

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



HON. PRESIDENT, KAZUTARO TORIGOYE, Dr. LITT.  
SECRETARY, 17, PICCADILLY ARCADE LONDON, S.W.1. (HyDe Park 6496)

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PROGRAMME

NEXT MEETING. Wednesday, November 2nd, 1966. Fulham  
Conservative Club, 4 Shorrolds Road, S.W.6.

LAST MEETING. The last meeting was the Annual General Meeting of the Society and the first half of the evening was concerned with the business of electing the Committee and Chairman for the coming year. Other business discussed was the finances of the Society and the forthcoming Journal, which is now well in hand. The new Chairman and Committee are listed below.

After the tea interval, I.R. Cottis gave a very interesting talk on the Japanese matchlock. He traced the development of firearms in Japan from their first introduction by the Portuguese, their use in battle and a little of the tactics used and went on to explain some of the unique features of these weapons. There is so little known about these guns in the Western World that this talk was completely new to most of us. A lively discussion followed the talk and covered almost every conceivable Japanese firearm from cannon to combination weapons, sporting guns to mortars.

NEXT MEETING The first half of this next meeting will be of a general nature and the discussion of any business which may have arisen. After the refreshments, Bon Dale will be giving a talk on COUNTERFEIT SIGNATURES and members are asked to bring such swords as they may have which they suspect may have doubtful, spurious or out and out "fake" signatures. I feel sure that most of us have the odd National Treasure tucked away somewhere, so please try and bring something.

EXHIBITION For some time now we have been talking of holding an Exhibition of items from members collections. At the first committee meeting of this year, this was further discussed and things are now taking shape. It is intended to hold the exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum,

Oxford which, I think those who have seen it will agree, is one of the finest kept and laid out museums in the provinces and also has a distinct leaning toward Eastern art. A large room is to be at our disposal and the museum is undertaking to provide proper show cases for the exhibits. The exact dates have not yet been decided upon but it was generally considered that October 1967 would be the most acceptable period. There will be a fully illustrated catalogue produced and we hope to make it a memorable exhibition. The exact theme and layout are, of course, still some way off, but in the meantime will any members who would like to exhibit please furnish, as soon as possible to the Society, a fairly detailed description of the pieces and a photograph. This applies to all members, full and corresponding.

The success of the exhibition must rely upon the FULL support of members, we do not wish this to be a hit and run affair. The Society will arrange for all exhibits to be insured whilst on view and will make every effort to see that the exhibits are only handled by people competent to do so.

The Special Exhibition Committee will try to arrange for all the subjects of the To Ken Society to be represented.

It is a unique opportunity for the Society to spread the knowledge of Japanese Art in this specialised field and no effort will be spared to see that it is successful. The Exhibition Committee will see that members are kept up to date on planning as it progresses. Please send photographs and details to the Society's address in Piccadilly and please mark the envelope EXHIBITION.

COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

The following were duly elected by ballot at the September meeting:

Chairman	Douglas J.K.Wright
Committee	Bon G.Dale
	Prof.R.G.MacFarlane
	David Tudor Williams
	John Anderson
	Sidney Divers

NEW MEMBERS

A.W.Chapman, 71 Ingaway, Basildon, Essex.  
W.L.Sherman, Jr. M.D., Detroit 2, Michigan 48202.  
U.S.A.

NEW MEMBERS (Cont'd)

Dr. J.P.Garaix, 8 Avenue Larcher, 78 Chatou, France.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The New Address of Ben Vincent, one of our American members is:

Foreign Students Dormitory  
Room 14,  
127 Matsubara Cho  
Kawachi City,  
Osaka Prefecture,  
Japan.

Ben Vincent is now in Japan on a scholarship. He will study Japanese language and history, and he intends to study Japanese swords.

BIRTHDAY

We would like to congratulate J.D. Aylward of West Kirby on his 95th birthday. We hope all our members attain such longevity.

## ARMOUR GLOSSARY

- HISHINUI Lit. Loenge Sewing. A name given to the ornamental cross laces of silk or leather, which are found on the lower plates of armour. There are usually one or two rows which are generally red in colour but other colours are often met with. Although mainly decorative in function they do to some extent, reduce the rattle caused by the armour plates coming together.
- HISHINUI-DŌ A cuirass constructed of horizontal plates held together by rows of HISHINUI usually strengthened by leather ties. Some examples are riveted and have the rivet heads fashioned in the form of HISHI NUI.
- HISHINUI-NO-ITA The lower plate of shoulder guards, neck guard, throat guard and tassets on which are found the HISHINUI.
- HISHITOJI Another name for the HISHINUI.
- HITATARE A robe or shirt and trousers worn under armour.
- HITO-HADA-NURI A flesh coloured lacquer used on the outside of some face masks.
- HITOKAWAGIRI The leather lining of the earlier DŌ-MARU which was cut in one piece and not cut to fit each row of scales separately.
- HITOYE-GUSARI Lit. Single mail. A form of Japanese mail in which the circular links being flat are joined together by single oval links on edge.
- HIZA-MARU Lit. Knee Round. One of the eight armours of the MINAMOTO clan, this example was said to have been laced with hide from the knees of a thousand cows.
- HIZA-YOROI Lit. Knee Armour. An old type of HAIDATE used in the 14th and 15th centuries, their exact form is a little speculative but it would appear to be in the form of a curved section of scale work which invests the knee quite closely and is suspended from the waist in the same way as the HAIDATE.
- HŌATE A face mask which covered the cheeks and chin only.
- HŌBIN The central tube of the HACHIMANZA. It is the lower end of this which is split and folded over inside the helmet to secure the HACHIMANZA in position.

## SWORD GLOSSARY

- ICHIMAI-BOSHI A boshi which is entirely tempered so that the line of hamon usually turns back along the line of the Yokote, the slight angle which defines the Kissaki.
- ITAME-HADA Hada or forging grain which is like elongated or irregular wood grain.
- ITO-SUGUHA Narrow straight tempered line, also called Hoso-suguha.
- INAZUMA A radiant line of martensite in the tempered area of a blade, inazuma or lightning when the line is zig-zag; Kinsuji when the line is shorter, straight and sometimes darker.
- IORI-MUNE Inverted V shaped back ridge of a blade, the most common form, also called gyo-ho-mune.
- IKUBI-KISSAKI A short kissaki, with a straight or almost straight cutting edge; often a sign of an early and good blade; if original and not a result of tampering.
- IKARI-Ō-KISSAKI A large curved point section, also just Ō Kissaki.
- ICHIMONJI School of swordsmiths, with a long and complex history but in the first instance founded by Norimune c.1190, with many members who worked for the Emperor Go-Toba, and who were given the distinction of signing their blades with the single character ICHI, signifying the "one and only".
- INAKA An Inaka swordsmith, country swordsmith, or "district" swordsmith. Swordsmiths working away from the traditions of the five schools, the Gokaden, so that the original concepts are lost, such blades are hard to place in a school or sometimes even province.