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'Domaru', 'Haramaki' and 'Haraate' were made for the lower-class Samurai in order to be armed lightly.

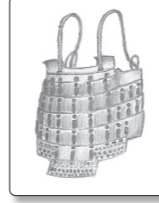
### Domaru

In the middle of Heian Period, the change from one-on-one cavalry battle with shooting to 'group battle' was occurred. Due to this change, Domaru started as the armour for lower-class Samurai, an infantry man in order to be armed lightly. The characteristic of Domaru is the structure to draw the edges of Do together under the right armpit. That was thought to make the development of Domaru-style Keiko. In order to get a quick move, some devices to reduce the weight of armour on shoulders and hold it with the waist were introduced. Kusazuri consisted of eight plates and each plate had four layers. Wakiita to cover the space made when drawing the edge of Do together was added. On Wadakami(the straps on shoulders), Gyoyo and so on to protect the top of chest were equipped. But, the lower-class Samurai did not have enough budget. At that time, they generally did not get any helmets, shin guards, straw sandals, etc.



### Haraate

Haraate was used from the latter half of Kamakura Period to the Muromachi Period in an infantry battle. It covered the sides and front of trunks only. Kusazuri had three plates, which were short in length. The covered parts were the sides and front of trunks only and very weak at a back-side. It was the characteristic of Haraate.



### Haramaki

Haramaki was born in Nanbokucho Period. It covered all Do parts and Kusazuri had generally seven plates. It was same as Haraate about drawing the edges of armour together on the back. It also had long Kusazuri covering the thighs. At that point, it was similar to Domaru. Judging from these features, Haramaki can be said the armour mixing the merits of Domaru and Haraate as well. Haramaki had an unprotected space on the back and its weak point had remained. Afterwards, 'Seita', a plate to protect the back with inserting between the spaces of backside and armour, came to be put. But it estimated the case that a solder would show his back to the enemy. So, this plate was called 'a plate for chicken', too. It was said that Samurain never exposed his back to the enemy and this plate was not used so much.



**These kinds of armour were easy to wear and move. Thus, high-class Samurai came to get them.**

The history of battle is the history of armour, too To protect the lives of Samurai, many armourers had researched the armour, made it solid and easy to move and improved it- I imagined. But that gave me mixed feeling because there had been a lot of lives to be sacrificed. On the other hand, I thought only the classical Oyoroi meant the peaceful armour. I am going to talk about Tosei-gusoku no Do in the next column.

### The notice for next article

**F...fi...finally,** Japan formally decided to downgrade the legal status of the Covid-19 to 'Class 5' the same category as common infectious diseases such as seasonal influenza. We can take an enjoyable travel eventually. We stopped our happy travel since August 2000. But, wow, **we will resume 'the eventful journey of Daimyo-exploring the Japanese history'**. We cannot help enjoying that from now. We are going to learn the Japanese history seriously. Where did we visit?..... Wait and see for the next newsletter!



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.



It is a rainy season, now. How are you spending these days? This is Shimatani Takako. My second-eldest daughter becomes a junior high school student and I exert myself to make Bento (box meal) every morning. Since June in Japan is the season for food poisoning, I pay attention to letting the foods in her Bento not go bad. And I am always aware of cooking 'the home-made Bento' whenever possible.



### The history of Bento

The time to take meals except home is said to have begun since around the fifth Century. The people at that time used to eat 'Hoshiii', steamed rice that has been dried. They soaked the dried rice in hot water or water and ate them. It is said that the origin of current 'Bento' was by Oda Nobunaga. When he delivered simple meals to many people, the meal given every person was named 'Bento' (配当を弁ずる/Haito wo Benzuru-delivering a meal to each person) by him. And the model of Bento box was allegedly 'Sagejyu', which was brought by the nobility when they used to go out. In Edo Period, the custom to eat three meals in a day was common and meals were also served when people saw 'Kabuki' and 'Noh' plays. Bento served between acts was called as 'Makunouchi Bento' and is still eaten in the modern times. 'Ekiben' -sold in trains and stations in Meiji Period; 'Mahobin Bento' -which was able to keep warm for long hours after Showa Period; 'Dokaben' -huge Bento; 'Kyaraben' -made like mascot characters in animation films and so on; 'Decoben' -very colourful with ingredients. These various kinds of Bento have been emerged.

My second-eldest daughter?



Thanks, always!

What was your favourite and tasty side dish in Bento on your school days? My favourite side dish was Japanese rolled omelette. My daughter gives me her feedback about the Bento I cooked as 'today's Beto is very tasty as well....I feel the side dish of OO is the best today!', which makes me very happy. So, I have cooked too much unconsciously. I hope she feels my big affection through 'Bento' Then I cook another Bento contained with low salt for my important partner-husband-who has high blood pressure. I make it with my wish to return normal blood pressure. My Bento please them. That makes me very happy, too.

### Today's menu

- Japanese meat and potato stew ●Meat balls
- Japanese rolled omelette ●Mayo-salad of spinach and tuna
- Boiled seasoned Enoki mushroom with tubular fish-paste
- Daikon radish and Shiitake mushroom seasoned with sesame sauce
- Brown rice tea to make you beautiful

I come to my office because I can't wait my Bento time.

Oops! ☆(-w<)



Any comments, requests, opinions, etc. Everything is OK! I expect your feedback.





# I am going to make you back in times!



In this column, I am going to make you back in the times with another man, one of the three major military generals skilled at strategy in the Chugoku Region.

One of the three major military generals skilled at strategy in the Chugoku Region One of Japan's three greatest villains in the Sengoku Period.

## Naoie Ukita

1529-1581 宇喜多直家



### Wandering childhood

Naoie was born in Bizen Province (currently the southeastern area of Okayama Prefecture) as the son of Ukita Okie who was a vassal of Urakami Clan, Shugodai (deputy military governor) of Bizen Province. But Naoie's grandfather had been involved in the conflict of Urakami Clan and lost. Finally, the grandfather had been killed and Naoie and his father came to move aimlessly from place to place. In addition, Naoie's father had passed away during their moving.

### As Urakami Clan's man

Naoie became a retainer of Urakami Munekege after his having coming-of-age ceremony. Naoie did splendid service at his first battle and was appointed as a lord of a castle. Some people wondered whether Naoie was able to secure it or not because Naoie was so young and had not had enough experience of actual battles. Moreover, the castle Naoie was assigned was settled in the frontline. However, Naoie had made secure the castle and completed his job excellently. Naoie contributed to the expansion of Urakami Clan over further

### A large amount of murders

There were a lot of murders Naoie named as a ringleader was said to involve in.

#### Shimamura Moritsura

**revenging Naoie's grandfather**  
Moritsura had both military and political power in Urakami Clan overwhelmingly. The power differences between Naoie and Moritsura was huge. So, Naoie intended to kill Moritsura and spread the rumour of rebellion. Eventually, Naoie succeeded in making Moritsura purged.

#### Nakayama Katsumasa

**Naoie's father-in-law**  
Katsumasa highly evaluated Naoie who had gradually gained power in Urakami Clan. Katsumasa married off his daughter to Naoie, which meant Katsumasa and Naoie related by marriage. Nevertheless, Katsumasa was an obstacle for Naoie because Naoie needed to increase in his own strength. Naoie started a rumour that Katsumasa was also planning a rebellion. Naoie got a success in forcing Katsumasa purged. In addition, Naoie even seized Nakayama's territory artfully.

#### Kanemitsu Munetaka

**ex vassal of Mimura Iechika**  
Naoie who had killed Mimura Iechika and got the territory of Miura Clan was likely to form a castle town in Okayama to which Naoie had had an eye since some time ago. Then, Naoie falsely accused Munetaka having the territory in Okayama of the secret communication with Daimyo Mori and drove Munetaka into performing Harakiri. After Naoie changed his residential castle to Okayama, Okayama made a huge development.

#### Mimura Iechika

**Daimyo in Bicchu Province (the western part of Okayama Prefecture now)**  
Concerning with Bicchu Province, Naoie had been against Iechika and lost a few castles by his attack. Naoie had a hard time with capturing Iechika's territory. On the other hand, Naoie's spy with a handgun sneaked in Miura Army during a council of war. The man assassinated Iechika and gained the result of his death and the place to create guns. This became the first assassination to VIP by a gun in Japan.

#### Matsuda Motokata

**Naoie's son-in-law**  
Naoie married off his daughter to Motokata who was in hostile relations with Naoie in Bizen Province. In addition, Naoie sent his sister as a wife of Matsuda Clan's retainer and made a proposal for peace. One day, Naoie lured Ugaki Youemon, the vassal of Matsuda Clan, out into hunting. Naoie's man killed Youemon with the absurd excuse, 'I have mistaken Youemon for a deer and shot him.' Naoie pressured angry Motokata inappropriately and did not accuse the crime of his man who had killed Youemon. Though Motokata had his man killed, Motokata did nothing. That made the group of Motokata's men go mad. Because of this incident, an internal conflict occurred. Naoie made a use of this conflict and let Iga Hisataka, the husband of Naoie's younger sister, murder Matsuda Motokata, his master. Finally, Naoie poisoned Iga Hisataka.

#### Iga Hisataka

**the husband of Naoie's younger sister**

#### Ugaki Youemon

**the vassal of Matsuda Clan**

#### Urakami Hisamatsumaru

**Naoie's master**  
In Urakami Clan, Naoie had strengthened his power and decided his independence. Naoie claimed against Urakami Munekege, Naoie's master, that Hisamatsumaru, the grandson of Munekege's brother, was a legitimate master and had him as the master. Naoie made rebellion against Munekege and succeeded in it. Next, Naoie killed Hisamatsumaru who was not essential to him with poison.



Even though it was Sengoku Period, Naoie had killed even his father-in-law, son-in-law and the husband of Naoie's younger sister. After he had repeated a lot of murders, Naoie became Sengoku Daimyo governing Bizen Province (the south eastern part of Okayama Prefecture), Bicchu Province (the western part of Okayama Prefecture) and a part of Mimasaka Province (the north eastern part of Okayama Prefecture) from a wanderer in his lifetime. As a result, Naoie retrieved Urita Clan's fortunes. Such Naoie had not purged his men. Naoie might have been gentle to them. Or that might have been his calculation.... By the way, Ukita Tadaie, Naoie's younger brother, had this story, 'when I meet my elder brother, I always get general armour under my outfit'. The reason why Naoie was kind to his retainers was thought to be his intention.

Hello! This is Nakabori Akemi. I am going to talk about 'Do(cuirass)' improved from Tanko and Keiko in this column.



I am going to talk about Yamatodamashii



## The change of Do

written about them in this article

Heian ~ Muromachi Periods

Oyoroi, Domaru armour, Haramaki (the armour to protect the chest and stomach) and Haraate(the armour worn around the stomach)

Yayoi, and Kofun (Tumulus) Periods

Tanko (short metal body armour) and Keiko

Sengoku Period ~

Tosei-gusoku no Do

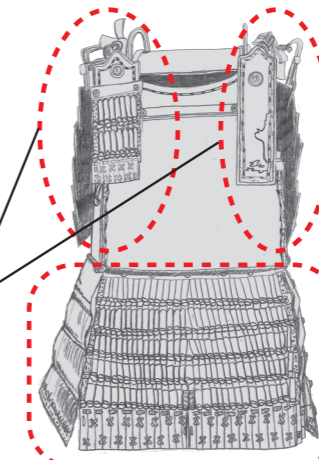
## The stream of Do times

### "Oyoroi" (large armour)

Between Heian and Kamakura Periods, Kishasen-individual mounted shooting-was common, which meant each cavalier faced one-to-one, announced his name and shot an arrow from a bow when passing each other. The fact that this tactics was used in general came to need another type of armour different from Tanko and Keiko. At that time, iron was a precious material and very expensive. Because of that, the lower-class Samurai who was poor failed to wear Oyoroi. Instead, the high-class Samurai got it.

### Chest plate / Sandalwood plate

Both sides under the arm-pits are vital spots because they have uncovered spaces and the enemy is easy to shoot an arrow to them. In order to prevent that, Chest plate and Sandalwood plate were suspended from shoulders as protectors.



### Yongen Kusazuri (four-plate armour for the under body)

When Samurai rode a horse and took a saddle, Yongen Kusazuri surrounded his thighs with the four plates like a box. They have very rational shapes from the viewpoint of protection.

Easy to make a movement of drawing a bow smoothly



Superior to be secure against enemy's arrows.



Since these two elements were significant, Oyoroi was produced. In this connection, Oyoroi has another name as 'Sikisho no Yoroi', which means Oyoroi is the very most prestigious and official armour. The change of tactics like the importance on an infantry action had made the disappearance of Oyoroi from battle fields at the end of Muromachi Period. However, there was no war during Edo Period. So, Oyoroi which had an aspect of ornament was thought to be important and evaluated as a work of art. Then, the 'retro' Oyoroi came to be created as the symbol of Samurai Class.

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