



We received warm comments from readers.



I look forward to reading every issue.
I can feel that the editorial staff values Japanese culture. (Mr. T)

Thank you very much. I have been producing this newsletter in the hope that we can transmit the good culture and history of Japan with care. We are very happy that you understood our thoughts. I will continue to do so in the future.

I always look forward to reading your newsletters. Especially, the history of the arms is always explained in detail and is very interesting. I would like to see a special column sometime on the structure of spears. (Mr. N)

Thank you very much. You say the special feature on the structure of spears! We would be delighted to create an article on them. Please look forward to it.

Your newsletters always have a lot of interesting articles and events. I enjoy reading your articles. I expect to read more in the future. (Mr. S)

I really appreciate your feedback. We are very happy that you love reading our newsletters! I am really touched. Please contact us if you have any questions. We will make it into an article.

I had a look at your newsletter for the first time! It was very interesting. Please keep up the good work.(Mr. K)

Thank you very much. You can see our previous articles and we hope you will read them.
(<https://daimyou.com/yamato.html>)



I am very impressed with your detailed description of the armoury and with the pictures. Please keep up the good work. I hope you will continue to provide us with such minor stories in the future. (Mr. O).

Thank you very much. We will continue to do our best to make interesting stories so that people will find that we talk about even some obscure subjects. Please look forward to the next issue.

I am learning a lot about armour from your articles. Illustrations are good, but I would be happy if you could use a couple of photographs of the real things. I need you to describe the masterpieces of odd helmets and the ornaments in front of helmets as well. Hanaemon's stories to visits schools are also excellent. (Mr. Y)

Thank you very much. Please find the article of Vol. 50 for the odd helmets and Vol. 25 for the ornaments in front helmets. These columns used illustrations, not photos. However, please enjoy the illustrations rather than the photographs.

Thank you for always reading the columns of 'I am going to talk about YAMATODAMASHII!' in the newsletters. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your many comments. We will continue to try to make the articles enjoyable so that you will be happy with them. Thank you for your continued support, too.



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

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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 Takako Shimatani.

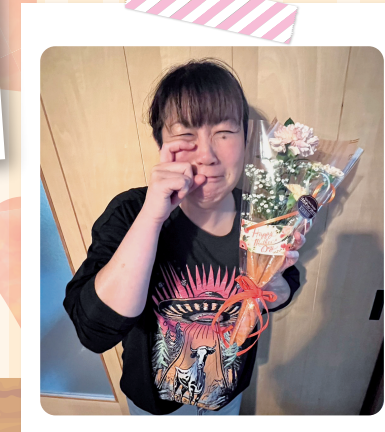
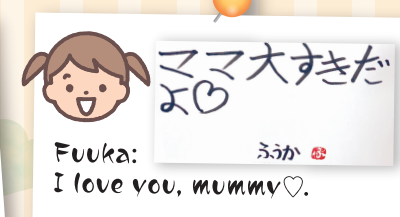
I recently found out that 12th June is a handsome day for lovers.

Did you all know about this?

The reason why it is called Lover's Day is because it is the day before the anniversary of the death of St Antonio, the god of marriage. And it is a day of commemoration that originated in Brazil, where lovers, family, and friends give each other gifts and go out to eat to strengthen their love and bonds. It is considered a good idea to give each other a photo frame as a gift.

In Japan, it is a well-established custom for lovers and married couples to give each other gifts to say 'Let's keep in touch!' and confirm their feelings. In my family, it is not so easy to get everyone together anymore, with my eldest daughter working and my second and third daughters taking lessons, so we decided to have dinner out in a different way to express our gratitude to my family for always supporting me and to strengthen our family ties.

'What do you want to eat?' I asked them, and they all said, 'Meat!' So we went to eat Yakitori, charcoal-grilled chicken skewers. We had a relaxing time. I was happy just to hear from my daughters, 'Mum, thank you for everything' on my way to home. But they had sweets and some small gifts ready for me after our arrival to home. It was truly a great day for me. I will continue to enjoy life with my daughters...



Hello. My name is Akemi Nakahori.

It's June and summer is just around the corner. How are you all doing?

We have just received a new shipment of Wakizashi (short sword) with Nozarashi (bleached skull) prints, and I wondered why it was painted on the sheaths. I was curious about it, so I researched about Nozarashi.



What is Nozarashi...??

Nozarashi is human bones that have been exposed to the elements in the open air and have become bleached, which is a human skull that has been exposed in the field. It is also called a 'Sharekobe', whose pronunciation in Japanese is similar to 'Sarasareta Kobe'. My image of it is scary! Grim! Bad luck! Was it?

However, in Japan, the bleached skull is believed to have protection against evil and misfortune. It carries the meaning of a resolute spirit—one

willing to persist even to the point of becoming bones—and, after that, symbolises 'rebirth and regeneration'. Because of these auspicious meanings, it is often used in Kimono designs and other traditional garments. In other countries, too, it has been treated as a special symbol in culture and religion. In Mexico, on 'Día de los Muertos' (Day of the Dead), skeletons are used as a symbol of respect and blessing for the dead. They symbolise existence and eternity beyond death as something that continues to exist after the material body has decayed, and they represent aspects of the human spirit and soul.

Great men have also put meanings into it...

Basho survived the fire that destroyed his house. At that time, he developed a sense of impermanence in his mind, which he called '一所不在' (not living in a certain place, but travelling around the country). In the poem, Basho wrote at the start of his journey.

'Nozarashi wo Kokoro ni Kaze no Shimu Mikana'.

The meaning of the phrase was: 'I may die in the open on my journey and become a white bone. When I set out on a long journey with this in mind, the autumn winds that have been blowing at this time are particularly harsh on me, and I feel a sense of melancholy.' This phrase is highly praised for its strong expression of a world-view and outlook on life that finds life in a bleak journey, and for its telling of a poet's determination. I was surprised that the word 'Nozarashi' was used at such an important moment of departure, but I strongly felt that it showed a determination to not care what would happen in the future. If I were to go on a journey alone, I would feel overwhelmed by uncertainty, wondering if I could have the determination to go through with it."



Also as a training uniform

Isamu Kondo of the Shinsengumi had a practice uniform a skull was embroidered on its back. This was embroidered by his wife Tsune, and in Kobujutsu (ancient Japanese martial arts), a skull meant a determined attitude. By using skulls, warriors, who were always next to death, were prepared for battle.



Knowing the true meaning of skulls turned my fear of them around completely. If you are interested in the Nozarashi-prints, please contact us.



Cute a little bit



I am going to make you back in times!



This issue continues the focus on the No 2 military commander. This issue is a time-slip to the No 2 of Minamoto no Yoritomo, this man!



The details of his origins were unknown, and there were various theories. It is said that he was either the biological or adoptive father of Oe Koremitsu, a low-ranking nobleman, or Nakahara no Hirotsue, also a low-ranking nobleman. In spite of a low-ranking aristocrat, he was exposed to books and learning from an early age and studied for a government position at the Imperial Court. Thanks in part to his efforts, he was able to take up a position as a bureaucrat, which was responsible for the practical administration of affairs within the Imperial Court.

From Imperial court bureaucrat to the heart of the warrior government

From the time Minamoto no Yoritomo destroyed the Taira Clan, Hiromoto began to serve close to Yoritomo. Hiromoto's elder brother had served Yoritomo from early on, and he was welcomed into his inner circle. This was partly due to Yoritomo's trust in his brother, but also because a bureaucrat who conducted practical affairs was a valuable presence among the warlike samurai. His experience as a bureaucrat on the Imperial Court side led him to take on the role of coordinator with the Imperial Court.

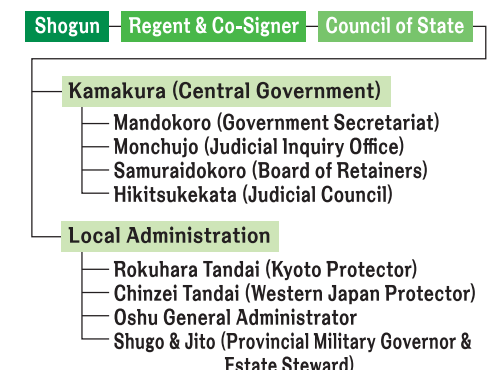


Did Hiromoto read the trend of the times from an era led by the imperial court to an era of the Samurai? Or was it his desire to be involved in creating the institutions of the new warrior government?

Efforts to design the institutions of the Kamakura Shogunate

Thanks to the efforts of Hiromoto as well, Hiromoto became involved in the establishment of the Kamakura Shogunate and the design of its institutions when Yoritomo was appointed Sei-tai Shogun-Commander-in-Chief of the Expeditionary Forces Against the Barbarians. One of these was the system of Shugo and Jito (Provincial Military Governor & Estate Steward), which is said to have been proposed by Hiromoto. In order to exert the Shogunate's influence over the whole country, the Shogunate assigned Shugo and Jito to various regions. The Jito were responsible for collecting taxes and managing the territory, while the Shugo were responsible for monitoring the Jito and military affairs of the country. The dispatch of these Shugo and Jito established the authority and control of the Kamakura Shogunate throughout the country.

Kamakura Shogunate Organisational Structure



Loyalty to the Shogunate

After Yoritomo's death, Emperor Go-Toba became dissatisfied with the Shogunate's interference and rebelled in an attempt to overthrow the Shogunate in order to restore sovereignty to the Imperial Court side, resulting in the Jokyu Rebellion. Hiromoto appealed to the legitimacy of the Shogunate to the vassals of the Shogunate, who were torn between the Imperial Court and the Shogunate, and worked hard to gain an advantage in the battle against the Court. With the help of Yoritomo's wife, Hojo Masako, the Shogunate forced defeated the Imperial Court's forces in a short time.



At this time, Hiromoto's heir apparent sided with the Imperial Court. His defeated heir was subsequently captured and exiled. Hiromoto accepted his son's exile in order to demonstrate the legitimacy of the Shogunate. Oe family of Hiromoto subsequently acquired estates in various parts of the country. One of his descendants was the famous warlord Mori Motonari. The fourth son of Hiromoto was his lineage. Incidentally, a descendant of the lineage of Hiromoto's elder brother was the warlord Otomo.