

I had an experience of

Drawing a Sword at Katanaba in Asakusa.



Come!

The owner of this Katana shop is my customer and buys some swords using for slashing them. I have seen a lot of swords but it was my first experience to cut something with a sword.

It was my first experience and made me nervous. When I held a sword, my more concentration increased naturally. I have never got the moment I was able to cut an object quickly very well without any stress. I had a feeling to be a real Samurari for a while. It was the very precious experience for me.

lai-jutsu, a technique of drawing real swords, is said to be founded in the late Muromachi period. 'Tachiai', facing against the enemy with unsheathing a sword, is a duel with being ready for fighting each other. On the other hand, 'lai' is a duel in case of being attacked by the enemy before being prepared for fighting. So, the instant of unsheathing a sword is allegedly very critical. Thus, some groups use the words of 'Battou(抜刀-unsheathing)', meaning 'lai'.

The founder of lai-jutsu is said to be 'Hayashizaki Jinsuke'. Jinsuke who was born in 'Dewa Province' (Dewa-no-kuni : currently Yamagata Prefecture) had lost his father, who was foully murdered in Jinsuke's early childhood. In order to revenge the assassin, Jinsuke went on knight-errantry when he was 13 years old. It was said that Jinsuke led a secluded life in Kumano Myojin and reportedly received the secrets of 'Shinmyo Hijutsu no Junsuiba' (the genuine mystic unsheathing skill brought by the God). In his 20, Jinsuke killed 'Sakagami Shuzen' who assassinated Jinsuke's father at Kyoto and had accomplished his purpose. Afterwards, Jinsuke trained a lot of disciples in every place and established the base of lai-jutsu.

lai-Battou Katanaba

Address:
2-27-17, Asakusa,
Taito-ku, Tokyo, Japan

In All Japan Battou-do Championship, the owner of this shop has made a lot of achievements as well. He is a specialized instructive swordman. Since he teaches you safely, you can have an experience to draw a sword at ease even though you are a beginner. If you have a chance to head to Tokyo, please make it sure to have a real sword experience.

(11AM-4PM) ***Reservation required***



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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有限会社 **大名**

Daimyo Company Co., Ltd.



We deliver

大和魂

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The Philosophy of Daimyou Ltd.

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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

初

(First)

Happy New Year! This is Hanamoto Takashi. Thank you so much for your support last year, too. I would like to make the slogan of Chinese letter, '初' (First) in 2023. Compared with the previous couple of years, I suppose I will relatively have some spare time in my heart. I remember my first state of mind afresh, don't forget my first experience about my business and am going to try new first things as well.

I bear it in mind to show the thankfulness to my customers, staff and family and go forward step by step steadily without forgetting my first experience about my business. I'm looking forward to working with you this year as well.



Happy New Year! This is Shimatani Takako. My slogan using a Chinese letter in 2023 is '上' (up). My second daughter will become a junior high school student this April. So, I am going to make her spirits up as a mother in order to let her spend her happy life in her junior high school. Then, I will grade up my merchandise knowledge more and suggest the best thing satisfying customer's needs. I hope your sustainable support this year as well.



力

(ability)

Hello! This is Nakabori Akemi. I hope you will keep your continuous support in 2023 as well. My slogan expressed in a Chinese letter this year is '力' (ability). I tend to spoil myself in my private life. I easily compromise in various ways and give up what seem to be difficult for me soon-especially, I abandon reducing my weight before I begin it...So, I improve my better ability to decide and make action than that last year. And I make a progress of my ability to complete what I decided to the end. Concerning with my carrier, I will have more ability to unite with other staff than before and make the best efforts to give you, my customer, better service! I can!



Hello! This is Shimatani Takako. I am going to talk about 'the helmet in Edo Period'



The change

In the late Muromachi Period, there were many wars all over Japan. So, the helmets for actual combats were produced. But in the Edo Period, not only favourite but also more decorative outstanding helmets were in fashion. However, after there were few wars between Samurai, the demand for armourers disappeared. As a result, the helmets for a war came to change to 'the helmet for decorating'.

What was 'the helmet for decorating'?

Due to a feudal society, Samurai had to receive strict punishment in case that he took action against Tokugawa Shogun Clan, his master and so on. In such a society, what would have they thought if he had made his helmet for a war? It was natural for him to be treated as a rebellion. Therefore, the model 'retro' helmet and armour, in particular the old armour like large armour which was evaluated beautiful as an art object and ornament and so on, came to prevail. Since the middle of Edo period, to create a helmet and armour which were created by armourers retained by feudal lords and highly valued as arts and crafts became mainstream. Daimyo let armourers' skills of forging steel and crafts compete between each group and made each local colour. In order to look fine and gorgeous when decorating helmets, the armourers were particular about the details. The helmet was changed to the high-quality art-object.

What are the characteristics of retro helmet?

The retro helmet modelled the one which had been in fashion between Heian and Kamakura Periods.

			<p>The shape → viewing this part from the top</p> <p>The hole for hair to go through was big. The decorated metal plates which size was 4.5-5.2cm (Heian) or 3cm (Kamakura) were layered.</p>
<p>Heian-Kamakura Periods</p> <p>One or two dozen Ken (a part of helmet)</p>	<p>The rivets on Shinodare (ornamental metal strips) of Hoshi helmet</p>	<p>The rivets on Shinodare (ornamental metal strips) of Suji helmet</p>	<p>The top of helmet was thought to be the holy place for the God and decorative 9-13 metal plates whose materials were red copper, crude copper, brass and so on were piled up.</p>
<p>Heian-Kamakura Periods</p> <p>The rivets were tacked along Suji (Red)</p>	<p>The same size. 7-10 rivets (Heian) 10-15 rivets (Kamakura)</p>	<p>The Shishi (lion)-shaped high relief (Heian) and type of lacquer ware (Heian)</p>	<p>The long-curved lines were used on the top (Kamakura)</p>
<p>Edo Period</p> <p>The rivets on Hosi-helmet were tacked between the centre of Suji</p>	<p>The rivets got smaller as the top of bowl. More than 25-30 rivets</p>	<p>The neck guard and crest seat were decorative. (The neck guard was very tough in order to protect a neck. It spreaded like the skirt of mountain.)</p>	

With the end of helmet and armour

In the late Edo Period and the last days of Tokugawa Shogunate, the anti-Shogunate movement occurred. The time of wars and the helmets for a war returned. The helmets which were easy to make and mass-produce were in need. But, the main weapons for the war at that time were Western style gunstocks, artillery gun and so on, not arrows, swords, matchlock guns and so on which were used in previous wars. Because of this change, the former helmets and armour were not fit for the ways of battle in the new era, which meant their ends.

<p>Momonari and Suji helmets made of leather armour</p>	<p>Boushi (hat) helmet</p>	<p>Kusari Zukin (chain hood)</p>
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In this article, I finish the article about 'the change of helmet'. What do you feel about? The helmet has been changed as below: The helmet for protecting a head → The outstanding helmet for being distinguished in wars → The good-looking and beautiful helmet when it was decorated. The process of my research made me happy. The armourers in Edo Period failed to copy the helmet for a war perfectly due to the lack of resources even though they wanted to make them. But I feel the Japanese culture to succeed good old products to the future generation. Even in our modern times, a few armourers are keeping and fixing the good old products in order to do that. I also expect I can hand down good Japanese culture from generation to generation about my specialized fields from now on.



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in the Japanese history at the Kurihara elementary school!



Hello! I am Takashi Hanamoto, also known as 'Hanaemon'.

I delivered a lecture to the sixth-grade elementary students about the Japanese history in Kurihara elementary school, Onomichi City, Horoshima Prefecture the other day. This Kurihara elementary school is my old school and my son goes to this school as well. Then all of my employees' children study at this school, too. As I was likely to have a two-hour lecture which was prolonged to the students, I wondered what contents would be better in order to make the students feel interesting and had been preparing for that with my staff as one.

The first class

I made the self-introduction of my firm and talked about armour and Japanese swords. 'You say armour in one word. But it has various shapes, colours and materials.' 'The Japanese swords are same as well. The shapes and length of them are different.' 'Do you know about the motif of this helmet?' - when I made this question to the students, most of them raised their hands actively and expressed their opinions. That made me very happy. After the first class, a child who had some interests in armours, helmet and Japanese swords asked me, 'I would like to have a look at your resource once again. Could you show the slides of Power Pont?' The fact there were some students listening to my lecture seriously moved me.



The second class

After a short break, I let the students touch real the armour and helmets. When I handed off the sword and helped a boy hold it with his both hands, he said 'How heavy it is! Did the Samurai flourish such a sword?' He was so excited. I found a long que at the section to wear the replica of helmet.

Q&A session

The students to take part in this quizzes made a big noise when they moved between the O and X sections.

Where did Samurai buy armours and horses?

Didn't wearing armour make a pain to shoulders?

What was the most common weapon Samurai had?

How long does an arrow fly?

I got a lot of questions

At the end of my class, one of the students concluded what I lectured.

'We also need to succeed the Japanese history we listened to today and the armour we looked at to the next generation.' I got such excellent feedback and ended up my class.

Well done!

These students are candidates for the next 'Hanaemon'. I am waiting for you in Daimyo Co.Ltd.!



'For what do I engage this job?' - it was ten years ago that I started to think about such a thing. It would have been very happy for me if I had delivered a lecture to give children the 'chances' to have some interests in and like the Japanese history someday. On that day, I saw the scenes the students looked at and touched the armour with stars on their eyes. That made me very really amazing. If I had another chance, it would be very happy for me to let me teach the Japanese history in another school next year as well.