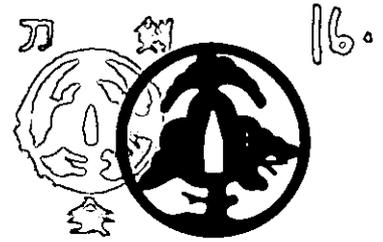


THE TO-KEN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN  
for the Study and Preservation of Japanese Swords and Fittings



HON. PRESIDENT, KAZUTARO TORIGOYE, Dr. Litt.  
SECRETARY, JEFFREY RODFORD.

PROGRAMME

Next Meeting Wednesday, 6th April, 1966, 7.30 p.m. Fulham  
Conservative Club, 4 Shorrolds Road, S.W.6.

**AUCTION** At the last meeting we held our first Auction which was a reasonable success. We had something like fifty lots all of which were quite good quality. Mr. Michael Webb of Sotheby's kindly acted as auctioneer with Mr. Neil Davey as clerk. It was conducted in a very professional manner and ran smoothly. We would like to thank Mr. Webb and Mr. Davey for all their efforts and hope to be able to call on their services in the future.

This being the first auction we have held there was some doubt as to whether it would be a success or not, but the results were gratifying, and we will try to make it a regular feature. As with all first ventures, we have learnt by experience. In future we intend to give a longer warning before the sale to enable members to get their entries in well before the date.

**JUDGING SESSION** We intend to have another sword blade appraisal session at our next meeting. It will take the same form as the previous ones. Members are asked to bring any blades they may have, both SHINTO and KOTO showing both good and bad points so that we may have the chance of seeing as many points of appraisal as possible.

**TALK** Also at the next meeting, John Harding will give the first of a series of talks which he calls "Pointers on the Judgment of Small Fittings"; these will deal almost entirely with MENUKI and FUCHI KASHIRA; the first primarily on MENUKI. Once again we would call on members to produce any examples they have for exhibition.

**PROGRAMMES** The new larger programmes seem to have been well received and we would like to thank those members who took the trouble to write to us for their valuable comments and interest. In this edition we re-publish because of numerous requests, an edited version of Bon Dale's talk of over a year ago on basic points in judging Sword blades.

TO-KEN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

SWORD GLOSSARY (Continued)

- BOSHI The tempered edge of a blade in the area of the kissaki, the Hamon within the point. Of great importance in judging quality, must always be present and complete: no matter how good the rest of the sword if the Boshi is not superb the smith is not a master.
- BONJI Modified and stylized Sanskrit characters, representing about forty Buddhist divinities, found carved on sword blades, usually combined with other horimono decoration.
- BOBI A wide groove carved almost full width of the shinogi-ji (also Bo-hi).
- BO-HI NI TSURE-HI. A wide groove flanked by a narrow groove.
- BIZEN One of the Gokaden "five schools" of the old methods of sword making, the Koto period. Probably fifty percent of Koto blades are Bizen, few Bizen smiths made blades in any other than their own province, thus keeping the BIZEN DEN pure for longer than other schools. The KO-BIZEN, Old Bizen, school flourished c.950-1200; the most prolific, the Osafune School between c.1230-1600.
- BIZEN SORI The type of curvature peculiar to Bizen blades, in which the centre of curvature is about one third the length of the blade above the mune-machi. Also called KOSHI-SORI.
- BUKE-ZUKURI Mountings of swords worn by the Buke, samurai class, after about 1600. The normal Daisho Koshirae.
- BO-UTSURI Stick like utsuri, straight utsuri.
- BIZEN UTSURI When utsuri is present in a Bizen blade made between the Kamakura and Muramachi periods it will nearly always be white utsuri and be either Midare-utsuri (irregular or wavy) or Bo-utsuri. It will not necessarily be continuous or "reflect" the yakiba.
- BOKUTO A wooden sword, a word used to describe many ancient forms of wooden sword made for various purposes; more generally the name for a doctor's sword, usually solid without separate blade.
- BU Measurement of length, about 0.119 in. or 3 mm. Used in sword blade measurements.
- BU-NO-TACHI War swords, an ancient name for a fighting Tachi worn with armour as against ceremonial Tachi.

## ARMOUR GLOSSARY

- BA-JŌ-GUTSU Riding boots of three quarter length made of leather and worn with armour before the introduction of shin guards.
- BENI-GAWA Dark red leather, sometimes used under the helmet peak in place of the usual red lacquer.
- BISHAMON-GOTE Sleeves having small shoulder guards attached directly to them.
- BISHAMON-SUNEATE Shinguards of 3 solid plates hinged vertically. The knee guards of medium size may be either solid plates or Japanese brigandine.
- CHIKARA-GAWA Lit: Strength leather. A name given to the two strips of leather which cross inside the helmet above the lining helping to take weight of the bowl and avoiding strain on the lining. This name is also used for the two vertical strips of leather running from the waist cord to the top of the armoured portion on the fabric of the thigh guards.
- CHIRIMEN-NAMBAN-GUSARI Mail of European type composed of very small links.
- CHŌCHIN HORO Lit: Lantern HORO. A later development of the loose cape like piece of material seen on illustrations of ancient armour and said to be a protection against arrows. The material was stretched over a framework resembling a lantern and worn on the back rather in the same way as the little banner.
- CHŪ-SODE Shoulder guards of medium size, falling midway between the large O-SODE seen on ancient style armours and the very small KO-SODE developed in the MOMOYAMA period.