

The Covid-19 has been prevented me from going out even though I want to visit Daimyo, your office. I am very sad....

We got such a happy message from a customer. So, I am going to introduce our shop, 'the shop of Daimyo'.

After going through the entrance, you can find an array of armour on your right. Just now, we have 13 exhibited armours here. And, there are always much armour as well as this presented armour.



First of all, it is the front door; the entrance.



My favourite armour is this exhibited in Wakayama Castle as well: 'Tetsukokushitus-Nuri Kinpaku Oshikonito-Odoshi Nimai-Do Gusoku'.

It was made in Edo Period and is in good condition. This armour was presented in Wakayama Castle, which has some gold colouring. But it is not so flashy. I think it is very cool and smart.

In the glass case, there are many handguards in a row. We have various kinds and size of handguards. So, you may find the handguards you want to purchase.



In the centre of room, the desk and chairs are placed. This is the space for relaxing our customers. Why don't you make yourself back in time together forgetting time with being surrounded by the armour? You might feel that you are Sengoku Daimyo with your men!



After the pandemic has gone and all things calm down, please visit our office at any cost. Seeing our gears with your eyes and feeling them, we hope you can find the special treasure for you. All of our staff are looking forward to your visit from our heart.

How about this Yamatodamashii? We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

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Please write as 'Sub: reply to the newsletter' and send it to us



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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.

When it comes to summer, it is 'Tanabata', one of the five festivals

(*January 7<Nanakusa>, March 3<Momo/peach>, May 5<Tango>, and September 9<Kiku>)

The decoration of Tanabata is said to be a mixture of Tanabata which came from China in Nara Period and the Japanese indigenous 'legend of Tanabatsume*'. This Tanabata was operated as a court event at first. People in the upper class used to pray for improving skills of weaving and sewing and write what they wanted on leaves of paper mulberry. Afterwards, Tanabata officially became one of the five festivals in Edo Period. Tanabata was common in ordinary people. They wrote their various wishes on multi-coloured strips of fancy paper and hang them on bamboo grass. Then they prayed to the stars. The characteristic of Tanabata came to change.

Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. Sweltering days are going on. How are you going? I looked up at the sky at night slightly cooler than at daytime and thought about Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair) with my children.

The ornament of Tanabata

- Fukinagashi** wishing for improving skills of weaving and sewing
(In a court event, people in the upper class offered multi-coloured threads with needles on. This was an alternative made of paper instead of threads)
- Paper crane** wishing for peace and prosperity in the household and long life
- Trash box** meaning clean and economizing
- Amikazari** praying for good fishing
- Purse** wishing for being lucky with money and saving
- Paper garment** wishing for improving skills of sewing and becoming substitutions for sickness and disasters

* In order to give it to the God of water, a woman weaved a cloth, met the God of water on the shore and performed ablutions. Because of what the woman did, the God was said to bring rich harvest to the towns and villages and prevent disasters.

Tanabata is that Orihime and Hikoboshi have a date once a year. Is it right?



The third daughter

Orihime and Hikoboshi cannot meet except once a year. But for that, they do their best. Great!



The second daughter

Do you know the legend of Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair)? This legend is very common in various countries and regions. I am going to describe a romantic legend this time. Orihime (Vega), a daughter of the God of heavens, worked hard every day with no regard to her appearances. The God felt that she was so pitiful. The God started to search for her husband. Orihime met Hikoboshi, a young honest man. The God thought Hikoboshi would make his daughter happy and permitted to marry him. These two persons spent their happy lives..... But their diligence had gone suddenly. They came to lead idle lives without working every day. Even though the God told them to work, they ignored it and spent their lazy days. Their behaviour made the God angry. The God had made them unable to meet each other. They were filled with grief and worked less and less. The God was agonized and promised them; 'if both of you work hard every day as before, you can meet each other on July 7th, once every year.' Then, they began to work seriously. And their dreams to 'meet again' each other on the day of Tanabata came true.

Yes! A girl likes to a romantic love affair.



Shimatani



Excellent! That is the very power of love!



The first daughter

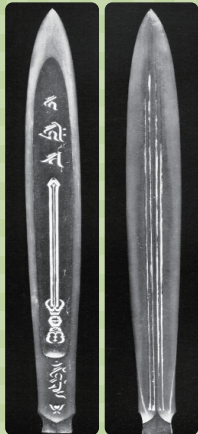


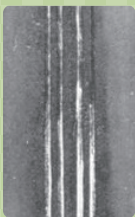







Like Orihime and Hikoboshi, we also wrote our wishes on strips of fancy paper as our dreams would come true. We only wrote our wishes before. But, this time, I learnt with my children that every ornament had a meaning. That was very excellent for me. My wish is only one; 'The happy days like this with my daughters would be going on forever.'

Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. Continuing from the former article I am going to mention 'Tonbogiri': Three Great Spears of Japan' in this newsletter. (Three Great Spears of Japan: Nihon-go/Hinomoto-go <vol.41>, Otegine<vol.42>, Tonbogiri)



A dragonfly became right in two?

A Samurai stood a spear at a battle ground. Then, a flying dragonfly stopped the edge of spear accidentally. At that moment, the dragonfly had been cut in two pieces. That was the reason called as Tonbo(dragonfly)-giri

Name: Tonbogiri	The feature: (bibliography: old documents)	
Created times: Muromachi Period		
The length of blade and weight: 43.7cm/499g(approx.)		
Creator: Masazane Fujiwara (Mikawa Monju Party)		
 <p>He was a swordsmith working at Ise Province (currently Mie Prefecture) and Mikawa Province (currently the east part of Aichi Prefecture). Since Honda Clan became the lord of Tawara Castle (currently Aichi prefecture), it is said that they asked Masazane to produce Tonbogiri. Tadakatsu was said to possess it when he was 16 years old.</p>	1 Sasaho yarihira  <p>the triangle shape like a leaf of bamboo grass</p>	3 Ditetsu: Itame with masame (straight grain) 
	2 Ditetsu: Mokume  <p>four gutters</p>	4 Blade pattern: Gunome with Notare 
		5 Carving  <p>Jizo Bosatsu</p>  <p>Thousand armed Kannon</p>  <p>Yoryu Kannon</p>  <p>Kurrikara sword</p>  <p>Fudō Myōō</p>  <p>Lotus flower</p>

Tadakatsu Honda loved to use it

Tadakatsu Honda was said to go through battlegrounds without being hurt due to Tonbogiri which was proud of its sharpness. The shafts of ordinary spears are about 4.5m in average but the shaft of Tonbogiri was 6m in length. Since he had his outstanding skill to use spears, Tadakatsu was able to handle this long spear without any problems. Because he had had a lot of achievements as a close advisor of Ieyasu Tokugawa, Tadakatsu was called Tokugawa-Shitenno (four generals serving Ieyasu Tokugawa). In 1570, at the Battle of Anegawa, the Oda and Tokugawa allied forces were confused by the tactics of allied forces of Asai and Asakura and had been invaded near their headquarters. It was a hopeless situation. However, in order to make a breakthrough, Tadakatsu rushed alone into the front of Asakura Army with holding Tonbogiri. The Tokugawa Army saw what Tadakatsu was doing, thought they should not let Tadakatsu killed in action and roused themselves. The Tokugawa Army charged the side of enemy and defeated allied forces of Asai and Asakura. Nobuhide Oda highly praised Tadakatsu who bring a come-from-behind win to the Army as 'Kajitsu Kenbi no Yushi' (a hero with both bravery and intelligence). The reason why Nobunaga praised him like this was because Tadakatsu wore the armour with the black leather strap binding the plates of armour, the helmet with the big ornaments made of Cervus horn and the big rosary at that time.

For Tadakatsu, Tonbogiri was a partner. Holding Tonbogiri made Tadakatsu confident and convinced him no defeat. I suppose that was the reason Tadakatsu had fought to the end with no injury. Tadakatsu's physical strength had fallen late in life. So, Tadakatsu allegedly made the length of spear shaft short depending on his physical strength at that time. Because of it, it was easy for Tadakatsu to handle spears. Till the end of his life, Tadakatsu wanted to remain as a soldier- I felt Tadakatsu's Yamatodamashii.

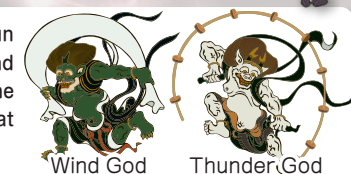


In this column, I am going to introduce this person as well. He was a mere vassal at first but promoted to a Daimyo. But this man returned to the position of Daimyo after his life of masterless Samurai in the kaleidoscopic changes of times.

Muneshige was born as the first son of Akimasa Yoshihiro (Zyoun Takahashi later) who was a senior vassal of Otomo Clan who had six territories at their peak in Bungo Province (Oita Prefecture currently). Afterwards, Muneshige was highly evaluated by Dosetsu Tachibana who was, same as his father, one of the best two in Otomo Clan. Because Dosetsu had no son, Muneshige was adopted by Dosetsu. Zyoun Takahashi, Muneshige's true father, had a legend that Zyoun's troops with a little less than 800 soldiers attacked the enemy which had 40,000 soldiers. Zyoun Takahashi, Muneshige's true father, was allegedly called as Wind God because he was excellent in valour and faithfulness. Dosetsu Tachibana, Muneshige's father-in-law, was also said to be as Thunder God because he won every battle in his life. Muneshige had been raised by these such super men and grew up to a great commander as everyone said, 'Tadakatsu (Tadakatsu Honda) in the East and Muneshige in the West'

bana-his true father was Wind God, his father-in-law was Thunder God 立花 宗茂

Muneshige Tachibana
(1567 -1643 Died in 75 years old)



From a vassal to a Daimyo

In 1586, when Muneshige was 19 years old, Shimazu Clan who aimed at the unification of Kyushu went up north with an allegedly big army of 40,000-50,000 soldiers approximately in order to destroy Otomo Clan. Otomo Clan was in trouble and served Hideyoshi Toyotomi who began the Kyushu Conquest as a vassal. Due to the bad influence that Dosetsu, his father-in-law of Muneshige, had been dead by his illness as well, Otomo Clan was in disadvantageous situations. In addition, Zyoun, his true father, was killed in action with all of a little under 800 soldiers after their heroic do-or-die resistance. The fierce battle against Zyoun had exhausted Shimazu Army. Shimazu Army was going to retreat. Muneshige commenced to pursue Shimazu Army and took several hundred heads of the enemy. Moreover, Muneshige got back two more Castles. Later, Muneshige had got his military success one after another as the first van of western front in Kyushu Conquest by Hideyoshi. Then, Muneshige was put in charge of 132,000 Koku in Yanagawa, Chikugo Province (currently Yanagawa-City, Fukuoka Prefecture). Muneshige had promoted from a vassal to a Daimyo.

The Bunroku-Keicho War against the Ming and Korea armies

When he was 25 years old, Muneshige succeeded very much even under the Toyotomi administration. Muneshige's Army with 4,000 men defeated the Korean Army which had over 50,000 persons. In a fierce battle, Muneshige received spurts of blood from the enemy even on his armour and horse. The sword Muneshige used was warped and unable to sheathe. Like these, Muneshige rampaged at this war. So, Muneshige got the names of 'Kijin (fierce god)', 'Oni-Shogun (lion-hearted general)', 'the invincible brave general in Japan'. The Japanese Army was surrounded by the Ming (current China) and Korea armies which was consisted of about 30,000 soldiers and got into a scrape. The Japanese Army had no breakthrough and held strategy meetings every day. 'It is a waste of time to hold the meetings only. I am going to support our army!' Muneshige said like this and made a night attack with 1,000 men. Japan was saved by Muneshige admirably.

Became a masterless Samurai after Sekigahara

When he was 33 years old, Muneshige joined the West Army at the battle of Sekigahara. But after the battle, because the West squad was defeated, Muneshige was forced to confiscate his territory and became a masterless Samurai. Muneshige shut himself up in his house of Kyoto, Edo and so on. In 1604 (age 37), Muneshige was finally appointed as a vassal of Ieyasu Tokugawa by the recommendation of Tadakatsu Honda. Because he recognized the ability of Muneshige as well, Ieyasu treated Muneshige as a useful man. The prediction by Muneshige about the movement of the enemy in the Summer Siege of Osaka came true. Muneshige also stopped the rebellion against Tokugawa Shogunate. What Muneshige had succeeded was highly evaluated and Muneshige was given the territory of Yanagawa 109,200 Koku, his previous place, in 1620 (age 53)

Muneshige is said to be the only man who was able to return to the position of Daimyo out of Daimyos confiscated their territories after Battle of Sekigahara. We can grasp from this thing only that Muneshige was an excellent general commander. Though his nickname was Oni-Shogun, 'the invincible Japanese' and he seems to be a horrible man, Muneshige in his ordinary life was gentle and a faithful Samurai to anybody. Even when Muneshige was confiscated his territory after the Battle of Sekigahara, the people in his territory said to him, 'let's fight until the last man. Like this, Muneshige was loved by everyone. Since he had had various kinds of success, Muneshige might have been able to get back his former territory. That may, however, mainly owe to the character of Muneshige.

