

## How to maintain your collection

# about the Sword Guard

I often got some messages from my client, which is; **I need to know how to maintain the sword guard and how to remove the rust.** So, I am going to inform you about that. The natural enemy for sword guard is humidity, salt and grease of hand (oxidized by the deteriorated oil which has been attached for long time). The method to keep your iron sword guard is various. Our company recommends this way. That is **'to polish cotton cloth and/or soft cloth gently'**.

In the modern times, you can control the temperature and humidity of room. But, in the past, people made good use of the moisture in rainy season and took care of their sword guards. When the rainy season was coming, they took their own sword guards from the boxes. At the end of rainy season, some oil and humidity appeared on the sword guards. Then, they polish them with cotton cloth. People in the past found new rust and so on the next day. And they polished them again. Until they did not get the rust, that work went on. Till the end of summer approximately, they repeated this task every day. Then they kept the sword guards in well-ventilated paulownia boxes to protect from harmful insects and humidity. But the most difficult thing to remove is **'the red rust'**

If your sword guard have some parts with inlaying and detailed works, you might damage these parts. Please handle with care.

## How to get rid of red rust

### Things to prepare

- Cotton cloth
- Soft brush
- Antlers and/or toothpicks

1. Polish with cloth
2. When you rub the red rust with antlers, you can get it.
3. Polish with a brush gently.
4. Polish with cloth again.
5. Dry the handguard under the sun in a sunny day.



When you finish these works, basically it is OK. But you will get another red rust again. If you take enough time and repeat them tenaciously, you can get gentle quality of iron on your sword guard. While you can make another maintenance work with covering with oil, it might lose something glossy of your sword guard. Thus, we do not recommend that so much. But, in case of terrible red rust, you need to cover it with slight cove oil and polish it with cloth. The sword guard beloved very much by its owner and stored has the soft and excellent quality of iron even at first glance. I think you can see it is changing to the elegant sword guard even though you polish it one a couple of months. How about making a maintenance work to your hand guard with using the humidity of this rainy season?

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

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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 Nakabori Akemi. Now, the rainy reason is coming. How are you going? It is damp every day in this season. I dry my washed clothes but they are still wet-not dried completely. However, the rain in this season is also the blessed rain to bring well growth of crops and so on to us. When it comes to equipment to keep out rain, an umbrella is very common. What kind of gears to protect people from the rain in the past were existed?

### The origin of the name, '梅雨' (Tsuuyu-the rainy season)

Since the rain in June had made mold easily in China, the rainy season was called as '霉雨' - (Tsuuyu-the rain of mold). It was also a season that Ume ripened. So, it was called as '梅雨' (Tsuuyu-the rain of Ume) later. In Japan, the rainy season came to be called as 'Tsuuyu' and came from '露' (Tsuuyu-dew). By the way, there is the word of '五月雨' (Samidare-the rain in May). May in the old calendar is now June in the solar calendar. So, it means the rainy season.



### From the woven hat(笠-Kasa) to umbrella(傘-Kasa)

The woven hat had been used mainly as a protector from rain, snow and furthermore strong sunshine. The 'umbrella' held with hands is said to be brought from China in the Tumulus period. It was used for a noble man to protect over his head as Tengai(canopy). Some improvement had been added over time. In Muromachi Period, the 'umbrella' (傘) covered with waterproof grease on Japanese paper began to be in use. In the middle of Edo Period, the 'umbrella' (傘) kept in hands were very common in ordinary people instead of the 'woven hat' (笠). It was generally used not only as utility goods but also for a festival and for hand props in Kabuki widely.



Tengai(canopy)

### Mino (straw rain-cape)

Straw, the material of the rain coat, is water-repellent. Even if it gets rain, rain water runs down along straw. So, the rain water does not percolate inside. At this point, the straw rain-coat has an advantage. But it has some disadvantages. The first one is bulky. The second one is flammable-easy to burn.



### Kappa (raincoat)

Kappa has a shape like a mantle. The Mantle which had been introduced from the Western European in Sengoku Period was made of luxurious materials like woolen cloth and so on. The military commanders such as Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi and so on highly evaluated it. In Edo Era, 'Kami Kappa' (paper raincoat) appeared, which was water resistant-covered with waterproof grease on Japanese paper. It was all-around; cheap, light and convenient. It spread instantly to the public. The Kappa is used in the modern times as well.



The fact that there was the Kappa since Sengoku Period even surprised me. Though the shapes of ancient and modern Kappa are different, I feel the practical function of Kappa remains even though it has been improved day by day.

Hello! This is Shimatani Takako. I am going to talk about the of helmet after the latter half of Muromachi Period.



I am going to talk about Yamatodamashii

大和魂

### Mass prodction????

At the second half of Muromachi Period, 'the Onin War' ① occurred. It made the Muromachi Shogunate weak. As a result, many provinces in Japan were caught up in war. After that, Sengoku Daimyo who governed his territory with his own force appeared. Japan became the more war-torn country. According to the situation, a lot of helmets and general armour which were essential for a large number of soldiers in group battles were created. Those who produced these gears for battels had to use a manufacturing method which was rational and simple. So, 'Toppainari helmet' ② and 'Zunari helmet' became popular because;

Simply structured and mass production was available

Consisted of a few low-cost parts

The high defence capability on its surface against attack because of the combination of round and flat surfaces

- ①. The war caused by the succession race of Ashikaga Yoshimasa, the eighth Shogun.
- ②. The various kinds of Chinese letters to have same pronunciation of 'Toppai' were existed.

#### Toppainari helmet

The helmet whose top was sharp



##### The characteristics

The bowl was one iron plate. The both edges of the iron plate were winded up and fastened. The bowl for high-ranked Samurai was black lacquered and had all ornamental borders with two iron plates hammered.

#### The variety of Toppainari helmet

##### Shii(chinquapin) shape



The top was like a chinquapin

##### Kaki(persimmon) shape



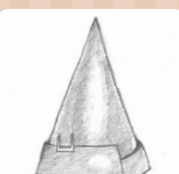
The top was like a persimmon

##### Hude(brush) Gashira



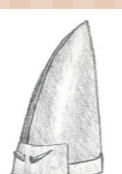
The shape like the top like a brush

##### Kiri(drill) shape



Sharp and slender like a drill

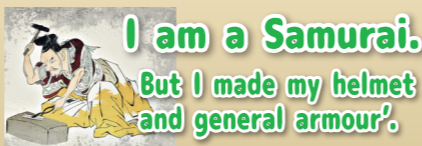
##### Tsunosaki



Like a triangular pointed hat. It was the easiest hat to make

### The military commander produced helmets????

In spite of the military commanders, Hineno Bicchuno Kami Hironari and Hosokawa Ecchuno Kami Tadaoki had intimate relationship with armorer and devoted themselves to create helmets. They thought about the feature of Kozunari helmet, developed and completed them with the high functionality at actual combats. They were 'Hineno Zunari' and 'Ecchu Zunari'



#### Zunari helmet

The helmet who had a shape of human's head.



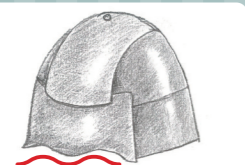
##### The characteristics

The bowl consisted of five plates: 'Top plate' 'Side plates' -left and right 'Koshimak(surrounding) plate' -wide 'Front plate'

#### The variety of Zunari helmet

##### Kozunari

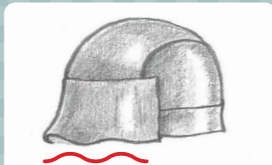
designed by Hineno Bicchuno Kami Hironari (1518-1602)



The top plate was Mabisahi piled from the top. Mabisahi was smooth **Curve-line** shape There is a hole on Tehen(top)

##### Hineno zunari

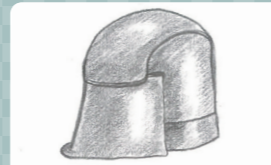
designed by Hineno Bicchuno Kami Hironari (1518-1602)



The top plate was Mabisahi piled from the bottom. No hole on Tehen(top) Mabisahi was smooth **Curve-line** shape

##### Ecchu zunari

designed by Hosokawa Ecchuno Kami Tadaoki (1563-1646)



The top plate was Mabisahi piled from the top. No hole on Tehen(top) Mabisahi was smooth **Straight-line** shape

Suji helmet used a lot of metal luxuriously and had a good looking as well. But it had approximately two kilograms in weight, which meant it was not suitable for wearing for long hours. On the other hand, the weight of Zunari helmet was about one kilogram and a soldier was able to put it on for a long time. It did not look so gorgeous. But the bowl of surface was mixed with flat and round shapes. So, it was easy to protect a warrior from the attack of sword, spear, Naginata sword and gun's bullet, which meant useful for actual combat. Since the gun was mainly used in battles, Zunari helmet with high capability to protect Samurai became popular. The very military commander who was at battle fields was able to improve the helmet. Because of that, some original decorative helmets based on 'Hineno Zunari' as a prototype were fashionable. The helmets Tokugawa Ieyasu, Sanada Shigenobu, Ii Noamasa Tachibana Muneshige and Sen No rikyuu dressed were also the arranged decorative helmets. I am going to talk about 'Momonari helmet' and 'Eboshinari helmet' in the next column.



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!

I am likely to feature 'an expert at ~' this year. I am going to make you back in the times with this expert at naval battles.

The Pirate Daimyo



九鬼嘉隆

Yoshitaka Kuki

1542-1600



#### Nobunaga's man

Yoshitaka was born as the third son of Kuki Sadataka whose base was at Ago District in Shima Province (a part of Shima City in Mie Prefecture currently). There was a battle in Shima Province and Yoshitaka's elder brother was killed in action. Because of that, Yoshitaka had to help his nephew. When Yoshitaka was 27 years old in 1569, Nobunaga invaded Kitabatake Tomonori. Yoshitaka joined Nobunaga's forces with his navy soldiers and got some military success like occupying a castle and so on. That made Nobunaga appoint Yoshitaka as a retainer. Since Nobunaga supported Yoshitaka as well, Yoshitaka got Shima Province. Nobunaga told Yoshitaka to take over the head of Kuki Clan. Yoshitaka became the leader of Kuki Clan.

#### As the naval force of Oda

In 1576, the sea battle between Mori and Oda Navys occurred in the First Battle of Kizugawaguchi when Yoshitaka was 34 years old. Oda Navy had lost a lot of battle ships by Horokudama, an explosive used by Mori Navy like a hand grenade which contained gunpowder in ceramics and was thrown to the enemy, and accidental fires. As a result, Oda navy was defeated. Because of this failure, Yoshitaka built a Big Atake-bune, a battleship covered with thin steel plates around the surface of wooden ship. Yoshitaka, moreover, created a warship carrying big guns and heavy artillery. In 1578-in his 36, Yoshitaka attracted the enemy nearby and bombarded them. After that, Mori Navy was afraid of Oda Navy led by Yoshitaka and Mori Navy made a retreat. The success in this military operation made Yoshitaka appointed to the Daimyo with 35,000 goku.



#### For Kuki Clan

After the death of Nobunaga, Yoshitaka served Hideyoshi. After Hideyoshi had passed away, the Battle of Sekigahara broke out. In order to maintain Kuki Clan, Yoshitaka participated the Western Army. Moritaka, Yoshitaka's son, took part in the Eastern Army. When the Western Army had lost, Moritaka appealed Tokugawa Ieyasu for mercy in his father's life. Since Moritaka got a huge military success in the Battle of Sekigahara, his appeal was accepted by Ieyasu. However, Toyoda Goroemon, a retainer of Kuki Clan, thought the pride of Kuki Clan significantly and prompted Yoshitaka to perform hara-kiri. Yoshitaka accepted it and had done it (died at 59).



Afterwards, Tokugawa Shogunate banned the ownership of big vessels by Daimyo in order to weaken the military and economic power of Daimyo. It was Moritaka, the head of Tokugawa Navy, who accepted the confiscated ships. That was the Moritaka's last task as the commander of naval force as well. It gives me mixed feelings.