

Feedbacks from our customers

From Konpira (Aichi Pref.)

Some side stories written in the columns of 'HANAEMON' s I am going to make you back in the times!' always make me feel interesting. They are my favourites. By the way, I have filed all of 'YAM-ATODAMASHII!' newsletters since 2017. They are my important collections.
<P.S.> The finger-shaped chocolate made by Nakabori is like a finger in an animation film. My family members got big fun when they saw it. The chocolate is the best works!

Thank you! The story you have filed all of our newsletters makes me very happy:-). We wonder if we will make the file for our newsletters only. If we make it, we will notice you.
Do you have any historical personages you want us to write in the column of Hanaemon? I am going to inform you about how to make the finger-shaped chocolate by my secret post mail".

From Minotan (Kanagawa Pref.)

You make good research about the history of helmet. Your research is very helpful. I can understand the thought of giver who presented the little- finger-shaped chocolate. But, if you got real one, I would feel scared.

Thanks! To be sure, a receiver who gets it will be surprised. In those days, if a real finger had been sent.....I would get gooseflesh when I thought about it. What about the Tanka poetry in this article? I will be very happy if you get my thought even a little.

From I (Ehime Pref.)

The articles about small tips for maintaining my collection, HANAEMON' s ' I am going to make you back in the times!' and 'I am going to talk about YAMATODAMASHII' are very informative. This quantity of newsletter is enough for me. Too much quantity of articles makes me exhausted. I keep these newsletters between books about helmets without throwing them away. Most of brochures becomes trash. I expect you will give me helpful information from now on.

What a delighted saying.....! Thank you so much. We are going to create a substantial newsletter with good articles to make you not tired. Please look forward to the next newsletter as well. I hope your continuous support for 'We deliver ' YAMATODAMASHII!' from now on.

From F (Gifu Pref.)

You really researched a helmet and Takatora Todo in detail. I thought it might be a beginner' s guide. I feel your newsletters have the enough value to file and keep them. I am looking forward to your articles in the future. I also pay attention to the achievement of staff who wrote about their goals with the Chinese letters, '行', '続' and '先', this year.

Thanks a lot! Beginner's guide.....Your grateful words are very precious for me. We are going to make some columns to let our readers feel, 'interesting!', 'I got it!' and 'too deep knowledge!' from now on. I also keep on studying. I appreciate your ongoing support.

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.

Hello! This is Akemi Nakabori. My son gave me 'Miyako Kombu', a snack whose ingredients were sea weed, in return of the finger-shaped chocolate I had presented (see the previous newsletter)



As eating candies make you increase your weight. So, how about eating 'Miyako Kombu'?

Yes, my son is very gentle. He cares his parents so much.

In the previous column, I wrote about the question of 'what presents did women in the past give to men?'. In general, men used to gift Kimono clothes, ornate hairpins, combs and so on. In case of proposing marriage by men, they gave 'the comb' to women.

'In our married life, there are a lot of hardship and happiness. Let's live with getting together until we die.' - Such intension said to be included in it. In the Japanese language, a comb is 'Kushi'. 'Ku' means hardship and 'Shi' means death. You can overcome the hardship as well if you stay with your loved one. Bu the way, some people presented Tanka poetry as making the proposal of marriage in Heian Period. It must be absolutely happy to get love letters from lovers. It is so romantic!

How about showing your gratitude and affection which are generally rather embarrassing with Tanka poetry? I am going to describe my thankfulness to my customers with my Tanka. Your feedbacks with it are welcomed very much. I am waiting for them.

Was the start of White Day from Japan?

Japan shares 'the culture to give a return gift' when you receive some gifts from others. When men get some chocolate in Valentine's Day, they should give something to women in return..... The trend to give a return gift was born in the young generation. Listening to this trend, 'All Japan Candy Confectionery Cooperative' designed 'the day to present candies' on March 14th, which meant the day of giving a return gift for Valentine's Day. In recent years, the culture of White Day is spreading in the East Asian Area like China, Taiwan, Korea and so on. But Japan is allegedly the only country to send a return gift on March 14th enthusiastically.

In front of my PC's display, your mail made me smile-your thought with five characters. Akemi

<Meaning>

I found a lot of words like 'thank you' and 'my thankfulness' in my received mails. They naturally made me happy and smile unintentionally.



Hello! Continued from the last issue, I am going to talk about the change of helmet. Thank you for a lot of feedbacks from my readers. I am going to write about some useful information. I hope your continuous support.



I am going to talk about
Yamatodamashii
大和魂

The change of helmet from 'Hoshi helmet' to 'Suji helmet'

◆ Tumulus period (250~) ◆

Mabizashi-tsuki helmet
Shokkaku-tuki helmet

◆ Heian Period (794~) ◆

Ikaboshi helmet
Ichimaibari-kinfuse helmet

◆ Kamakura Period (1185~) ◆

Suji helmet

◆ Muromachi & Nanboku-cho Periods (1336~) ◆

Akodonari helmet

I am going to talk about it

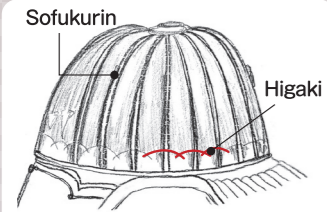


The latter half of Muromachi
Azuchi-Momoyama
Sengoku Period (1573~)

◆ Various helmets ◆

Toppainari helmet
Zunari helmet
Momonari helmet
Eboshinari helmet

The change of Suji helmet and the birth of Akodonari helmet



Many craftsmen to create a helmet thought that to utilize the spaces of bowl in a helmet was important. So, the bowl of this Akodonari helmet was big and the front and backside of swellings of it became large. In order to the helmet lighter, the craftsmen hit iron and made it thin for creating the swelling. Small rivets were used. This helmet had Suji, a line created by Hagiitas were piled, and its surface looked very smooth. From these features, it looked like a pumpkin called 'Akodauri'. Therefore, this name of 'Akodonari helmet' was given. This helmet was mainly produced by 'Haruta Group', the company of craftsmen to create armour and helmet. They worked in Nara Prefecture. Since they had close relationship with Imperial Court, they were invited to other provinces and their influence was spread to Wakayama, Ishikawa, Kyoto, Shizuoka, Aichi and Shimane Prefectures. They were one of the armourer parties who had been active between Muromachi and Edo Periods. The decoration to add Fukurin and Higaki to Suji was called Sofukurin. This figure of helmet became the standard of Akodonari helmet. But this helmet had a shortcoming, which was easy to be broken because thin iron and weak rivets were fragile. At the end of Muromachi Period, this Akodonari helmet had been gradually declined because the disturbances of war became serious. After these times, armour and helmets had been improved more in many ways.

The shapes of helmet had been changed by the times and the styles of battle. 'Why was this shape of helmet a fashion in these times?' -thinking about it enabled me to re-acknowledge more the value of helmet more. Armourers pursued not only the original function of helmet to protect the life of soldiers but also the gorgeousness of it from its appearance. I can feel the craftsmanship spirit of Japanese people in it. Though there are a few existed helmets in a good condition, we need to keep valuable works and succeed them to the next generation. I am going to talk about the helmet after the latter half of Muromachi period.

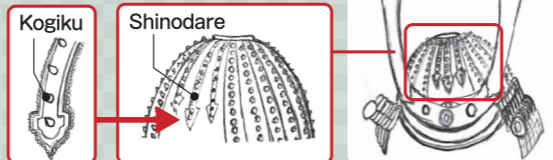
◆ Heian Period ◆

The main stream of tactics in battles was cavalry battles attacking with arrows. So, the purpose of helmet was to protect warrior's head from arrows and so on. The helmet consisted of Hagiita (plate made of iron and leather). Each Hagiita was very tough. The helmet had about 10-18 Hagiitas with big Hoshis (rivet) as the standard of helmet. High-ranked commanders had Tatemono as the decoration on their helmets.



◆ The latter half of Heian Period ~ the middle of Kamakura Period ◆

There were a lot of wars like the Mongol invasion and rebellions in various regions because many people had a lot of complaints against Kamakura Shogunate. So, the demand for armour was rising. And, the armour as the best clothes for warriors had changed gorgeously. The helmet was also changed. The Hagiita was thinner than before. About 20-30 Hagiitas were used for one helmet. The Hoshis were also small and the quantity of them increased. They were called Koboshis (small rivet). A helmet with many Hagiitas and laborious works came to be treated as a high-classed helmet. In addition to that, the helmet had some ornaments like the patterns of Hachiman-za (helmet-top opening), Shinodare (ornamental metal strips) and Kogiku. It was covered with what was called metal-carving in order to look gorgeous. The shape of Tatemono was changed from the Kuwagata (crest) to long Kuwagata and big Kuwagata as well. In order to demonstrate the position of general who led and order his warriors, it was made outstandingly.



◆ The end of Kamakura Period- Muromachi Period Nanboku-cho Period ◆

A lot of wars had happened all over the Japan. The style of battles changed from cavalry battles attacking with arrows to ground battles with swords and pole swords, which was the main current of battle. According to this change, weapons, armour and helmets were transformed. The number of Hagiitas increased- 38-52 boards. The Hoshis were added more as well. The helmet at this period was very luxurious. Since the hole on the top of helmet was often targeted as an attack point, it became small. And its place was moved backwards a little, not settled in the centre. Tatemono came to be added in order to show the dignity and exhibition of warriors wearing the helmet as well. It also meant as a marker in order to prevent from friendly fire on battleground. (See the article of 'I am going to talk about YAMATODAMASHII vol'.28)



◆ Nanboku-cho Period ◆

In Nanboku-cho Period, some spaces were made inside a helmet. The inside of helmet was changed to a big bowl. Cloth and leather as a shock absorber were spread inside the helmet between the spaces. A warrior felt steamed inside the helmet after getting it for long period because his head and helmet cohered. That was one reason. Another reason was to soften the heavy impact to warrior's head caused by the enemy's attack. Moreover, in order to make weight reduction, some craftsmen smashed up Hoshis and made Hagiita flat. By doing that, they aimed at sliding the power of attacking and made those helmets, too.



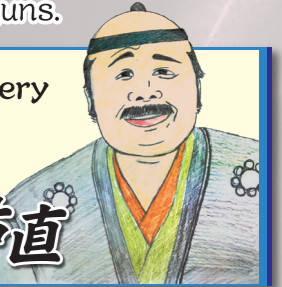
Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!

In this column, I am likely to feature 'an expert at ~'. I am going to make you back in the times with this expert at guns.



Sukenao Inatomi (Inadome) The founder of the Inatomi's Sect gunnery
1552-1611 稲富祐直



Tiger hunting at Korea



Inatomi Clan had served Issiki Clan, a protector of Tango Province, for generations. But, Sukenao came to work for Tadaoki Hosokawa who had destroyed Issiki Clan. Sukenao went to Korea as a member of Hosokawa Forces and joined Keicho Campaign in 1597 when he was 45 years old. In Korea, Sukenao played tiger hunting with Hosokawa and Tachibana Clan's men. As an expert at gunnery, Yusuke took part in this tiger hunting. However, Sukenao's shot did not hit a tiger, but other competitor shots hit it. In addition, the competitor was further away from the target than Sukenao. A rumour circulated that Sukenao might have got scared at the tiger and missed his target.....

Leaving the wife of lord

Sukenao engaged in protecting Garasha Hosokawa, Tadaoki's wife, at Hosokawa's house in Osaka when the battle of Sekigahara occurred (1600) in his 48. When the enemy surrounded the house, Hosokawa's vassals who also guarded her killed themselves with Garasha. On the other hands, only Sukenao had ran away from the house.... Sukenao was fired by Hosokawa Clan. After that, Ieyasu Tokugawa, the ruler of whole nation, evaluated Sukenao's skills and knowledge about gunnery. Thanks to Ieyasu's efforts to remonstrate Tadaoki, Sukenao became one of Tokugawa's men. Sukenao had reportedly made efforts to improve the skills of gunnery and forging swords as Teppogata, an expert of gunnery in Tokugawa Shogunate later.



While he was called as an expert in gunnery, Sukenao missed his shot and ran away from his job as a security staff. Sukenao was thought as entirely coward. Sukenao's other episodes to show his timidity were found. Sukenao had his nickname as 'Niryō Gusoku', which meant Sunekanao allegedly wore two suits of armour one over the other in battlefields. ... On the other hand, Sukenao left some episodes as an expert in gunnery.

- Hit a louse hung at the edge of needle.
- Hit a bird without seeing it from the inside of house
- Never missed the mark with a blindfold.

Like these, there were some superhuman stories about Sukenao.



Then, when Sukenao fought the battle in the besieged castle as a vassal of Issiki Clan, his skilful gunnery annoyed Hosokawa Clan very much. Because he was such an expert, Sukenao was appointed by Tokugawa Shogunate. These good and bad stories show Sukenao's character as an expert in gunnery. Sukenao is really one of fascinating military commanders. Though it is only my presumption, might the reason why Ieyasu employed Sukenao be that Ieyasu was afraid that his strong tactics in gunnery may have transferred to other Clans? Ieyasu thought Sukenao might be a threat to Tokugawa Shogunate and took him in. When I make this hypothesis, I think it is typical of Ieyasu. After that, gunnery was not mainly that it was suitable for Samurai and was evaluated as mean tactics. So, it was not promoted in Edo Period. That might be one of the strategies Edo Shogunate had continued for 260 years after that.