黒田二十四騎, Kuroda Nijūyonki, the name of those who

were especially strong and powerful in Kuroda Family's men). Tomonobu had allegedly cut off 76 heads of enemy's generals in his life. Both Masanori and Tomonobu were experts of spears. But, they had another point in common. Both of them were heavy drinkers. Tomonobu was going to head Masanori's place as Nagamasa Kuroda's messenger. Nagamasa worried some troubles caused by drinking and told Tomonobu not to drink even though Masanori served some drinks. But Masanori proposed, 'if you drink up this three Sho (5.5 liter), I will give you everything you want'. However, Tomonobu kept what Nagamasa said and declined to drink again and again. Then, Masanori ridiculed Tomonobu with the words, 'Kuroda's Samurai cannot drink much! The Eight Tigers of Kuroda (黒田八虎, Kuroda Hachko) are not strong drinkers!' These dirty words naturally made Tomonobu very angry and Tomonobu had drunk up the three Sho of served Sake. This spear was succeeded to Tomonobu.



This spear was beloved so much by many great military commanders only who got it. The warriors managing the spear with 3.21 meter in total length are superb. I feel that Nihon-go/Hinomoto-go selected the warriors who was able to handle and moved to their hands. I am going to write about Otegine and Tonbogiri in the three well-known spears in Japan in my next column.



We have the long spear in our company. Please feel free to contact us.



In the last four articles, I mentioned those who had lived between the end of Edo Period and Taisho Aera. But I have had a couple of requests to write about the military commanders in the Sengoku era. So, I am going to describe one of them. Because of the pandemic caused by Covid-19, the world is now in chaos. Same as now, the Sengoku period was also in chaos, not because of infectious diseases, but wars and battles. In that harsh situation, many military commanders in the Sengoku era continued to fight without hesitating. I hope that studying their ways of lives might encourage all of you even though a little. In this article, I am going to make you back in time about this man.

the man who never gave up and his life turned around

**Hidehisa Sengoku** 仙石秀久  
(1552 -1614)



Hidehisa was born as the fourth child of Hisamori Sengoku who was a baronial family in Mino Province (current Gifu Prefecture). During the battles between Saito Family and Oda Family, Hisamori's sons died one after another. So, Hidehisa succeeded Hisamori as the head of the family. After the defeat of Saito Family, Hidehisa became a retainer of Oda Family and Hideyoshi Hashiba's men. Hidehisa took part in the Battle of Anegawa and other battles. What Hidehisa had done were highly evaluated. So, Hidehisa became a feudal lord with a kokudaka of 1,000 koku when he was 22 years old. After that, Hidehisa had got a success in his career smoothly. Hidehisa was appointed as a Daimyo of Awaji Province with a kokudaka of 50,000 koku when he was 31 years old. Then, Hidehisa was a Daimyo of Sanuki Province with a kokudaka of 110,000 koku when he was 33 years old. Hidehisa finally was able to become a feudal lord of Shinano Komoro Province with a kokudaka of 50,000 koku in Edo Period.

**The huge mistake in the Kyushu Conquest**

In 1586, Hidehisa succeeded in his life as Hideyoshi's men without any troubles when Hidehisa was 34 years old. When Hideyoshi started the Kyushu Conquest, Hidehisa and his men received an order of being the advanced troops. Hideyoshi had a plan of long-drawn-out battle and sent a letter to Hidehisa.

The Ootomo Army, one of allied forces, had low spirits. The Army from Shikoku did not have enough rest and was tired because they had just returned from the Shikoku Conquest. The main Army led by Hideyoshi had no sign of appearance. Hidehisa was upset and ignored Hideyoshi's advice. Then, Hidehisa made an attack to the Shimadu Army offensively. In the beginning, Hidehisa had the advantage, but Hidehisa's Army received the counterattack and got a decisive damage. Finally, the Army withdrew to Sanuki Province. The Hideyoshi Army had been lost. This defeat made Hideyoshi fiercely angry. Hideyoshi confiscated Sengoku's territory and ordered Hidehisa to banish to Mt. Kouyasan. In a flash, Hidehisa had lost his fruits he had been working for nearly 20 years and got.

**The warrior wearing a battle surcoat with a lot of bells**

In 1590, when Hidehisa was 38 years old, the Odawara Conquest by Hideyoshi had begun. Hidehisa rushed to Hideyoshi with his sons and old retainers. Hidehisa who got a chance to vindicate his honour reportedly wore a battle surcoat with a lot of bell in order to attract the enemy and got a big success in the military operations. Hidehisa used Jumonji Yari (cross-shaped spears) by himself and occupied the Koguchi, the most important place in castles, headquarters and so on. Hidehisa got a huge success in this battle. This success delighted Hideyoshi so much. Hideyoshi gave Hidehisa a gold fan. In addition, Hidehisa was appointed as a Daimyo of Shinano Komoro Province-current Komoro-city, Nagano prefecture, with a kokudaka of 50,000 koku. Hidehisa had returned as a Daimyo. A person who had been confiscated by Hideyoshi and recovered the position of Daimyo again like Hidehisa was very rare.

**Did Hidehisa create Shinshu-soba noodles?**

Hidehisa had a tendency to be thought he was a military commander who only did martial arts. But, Hidehisa unexpectedly made an achievement of cultivation and development in his territory as well Hidehisa was going to produce a new industry and had an eye on Soba noodles. At that time, Soba dumplings were commonly eaten. Hidehisa and his men had an idea to cut them slenderly and make current Soba noodles. The origin of Shinshu-soba noodles and Komoro-soba noodles were made at that time. When Masaaki Sengoku, a great-great-grandchild of Hidehisa, moved his territory to Tajima Izushi Province (current Toyooka-city, Hyogo Prefecture), the Soba chefs also transferred there. They taught the skills to produce Soba noodles at that place. That was said to be 'Izushi soba' served on a plate. After that, Sengoku Family had continued till Meiji restoration as a Daimyo. Some descendants of Sengoku Family became members of the House of Peers. If Hidehisa Sengoku had given up and his life had not turned around, the Sengoku Family could not have existed as the family of Daimyo till Meiji restoration. The efforts made by Hidehisa, the warrior wearing a battle surcoat with a lot of bells, decided the 300 years of Sengoku Family in its future.

