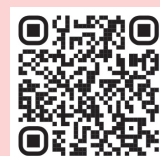


Comments from Our Customers

Thank you very much for all the comments we receive from our readers. Your warm and encouraging feedback inspires us as we prepare each new issue. We will continue to bring you articles that we hope you will enjoy, and we greatly appreciate your continued support.

A Comment
from
Mr. Harumi

Thank you for continuing to publish each issue. I am interested in Japanese sword fittings, and collecting them. I would be very happy if you could also provide their explanations I look forward to reading each new issue.



Thank you for your comment. Sword fittings are intricately crafted and really showcase the craftsmanship of artisans, don't they?

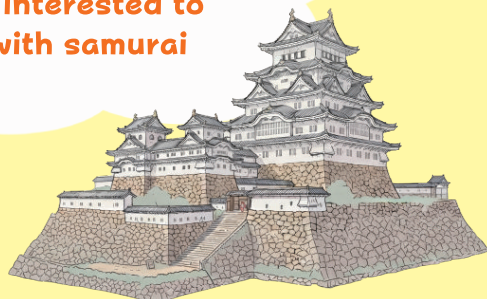
Are there any particular types of sword fittings that you collect, Mr. Katsumi? In fact, this issue marks the 74th edition of 'We deliver 'YAMATODAMASHII!'. Looking back, we have covered a wide variety of sword fittings, including Tsuba (sword guards), Kogai (hairdressing tools), and Tsuka (sword hilts). We hope you will continue to enjoy reading it! →→→

Past issues are also available on our website! If you would like a printed copy, we would be happy to send one to you!

A Comment
from
Mr. Touch

It's been a while. I'm glad to see that everyone is doing well. I always look forward to reading your interesting articles.

I'm sure there is still much more to tell about Samurai arms and armour, but perhaps you could also cover castles sometime? I would be very interested to learn about castles in connection with samurai arms and armour.



Thank you for your comment. All of us here are doing well. How have you been, Mr. Touch? That's right! There is no end to the fascinating history of armour and Samurai arms.

In our next issue, we'll do our best to include articles related to Samurai arms and armour when we visit some castles in our next 'Daimyo Adventure' company excursion. So please look forward to it!

How about this Yamatodamashii? We need your opinions and feedbacks more. We are waiting for them!

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Please write as 'Sub: reply to the newsletter' and send it to us



We deliver 大和魂 Vol.74 Oct. 2026

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! I'm Akemi Nakahori.

It feels like only yesterday that we were still having one hot day after another, but autumn has finally arrived, bringing much more pleasant weather. I hope everyone is doing well. Inspired by a certain TV drama, I recently took a family trip to Tottori!! And when you think of Tottori, there is one place you simply have to visit at least once...

~A Spectacular Japanese Landscape Created by the Wind~

My legs were trembling, so this tired mother leaned on her son for support. Sand stretches as far as the eye can see, making you wonder, 'Am I really still in Japan?' The dunes were absolutely beautiful, and as we looked out across them, we could see a **large hill** a little way ahead. 'I wonder what we'll be able to see from the top?' Filled with excitement and curiosity, we decided to make the climb! ...But!! Although it looked close, it was actually quite a distance away!! Walking on sand was much harder than I had expected. We kept saying, 'Are we there yet?!' as we struggled along, but eventually we made it to the top. And what was waiting for us after all that effort was ...A breathtaking view!!!! Right before our eyes, the deep blue Sea of Japan stretched across the entire horizon, while a refreshing breeze swept past us. It was such a wonderful view that all our tiredness seemed to disappear in an instant.

The Tottori Sand Dunes!!

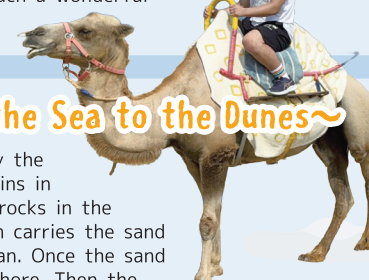


足がプルプルして、
息子に疲れ寄りかかる母



~From the Mountains to the Sea, and from the Sea to the Dunes~

It is believed that the sand of the Tottori Sand Dunes was created by the forces of nature over a period of more than 100,000 years. It all begins in the Chugoku Mountains. Over long periods of time, granite and other rocks in the mountains weather and break down into fine grains of sand. Rain then carries the sand into rivers, and it travels through the Sendai River to the Sea of Japan. Once the sand reaches the sea, waves and ocean currents carry it back toward the shore. Then the strong north-westerly seasonal winds which are characteristic of the Sea of Japan coast begin to blow. The wind carries the sand little by little inland. This process was repeated over tens of thousands—even hundreds of thousands—of years...and eventually created the Tottori Sand Dunes we see today. They are said to have been formed through a magnificent natural relay: 'Mountain rocks → Rivers → Sea → Waves → Wind' Even today, the wind continues to move the sand. With more than 100,000 years of history preserved within them, perhaps the Tottori Sand Dunes really are a kind of natural time capsule.



Incidentally...

The Tottori Sand Dunes have not always been a tourist destination. During the Meiji period, particularly around the time of the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars, the area was used for military training. It continued to serve as a military training ground until around 1945, when World War II came to an end. With their vast open spaces and few obstacles, the dunes must have been well suited for military exercises.



Tottori Has So Much More to Offer



The Sand Museum!! It's hard to believe these sculptures are made with nothing but sand and water!!

Just how much history has this sand witnessed? Thinking about that made me feel as though the dunes stretching out before me held countless stories from the past. 'Maybe there's even treasure buried beneath the sand?!' I thought. Imagining all sorts of possibilities like that made climbing the dunes even more enjoyable. Simply learning a little about the history of a place before visiting it can make the scenery look quite different from what you might see on an ordinary trip.

With the pleasant season ahead of us, why not take the opportunity to go somewhere and explore? For me, it was also a wonderful trip that gave me some lovely memories with my family.

Pear picking! They were so sweet and absolutely delicious!



Me, savouring the happiness of eating lots and lots of pears!



Hello, I'm Shimatani. In previous instalments of 'I am going to talk about YAMATODAMASHII', I have written about 'the armour, swords, and other equipment used by Samurai'. But then I began to wonder: What was a typical day actually like for these Samurai? What did they eat? What kind of homes did they live in? And what did they study? Starting with this issue, I'd like to explore these questions. So, everyone, let's travel back in ti~me together! ♪

A Day in the Life of a Samurai

From an Age of Fighting to an Age of Building Everyday Lives

When you hear the word 'Samurai', don't you picture warriors wearing swords at their waists, dressed in armour, and charging across the battlefield? In reality, however, on days when there was no fighting, Samurai maintained their residences, served their lords, practised martial arts, and studied academic subjects and etiquette. Then, as the long period of warfare came to an end and the Edo period began, their way of life underwent major changes.

The Sengoku Period — Always Ready for Battle

For Samurai during the Sengoku period, there was no knowing when the next battle might break out. For this reason, they regularly trained in martial arts and developed skills such as horsemanship and archery so that they would always be ready to go into battle. But everyday Samurai life was not all about fighting. The Sōunji-dono Nijūikkajō, or Twenty-One Articles of Lord Sōunji, which is known as a set of family precepts for a Sengoku daimyo, contains a variety of guidelines for everyday life. These include rising early and going to bed early, maintaining one's appearance, reporting for duty, reading, studying poetry, horse riding, repairing the home, and taking precautions against fire. Practicing martial arts, pursuing learning, and keeping one's surroundings in order were all part of the process of improving oneself as a Samurai.

The Edo Period — From the Battlefield to the Castle Town

With the arrival of the Edo period, major warfare gradually became a thing of the past. Rather than simply wielding swords on the battlefield, Samurai came to serve their lords, administer territories, perform duties for their domains, prepare documents, and take responsibility for such matters as finances and security. In other words, the Samurai's 'workplace' gradually shifted from the battlefield—as a warrior—to the castle town—as a retainer. More and more was expected of them, including a broad range of skills and knowledge such as reading and writing, etiquette, academic learning, and an understanding of politics.

A Day in the Life of an Edo-Period Samurai

Morning	Midday	Afternoon to Evening	Night
Get ready and leave for work	Serve one's lord and carry out assigned duties	Practice martial arts such as swordsmanship, archery, and horsemanship, and study reading, writing, academic subjects, and etiquette	Spend time with family and enjoy some time alone

At the time, people used a system known as 'unequal hours' (futeijihō), in which both daytime and nighttime were each divided into six periods based on sunrise and sunset. Daily life followed the rhythms of nature and society, guided by the movement of the sun and the ringing of time bells.

Getting Ready for the Day...

A Samurai would put on his swords and prepare to go to the castle according to the duties assigned to him that day. Then, he would set off for the castle. For an Edo-period Samurai, going to the castle marked the beginning of the working day. The way Samurai travelled there also varied according to their rank. Some reportedly went by palanquin, while others rode on horseback. Among retainers of the Shogunate, there was also a custom of 'stopping at the residence' of an influential hatamoto or other important person before going to the castle in order to 'pay one's respects and inquire after their well-being'. This was more than a simple greeting. It was apparently an important practice for maintaining relationships between lords and retainers, as well as personal connections. For a Samurai, therefore, work did not simply 'begin when he arrived at the castle'. His relationships and interactions with his lord and other people began from the moment he left his residence. And the swords that Samurai carried when going to the castle were not merely weapons for fighting. They were also important symbols of their status as Samurai.

Study and Training...

At domain schools and other institutions where the children of Samurai studied, there were cases in which students received approximately two hours of academic instruction and three hours of martial-arts training—a total of around five hours of education. Alongside their official duties, Samurai also devoted themselves to training in swordsmanship, spearman-ship, archery, horsemanship, and other martial arts. For Samurai, 'learning' and 'training' were not simply hobbies or extracurricular activities. They were part of everyday life as a Samurai.

And in the Evening...

Samurai enjoyed reading, playing Go and shogi, practicing the tea ceremony, and spending valuable time talking with their families. On their days off, they also enjoyed seasonal pleasures and entertainment, including Noh performances, banquets, cherry-blossom viewing, and moon viewing.

Samurai life changed dramatically from an age when no one knew what might happen next and fighting was at the centre of daily life, to the Edo period, when Samurai went about their everyday lives while carrying out their assigned duties. In the lives of Edo-period Samurai, we can even see something that resembles our 'modern-day routine' of getting up in the morning, getting ready, putting on what was essential for work—in their case, their swords—and heading off to do their jobs.

What surprised me most while researching this article, however, was the image of Samurai stopping to pay their respects to important people before reporting for duty. In modern terms, it would be rather like stopping to greet your boss or an important business associate before you even arrive at work. Samurai were not simply people who fought. They served their lords, honed their martial skills, pursued learning and culture, and continually worked to improve themselves in their everyday lives. Perhaps that is precisely why, even after so much time has passed, we are still moved by the Samurai way of life and the spirit of 'Samurai-damashii'—the Samurai spirit. I, too, hope to keep polishing and improving myself!



I am going to make you back in times!



In this issue, we will continue our series introducing famous siblings from Japanese history. This time, let's travel back in time to meet these brothers!

The Elder Brother Who Drove Toward the Unification of Japan—and the Younger Brother Who Challenged Him



Two Brothers Born in Owari

Oda Nobunaga and Nobuyuki were born as sons of Oda Nobuhide, a Sengoku-period Daimyo of Owari Province. As a young man, the elder brother, Nobunaga, was famously known as the 'Great Fool' (Otsuke) because of his eccentric clothing and unconventional behaviour. His younger brother, Nobuyuki, on the other hand, is said to have been well-mannered and regarded as someone well suited to succeed as head of a Samurai family. When their father, Nobuhide, died in 1551, Nobunaga succeeded him as head of the family. However, some retainers within the Oda Clan supported Nobuyuki rather than the unconventional Nobunaga, and this eventually developed into a conflict between the brothers.

The Younger Brother Who Challenged Nobunaga

Among the leading retainers who supported Nobuyuki were Shibata Katsuie and Hayashi Hidesada. In 1556, the two sides finally clashed at the Battle of Inō. Nobuyuki's side is said to have had the advantage in numbers, but it was Nobunaga who emerged victorious. It is said that Nobuyuki's life was spared after his defeat at the request of his mother, Dota Gozen, and Shibata Katsuie and the others were also pardoned. It appeared that the conflict between the brothers had come to an end.

Nobuyuki's Final Days

However, Nobuyuki is said to have later attempted to oppose Nobunaga once again. By this time, Shibata Katsuie had sided with Nobunaga and is said to have informed him of Nobuyuki's actions. In 1558, Nobunaga pretended to be ill and summoned Nobuyuki to Kiyosu Castle, where Nobuyuki was killed by a retainer acting on Nobunaga's orders. Struggles over succession during the Sengoku period were far more than simple quarrels between brothers. To Nobunaga, Nobuyuki was not only his own younger brother but also a political rival who threatened his position.

Nobunaga Spared the Son of the Brother He Had Killed

But the story does not end there. Nobuyuki had a young son named 'Nobuzumi'. During the Sengoku period, even the children of members of an opposing family could be killed, but Nobunaga did not have Nobuzumi put to death. As he grew older, Nobuzumi became a warrior in the service of the Oda Clan and eventually came to be entrusted with Ōmizo Castle in Ōmi Province. Nobunaga also arranged for Nobuzumi to marry the daughter of one of his senior retainers, Akechi Mitsuhide. Nobunaga had ordered the death of Nobuzumi's father, yet Nobuzumi would go on to serve that very same man. It was a complicated relationship characteristic of the Sengoku period.



The Honnō-ji Incident and Nobuzumi's Tragedy

On June 2, 1582, 'the Honnō-ji Incident' took place, and Nobunaga lost his life in Akechi Mitsuhide's rebellion. The incident also dramatically changed Nobuzumi's fate. Because Nobuzumi's wife was Mitsuhide's daughter, he came under suspicion of having been involved in the rebellion himself. Nobuzumi, who was in the Osaka area at the time, was killed by forces on the side of Oda Nobutaka and Niwa Nagahide. However, no conclusive evidence has been found to show that Nobuzumi was actually involved in Mitsuhide's rebellion. About 24 years had passed since his father, Nobuyuki, lost his life in his struggle with Nobunaga. His son Nobuzumi, too, would lose his life amid a conflict that shook the Oda Clan.



Looking at the relationship between Oda Nobunaga and Nobuyuki, we can see that during the Sengoku period, brothers could sometimes be one another's closest allies—and yet could also become their greatest enemies. Nobunaga spared his younger brother Nobuyuki once, but when the two came into conflict again, he ultimately decided to have him killed. What is particularly interesting, however, is that Nobunaga did not destroy Nobuyuki's family line by killing his son Nobuzumi as well. Instead, he allowed Nobuzumi to serve as a warrior of the Oda Clan. Nobuzumi, in turn, served Nobunaga—the man responsible for his father's death—but the Honnō-ji Incident completely changed his fate. Because he was Akechi Mitsuhide's son-in-law, he was suspected of involvement in the rebellion and lost his life.

