

In a lunch time at the office of Daimyo

- Nakabori 'now, this year is almost over.'
- Shimatani 'yes, we were able to get an excellent dream this year.'
- Nakabori 'that' s right! We had the travel in OKinawa. It is a good dream.
- Shimatani 'we wish a good dream next year as well'
- The president 'no way! It is impossible to make it every year.'
- Shimatani 'when it comes to a dream, I imagine the first dream of the year. What was the origin of "Ichi Fuji, ni taka, san nasubi"?' (The first is Mt. Fuji, the second is hawks, and the third is aubergines.)

The president Shimatani Nakabori



What is 'Ichi Fuji, ni taka, san nasubi??'

It was an ancient tradition in Edo Period. This turn of three things was a good omen in order. At that time, people believed an act of receiving a divine revelation in a dream. They used to tell their fortune. When a new year came, the dream in the first night of New Year was treated as the prediction of good or bad luck in New Year.



Why Mt. Fuji, hawks and aubergines?

- 1.The opinion to line up what had great value in Suruga Province, currently the centre of Shizuoka Prefecture, in order.
- 2.The opinion that what Tokugawa Ieyasu liked were Mt, Fuji, hunting with a falcon and the first aubergines of season.

There were various opinions. But the main theory was a game of making puns as below.

'Fuji' meant immortality(不死-Fuji) and long life.

'Taka' (hawks) meant catching and taking some good things like hawks, the kings with dignity in all birds.

'Nasu' (aubergines) meant achievement, things to develop (「生ず」「成す」-Nasu)



By the way,

what was highly evaluated in the first dream of New Year was not only three? Yon sen, Go tabako, Roku Zatou' (The fourth was fans, the fifth was cigarettes, and the six was blind men shaved their hair)

Sen (fans)

-its shape when opened was Suehiro-gari (broadening towards the bottom). So, it meant the prosperity of descendants and success in business.

Tabako (cigarettes)

-its smoke rose highly (in Japanese, 'Kemuri ga Agaru'). So, it meant lucky (in Japanese 'Un ga Agaru')

Zatou

-it showed blind men shaved their hair. Their shaved hair (毛が無い-Kega Nai) meant no injury (怪れない-Kega Nai), which expressed the hope of peace and prosperity in the household.



I wish I could give our customers the best services next year as well. And I pray for the healthy growth of my children and the safety of my family. So, I expect to have a dream of 'Nasu' and 'Zatou' at the first night of New Year. Under my pillow, I plan to insert some photos of them and go to bed early.

When I have some rice cakes with reading YAMATODAMASHII!, my belly becomes big.



It means, 'when I had some rice cakes with reading YAMATODAMASHII!, I tend to absorb in reading it and eat them too much unconsciously. So, I have to pay attention to that.'

I really appreciate your continued favour to 'the Daimyo Company Limited' in 2023 as well. All of Daimyo staff pray that you can enjoy the best year of 2024 from our hearts, too. Wishing you all the best in the new year!

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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Daimyo Company Co., Ltd.

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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 Shimatani Takako. The end of this year is just around the corner. How is your day?

Kned? Step on?

In Shimatani family

We are going to cook Soba noodle eaten at the night on New Year's Eve with my children!



Yeah!

The second daughter, 'Haruka'

The third daughter, 'Fuuka'

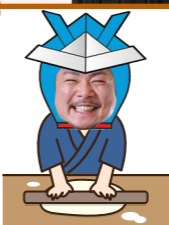
Yes, I am going to produce tasty soba noodle!

Can tell me how to make Soba noodle?



The origin of Soba noodle

Since Kamakura Period, 'Sobagaki', a food which was formed in dumplings after boiling and kneading buckwheat flour, was started to be eaten. It is said that the Japanese people had Soba like noodle you usually eat now from Mid-Edo Period or little bit before.



(The history of Soba noodle-please refer the back issue vol.15)

After our family meeting,

We decided to make a Nihachi-Soba noodle because it was easy for us -the first creators of Soba noodle.

The variety of Soba noodle

Sarashina Soba noodle

It is made from the grade one flour, which was white buckwheat flour. They allegedly have reduced aromas, slight sweetness and an excellent throat comfort.

Yabu Soba noodle

Its colour is greenish brought by the husks of buckwheat seeds. The dishes using Yabu Soba noodle are eaten with the Soba dipping sauce in which strong and salty soy sauce is added. It is one of characteristics of Yabu Soba noodle.

Sunaba Soba noodle

When you eat Sunaba Soba noodle, a thick and sweet Soba dipping sauce is served. This is its noodle peculiarity.

Dark Soba noodle

It is made of coarsely ground buckwheat flour. It is thick, blackish and has strong tastes and flavours.

Soba noodle made with only buckwheat flour

It is made of 100% buckwheat flour, which has harsh texture. When you even touch it slightly with your teeth, you can bite it off easily. This mouthfeel is reportedly its trait as well.

Nihachi-Soba noodle

Twenty percent wheat flour and eighty percent buckwheat flour. This noodle has an elegant taste. The smooth texture is one of this noodle's characteristics. The wheat flour prevents this noodle from being difficult to be torn of and easy to make even after the passage of time.

How to cook Nihachi-Soba noodle



We were unable to make a log soba noodle. But she had it in no time deliciously. My first daughter was absent because she was on her school trip. So, I am likely to make a more delicious soba noodle eaten at night on New Year's Eve with her. And we wish we could have a Happy New Year.....

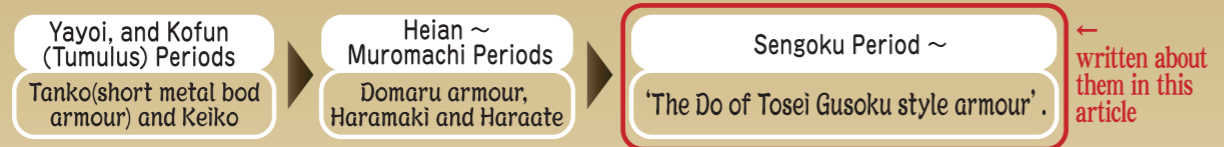
Completed!!



Hello! This is Nakabori Akemi. Next to the previous column, I am going to talk about the Do of Tosei Gusoku style armour which had had various kinds of improvement.



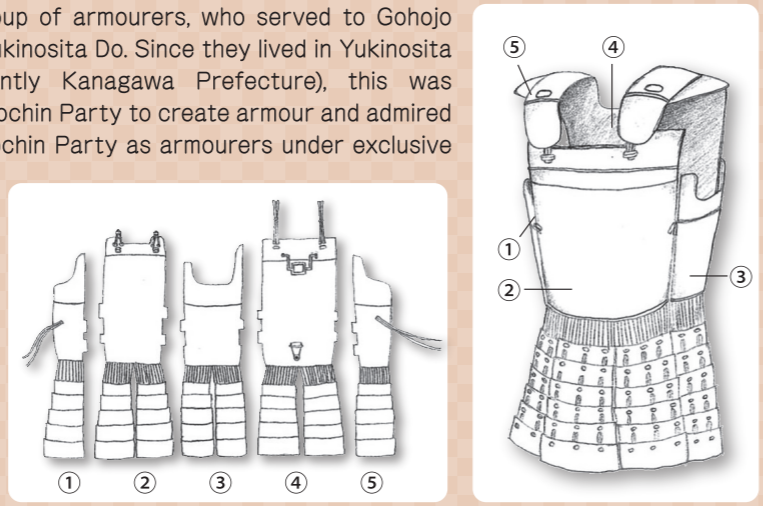
The change of Do



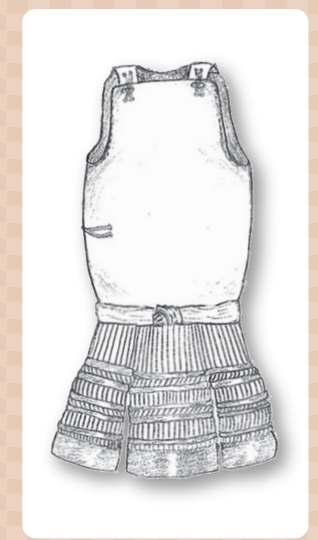
The Yukinosita Do and Sendai Do

Myochin Party, a group of armourers, who served to Gohojo Clan, produced the Yukinosita Do. Since they lived in Yukinosita in Kamakura (currently Kanagawa Prefecture), this was called 'the Yukinosita Do'. Date Masamune requested Myochin Party to create armour and admired the tough structure of armour. Masamune accepted Myochin Party as armourers under exclusive contract. The Yukinosita Do was used and came to be known commonly. As this armour was used regularly in Sendai Domain, it was called as 'the Sendai Do'. too.

[Features]
This armour consists of five iron parts in total- one steel plate in the front, one steel plate on the back and left and two steel plates on the right. Each part does not connect by a hinge, but by a peg. In order to make it easy to keep and transport the armour, this was made for being easy to take apart. This armour was so strong and superior in defence but too heavy.



The Hotoke (Buddha) Do



Like the chest of statue of Buddha, the Do of armour which had a seamless structure was called 'the Hotoke Do'. It prevailed between Azuchi-Momoyama Ppriod and the beginning of Edo Period. The Hotoke Do were roughly divided into two types according to the design and structure.

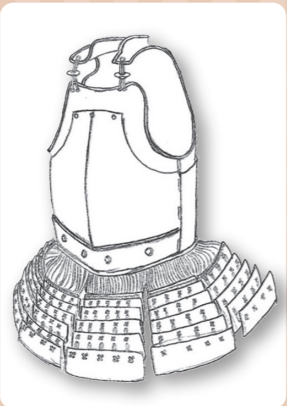


The first one is 'the Ichimaibari Uchidashi Do', using only one steel plate in front and only one steel plate on the back. 'The Nio Do', one of typical Hotoke Do, had the design of embossed rib, navel and so on.

The second one is the Do which had a smooth surface by fill up the joint of Okegawa Do with lacquer,etc. The Do covered its surface with lacquer and so on was named 'the Nuriage Hotoke Do'. The smooth Do wrapped with leather and textiles was named 'the Tsutsumi Botoke Do'. The Do covered the parts of chest which were easy to be a critical injury when attacked-like a lung, heart and so on- with the protective board was said as 'the Munedori Botoke Do'.

The Nanban (European) Do

The Do which was made for copying the western armour was called 'the Nanban Do'. It was made from one embossed iron plate. The centre part of front Do was risen vertically, which was its feature. In Europe, battles with guns were very common. So, in order to prevent from bullets, this armour was very heavy and strong. The Japanese people were smaller in physiques than the European people. So, the Japanese armourers made up 'the Japanese-made Nanban Do', one size smaller armour.



The Do played a role of protecting a heart and internal organs. According to the change of style to battle, the Do had made some improvements and had strong capability of defence. The Do of Tosei Gusoku style armour had the easiness to move as well as enough abilities to protect. In addition, some ornaments were added to that as well. I thought the Do of Tosei Gusoku style was the compiled work of armourers.



Hanaemon's

I am going to make you back in times!



I am going to make you back in the times about 'the three major military generals skilled at strategy in the Chugoku Region' this year. In this column, I am likely to return you to the times of this man who had a well-known tale of three arrows.

One of the three major military generals skilled at strategy in the Chugoku Region The winner of Chugoku Region

Motonari Mouri

毛利元就 1497-1571

Motonari was born as the second son of local lord in Aki Province. When Motonari was 10 years old, his father died, and his retainers had jumped a claim of his father. But Motonari was raised with his nursing mother. At the age of 20, Motonari's elder brother had died and Motonari became the guardian of Komatsumaru, his nephew. However, Komatsumaru passed away seven years later. When he was 27 years old, Motonari took over the head of Mouri family.



Mori Clan-sandwiched between Ouchi and Amako Clans

Mori Clan, a local lord of Aki Province (the western part of Hiroshima Prefecture), was sandwiched between Ouchi Clan who controlled Suo (the eastern part of Yamaguchi Prefecture), Nagato (the northwestern part of Yamaguchi Prefecture) and Iwami (the western part of Shimane Prefecture) Provinces and Amako Clan who governed Izumo(the eastern part of Shimane Prefecture),Hoki(the western part of Tottori prefecture) and Bicchu(the western part of Okayama Prefecture) Provinces. Mouri Clan had no option except obeying one of the two. Motonari did not have enough power yet to resist them. So, Motonari played his cards well between Ouchi and Amako Clans. Then, Motonari received the support from Ouchi Clan and extended his power gradually. Finally, Motonari became **the lord of Aki Province**.



Using enemy's spy in reverse

Sue Harukata who came to hold the real power of Ouchi Clan warned off Motonari extending his power. Harukata and Motonari were in a state of tension. Motonari noticed Harukata's trick to send his retainers as espionage beneath Motonari. Motonari gave the agents fake information about Harukata's men and made Harukata purge his smart vassals. In addition, Motonari spread a false story, which was 'if Harukata built a castle at Itsukushima(Miyajima) Island, we would be in a dangerous situation.....'. Then Motonari lured Sue Harukata's troops to Itsukushima Island and destroyed them successfully. Motonari invaded the previous territory of Ouchi Clan who had lost Sue Harukata and was in chaos. Motonari finally extended his land satisfactorily.

The Master of Military Generals skilled at strategy!?

Motonari was good at strategy. In the process that Motonari was increasing his power, what Motonari had done was like the way of Amako Tsunehisa, who was famous as a military general skilled at strategy. Motonari made his second son put for adoption to Yoshikawa Clan and his third son to Kobayakawa Clan. By creating family relationship like that, Motonari came to gain his more power. Amako Tsunehisa gave his children up for adoption to dominant neighbour clans and increased his influence as well. Making relationship with Yoshikawa and Kobayakawa enabled Motonari to get Aki Province. Moreover, because Kobayakawa Clan had their navy, Motonari was able to connect with the Murakami Navy. It made possible advantageous to proceed the battle of Itsukushima Island, too. I am not sure whether these two military generals skilled at strategy knew each other directly or not. But Motonari researched famous generals next to his territory, used their strategies and had finally eliminated Amako Clan after the death of Tsunehisa-Motonari's master at strategy?! In the end, Motonari became **the governor of eight provinces in Chugoku Region**.

What Motonari and Tsunehisa commonly had are not only the part of strategy. The political corruption of Muromachi Shogunate brought the situation that many people were in poor conditions at that time. Amako Tsunehisa saw this bad situation and implemented his administration to worry the most about the people. Motonari left the slogan of 'Hyakuman Isshin'-everything is possible if the people are united. Motonari stopped choosing a human sacrifice and buried a stone monument engraved with 'Hyakuman Isshin' instead of a human sacrifice when he had huge difficulty to in expansion of a castle. Then, the construction of expansion was ended without any troubles. It was the very episode to show that Motonari respected the lives of ordinary people. Besides that, Motonari reportedly took care and delivered foods and rice cakes even to the person of lower social class without discrimination-a kind of social welfare. A lot of plots Motonari and Tsunehisa had done might have aimed at keeping the smiles of people in their lands.

