

Customers feedback

Thank you for a lot of comments.



I used to think that antique art was just a hobby for elderly persons, but all of the Daimyo's staff showed their bright smiles. And I was able to see their passion for history. I also got their spirits of challenge through your news letters. I felt as if I were in a bright sunshine shining through your antique art history by your telling the Japanese history. (From W)

Thank you, W! We will continue to enthusiastically deliver Japanese rich culture, history, and antique art. Please keep on enjoying our 'We deliver YAMATODAMASHII!'."

I was surprised to learn for the first time that Hanaemon gave lessons in elementary schools as 'I am going to make you back in the times about Japanese history! by HANAEMON'. I hope that through this class, children will develop an interest in Japanese history and weaponry! (From TAC)

Thank you, TAC! The children were full of excitement and curiosity. As you mentioned, I also hope that we can pass on Japan's history and wonderful culture to the next generation.

About the article of 'our field trip in Matsuyama Castle, Ehime Prefecture' It is difficult to grasp the scale of Matsuyama Castle, so I expected there was a photo showing the entire castle. I wonder if the articles introducing the local area are not necessary. Since there are many female fans of swords, it would be better to include photos of the blades. (From Shin-chan)

Thank you, Shin-chan! We will do our best to make our articles more reader-friendly. We appreciate your continued feedback.

*Regarding articles about swords *Please also refer to our previous newsletters (see Vol. 28, Vol. 30-45).

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about your column of the field trip in Matsuyama Castle, Ehime Prefecture. If all field trips were like this, I would be up for it anytime! Please continue organizing enjoyable and educational field trips. (From Mino-tan)

Thank you, Mino-tan! That is truly right! I had so much fun. I would like to go anytime! For the next field trip, I need to learn thoroughly and have just as much fun. If you have any recommended places, please let me know!

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.

I went on the 'Seven Buddhas Tour in Onomichi!'



Hello, this is Akemi Nakabori. Now, it is the season of school entrance ceremonies and cherry blossom viewing. Do you know what day April 8th is? It is the birthday of Buddha! I was born and raised in Onomichi, famous for its old temples, but I have never actually been to make a temple hopping tour. So, as my exercise as well, I went on the 'Seven Buddhas Tour in Western Route'.

How to pray in temples:

1. Bow at the main gate of a Buddhist temple.
2. Purify yourself at the water basin.
3. Offer candles and incense.
4. Make an offering.
5. Quietly join your hands and pray.
6. Receive a temple seal.
7. With a heart of gratitude, explore the charm of the temple.
8. Bow when leaving through the main gate.



*While it is now easy for anyone to receive a temple seal, unlike commemorative stamps found in tourist spots, you should treat it with respect as it represents the deity, and keep it carefully preserved.



'Seven Buddhas Tour in Onomichi!' <https://shichibutsu.jp/>

Below the stairs leading to Tenneiji Temple, the JR Sanyo Line runs. I expect you come and see the beautiful scenery of Onomichi!

1 Jodoji Temple

In front of the main hall, there is a 'wish-granting stone' known as a power spot. It is said that if you make a wish and turn it, your wish will come true. I could not turn it at all—it was so heavy! Maybe my wish is too heavy? (laughs) Daishi, my junior-high school son, turned it effortlessly! It really made me feel his big growth.



The Shingon sect



Prayers for victory

2 Kairyuji Temple

The tomb of Ningyo Joruri (Japanese puppet theatre) Bunraku is here. It is said that by rubbing the mound of sutras while chanting, one's skills in arts improve, inspired by the puppetry that involves hands and fingers. Also, the rose-coloured cords are believed to connect to Kannon (the Buddhist goddess of mercy), making her presence feel very close. My daughter was earnestly making wishes. I wonder what she wished for?



Can my daughter feel like connecting to Kannon? The rose-coloured cords of Kannon

The temple is said to have been founded in 1245 and was renamed Kairyuji during the Edo period. But what stands out here is the Kusari-iwa (Chain Rock). How many times had I climbed the 'Kusari-yama,' modelled after the Ishizuchi-san (Mount Ishizuchi) in Shikoku, during my elementary school days? Please do experience it at least once! Once you reach the top, a delightful view awaits you.

Prayer for improvement in skills and arts

3 Saikokuji Temple

In emulation of the robust and healthy legs of the Niō statues, the Niō Gate is adorned with large straw sandals, along with numerous small and large straw sandals dedicated as tokens of wishes. It is said that visitors, especially athletes and those with leg or back ailments, frequent the temple.



The Shingon sect

Prayers for strong legs...



It is said to have been founded by Gyōki during the Tenpyō era (729-749). Despite the main hall burning down in 1066, it was rebuilt in 1081 under the decree of Emperor Shirakawa. The colossal straw sandals at the Niō Gate are truly worth seeing.

4 Taisanji Temple

Many students to take entrance exams visit Taisanji Temple to pray for success, seeking the blessings of the 'Higiri Jzo' (also known as 'Omokaze Jizo'), which is said to grant wishes if one specifies a date and makes a request.



A modern version of the 'Three Wise Monkeys' has been discovered in the 21st century!

Contrary to the traditional 'See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.', this version emphasizes the importance of 'Seeing well, speaking well, and listening well,' embodying the aspiration for correctness in the



According to tradition, Taisanji Temple was founded during the Enkyu era (1069-1074) and has connections to Sugawara no Michizane, the deity of academics. Legend has it that Michizane, on his way to Dazaifu, stopped in Onomichi and gave his sleeve to a local resident who had helped him, leading to the establishment of the Misode Tenmangu Shrine on the same premises as a gesture of gratitude.

祈合格

Prayer for success in an entrance exam

5 Senkoji Temple

Senkoji Temple offers prayers for 'good fortune and the removal of obstacles', with blessings such as matchmaking, traffic safety, recovery from illness, household safety, and prevention of dementia, among others.



'Thirty-Three Kannon Hall' and the 'Clattering Prayer Beads.'

As you slowly pull the beads while praying happiness, they make a clattering sound as they drop from the top. It is said that this sound negates afflictions, the causes of suffering, and grants the protection of Kannon.

Senkoji Temple was allegedly founded in 806 by Kobo Daishi. The main statue, which is only unveiled once every 33 years, is said to have been crafted by Shotoku Taishi (Prince Shotoku). The next unveiling is scheduled for 2045. I would love to witness the main statue by all means.



厄開除運

Prayers for good fortune and the removal of obstacles

6 Tenneiji Temple

Binzuru Buddha (Pindola Bharadvaja) enshrined on the left upon entering the main hall, affectionately known as 'Sasuri Botoke-san' by locals, is said to have healing powers. They believe that by rubbing the same area of the body where one is ailing against the corresponding area on the statue, one can find relief. So, this temple gets its reputation as a place for praying for recovery from illness.



People place their hands together in prayer, silently focusing on their ailments while rubbing the affected areas. While I thought she wanted to get smart, my daughter was rubbing her head.

This temple was founded in 1367 by Fumyo Kokushi. It is also known as the temple where the three-storied pagoda (Kaiun Pagoda) was erected by Ashikaga Yoshinori, the second shogun of the Muromachi shogunate. The picturesque view of Onomichi through the pagoda is often featured. One of the highlights is the collection of 526 Arhat statues, having donated over approximately 60 years from the late Edo period to the early Meiji era. It is also the memorial temple of HANAEMON.

祈癒氣

Prayer for recovery from illness

7 Jikkoji Temple

Commissioned by Emperor Toba to pray for the well-being of his beloved son, Emperor Konoe, the national treasure known as the 'Fugen Enmei' (Prolonging Life) statue, painted on silk, was created. It is said that one's lifespan extends upon a single pray. The massive stone gate, made from 36 granite slabs quarried from Mount Nichirin in the rear mountains of Jikkoji Temple, holds significant power. Passing through it is believed to get longer lifespan through the energy emanating from the colossal stones.



The massive stone gate.



The temple was reportedly founded during the Jowa era (834-848) by the revered monk Jikaku Daishi. Originally established as a Tendai Buddhist temple, it was later converted to Jodo Buddhism in 1832.

Visitors have the opportunity to create their own personalized Buddha statue experience, known as the 'Nigiri Buddha.' When you visit Onomichi, please make it sure to try this unique experience.

祈延願命

Prayer for Prolonging Life

I have finally collected all seven temple seals after visiting each one!

It was incredibly enjoyable. Though I grew up here in Onomichi, there were still so many things I did not know. Walking around with my son in the midst of his adolescence, we talked about things like school and his friends that we did not usually discuss. This excursion tour turned into a Seven Buddha pilgrimage that deepened the bond within our family.

You can purchase coloured paper at the temples.



Hello! This is Shimatani Takako. Starting from this article, I'll be discussing 'masks' As you know, masks are protective gears for the face, but how far back did they appear in history, and how have they evolved?

I am going to talk about Yamatodamashii 大和魂

From when did masks start?

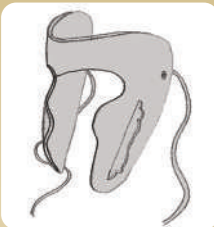
The earliest known use of masks was with 'Hatsuburi.' It is said to have originated from the late Heian period, specifically during the 'Hogen rebellion' when Minamoto no Tameyoshi wore it in this battle.

What was 'Hatsuburi'?

This is a protective gear used to shield the face from incoming arrows and other projectiles. It is called 'Hatsuburi' or 'Hatsufuri', meaning to cover and protect half of the face (or neck) without any series of articulated plates attached to the back and sides of Japanese helmets. High-ranked Samurai would often wear it in combination with helmets, while lower-ranking soldiers who could not wear helmets would still use it to protect their faces. It was widely utilized from the late Heian period through the Kamakura period. Many were coated in black lacquer, and some even had patterns painted on the cheeks or decorative leather patches attached. However, as the Nanboku-cho period progressed, the use of Hatsuburi gradually declined after the appearance of 'Hoate'.

What was Hoate?

It refers to a protective gear shaped like reversing Hatsuburi, covering the chin to both cheeks, later known as 'Hanbo' ('half-cheek'). It gained popularity during the late Kamakura period through the Nanboku-cho period, as hand-to-hand combat became common. Furthermore, a full-face mask called 'Somen' combining 'Hatsuburi' and 'Hanbo' was developed during the Nanboku-cho period. But, due to its inconvenience when worn, it was not widely used practically. As the Muromachi period began, more practical and convenient variations like 'Sarubo' (monkey cheeks), 'Tsubakurobo' (swallow cheeks), 'Echubo' (cheeks in Ecchu province) emerged.



High-ranked Samurai



Lower-ranking soldier



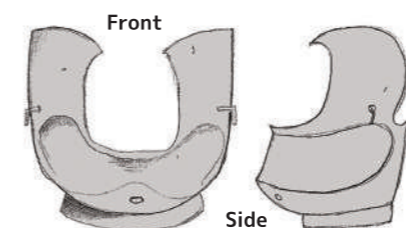
Hoate · Hanbo



Somen

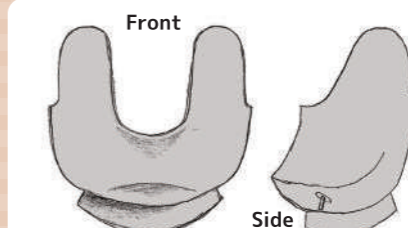


Sarubo



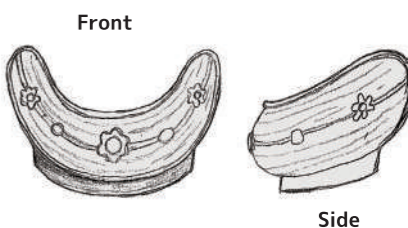
Named for its resemblance to a monkey's face. Also referred to as 'Odabo' and 'Udabo'. It is considered the most practical and convenient.

Tsubakurobo



Named for its similarity to a flying swallow. It is described as more compact than the Sarubo.

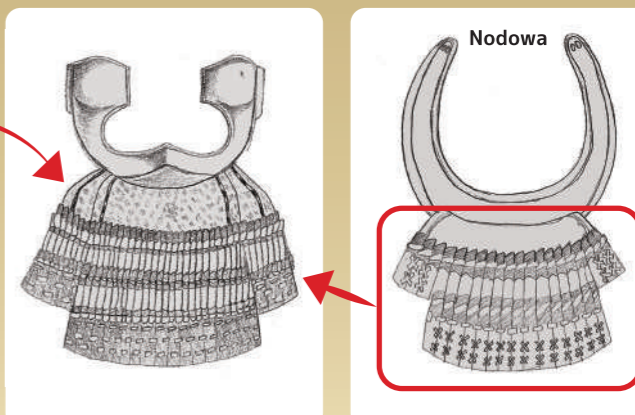
Echubo



Referred to as 'Agoate' as it was used to cover the chin, not the cheeks, thus being the smallest Hanbo.

Towards the end of the Muromachi period, masks with 'Tare/Suga' (flaps) to protect the throat began to emerge, attached under the chin.

To protect the gap from below the chin to the chest plate, the Tare style of Nodowa, throat flap configurations, began to be used. Initially made of leather, which was prone to tearing, they transitioned to iron flaps. With increased protection parts and prevention of exposure of the eyes, nose and mouth, the trend shifted towards masks covering the nose and mouth as well, known as 'Menoshita-bo' in both Hatsuburi and Somen.



Masks evolved in shape over time and through battles, continually improving for practicality and convenience. Each metal fitting has significance. In the next column, I will talk about the 'Menoshita-bo'

