

I need to exhibit my collection. But they are covered with dust. So, what can I do to take care of them?



I got such a question. So, I am going to introduce how to take care of items in our company.

How to take care of armour and swords

Armour (helmets, visors, protectors and so on)



① Dusting gently with a flap



② Swiping the items with a piece of gauze and towel
(fabric gloves enable you to clean up the details.)



③ Covering them with olive oil slightly
(You have an image to cover them slightly by using a brushing and so on.)

Our company make it a rule to do the process of ① and ② on our cleaning days every week. Checking the condition of items, we cover the items with olive oil. (Cracks of Japanese lacquer) As for ③, observing the condition of items-cracks, drying, etc. of Japanese lacquer, we decide whether we should do that or not. Since the condition of your item is various as well, please feel free to contact us if you have something you are not sure.

Swords



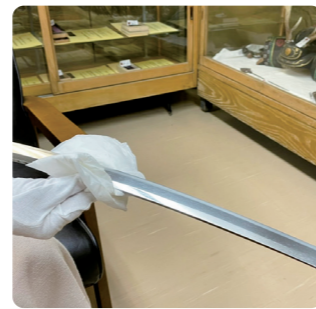
① Removing old oil and dirt



② Getting dusting powder



③ Wiping it with soft cloth and/or tissue paper



④ Covering the item with soft cloth and/or tissue paper containing oil
(We pay attention to not cutting a hand)

- First of all, our firm takes care of items before taking pictures after getting them. In order to avoid rusting, we also repeat this procedure after taking photos.
- When you get our products, please make a maintenance work at least once.

※When you need some gears for maintaining swords, please contact us.

They are our tools for maintenance works.▶



Leaving armour and swords as they are makes your taking care of them difficult. It is not an easy task to recover the original conditions of them. By continuing our maintenance works frequently, our armour and swords keep their good conditions now even after 300 years have passed since these items were made. As the meaning of succeeding Japanese good history and works to the next generation, I expect you to keep taking care of your armour and/or swords.



Our Facebook and Instagram are now available

大名



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

Vol.45
Dec. 2021

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 favor to 'the Daimyo Company Limited' in 2021 as well. There is only a few remaining in 2021 as well. I pray for your healthy lives with smiles and greeting the year of 2022, too. I am looking forward to your support to 'We deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII!' next year as well.



I cannot spend New Year's Eve without reading YAMATODAMASHII! It might be my destiny

Haiku

It means that my destiny is to read YAMATODAMASHII on New Year Eve.

Hello! This is Takako Shimatani. Time flies. There are only a few remaining days this year. How are you doing? You may often hear the words of 'Shiwasu, another name of December, is busy.' in December. There are various opinions about why this word comes to use commonly.

Why does everybody become busy in December?

- ▶ In December, many people in old days used to have memorial service for their ancestors in New Year. For that, Buddhist monks, Shi, were busy and had to run around in order to visit them, which meant 'Shi, Hase(run), Tsuki(month)'.
- ▶ Even most of Buddhist monks who made sutra recitation had no choice except thinking, "I will be late for the next ceremony unless I run!". The Buddhist monks were terribly as busy as they thought like that.
- ▶ December is the last month of year. People though they would finish what they should have done in that year. It means 'Shi(do) Hatsu(finish)'.
- ▶ The preparation for the preliminary celebration of New year to welcome *Toshigami-Sama ※The God who gives people a new age by the traditional Japanese system, a power and luck to live for the next.

Because;

These opinions are addressed. But there seems to be no universally accepted theory. However, it has been said that the time in December was very as busy as people had to run about since the end of Heian era, even 910 years ago.



What the women in Edo Period did in December

1 Susuharai-house cleaning

In Edo Period, every people, regardless of their social status as Samurai family and ordinary people, had to do this Susuharai on every December, 13th. It was a kind of rule. This day was called, Kishuku-bi, which meant it was said to be very lucky to do all of things except wedding ceremonies. They spent a couple of days to clean up all of their dirty places in their houses and were ready for welcoming the next fresh year.

2 Pounding Mochi

After the big house cleaning house, merchants started to pound Mochi. They thought, 'thanks to our customers and neighbors, we can get our sales revenue of this year and run our business'. They used to deliver Mochi to the neighbors with gratitude.



3 Preparing for Osechi, edible special dishes prepared for the New Year, and inedible Kuitsumi. (For offering Toshigami-Sama)

In general, 'herring roe, dried sardines, Tataki-gobou-burdock root seasoned with sesame and black soybeans' were served. People used to eat them in New year with family members, relatives and friends.



4 The preparation for decorating the New Year celebration

A sacred straw rope, round rice cake and New Year's pine decoration were decorated in front of house. A family who had a daughter used to decorate a battledore for praying her being in good health.



Since the day of December, 29th had the pronunciation of 'Ku' which meant 'trouble', it was said to be a bad fortune. So, many people had to end all of the preparation by December 28th. Then, they would have a relaxed time between December, 29th and January 2nd. I thought all of the Japanese people became busy in order to welcome New Year and take their time. That has not changed since the olden days. Shimatani family also has busy time every year because we have a Christmas party, our eldest daughter's birthday party, house cleaning, the preparation for New Year-cooking Osechi and so on. But, like the people in the past, we are going to make house cleaning rather earlier and have a relaxed time at the close of a year. 'We, all of our family members, pray for getting a good new year together!' And 'we also pray that all of you will be able to have a successful year!'



Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. I really appreciate a lot of your readers' opinions and feedbacks this year as well. They make me very happy because I can really feel many readers expected and read my columns. I am going to mention Naginata (Japanese halberd) in this newsletter. Please enjoy the last article of 'I am going to talk about YAMATODAMASHII!' in 2021.

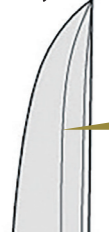


I am going to talk about Yamatodamashii

大和魂

What is the origin of Naginata ?

Shobu-Zukuri (Iris style)



The origin of Naginata was allegedly Tehoko. Naginata was improved for being easy to combat. In order to slice something horizontally with great force and kill the enemy, Naginata was produced as a weapon. A sword of shape called Shobu-Zukuri (Iris style) was attached at the edge of pole. It was said to be the beginning of Naginata

The blade has a similar shape like a leaf of Iris. It becomes sharper, approaching to the point of a sword.

The weight of blade was so light that creators made the width of blade wider and the bend rounder. As a device increasing the weight, a mountain-shaped swelling was added on the back of blade. Such Naginata came to be produced.

Tehoko



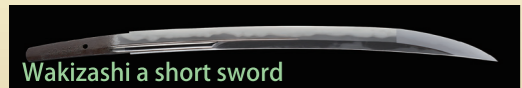
Naginata



The destructive force is too strong.....



Naginata Naoshi (Remake from Naginata).



Wakizashi a short sword

masters were absent. Naginata was very easy to swing downward by gravity if a person was able to swing it up. So, even powerless women were capable of attacking easily. Thus, many ladies utilized Naginata as a weapon in battle. Naginata had been declined after the emerge of spears and was remade to swords as called 'Naginata Naoshi' (Remake from Naginata).

Soldiers were able to kill the distant enemy by Naginata. When they swung Naginata around, they were able to kill the multiple enemy soldiers. Because of the tremendous ability to attack, Naginata was called as the strongest weapon. Naginata was very popular as a main weapon in Nanbokuchō Period. In Sengoku Period, the style of battle changed into battling in group. There were some accidents to cut down friendly soldiers. That caused a big shift from using Naginata to spears. Then some females like legal wives and mother whose husbands and sons participated in battles used Naginata in order to protect their castles whose



Kinds of Naginata

Shizukagata Naginata

It is called as Otoko(male) Naginata as well. This Naginata has no clear definition about its shape and length. The bend of blade is not so round and the width of edge of blade is narrow. It is very similar to a sword of Shobu-Zukuri. They are the characteristics of Shizugata Naginata. This name of 'Shizugata' was given after Shizuka Gozen, a lover of Yoshitsune Minamoto.

Tomoegata Naginata

It is called as Onna (female) Naginata as well. This Naginata has no clear definition about its shape and length. The bend of edge of blade is very round and the width of edge of blade is wide. The name of Tomoegata comes from Tomoe-Gozen

Tsukushi Naginata

This Naginata was often used in Chikushi Area, mainly by 'Otomo Clan', Daimyo in Kyushu Region. The biggest feature of this Naginata is that it has no stalk which is usually in a shaft. On the back of blade, Hitsu, a metal ring, is attached and a shaft penetrates the ring, which uses a unique structure.



Tomoe Gozen;a female military commander!



Tomoe Gozen was a concubine of Yoshinaka Minamoto (Yoshinaka Kiso) in Late Heian Period. Tomoe Gozen attended Yoshinaka and participated in various battles and distinguished herself in war. In 1184, at the Battle of Uji-gawa, Yoshinaka troops were cornered by Yoshitsune Minamoto, the enemy, and gave up all hope to live. Yoshinaka said, 'taking the female company in death is my eternal shame.' and ordered Tomoe to run away. At first, Tomoe declined Yoshinaka's will and kept on fighting without escaping. But finally, Tomoe accepted what Yoshinaka told her unwillingly and was likely to get away. Just from behind, Onda Hachiro Shishige, the enemy commander who was famous for his great physical strength, was getting close. Tomoe said to Yoshinaka, 'I am going to show my last battle.' and made Shishige drag down from his horse and cut his head off. Tomoe shed her helmet and armour in front of the stunned enemy soldiers and had reportedly run away to the east direction. Afterwards, Tomoe was said to have never battled as a female military commander.



Yoshinaka wanted Tomoe to survive and Tomoe wanted to guard Yoshinaka. For Tomoe, the situation that Yoshinaka had been killed was more scared than that of her own death. I feel Tomoe's hope to secure Yoshinaka made her strong as female military commander and kept her beauty as a woman.



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!



In this column, I am likely to tell this man who had struggle against adverse circumstances as well. I am going to make you back in time about him.

The most courageous warrior in Japan

Nobushige Sanada = Yukimura Sanada

真田 信繁

(1567 or 1570-1615 Died in 48 or 44 years old)



Never had he called as Yukimura Sanada!?

Nobushige was well-known as the name of Yukimura. But Nobushige seemed that he had not used the name of Yukimura during his life. Nobushige allegedly made his signature as Nobushige in all his letters currently remained. Why did Nobushige come to be called as Yukimura? There are various theories. The Chinese letter of 'Yuki' (幸) was a character of Tooriji-a specific character which should be used in the name hereditarily-for Sanada Clan. Concerning 'Mura' (村), some opinions said its origin was from the demon sword of 'Muramasa' which had harassed Tokugawa Clan. The novel of 'Naniwa Senki' which described Osaka no Jin (the Siege of Osaka) in Edo Period and the narration of 'Sanada Sandaiki' were big hits. In them, Nobushige was appeared in as the name of Yukimura. So, the name of Yukimura had been recognized widely in public. The novel was written about a general commander who drove Ieyasu Tokugawa into a tight corner in Tokugawa Era. Yukimura made his appearance as a fictitious character in this story.

The battle of Ueda- the name of Sanada Clan was well-known throughout the country

After the death of Hideyoshi Toyotomi, Ieyasu Tokugawa had had his big influence. Against Ieyasu, anti-Tokugawa forces whose leader was Mitsunari Ishida were gathered. Ieyasu sent his troops to Uesugi Clan who belonged to anti-Tokugawa group. At first, Masayuki, Nobushige's father, obeyed Ieyasu. But Masayuki had left Ieyasu and returned to Ueda Castle. Masayuki surrendered Hidetada, Ieyasu's son, who approach to the Castle and got his forgiveness. However, Masayuki did not come to Hidetada's place even after a couple of days since the surrender. Hidetada dispatched a messenger to Masayuki. Masayuki replied, 'I am ready for a battle. Please feel free to make an attack to me anytime'. This reply made Hidetada in anger and commenced his attack with 38,000 soldiers. Sanada Clan had 3,000 soldiers. Sanada forces made some small battles against Hidetada's troops and retreated on purpose. Hidetada's troops had their following attack but Masayuki made a concentrated attack against Hidetada. In other chance, Masayuki used inundation tactics, pretending falling back. Like that, Masayuki had guerrilla fighting preately. This caused the tremendous damage to Hidetada's troops and made Hidetada's withdrawal from this battle. On the other hand, since the anti-Tokugawa forces were defeated at the battle of Sekigahara, Sanada father and child had been in custody. They were not killed but confined to their house at Mt. Koya. Father Masayuki had been dead in the arrest.

Nobushige's last battle

After the battle of Sekigahara, Ieyasu Tokugawa had more power and intended to destroy Toyotomi Clan. In order to do that, Ieyasu blamed on Hideyasu and brought him to a battle. Nobuyuki who had been under the house arrest received a request of support from Toyotomi Clan as well. Nobuyuki contacted the previous retainers of Takeda Clans as well and entered Osaka Castle with 5,000 soldiers. Nobushige built a branch castle called as the 'Sanadamaru', used matchlocks, repelled Tokugawa troops. According to his success in his military operation, Masayuki's ability in military was very famous. Tokugawa who did not quite manage to take Osaka Castle had an offer of having peace talks. Hideyoshi also agreed with it. In the conditions of peace talks, filling up the moat of the Castle was written. Because Tokugawa troops filled up the moat of Castle, Osaka castle, a strong fortress, had been the Castle without guards. After making peace talks, Toyotomi fired a masterless Samurai. Some of the masterless Samurai felt few possibilities of winning the battle and had run away. Toyotomi forces had 100,000 soldiers at first. But the number of remained soldiers had declined to 78,000. The Enemy, Tokugawa troops, had 150,000 soldiers. There were huge differences of military power between Tokugawa and Toyotomi forces. Because Osaka Castle had become a naked castle, these two troops would go ahead with a field battle. In such a situation, Nobushige Squad, Mori Squad and Ono Squad who got ready to die made fierce attacks. Their attacks almost reached the headquarter of Ieyasu twice and drove Ieyasu into a tight corner as same as Ieyasu felt he had no choice but to perform Harakiri. Nevertheless, Ieyasu troops were outnumbered. Hideyoshi forces were gradually defeated. Nobuyoshi also retreated and was finally killed.

Nobushige-making his attack which almost reached the headquarter of Ieyasu. Ieyasu's headquarter was in confusion as well. Ieyasu got his second humiliating experience that his Umajirusi-commanders' flag was down by the attack by Muneshige. His first humiliating experience was at the battle against Shingen Takeda Sanada Clan served. From what Nobuyoshi had done, Tadaoki Hosokawa, a military commander of Tokugawa troops, praised Nobuyoshi as 'the incomparable military successes. Another military commander of Tokugawa troops, Iehisa Shimada, also praised him as 'the most courageous warrior in Japan'. In the historical resources of Tokugawa shogunate and various feudal lord, Nobushige's efforts were remained as the records.

