



into Japanese history in Kurihara Elementary School

Let's Make a time Slip

Part3

Hello! This is Hanamoto Takashi, better known as Hanayemon.

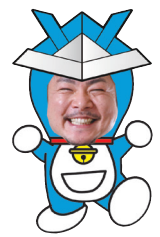
The other day, as I did the year before last and the year before that, I gave a history lesson to sixth-form children at Kurihara Elementary School in Onomichi-Shi, Hiroshima Prefecture. This Kurihara Primary School is actually my alma mater. And it is also the primary school where my daughter and son currently attend, and last year I gave a class in front of them. It is also the primary school where the children of all the staff who work for us in Daimyo also attend.

In the first hour, I introduced the company and talked about armour and Japanese swords. 'There are many different shapes, colours and materials when it comes to armour.' 'Swords also come in different lengths and shapes.' 'Do you know what this helmet is made of?' I was very happy to see that everyone raised their hands and spoke up actively when I asked questions.

After the explanation of the armour and Japanese sword, the students were invited to actually touch the armour, helmets and swords. This year, we also brought a firearm for them to touch.

When we let them actually hold the sword in their hands, they said, 'It's so heavy! Can you swing this thing?' They were very excited. There was a big queue to try on the replica helmets this year as well.

The children were excited to see and touch the replica helmets during the break time. Next, we had a history quiz, which was also exciting last year. Based on last year's experience, we had more time for the history quiz this year. We gave simple and maniacal questions, and the children had a lot of fun moving around the areas of 'True and False Quiz', but **the number of children who stayed until the end was a whopping '0' -nil!** They all had to come back as losers and 10 remained until the end. They were very happy when we presented them with hand towels with their family crests on them and Daimyo purses. Thanks to our many predecessors at the end of the class, I said that we were able to see and touch antiques and historical buildings. I asked the students to please succeed them into the next generation. I also told them to take care of themselves and their friends, as they were here today thanks to their many predecessors.



You are the next Hanayemon candidates! We are waiting for you at Daimyo Ltd.



'What is the purpose of this job?' - I thought about that about 10 years ago. I thought that one day I would be happy if I could give a history lesson that would 'trigger' children's interest in and affection for Japanese history. On the day of the event, I was really happy to see the children's eyes sparkling as they looked at and touched the armour. I would like to continue to give classes that serve as 'triggers' in the future.

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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大和魂

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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 & Happy New Year! This is Hanamoto Takashi. I would like to make the slogan of Chinese letter, '一' (one) in 2025. I spent the last one year with a focus on having fun. I was able to spend a fulfilling year both at work and in my private life. This year I have a new challenge as Limited Company Daimyo. I don't think it will be easy to get on track, but I will push myself forward so that I can look back in the future and say that it was a big one step, while accumulating small steps one by one. Last year I didn't manage to reduce my golf score by a single stroke, so I'm hoping that this year I can reduce it by one stroke. I look forward to working with you again this year.



Hello! This is Nakabori Akemi. Happy new year! My slogan using a Chinese letter in 2025 is '虹' (rainbow). I want to be as versatile as a 'rainbow' in the things I am entrusted with at work and in my daily duties. When I'm busy, I tend to have a narrow view of things... I want to improve my knowledge like a 'rainbow', which can be dyed in any colour, so that I can provide a service that will please our customers. I want to do my best to fulfil them. In my private life, I want to be colourful, cheerful and enjoy everything. I would like to enjoy everything in my private life. I look forward to working with you again this year.



Hello. This is Shimatani Takako. Last year, I said to myself, 'All I can do is keep moving forward!' and I pushed myself forward and overcame many obstacles. This year, I want to make the most out of what I have overcome surely. I want to continue to be a person who doesn't let failure be a failure and who still hasn't stopped growing. So, I want to make the slogan of this year a fruitful one, so my slogan using a Chinese letter for this year is 'fruits'. I would like to keep on making great suggestions without stopping to think. We look forward to working with you again this year.



Hello, this is Takako Shimatani. It gets cold every day. How are you doing?

In this issue, continuing from the previous issue, I would like to talk about 'Kote/Heidate/Suneate (shin guard)', which protects the arms, hands and shins.

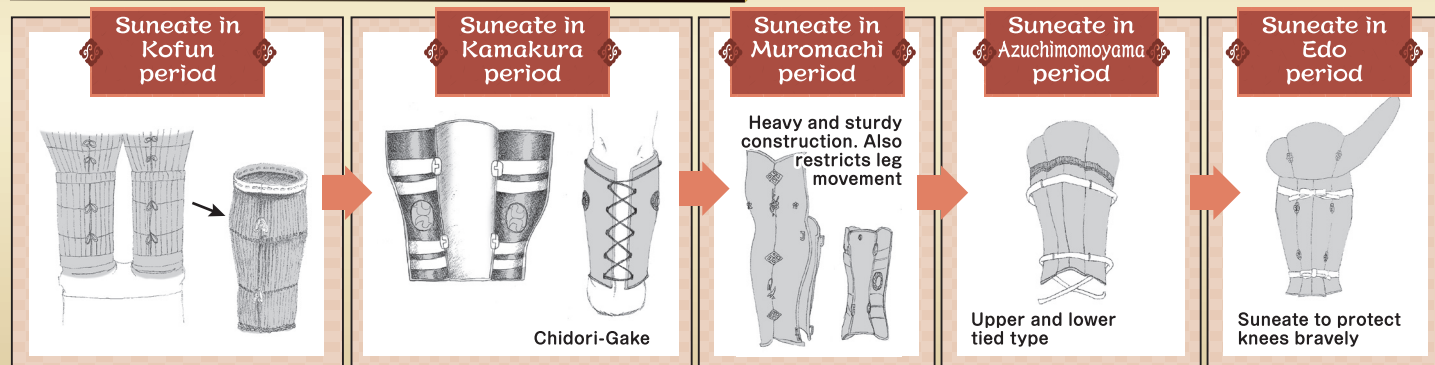


What is Suneate ?

It is a protective armour that protects from the part of the leg that is under the

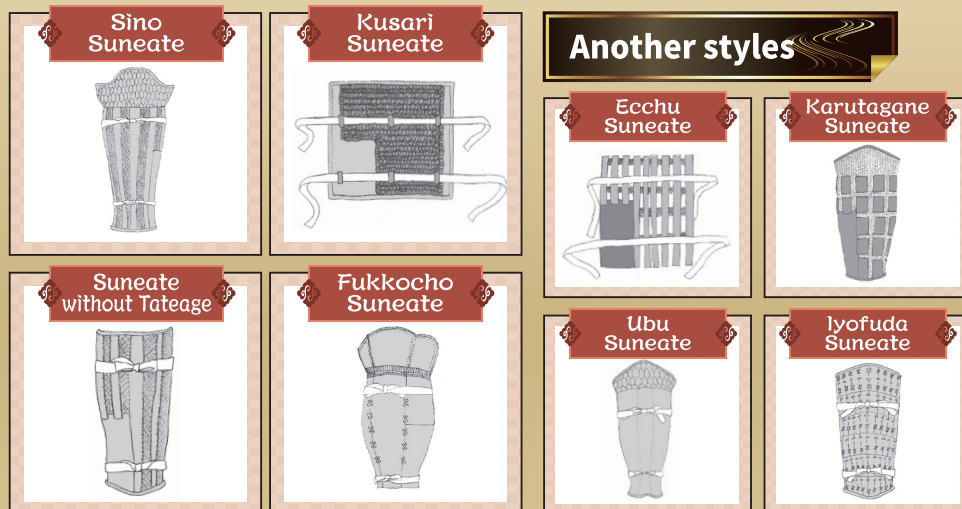
ankle to the kneecap, and is also called knee-armor. It is also represented on 'Warrior Haniwa' (clay figurines) from the Kofun period, and is believed to have existed since the Kofun period. In the Heian period (794-1185), it was mainly used in cavalry battles and developed as a small piece of armour to accompany the large armour. The 'Tsutsu Suneate', which protects the front and left and right sides of the shin, was common. The legs are wrapped around the shin-pad by connecting the three plates on the front and both sides with hinges, and the shin-pad is worn in a 'Chidori-Gake'-staggered style, with the cord crossed behind the legs. From the late Kamakura to the Nanbokucho period, when the focus shifted from cavalry to close combat, those with 'Tateage', which also protected the knees, became popular. Until the Muromachi period (1336-1573), large Tateage were often made, and were called 'Oh-Tateage' and 'Oh Tateage Suneate'. However, although they evolved into a form that covered the knees, the metal fittings were not shaped to reach the calves, so they were attached by applying a thin metal plate called 'coward metal plate'. The metal plate was first visible at the time of withdraw, hence the name was said to be given. The method of attachment changed to the 'top and bottom knotting' method, where two strings called the 'upper' and 'lower' cords were tied together. It was easier to wear than the Chidori-Gake, and from the Nanbokucho period onwards, it was also worn by infantrymen.

Changes from Tsutsu Suneate to Tateage Suneate



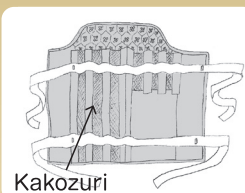
Further changes

During the Sengoku period, 'Shino Suneate', made of long, thin boards, and 'Kusari (chain) Suneate', became popular. At first they had poor quality and were lightweight protective gears for lower-ranked warriors, but they were easy to wear! Excellent flexibility! Increased mobility! They became the most popular type of gears of the day. High-quality Shino Suneate were also produced, and the Shino Suneate came to have a prestigious appearance that would be acceptable for use by feudal lords. After the end of the Sengoku period and the popularity of the retro style in the mid-to-late Edo period, the Shino Suneate became the main stream of Suneate.



Another feature

It is the part of 'KakoSuri'. When riding with Suneate, the inner side of the shin hits the buckle of the stirrup and both sides get damaged, so the inner board was cut into squares and replaced with leather or cloth to prevent damage. The most common type of Kakosuri is made of raw leather coated with lacquer, but there are also designs such as 'pictured leather' and 'iris leather', and 'Kin-Kara-Kawa', stamped patterns made of gold leaf.



I found that the shape of the Suneate also changed with the changes in the battles. When I actually tried on a replica, I felt that the iron Tateage Suneate was very difficult to move around in. I would like to order Ubu Suneate - made of three long, thin boards, which is light, functional and has a design I like to show off. How about you? Please look forward to the next issue.



I am going to make you back in times!



This year, I am going to focus on and talk about the No. 2 military commanders in association with Hidenaga Toyotomi who was a hero of NHK's Historical Drama Series in 2026. In this issue, I will take you a time-slip to Tokugawa Ieyasu's No. 2, this man!



Becoming an enemy of Ieyasu

He was born as the second son of HONDA Toshimasa, who had served the Matsudaira (later Tokugawa) family since his grandfather's time. It is not known at what age he began to serve Ieyasu, but he started to serve him when Ieyasu was a child. As a hostage of the Imagawa family, he accompanied Ieyasu when he went to the Imagawa domain. Later, the Matsudaira family became independent from the Imagawa family, but the Mikawa Ikko Ikki (an uprising of Ikko sect followers in Mikawa Province in 1564) broke out, which divided the country. Masanobu was unable to abandon his own faith and became an enemy of Ieyasu. Even after the revolt was pacified, Masanobu could not return to Ieyasu as a retainer, as he had betrayed him. The exact date of his return to Ieyasu is unknown, but around the time of the Battle of Anegawa (1570), he was able to serve Ieyasu again as his retainer, thanks to the intercession of Ieyasu's retainers.

'In times of chaos, they handled military strategy; in times of peace, they governed the nation. The bond between lord and vassal was as inseparable as water and fish.'

Ieyasu had fought many battles before he took power, and Masanobu was an important donor in many of these battles. The major battle in which Ieyasu became the de facto ruler of Japan was the Battle of Sekigahara. As the cause of the Battle of Sekigahara, Ieyasu broke many of the rules that had been established during Toyotomi Hideyoshi's lifetime. Ieyasu visited the various feudal lords without the permission of the Five Elders and the Five Magistrates under Toyotomi government, arranged marriages and so on. One of the Five Elders, Uesugi Kagakatsu, felt threatened by these actions of Ieyasu, and started to build up his army and castles. Ieyasu then suspected him of treason against the Toyotomi family! This led to the conquest of Uesugi. Seeing Ieyasu moving to conquer the Uesugi, Ishida Mitsunari raised an army, leading to the Battle of Sekigahara. Ieyasu and Honda Masanobu are said to have developed a military strategy to this point that clearly defined who would ally with and who would oppose the Tokugawa family. Although it was around the same time, Masanobu was also responsible for the building of Edo Castle and the town of Edo, and for the management of the town after Ieyasu was transferred to the Kanto region by Hideyoshi. It was also Masanobu who negotiated with the Imperial Court to make Ieyasu a commander-in-chief of an army in pre-modern Japan, called 'Seii-Taishogun'. After the peace of the country, he contributed to building the foundations of the early years of the Edo shogunate. It was also Masanobu who coordinated to ensure that the relationship between the influential Ieyasu and Hidetada, the third son of Ieyasu, remained unbroken even after his retirement.

Masanobu even had permission to enter Ieyasu's bedroom while wearing swords. 'Sado-dono, Taka-dono and Oroku-dono' were said to be Ieyasu's three favourites. 'Taka dono' was hawk-hunting. Oroku-dono was 'Oroku-no-kata' - his side consort, and Sado-dono was the name of Masanobu's official position. When Ieyasu died, Masanobu handed over the governorship to his eldest son and died two months later, as if following in Ieyasu's footsteps. Such Masanobu was not depicted as one of the Tokugawa-Shitennos (four generals serving Tokugawa Ieyasu) and the Tokugawa Juroku Shinsho (the 16 great protective deities for Tokugawa). The reason for this may be that he once betrayed and antagonised Ieyasu. Its reason might be perhaps because he was so valued as a close associate of Ieyasu, despite having no great military achievements as a warlord, that he was subject to the jealousy of his retainers. Masanobu devoted himself to Ieyasu without worrying about the jealousy of others. They are probably drinking in heaven together.

