

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, 1st June, 1966 - 7.30 p.m. Fulham
Conservative Club, 4 Shorrolds Road, S.W.6.

PROGRAMME: As members will have noticed the Journal was not out before the last meeting as we had hoped, but we have been promised that barring fire, flood, famine or a printing strike, it will be out before the next gathering. This being so it is proposed to spend a little while discussing the contents and layout. It is also hoped to get some idea of what material will be available for the next edition, so if you have anything to submit for publication, please let us have it now.

LATE NEWS FLASH - The Journal has now definitely been received from the Printers and will be available at the next meeting. Copies will be sent to Subscription members in a few days time. Your comments are invited; our first teething troubles have been overcome and we intend to have the next Journal out as soon as possible. In the next one we want to have more letters and comments from Corresponding Members. Articles, general or technical, are urgently required for the next and the next and the next; please submit something now!

Cost: 5/- each plus 8d postage (overseas 1/- postage) to be sent to: 17 Piccadilly Arcade, London S.W.1.

After the break for refreshment, Mr. Andrew Ford will give a talk on TAMESHIGIRI. Mr. Ford has for some time now made this his special study and although he freely admits his talk is in no way meant to be a completely comprehensive treatise on the subject, it will no doubt contain many points which are new to the vast majority of members. During his talk he hopes to touch on Schools, Styles, Methods and typical Tang inscriptions. Members who have swords with Tameshigiri inscriptions are asked to bring them for exhibition.

LAST MEETING: The first half of the last meeting was given over to a general get-together of members for discussion and to allow new members to get acquainted with their fellows. After the refreshment break, Mr. Maitland

gave a very interesting lecture on lacquer scabbards. He traced the process of lacquering right from the collection of the raw lac right up to the finished article. It is not generally realized how much time and effort went into the preparation and finishing of even the most humble black lacquered scabbard, let alone the gorgeous examples we have all seen and wondered at. Mr. Maitland's lecture was well received and his obvious enthusiasm for his subject carried his audience with him.

GLOSSARY OF ARMOUR TERMS (Continued)

- EBOSHI A soft cap worn under the helmet up to the end of the 13th century.
- EBOSHI-KABUTO A helmet made in the form of an EBOSHI. Usually of 1, 2 or 4 plates but sometimes of multi-plate construction.
- ERI A collar. In the case of armour usually of brigandine.
- ETCHŪ-BO Face mask of the type without a nose probably developed in ETCHŪ province.
- ETCHŪ-GOTE A variety of sleeve also probably developed in ETCHŪ.
- FUKIGAYESHI Lit. "Blown back". The portion of the neckguard which is turned back on either side of the helmet. On the earliest examples the whole forward edge of the neckguard was turned back but later examples have only three - two on one lame so treated. During the MOMOYAMA period they were further reduced to become in some cases small ornamental "ears".
- FUKUBE Lit. "Gourd". A gourd shaped plate attached to the fore and upper arm of some sleeves as protection. Distinct characteristic of the ODA GOTE. It is also called HYOTAN-GANI.
- FUKURIN Ornamental metal edgings found covering the standing ridges on helmet plates, the peak and the edges of FUKIGAYESHI, DŌ etc. Although mainly in copper gilt, shakudo and silver are also often found.
- FUSE-GUMI A silk multi-coloured piping used as a decoration and to hide seams and joins in decorative leathers.

SWORD GLOSSARY (Continued)

- DZU for example, in Hira-dzukuri, an alternative phonetic spelling for some Japanese words beginning with the letters TSU, hira-tsukuri. Depending upon the authority and not implying any different meaning to the word concerned.
- DORAN a type of hamon, a wave like billowing pattern, also called Toran.
- DAITO long sword, with a cutting edge of over two shaku.
- DAISHO a matched pair of swords, long and short, katana and wakizashi.
- DEN a character often used in Japanese literature when describing unsigned blades, meaning "school of" or alternatively "attributed to".
- DODAN a character used in tameshigiri inscriptions on sword tangs, the block upon which the body to be cut was secured. Inscriptions often state that the dodan was cut through at the same stroke.
- DŌ also a basic character in tameshigiri inscriptions, the body upon which the cutting test was carried out.