

# Valentine's Day

Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. Valentine's day is just around the corner. Taishi, my son, becomes restless when this day is approaching. Such my son started to study the Japanese history in his school recently. So, he gave me various kinds of questions about it.

Did the people of former days make chocolate on Valentine's Day?

So, when did Valentine's Day begin?

Did women in the past give some presents to men on that day?

No, Valentine's Day did not come from the Japanese history.

I came under a barrage of questions. Because my failure to answer his questions made me regrettable, I began to research on it.

Ordinary single women of the past did not have any rights to manage their assets. So, they seldom used to give their presents. But, ladies of high rank who had a lot of money seemed to give their loved ones something to carry-wallets, cloth for Kimono and gears for smoking.

Oiran(prostitutes) used to present their fingers, nails and hairs as their proofs of love. Their johns who had got them allegedly treasured what they had got. Popular sex workers were treated well by brothels, too. They received tributes from their johns as well. Because they had a lot of offers from their men, they did not have to give their presents, without using their budgets. Ordinary prostitutes, however, sometimes loved their men

from their hearts. After they considered how to get their men's interests, they cut down their first knuckle joints of little fingers and gave them to their loved ones.....

Now, they are unbelievable gifts. But they were what they showed their ultimate love. Then, in order to pay their debts and get out of a red-light district as soon as possible, some women used fingers to be cut from dead bodies and/or dummy fingers similar to real ones and were going to keep their men's minds desperately.



The prostitutes were desperate to be released from sex services by their men's money even though they broke their backs. Then, they had no money and they were unable to be treated as candidates for girlfriends because they were working in brothels. So, the only way to show their love to their men was just giving parts of their bodies. When I heard this story, I had mixed feelings as one of female. When I told this to my son, he said, 'so scared.....'. Only these words? If so, I was going to make some chocolate as the shape of extreme love.

I created the fingers made of chocolate.

## The origin and history of Valentine's Day

It is said to be the day to worship Cristian Priest Valentine. Under the Roman Empire in the third century, Emperor Claudius II prohibited young men from marrying because the emperor thought marrying would prevent them from being dead for the Roman Empire in battlefields. Valentine felt young men and women who loved each other pitiful and permitted their marriage secretly. But the emperor had noted that and Valentine had been executed. Afterwards, Valentine was worshiped as 'Saint Valentine', a guardian for lovers, and the day of February when Valentine was killed came to be called as 'Valentine's Day'. Later, as 'Lover's Day', many people allegedly have a custom to give gifts on that day all over the world. The contents of presents are various in each country. The reason why chocolate was common for the gifts on Valentine's Day in Japan was reportedly that some department stores sold it as an advertising campaign in order to sell chocolate more.

Please eat what I produced with your mother's affection.♥

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.

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 with One Chinese letter this year

### Go/Do



Happy New Year! This is Takashi Hanamoto. Thank you so much for your support last year, too. I would like to make the slogan of Chinese letter, '行' (go/do) in 2022. I had a lot of things not to have done unconsciously in spite that I was going to do last year. I will make it sure to go the places where the spread of COVID-19 prevented me from going. And I will also have surely done what I had planned to do in 2021. In this year, I want to be conscious about doing what I will do surely. I'm looking forward to working with you this year as well.



### Keep



Happy New Year! This is Takako Shimatani. I was able to complete my goals last year. I am likely to keep my good process and results. I will keep having my positive motivation. And I am going to appreciate all of our current customers and keep good relationship with them. My slogan using a Chinese letter in 2022 is '続' (Keep). I'm looking forward to working with you this year as well.



### Future/Primary



Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. My slogan expressed in a Chinese letter this year is '先' (Future/Primary). I really felt that the year in 2021 had gone in the twinkling of an eye. To put it nicely, my daily life in 2021 was satisfied. But I often thought about how I should have used my limited time efficiently. So, I estimate my near 'future' and take action. If my improvement of efficiency in business saves my time and increases my time to communicate with my customer-it is you! -more, I will be very happy:-)! Then, in my private life, I used to leave my difficult house-work and so on until later unconsciously. So, I will complete it 'primarily.' I am looking forward to your long-term support in 2022 as well.



I am going to mention the origin and change of helmet from this newsletter.



I am going to talk about Yamatodamashii

大和魂

## The origin and change of helmet

◀Tumulus period (250~)

The origin of helmet

'Mabizashi-tsuki helmet'  
'Shokkaku-tuki helmet'

◀Heian Period (794~)

'Ikaboshi helmet'  
'Ichimaibari-kinfuse helmet'

◀Kamakura Period (1185~)

'Akodanari helmet'

◀Muromachi & Nanboku-cho Periods (1336~)

'Suji helmet'  
'Kawari helmet'  
'Toppainari helmet'  
'Momonari helmet'  
'Eboshinari helmet'

◀Azuchi-Momoyama period (1573~)

'Zunari helmet'

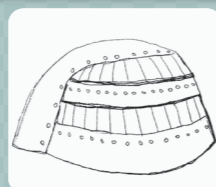
## The origin of helmet

The helmet was produced as a protector for a head against striking, slashing, coming flying and falling objects and so on. At first, fur and so on were allegedly used. Next, because they were relatively easy to seam and shape, leather and paper were said to be used. In China, the shape of helmet and culture to use iron started and were spread to all over the Asia. Finally, Japan got them as well. The Japanese creators of helmets established their own way to produce them. They had made the metallic helmets of 'Mabizashi-tsuki helmet' and 'Shokkaku-tuki helmet' in Tumulus period. Since they were made of metal, being different from the helmets made of leather and paper, the creators were able to produce strong helmets. These helmets were said to be models which had been continued till Edo Period. In these days, the Chinese letter of '青' is used for the helmets made before Nara Period and the Chinese letter of '兜' is used for the helmets made after Heian Period. The reason of distinguish them are various but no uniformed opinion is not given yet.

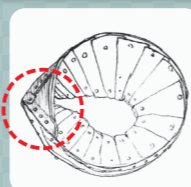
◀The characteristics of 'Mabizashi-tsuki helmet' and 'Shokkaku-tuki helmet'▶



Mabizashi-tsuki helmet was regarded as for the governor and powerful family. Almost all of them were made of iron and their shapes were like modern caps. The big Mabizashi was attached in order to protect against attacking on a forehead and avoid direct sunlight.



←Front



↑From inside

Shokkaku-tuki helmet was very useful because the space of round hole (red dotted line) was settled in order to protect against and let slipping attacking objects. Almost all of them were made of iron. The shape of Shokkaku-tuki helmet was similar to anti-warship weapons attached the bows. That was the reason the name of Shokkaku-tuki helmet was given.

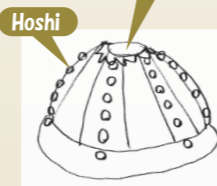
## The technological developments of iron working were going on....

The technological developments of iron working were made and tougher and thicker steel plates came to be available. Because of these, strong and big rivets were used as well in order to join the iron sheets each other and fix. Since the top of rivets which was on the surface of skull part covered a head was called 'Hoshi' (Star), the name of Hoshi helmet was given and 'Ikaboshi helmet' appeared. Another reason of this name was because the helmet had a lot of magnificent rivets. At the top of head, 'the hole of Tehen' was made for penetrating with a chignon wearing Eboshi, a headgear for warriors in battle. Thanks to this hole, the head and helmet cohered. So, the helmet at that time came to be smaller than before. Moreover, putting a pony tail through the hole of helmet enabled to stabilize the position of helmet. Then, a couple straps for fastening a helmet under a lower jaw were only added. Due to that, soldiers had no chance that their helmets slipped off from their heads and blocked their views in battle fields.

In Heian Period when cavalry battles became the major tactic, the tough Hoshi helmet to protect heads was popular, in accordance with Oyoroi (large armour) which protected warriors' body against attack by arrows. The big 'Shikoro', neck-plates of a helmet, were equipped for guarding around a neck and 'Fukikaeshi', two curved panels on the left and right sides of the rim of a helmet, came to be attached in order to defend a face. High-ranked military commanders settled 'Tate-mono', a hoe-shaped helmet crest, in front of their helmets as ornaments. It was allegedly added as what showed the dignity and status of military commanders.

Since these times, the Japanese original shapes and functionality of helmet had developed. As their materials were firm iron, the helmets in those days were so heavy and it was very unendurable for soldiers to wear their helmets for long time. Except encountering the enemy, some soldiers used to carry their helmets on their backs. Other soldiers made their men carry their helmets. The highly-ranked commanders were said to go with a person who specialize in carrying the helmets. Afterward, in order to make weight reduction, the skill to create one big and tough steel plate was found and had been developed. 'Ichimaibari-kinfuse helmet', a helmet that one steel plate was transformed to the shape of hemisphere, was produced as well. This helmet had been created till about Kamakura Period.

The hole of Tehen



Fukikaeshi



Tate-mono



What do you feel about this article? I described the helmets till Heian Period. Soldiers were unable to wear the helmets for long hours, in spite of technological developments of iron working, because the helmets for protecting heads were too heavy. That fact surprised me very much. Then, in order to show general's own dignity and status, even decorations for the helmet had been attached to his heavy helmet additionally. I felt military commander's strong spirit of his existence at a battle field and thought shown with his helmet in them.



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!

In this column, I am likely to tell this man, a craftsman to build a castle.



## Changing his lords seven times

Takatora was born as the second son of Todo Clan who was a powerful family in Omi Province (current Shiga Prefecture). Todo Clan at that time was a downfall in spite of the powerful family. So, the family members of Todo Clan were foot soldiers. Because Takatora's elder brother had been killed in action, Takatora took over as the head of the family and had served these seven lords.

### 1. Nagamasa Asai

Takatora served Nagamasa Asai, a Sengoku daimyo in Ohmi Province

### 2. Atsuji Sadayuki

After Asai Clan had been ruined by Oda Clan, Takatora served Sadayuki Atsuji. But Takatora was in trouble with his colleagues and quitted.

### 3. Kazumasa Isono

Takatora served Kazumasa Isono.



### 4. Nobuzumi Oda

Afterward, Takatora served Nobuzumi Oda, Nobunaga's nephew. But the amount of Takatora's stipend did not increase. Thus, Takatora returned his free life.

### 5. Hidenaga Hashiba

Thanks to the recommendation by Kazumasa Isono, Takatora served Hidenaga Hashiba, the younger brother of Hideyoshi. While he had served Hidenaga, Takatora had more distinguished services in the war. Takatora became a Daimyo with a fief of 20,000 koku of rice.

One of the three masters to construct a castle

Todo 藤堂高虎  
Takatora



1556-1630

### 6. Hideyasu Hashiba

After Hidenaga's death, Takatora served Hideyasu Hashiba, the son-in-law of Hidenaga. Hideyasu had passed away when he was 17 years old. Takatora became a Buddhist priest.

### 7. Hideyoshi Toyotomi

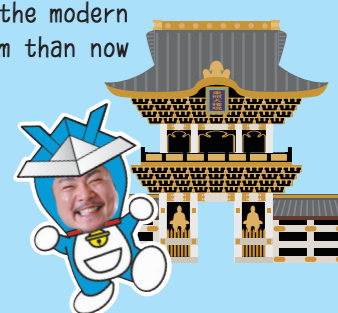
Hideyoshi highly valued the talent of Takatora and appointed Takatora as a Daimyo with a fief of 70,000 koku of rice.



### 8. Ieyasu Tokugawa

After the death of Hideyoshi, Takatora approached Ieyasu Tokugawa with whom Takatora was intimate. Ieyasu evaluated Takatora's plan of betrayal against Hideyoshi highly and nominated Takatora to a Daimyo with a fief of 200,000 koku of rice. After the nomination, Takatora had accumulated a lot of military success eventually and became a Daimyo with a fief of 300,000 koku of rice. Takatora had served till the times of Iemitsu, the third Shogun.

Takatora was said to be a big man whose standing height was 190 cm. Even from the modern standard, Takatora seemed to give a stronger impact to the people who met him than now at that time. Because of his physique, Takatora might have been appointed easily by the new masters. Although he was a Tozama Daimyo (nonhereditary feudal lord), Takatora had enormous trust from Ieyasu. As written in Ieyasu's last words- 'May Tenkai and Takatora always stay around me and be two guards of Tokugawa Clan', Takatora was also worshiped at Nikko Toshogu Shrine with Ieyasu. Takatora may be the happiest Sengoku Daimyo because Takatora encountered the lord who highly evaluated Takatora as being asked to get together even in heaven.



## Building Castles even in a foreign country?

Takatora had involved in constructing a lot of the castles in Japan like Uwajima, Imabari, Sinoyama Castles, etc.. Takatora took part in even building Nikko Toshogu Shrine as well as the castles. Such Takatora built up Suncheon Castle with Hideie Ukita while Hideyoshi Toyotomi dispatched his troops to Korea. The allied forces of Ming and Korea attacked this castle from land and water. But Takatora defended their attack excellently. Takatora was famous as an expert in constructing a castle domestically.



Takatora used the method of making a stone wall called the Nodura-dumi which was the cutting-edge technology at that time. Takatora constructed a water-filled moat to make the best use of nature like a river, sea and so on. Takatora also developed the Soto-style which enabled to shorten the construction period of castle. Takatora had an outstanding sense to build a castle. If he utilized the modern technology of construction in Reiwa Era, what kind of building could Takatora construct? I wish I could see it!

