

*This article is only for the residents in Japan. If not, please contact your local police department and take an adequate procedure.

Do you have any of these problems?

Part 1

Recently, we have been receiving more and more inquiries from customers like the following.

- When a family member died and inherited a house, some sword was found.
- The swords were found when the house was demolished.

When you find a sword, what should I do?



Can you buy them back from me because of the hassle of caring for them, and because I have no interest in the sword itself in the first place?

However, there are some swords that do not have the necessary 'registration certificate' for the sword. In such cases, we are very sorry, but we cannot buy them back.

*This is because the possession, sale and purchase of firearms and swords without a registration certificate is prohibited by law.

So what do I have to do to get a purchase? You must obtain a **registration card** if you do not have it.

Procedure

1 First, call the nearest police station (Community Safety Section) where you live and explain the situation **without moving the item as you found it**.

2 You need to go to the police station and go forward to your procedure. After that, you get **'Certificate of Notification of Discovery'**.

3 Contact your local prefectural board of education to receive the procedure to apply for registration, and have the documents sent to you or download the application form from the website.

4 You will receive a notice of acceptance of the examination and visit the venue for the registration examination.

Your essentials (the sword, the document of notification, your ID card, the certificate of notification of discovery, the registration examination fee: 6,300 yen per sword).

You may feel uncomfortable or worried about carrying the sword as it is, so you should bring it in a Furoshiki (wrapping cloth), golf bag or fishing rod case.

5 Once the registration certificate is issued for the sword, we will purchase it.

The time required for the registration certificate process differs depending on the prefecture you live in, so please check with the Board of Education.

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



Daimyo Company Co., Ltd.

Homepage : <https://daimyou-armor.com/>

The 3rd floor, 2-1, Kurihara-cho, Onomichi-shi, Hiroshima, Japan

Mail Address : daimyou51@g06.enjoy.ne.jp

TEL : +81 (0)848 29 3936 FAX : +81 (0)848 29 3937

We deliver 大和魂 Vol.61 Aug. 2024

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 Akemi Nakahori. How are you doing in the continuing hot weather?

I went to a fireworks display for the first time in five years! I was so excited and extremely moved to see fireworks in the summer night sky in a long time! The weeping willow fireworks were so powerful that the light streamed down and felt as if I could catch it with my hand!



The original of the fireworks was...

The prototype is said to be the 'signal fire' (Noroshi). Gunpowder was accidentally invented by a Chinese medicine-making alchemist. Gunpowder passed into the hands of military engineers and was used in weapons. Fireworks as we know them today began in Florence, Italy, in the late 14th century. Fireworks soon spread amongst the royalty and aristocracy and were set off at weddings and coronations, etc. Like this, gunpowder was first used as a weapon, but then it was also used for celebrations. In Japan, in 1659, Yabee, the first 'Kagiya' (key shop owner), who came from Yamato to Edo (now Tokyo), filled reed tubes with gunpowder, made and sold toy fireworks. However, as they caused fires, a ban on fireworks in the city was imposed.



The origin of fireworks displays...

Fireworks were first appreciated in Japan during the Edo Period (1603-1868), when an epidemic in the 1700s killed a large number of people. The 8th shogun, Tokugawa Yoshimune, organized the 'Suijin Matsuri' (Water God Festival) to pray for the elimination of the epidemic and to make offerings to the victims. The festival was held around Ryogoku Bridge to coincide with the river festival at Sumida River, and the fireworks display 'Ryogoku Kawabiraki Hanabi' that went off at this time became the roots of the current 'Sumida River Fireworks Festival'. Later, it spread to the surrounding feudal lords, and firework displays began to be held throughout the country. Eventually, they became popular among the general public, giving rise to pyrotechnicians and fireworks vendors.



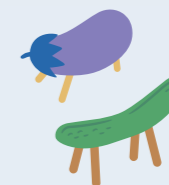
That call...

For the Sumida River Fireworks Festival that people were allowed to enjoy as the only chance, the 'Kagiya' and 'Tamaya', who were divided into two groups of goodwill, competed as the two major firework makers. Tamaya was launching fireworks upstream and Kagiya was doing the same thing downstream, and the cheering calls were 'YAMAYA' and 'KAGIYA'. However, Tamaya had been taken down after it started a fire.



Thoughts behind the fireworks...

The fireworks are said to have a meaning of 'repose'. During the Bon Festival, there is a custom called 'Okuribi', which is to light the way for the ancestors to return to the sky without getting lost. Many fireworks festivals are often held in conjunction with the Obon Festival because they have the purpose of sending off the spirits of the dead. For this reason, they are now set off in midsummer.



Regions that have experienced a painful history hold fireworks displays with special feelings. The Nagaoka Festival Grand Fireworks Festival in Niigata Prefecture aims to repose the souls of those who lost their lives in the World War II. During the War, Nagaoka City was the target of air raids and nearly 1,500 civilians lost their lives. Nagaoka City then mourns the dead and puts a message of peace into the fireworks display to ensure that the Japanese people do not make the same mistake again. Each fireworks display is overlaid with the feelings of the local people. What feelings are expressed in your region by holding these fireworks displays? In Onomichi, the wishes are for the maritime city of Onomichi to prosper, for business to flourish, for safety at sea and on land, and for the elimination of epidemics.



Fireworks make both adults and children smile!



In my previous articles, I have described the 'Kabuto' (helmet) that protects the head, the 'Menbo' (face mask) that protects the face, and the 'Do' (body) that protects the upper part of the body. Next, I would like to talk about 'Kote(Gauntlet)/Haitate/Suneate', which protects the arms, hands and legs, in this article.



What was Kote?

Kote was made to protect the hands and arms from attack. It was made of a cloth covering from the back of the hand to the shoulder, with a hard plate such as iron or leather sewn onto it.

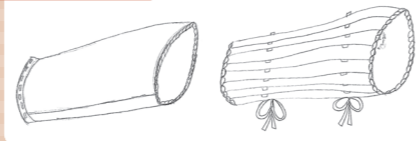
When did it start?

It is believed to have been used since the Kofun Period, but in this period it covered from hands to elbows. In the Heian - Kamakura Period, it became hand-to-shoulder in size. As mounted warfare with bow and arrow was the predominant style during this period, the 'KataKote' style was worn only on the left arm to prevent the bowstring from getting caught in the sleeve of the clothing when shooting an arrow. In the Nanbokucho - Muromachi Period (1336-1573), the style of battling changed from horseback to ground fighting, and weapons changed from bows to swords and spears, and the 'MoroKote' style was worn on both arms in preparation for enemy attacks. The design and shape of Kote changed rapidly in line with the 'Tosei-gusoku (armour)' style that emerged in the late Muromachi - Azuchi-Momoyama Period, and more elaborate Kote was made in the Edo Period.

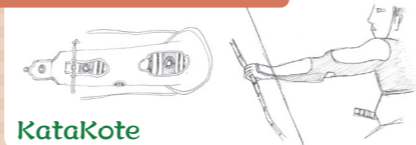
What shapes were commonly made?

'TutsuGote', 'ShinoGote', 'HukubeGote' and 'Kusari(chain) Gote' were the most commonly made forms.

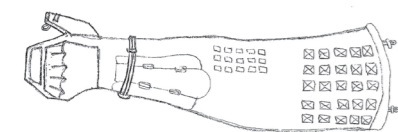
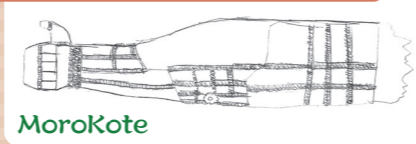
Kofun Period



Heian - Kamakura Period

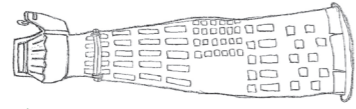


Nanbokucho - Muromachi Period



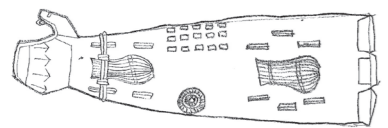
The forearm was covered by a tubular plate.

TutsuGote



This form was covered with a thin board and lined with thin bamboo-Shino, hence this name was given.

ShinoGote



The name came from its resemblance to the Hukube(gourd) shape.

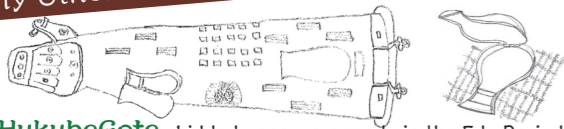
Hukube Gote: Oda Gote



The chain weaving method developed, so some were even very finely chained down to the fingertips.

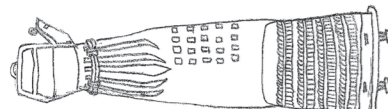
Kusari(chain) Gote

Any other styles?



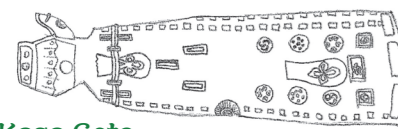
Lidded ones were made in the Edo Period to hold medicines and small objects.

HukubeGote with lids



Integrated with sleeves, easy to wear.

Bishamon Gote



Elaborately carved by Kaga armourers.

Kaga Gote

Although many warlords preferred to wear conspicuous Tosei-gusoku (armour) on the battlefield, armour was made with mobility in mind while also maintaining functionality and defence. Even a single component of the armour- Kote- was one of them was elaborately crafted and designed, showing the particular care and enthusiasm of the warlords on the battlefield. In the next article, I will discuss Haitate and Suneate(shields and shin guards).



I am going to make you back in times!



Following on from the three great beauties in the previous issue, this issue will go back in time to this one of the three great beauties of the Heian Period.

Mother of Minamoto no Yoshitsune Tokiwa Gozen

常盤御前 (1138 - date of death unknown).

Chosen from among 1,000 beautiful women (Age: 13)

She served Emperor Konoe's chugu (consort who waited on the emperor's bed-chamber): Fujiwara no Tenshi as his zoshi (servant).

In the process of selecting the women who would serve in the royal court, 1,000 beautiful women were gathered, from which 100 were selected, and then narrowed down to 10. In these 10 ladies, she was said to have been the most intelligent and outstanding.



Concubine of Minamoto no Yoshitomo, leader of the Minamoto Clan. (Age: 16)

She became the concubine of Minamoto no Yoshitomo, the father of Minamoto no Yoritomo, who later founded the Kamakura Shogunate, and gave birth to three sons. One of these sons was Minamoto no Yoshitsune. However, Yoshitomo was captured and killed during the Heiji Rebellion, when he fought against the Heike Clan. Tokiwa Gozen and her three sons also fled desperately, but were finally captured by the Heike.



The legend that Yoshitsune was a fair-skinned, beautiful boy may have originated from Tokiwa Gozen. It is said that Tokiwa Gozen became Kiyomori's mistress after being captured by the Heike clan. The story that she became a concubine to Kiyomori, who had already become a powerful man of the time, in return for her children's help, also adds to the legend of Tokiwa-gozen as a beautiful woman. Recent research suggests that the relationship between Tokiwa Gozen and Kiyomori did not save the lives of her three children including Yoshitsune, as Yoritomo, a descendant of the Minamoto clan, was allowed to live. However, there may have been an aspect of her being begged by the authorities of the time that could not be refused. Her detailed footprints afterwards are not known, but it is said that she later became the wife (age: 25) of Ichijo Nagamari.



...Again captured... (Age: 48)

Thanks to the success of his son Yoshitsune, the Minamoto Clan destroyed the Heike Clan and Yoritomo established the Kamakura shogunate. However, the relationship between Yoshitsune and Yoritomo gradually deteriorated and Yoshitsune became a hunted man, and his mother Tokiwa Gozen was also captured. Yoshitsune's whereabouts, as reported by Tokiwa Gozen, were already gone, and Tokiwa Gozen was subsequently released. It is said that she spent the rest of her life quietly, as her son born to Ichijo Nagamari rose through the ranks.

