

# Hanaemon's I am going to make you back in times!

Following on from the previous and second issues, this issue takes us back in time to the most beautiful women in the Kansei Era of Edo Period!

Three Beauties in Kansei Era  
**Takashima Ohisa**

A teahouse girl who worked at a teahouse in Ryogoku Yagenbori area.



**Tomimoto Toyohina**

A Yoshiwara Geisha who told stories while accompanied by the Shamisen called Tomimoto-Bushi(folk). She was a beautiful Geisha known to everyone at the time.

**Nambaya Okita**

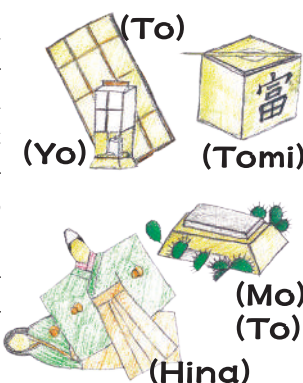
A teahouse girl who worked in a teahouse near Senso-ji Temple.

Teahouses were modern-day coffee shops and cafés where people had tea and took a break by the roadside or in the precincts of temples and shrines. Teahouses originated in Kyoto. Many were established in Edo in the mid-18th century. One of the purposes of the teahouse was to relax, but there was also a culture, thought to be mainly male, that looked forward to seeing the teahouse girls working in the teahouses. There were some shops where the prices differed tenfold between those with teahouse girls and those without teahouse girls. Around the Kansei Era, many people visited teahouses to see the teahouse girls, who were rumoured to be particularly beautiful among the many teahouse girls. They were idols that people could go and see at that time. For some of the teahouse girls, even items like Tenugui hand towels and Sugoroku (a Japanese Sugoroku game), which are now like idol goods, were produced and sold. The Ukiyoe artist Utamaro Kitagawa depicted these girls as Kansei San Bijin (Three Beauties of Kansei era). It is said that there was a



chain of people who saw the Ukiyo-e paintings he drew and rushed to see them in person. It is difficult for us today to tell the difference between the girls, but people at the time were able to judge which one was which from the family crest of the Kimono worn, facial features and slight differences in facial expressions. As it was forbidden to write down the names of individual women in those days, people were able to get a type of Hanji-e (picture puzzle) in which a hint of the girl's name was drawn, as a result of Utamaro Kitagawa's playful spirit.

This Hanji-e is said to be a box for lottery (Tomi), algae (Mo), a whetstone (To), a door (To), a lantern at night called Andon in Japanese (Yo, night in Japanese) and paper dolls (Hina), with the message that this beautiful painting was of Tomimoto Toyohina.



Kitagawa Utamaro, Ukiyo-e artist, produced many paintings of beautiful women. His talent was discovered and introduced to the world by Tsutaya Juzaburo, who will play the leading role in next year's 2025 large-scale, long-running TV series produced by NHK, a Japanese national broadcasting station. Geishas, teahouse girls and Ukiyo-e artists in Yoshiwara - it will be interesting to see what their daily lives were like on film.

Thank you for your special favour with Daimyo and 'YAMATODAMASHII', our newsletters in 2024. We wish you the very best for the year 2025. We all at Daimyo wish you the very best for the year 2025. We look forward to working with you in the New Year.

ともかくも (Tomokakumo)  
大名任せの (Daimyomakaseno)  
としの暮れ (Toshinokure)

The end of the year tradition! Daimyo's Haiku, a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables in 5-7-5 syllabic form.

It means; 'Anyway, leave it to the Daimyo's Hakarai and let's welcome the end of the year.'

Daimyo's Hakarai means... to have a slow end of the year with this 'YAMATODAMASHII' in one hand.



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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# We deliver 大和魂 Vol.63 Dec. 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.

The Study tour

in Marugame Castle, Kagawa Prefecture

Almost the tour for eating Udon Noodles :)



This time we're not on top of a mountain, so it'll be easier to climb...

Nakahori

Well... I am not sure....?

Shimatani

Marugame Castle was built in 1597 by Ikoma Chikamasa and Kazumasa. Chikamasa became a vassal of Nobunaga and later served as a vassal of Hideyoshi, and was given the whole Sanuki Province after his success in battles. The castle, which is said to have been modelled on Azuchi Castle and Osaka Castle, was built using a method where the castle walls as well as the castle town were surrounded by stone walls and earthworks. An inner moat remains around the perimeter, and the main entrance is located at the edge of a stone bridge on the north side of the inner moat.

The second Otemon Gate



Nakahori

The pillars of the gate are massive - it's huge!

President

It all depended on how many enemy soldiers they could kill here.

Shimatani

No, way! It was so scary! They must have wiped out the enemy's momentum here.

Our itinerary

Departure

First of all, ... Udon noodles! at Nakamura Udon

Visit Marugame Castle

Lunch ... Udon noodles!! at Mendokoro Wataya

Before heading home ... The last bowl of Udon noodles at Shio-gama-ya

Arriving home!



I'm home! I'm enough!



The first Otemon Gate

The gateway has a structure called a 'Masugata Toraguchi', which is a square-shaped box surrounded on all four sides by two Toraguchi, which serve as entrances and exits. The Toraguchi is the most important point of defence. As far as possible, the enemy's momentum should be cut off here, halted, and the weak point, the flank, should not be pierced by enemy. They should prevent the gate from being breached by the soldiers of enemy. 'The first Otemon Gate' and 'the second Otemon Gate', now an important cultural property, were built for these purposes. When the enemy approached, the first gate was closed. Between these two gates, the enemy was led to the Masugata compulsory.

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**Onward to the castle tower!!**

**But,**  
the view in front of us was a very steep

**slope**

What is a look-back slope?  
I can't see what's ahead...

It is a slope with a steep incline that sometimes makes you want to stop and look back, so that is how it came to be called! Come on! Let's keep going!

President **'All right, let's go up at once!'**

Looking back up the hill again and again, I felt that if it had been at this angle, the enemy should have been tired. On the way there...Marugame Castle is also famous as the castle of stone walls. Built at an elevation of about 66 metres, its stone walls are the tallest in Japan (Present day). It is called the fan slope because it looks like a curved line like an open fan. And it is also known as the Musha-Gaeshi. The reason of its naming was that the higher the enemy soldiers were going to climb up the wall, the more the wall warped and were unable to be climbed. However, this was the story of Shigesaburo Hasaka, the central figure in the completion of this stone wall. When the lord was satisfied with the perfect stone wall and said, 'No one can climb over this stone wall', Shigesaburo climbed up using an iron rod, saying, 'I can easily climb up.' The lord said, 'It would be bad if the strategy of the stone wall were leaked to the outside world!' And, legend has it that Shigesaburo was sent to check the bottom of the well in the castle and was killed by a stone being dropped from above so that he would not be noticed... a very scary story.

Climbing up the hill, I was able to see Mount Ino! It is also known as 'Sanuki Fuji'. The view of Marugame's City centre was very nice and the wind felt good for me.

**Sanuki Fuji**

President **It is so hot today, even though it is winter! But, it feels so good!**

Shimatani **I really can't stop sweating!**

**Passing through the second Otemon Gate(Ninomaru), we are almost to the castle tower!**

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**After climbing Kyogoku-Zaka, we arrived at the Honmaru!**

Let's go in!

It's so steep!

Hey, am I okay?  
Am I sure I won't fall?

The keep in the Honmaru.  
From 1643, Yamazaki Ieharu started to rebuild it.  
This is also the largest in Japan, a small wooden keep (11m x 9m) with three levels and three storeys. And it is one of only 12 surviving castles in Japan that have retained their original appearance.

Inside, I felt very small. In particular, the stairs were very steep. I didn't mind going up, but I had to check many times when going down.

**Gate at the entrance**

It was also called 'Goten Omote-mon Gate'. This gate was built in the early Edo period in the Yakuimon style, which was unusual for a castle gate.

One theory was that it came from 'Megui', which meant 'arrow-eating' to stop an arrow attack. It is also said to have come from the fact that the gate was once used as a doctor's gate. It is said that a wooden door was attached to the side of the gate so that patients could come and go at all hours, even if the door was closed.

After passing through the gate and walking a little further ...  
We arrived at **the Marugame Municipal Museum.**

The museum houses valuable local historical and folklore materials, arts and crafts, etc. In addition to permanent exhibitions such as the folk tools in the exhibition hall, there are also special exhibitions. The exhibition we visited this time was 'All about Nikkari Aoe, a treasure of the Kyogoku Family'. This school of swordsmiths was active in Bicchu Aoe from the end of the Heian period to the Nanbokucho period. All of the swords and sword accessories on display were wonderful. Among them, I was personally impressed by the 'the tsuba(Japanese sword mounting) of Ebisu Daikoku Rusu pattern' and the 'the Koduka (the handle of short sword) with Urashima Taro design'. The best part was the angle of the light, which allowed us to see the blade pattern and the inside the cutting edge of blade, and we couldn't take our eyes off the swords. This study tour was also a very enjoyable learning experience. As always, the time we had been staying this museum and castle was much longer than the average time required to visit the castle and the museum. Because, listening to the President's historical knowledge, it was another learning experience. But, after all, we, all of Daimyo members, also put a lot of emphasis on foods...So, the variety of Udon Noodles from Udon prefecture filled our stomachs, our hearts and our heads the best:-).