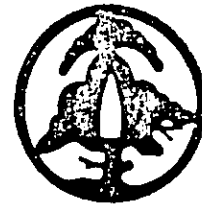


THE TO-KEN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN  
for the Study and Preservation of Japanese Swords and Fittings



HON. PRESIDENT. B.W. ROBINSON, M.A., B.LITT.  
SECRETARY. H. M. HUTCHINSON, 141 NORK WAY, BANSTEAD, SURREY.

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PROGRAMME No. 76

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1973

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 1st October, 7.30 p.m. at the Princess Louise, High Holborn. To get there: Underground to Holborn, turn west, cross Kingsway and the P.L. is 50 yards down on the left hand side.

FOLLOWING MEETING:

Monday, 5th November at Princess Louise 7.30 p.m.

SUBJECTS:

October - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,  
ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE.

This is your chance to influence the Society and make it the type of Society you want. Make an effort to come and vote and give your opinions.

November - to be decided by new Committee

JUNE MEETING

The subject for the meeting was a talk on Yari by Dave Parker. Firstly the following guests were welcomed - Colin Brown, David Daine, John and Mike Roberts and David Bowden. John Anderson asked if all had seen the excellent film (TV) on Ascent of Man, which dealt with Japanese swords. It did appear that some members missed it - more's the pity. Sidney Divers explained that quite a bit of the original filming had been missed out. He suggested that it might be possible to have the edited pieces of film and make possibly a half hour film of them. It was agreed that this would be very welcome and interesting to members for parts on forging, polishing and many cuts were missing in the viewed film. A vote of thanks was accorded to Sid for all his work in making the film possible and for gaining a credit for the Token Society.

Your Programme Secretary complained about lack of items for discussion or publication. This appears to be the main problem with this task - I know how you suffered, Fred, and all those before us - no one wants to say anything or even complain. Can everything be so good and does everyone know so much? It just does not seem necessary to communicate at all - all facts will come if only we sit and wait. I'm sure that is the train of thought of most members - what a pity. How can a Society exist when its members act as cloistered monks, each in his own little cell jealously guarding his own rusty blade for fear the others may wrest a secret from him, or frightened that if he may break the vow of silence, abuse will be heaped upon him. Each one of us knows a little and if all these little pieces were fitted together, we would have knowledge. This is the reason for our Society - to study and preserve. So please ask your questions and please someone answer them. I do feel that as regards progress - we haven't made a great deal and this is primarily because of the lack of study. I keep on about this but no one ever takes it up. Well, the A.G.M. is coming up so I expect the views of members will sound out loud and clear what they really want. We will know the future of our Society and the path on which it is to continue. Or will we? There is too much apathy and it is costing us dearly in the loss of older and dedicated members and you only have yourselves to blame.

Personally I would like the Society to have a more permanent base. A place where individuals could go at any time to meet and study. Where we could build up a library for reference, a really good one, instead of individuals trying to produce their own very costly ones. A place where we could keep equipment, epidiascope, blackboard, lights, etc. I know it's asking a lot but surely it's worth the effort and expense. Could we not get help from the Education authorities or museums? If we don't try we will never know. The greatest shot in the arm we have ever had folded up because of apathy - lack of support, call it what you will. I am referring to Yamanaka's Newsletter - an absolute mine of information published and yet there could have been so much more to come, so much information we desperately need, but not to be. Don't let this happen to us.

Sidney then discussed the arrangements and progress regarding the Japan trip. The whole process of sword making and sword polishing has been laid on with Inami, who was over here recently. A trip to Osafune in Bizen has been laid on as well as a look at the ironworks there, where they produce the iron for sword making, plus a lecture by Dr. Sato at the National Museum.

The second newsletter is included at the end of this programme, giving full details. The more people that go the cheaper it becomes.

#### KENT ARMS SALE

Catalogues were passed around to members for their perusal. A fair number of Japanese items were included, about 10% of a total of 500 lots.

Next sale is 28th November, detail below:-

ALL ENQUIRIES

98, High Street,  
Plumstead,  
London, S.E.18.

Tel: 01-317-8204

(Closed Thursdays)

SHOWROOM

126, Erith Road,  
Bexleyheath,  
Kent.

Tel: Crayford 22712

(Closed Wednesdays)

We hold auctions every six weeks at The Black Prince, in Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent, which is just off the A2 motorway and in easy reach of the A20 by the A223 connecting road. The Black Prince is situated in its own grounds with spacious free car parking available. Bexley station is within ten minutes walk - turn right into the High Street on leaving the station and take the first left continuing for about 500 yards until the roundabout/flyover. The Black Prince is situated just behind this, in Bourne Road.

VIEWING is from 2.30 p.m. on day of sale at The Black Prince or by appointment on the two days prior to the sale at our showroom.

CATALOGUES are sent to subscribers two weeks before the sale and priced lists of the previous sale are enclosed. Annual subscription is £2.50 for the U.K., £4.50 for Europe and £6.00 for the rest of the world.

SWORDS WITH JOHN HARDING FOR POLISHING

A message via Colin Nunn.

Some members had expressed concern at the time these blades had been away. Colin Nunn whilst in Japan contacted John Harding for information.

Unfortunately, there being a member of the fair sex present at our meeting, the precise words from John were left unsaid. A more appropriate version is as follows.

He questioned that members did not realise all that the blades went through and pointed out some of the things that went wrong to account for all this time, i.e. fittings being made, also someone asked for Tsunagi (a replica of the blade in wood, used to hold the handle and saya together) and never sent the saya out. Also, if 9 blades are sent out the total number must be returned - you cannot send a part delivery. He did also ask for good blades to be sent out and not the rubbish that was sent. There are at present three more to do, so three months should see the return of all the blades. Colin Nunn has seen the six polished and says they look very good (for rubbish?). So no more criticism or complaints or John will send them all back in the condition they are in.

The outcome of all this was that Colin Nunn should give a talk at the next meeting on his Japanese trip.

YARI by Dave Parker

No one has ever produced a weapon as fine as the Japanese sword, and the Japanese spear (Yari) runs it a very close rival.

Polearms have a wider application than the sword, resulting in such things as Naginata, long blades, short blades, 3 sided blades, two prongs, L shape, cruciform, etc.

The first one we come across is the Naginata. This first appeared in Heian times which was 1st year of Daido 806 to 2nd year Duet 1183. It can really be described as a blade ridged, deep sori and no yokote. It can have grooves but I have seen them without, they made them as they felt and the grooves are really only for decoration. Tempering depended on the smith as in swords so there is a wide variety of hamon to be found. One of the rarest naginata is called Chukushi naginata, which has an eye in the end to fit over the pole. These are very rare, I have only seen one and normally only seen in books. Another naginata is Naginata no saki which is socketted, again very rare.

The early naginatas were very long, a lot of notable warriors carried them. One of the top men was Gochin no Tajima, who used his naginata to such an effect at the battle of Uji bridge that the Heike named him Tajima the Arrowcutter. The story is that of the arrows that were fired at him, the high ones he let pass, the low ones he jumped over and any coming straight at him he cut in half. Probably the most famous man who owned a naginata was Seito Musashi Bobenkai. In his request to the swordsmith he asked for a blade of 4 shaku in length (4'8") and the shaft of this weapon had to be 6 shaku 5 sun, which is 7 ft. 6 inches. So you can imagine it was a very formidable weapon.

Naginata can be signed either side. I asked the Japanese why some were signed Tachi mei and others Katana mei and they told me all naginata are signed Tachi mei - however I have had them signed both sides. Later in the Tokugawa era naginata were used for parades and the poles were covered with vines, soft metals and anything that took their fancy. Then you have a smaller one that was used by ladies and right up into the last war and even now in Japan they are still used for practice.

Peter Cottis interjected that he had personally seen a demonstration of naginata by a lady at his house. I too have seen Mrs. Knutsen demonstrate the use of the naginata and it is very impressive indeed. Similar to standing in front of an advancing propellor - you stand about the same chance.

Next comes the Magari Yari, which appeared about the 15th century. The Japanese call it Jumonji, after the Japanese ten. Knutsen says the real name is Magari yari. This is the cruciform shape. Earlier blades tend to be very slim and graceful, tending later into being fat and ugly. This type of weapon really progressed from a functional weapon to a possessional weapon by the Tokugawas. A retainer carried this Yari on the parade Naginata preceding the Daimyo or anyone of note and he was known as the Yarimuchi, literally spear bearer, and it was an eagerly sought after place of honour. Blades of this type vary immensely for 3" to the central spike being 18 inches long. A lot of prints show weird and wonderful shapes, but this is not artistic license, it is factual. They just let their fancies run wild in their construction - some blades even had the bottom ones detachable and the opposing lengths of the bottom blade need not be even.

The Hoko is the next weapon which is similar to the Magari Yari, but with one bar cut off. In the 15th and 16th century, in the age of battles when the weapon makers were looking around for new weapons to make, they looked back to their forebears and their arms. In the Shosoin Imperial Storehouse at Nara, there are some very old Hoko, the original spears were called Hoko, and from these they produced the Hoko, except that now it was made with a tang, whereas previously they were socketed. Again, they come in all sizes as some were used to hook their opponent from their horses and then finish him off with the spear-like point.

This particular example shown had two lugs at the top, the use of which is open to speculation, It was felt that it was to hold a Sashimono rather than to take an externally mounted blade as were some bayonets. An externally mounted blade was felt to be un-Japanese. It is known that very early naginata were actually mounted outside the pole. These probably started life as a farmer's weapon, as indeed most did.

By far the largest proportion of pole arms were straight spears, be they three-sided or four-sided. Three-sided are known as Sankaku (triangle) and four-sided Ryoshinogi, which really means four sides. If one side, which is usually the flat side with the groove in, is wider than the other two faces it is known as Hira Sankaku. These are all types of yari, whether it has socket or tang, anything over 9 inches is a Suiyari, but they also say anything with parallel sides under 9 inches are also sui-yari - so you work it out.

Most yari were used from horseback and butterfly cuts, figure of eight cuts, wheels either side were used. There is a portion of the armour, the tassets, which were designed to obviate the blow of a naginata. The larger yari were used more for cutting than stabbing. Some very short and stout yari - three or four sided, 3 or even 2 inches long, were used by horsemen for punching through armour like a lance. The yari was in fact the weapon of the nobleman and not the ordinary foot soldier, the reverse of Western usage. (A general of the

Kashima clan, Matsumoto Bizen-No-Kami Naokatsu, was an expert in the use of a yari and it is understood killed over one hundred opponents with one).

Another type of spear is the Makura Yari and this can take practically any form used as the name implies for putting by the bed (Makura - pillow). It is very easy to get into a Japanese house and therefore protection was even required whilst in bed.

Yet another type is the Nagayari or javelin. These were in the main very short yari heads with tapered poles about 18 inches to 2 feet long for throwing - used in hunting. Japanese warriors never threw their spears.

Another type is the Sekuju yari, which is a staff with a base on the top with three chains on and these were used by Samurai or assassins going on special missions. With the many pilgrims wandering along the roads who normally carried staffs, it was easy to mix in with these and become unobtrusive. The head would come off with the chains on and the yari would be inside.

One more yari is the yumi yari which is fitted onto the end of a bow. There is one in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the George Stone Collection. It has shoulders on it and does not affect the bow being strung. The heads are usually four-sided.

One of the last types of yari used by peasants and perhaps samurai who had lost their spears is the Take Hoko, which is a length of bamboo with the end cut across, making a very sharp point. It inflicts a very nasty wound. It is said a wound from bamboo never properly heals but breaks open from time to time.

The shafts of yari are made of kashi, white or red version of the Japanese evergreen oak. It is very straight grained, no knots and has a certain amount of spring, which is what is required in a yari. Now fitting the blade - if it is a socket the pole is just shaved off and the socket placed over it. Where a tang had to fit into the pole - the pole was not drilled but a section cut out to accept the tang. This piece was then shaved to fit and then laid back in and is so skilfully done that it is quite a tight fit. This is then lacquered over or covered with sharks skin, ray skin, leather or mother-of-pearl. Another way is to bind it and then lacquer over the top. The copper holding bands would then be put on or silver or whatever and finished off with a collar on top - sometimes of steel. Usually the length of the decoration denotes the length of the tang. To finish off a small knot - a hand stop on the top - it does not look very much but when one tries to make one they never look quite like the Japanese ones. The knot is thick in the middle and tapers towards both ends and it takes a bit of doing. Usually lacquered over in black or red with a little gold on top.

Another thing you find on the pole is Hadome, a projection lower down on the pole usually at right angles, sometimes plain and sometimes with saw like sections - not sufficient to cut the hand but perhaps to catch a sword (Hadome means brake so it could well mean to pull up a sword).

Someone once mentioned when seeing a very long Hadome that it looked as if it was for a lantern, which is what it could also be used for.

This goes on to Hiramaki (the base), here again different sizes and shapes. Some with sharp points, fat points, some like a hammer. This was used as in bayonetting. If you miss with the point, follow up with the butt. The pole is tapered and pear section in shape and faceted all the way down, which is fine work by any standard. Naginata poles are oval, although some are pear section. Even the collars are quite intricate, where you put the peg in and turn the collar so the peg doesn't fall out.

#### NEWS FROM THE NORTH

As members examine swords and exchange views would they please spare a thought for the Northern Branch, who at the time of writing are facing the prospect of becoming homeless "ronin"!

The Seven Oaks Hotel, in whose upper room the Branch has met for several years, has recently changed hands. Gone is the friendly landlord. Gone too are the weapons with which the pub was decorated, replaced by a juke-box and a rather severe print of the Mona Lisa.

From which you may have gathered that the September meeting was not a success..... Well, we are a hardy crowd, but it is difficult to comment on the quality of a blade with pop music blasting into one ear, and the delicacy of a finely tempered steel is not seen at its best under stroboscopic illumination. This latter problem was solved by carrying the swords down to the Gents, but the sight of a line of men proceeding to the lavatory with an assortment of lethal cutlery was more than even the generally unflappable citizens of Manchester can reasonably be expected to tolerate.

Ian Bottomley is negotiating, and Yours Truly is conducting his own survey of militaristic licensed premises in Central Manchester. All regular members will be informed of developments, and all being well, the next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 20th. This will include a short talk on sixteenth century samurai and their swords.

S.R. Turnbull.

Now let's catch up a little on the mail.

First a very interesting letter from an Australian member.

FAKING - MINOR SMITHS

"I have seen a copy of the Oshigata of 'insignificant' swordsmiths (10) put out some time ago by the Society. Whilst this is a commendable effort I wish to take exception to the assumption put forward in the second paragraph of the preface, viz.,

"We suggest that the more insignificant the swordsmith then the greater the chance that both signature and sword are genuine for apart from those instances where some minor individual might have attained local fame there is little or no reason for forgery."

As a generalisation this is acceptable. However, I pass on the following experience to indicate that, like most everything else connected with Nihontō, it should be remembered that this statement is a generalisation and that in the final analysis knowledge and study of a blade's metallurgical characteristics should be the final arbiter of the 'genuine-ness' or otherwise. My experience concerns a katana I traded to a Polisher for polishing on a more favoured blade I had. This katana was in quite good polish and condition, and was signed (katana-me) HIZEN NO KUNI NO JU TADAYUKI, if my memory serves me correctly, and I thought it possibly an early work of TA 161, circa 1673, rating 7. A minor smith. Like the questioned paragraph I thought therefore more likely to be a genuine work. The polisher's comments on the blade was

"The TADAYUKI is a forgery. It is probably a late Shin Shintō at the best"

I wrote back :

"What really surprises me is that the TADAYUKI is a forgery. Recalling the nakago and blade characteristics, I can believe it, but why would anybody go to the trouble of faking a fairly minor smith? I remember you saying that this man never, to your knowledge, worked with suguha hamon. But why fake a minor smith when to make a sword is a worthy thing in its own right?"

The last sentence here echoes the sentiment of Mole Ben at the bottom of page 7 of the latest Program (No. 74). I received the following reply from my Polisher:

"As far as minor smiths being faked, I think you will find that just about all smiths were copied at some time. It is much easier to sell a Showa blade with a Shin Shinto signature than a Showa man's name. Especially if he is a minor smith."



Q.E.D.?? This correspondence took place about April 1971. I suppose an analogy in Western terms would be if one wanted (these days) to go into the business of faking English flintlocks one really wouldn't get very far if one signed pieces 'D.Egg', or 'J. Manton' etc. as one's work would have to be really top class to pass (Naotane?? c.f.), and therefore it would be safer to sign a lesser workshop's name.

I look forward to receiving the No. 75 issue (and others - until this forging bit 'blows over') by AIR MAIL in due course. I hope this letter gets to you in time.

Must away. Best wishes to my friends and colleagues in the U.K. "

Sincerest Regards,

B.W.Thomas

Ed. The metallurgical characteristics of the blade must produce the answer as to who made it. These are practically impossible to fake whereas signatures are relatively easy to imitate and should not be the governing factor. In fact if any part of the blade says no, then the signature should be ignored. Any fool can sign a work of art but it takes a master to produce one.

From Willis Hawley a short note covering Andrew Ford's talk in Programme 74. The distortion of the Nanka Token Kai was purely the editor's fault and I beg to be forgiven - but it is sometimes difficult when transcribing to get the correct spelling.

" It seems the Hawley legend gets some new twists as it grows!!! So I hasten to correct some things from Programme 74.

First - Our club's Japanese name is Nanka Token Kai which translates to (Nan) Southern (ka) California (Token) Sword (Kai) Club. That probably was a distortion by whoever took down Andrew's talk.

Second - Andy short-changed us by 20 steps - there are 100 but I won't make him out a liar for that, he probably counted them in the dark and missed a few!

Third - The Nanka Token Kai did have a tanto made but not by Miyaire Akihira but by Fujimura Kunitoshi who died a couple of years ago of apoplexy while making a sword. Also, the date when he made one for us was 1964 January, just in time for our Sword Exhibition at Barnsdal Park which drew 14,000 visitors in one month. Yes I won it - I was selling the raffle tickets! It is an almost perfect reproduction of the Hoche Masamune.

Which takes care of all the complaints.

"Now a comment on double scabbards as mentioned by Andy. I have one - a shirasaya, quite old, in which the blade scabbard has a liner which is held in by a clip and doesn't come out when you draw the blade, only when you depress the clip and take it out to clean it. It is on a copy of a Masamune made in Shinshinto times possibly by MA 292c in my book. Maybe he thought he was good! Katana mei, so he wasn't trying to fool anybody."

Finally a letter - a very interesting one published in full from our old friend Col. Dean Hartley Jnr. :-

"Programme No. 74 has just arrived, and as usual, I immediately found myself engrossed in the articles, reports and observations. I particularly wish to commend the Society and Mr. Bill Baxter for the very fine article and admonition on Sword Etiquette. This question is a constant problem, even among collectors who should certainly know better, and it is unfortunately necessary from time to time for each of us to be reminded of the basic courtesies due to any other owner, to say nothing of the respect which should be paid to a fine sword - and again to say nothing of the very great expense and time it costs to have one polished and put in top condition. My thanks for the article.

The report of fine pieces is always of interest also. There is a natural curiosity concerning what is "collectible", or greatly admired by other, remotely located collectors. This, I think, is quite healthy and the exchange of such information adds greatly to the continuing pleasures of collecting. Naturally, also, the additional bits of knowledge and information all go toward improving the knowledge of anyone who is really serious about the study of Japanese swords, arms and related fields. I must say that it seems unlikely that too many more collectors will be able to enter the field, for the very reason mentioned by Andrew Ford in his report on his visit to the United States - namely the rapidly spiralling costs of any good sword. I must agree that nowadays, the best place to buy - or trade for - a sword is from another collector. Some of our collectors here in the States are still finding them, but down here in Louisiana, I have found only three yari and two blades in over two years. Better luck to the rest of you.

In reading over Andrew Ford's report, as mentioned before, there was one point which has confused me somewhat. Unless the Nanka To-Ken Kai (please note spelling - "Southern Area Sword Club") has managed to commission and raffle yet a second tanto made after the Masamune Hocho, with the wildly coincidental result of Willis Hawley also winning that raffle, it appears that there has been a slip-up in attribution. As it happens, in 1963, while still President of the Nanka To-Ken Kai, I was ordered to Japan, and stationed by great good fortune at the Marine Base at Iwakuni, Japan. I say great good fortune, because I had been flying into that base for some years and had become good friends with a resident Swordsmith of some repute - and this

assignment allowed me some extended opportunity to converse and study with him. At the request of the California club, I requested this swordsmith, Mr. Kunitoshi Fujimura to make a tanto for us, as a commission from our group. He consented to do so, and in fact made a copy of one of the Masamune Hocho, for which the club paid. On my return to the States, I brought this tanto, and it was in fact raffled off, and was won by my old friend Willis Hawley. I am enclosing Xerox copies of the oshigata I took before I turned the blade over to Willis, the comments noted thereon, and a copy of Dr. Sato's comments on Mr. Fujimura's death. I am going through this exercise because I wish my old friend not to be deprived of the recognition due him for this truly magnificent blade. I hope all will understand my position."

Grieve for Mr. Kunitoshi Fujimura - by Kanzan (Sato)

"I was very surprised to see the Asahi newspaper which reported Mr. Fujimura's death. He was a famous swordsmith who lived in Iwakuni.

In spite of his old age, he had a tremendous devotion to sword making, and he died in his forge while making a sword. I think this is the same as a soldier dying on the battlefield. I am sure Mr. Fujimura would regret that he died before finishing his last sword. This is also a sad loss to the sword-making world.

I met him for the first time in 1954 at an exhibition of sword-making technique. In 1953, the law prohibiting manufacture of weapons, including swords, had been revised, and anyone was allowed to make swords, with permission of the "Committee for Protection of Cultural Assets". At this time I observed that his sword was not so good. Several years later he received an award for his KANRAKU SHIZO YAMATO UTSUSHI in an exhibition. This was the result of technique he had learned as a pupil of Mr. Shohei Miyairi, in spite of his great age - 70 years old.

Mr. Miyairi said "his extreme enthusiasm which he showed by his efforts from early morning till late evening, supervised by his young instructor, should be admired."

In 1963 he received the "MASAMUNE Award" which was given for the first time. This sword was a copy of "MEIBUTSU UTSUSHI HOCHO MASAMUNE", which is owned by Mr. Okano. It was an outstanding blade which will retain its great value in years to come. Later he produced "RAI KUNITSUGU" and "TOKUZENIN SADAMUNE" which were also excellent.

There are some interesting stories concerning Mr. Fujimura.

In 1954, the "Committee for Protection of Cultural Assets" received some old iron, taken from HIMEJI Castle when it was dismembered. The committee allocated this iron to Mr. Miyairi, Mr. Tokahashi, and other people who wanted it. The delivery of this iron was left to Mr. X.

Mr. Miyairi found that some of the iron delivered by Mr. X was not usable for sword making. Mr. Fujimura also received some of this iron through Mr. X at Himeji.

When I met him later, I told him the story of Mr. Miyairi and asked his opinion. He said, "I have never found any iron of that source unfavorable for making swords. When I received the iron, I mentioned to Mr. X that some iron was not usable for sword making, but he said there was no unusable iron. So I took the iron delivered by Mr. X although I knew that Mr. Miyairi and Mr. Takahashi got some unusable iron. The reason I got good iron is that I am not "against" the young people all the time." \*

This last word is an interesting one indeed.

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\* Paraphrase: "I don't low-rate the young people" or "I will still talk to young people on equal footing," etc.

Free rendition:

From translation of article in Vol. 12 (1966) of *Token Bijutsu* by Captain Hideo Katori, JMSDF.

ED. Unfortunately we cannot reproduce the oshigata Col. Dean Hartley so kindly sent - but it will be available at the next meeting for members to see. Thank you..

TOKEN TRIP TO JAPAN. S.V. DIVERS NEWSLETTER No. 2

I am pleased to say that due to the support from our machine tool friends and overseas members this trip looks like being definitely ON. I would appreciate it if all those people who are going would kindly send in their forms and £20 deposits as soon as ever possible. The applications for tickets from abroad has accelerated over the last few days and it is no use waiting till the last moment hoping for spare seats or hotel accommodation. Japan in March/April is very popular and even now half the J.A.L. seats on this particular aircraft have gone, so please do remember this to avoid disappointment.

There are two alterations on the verbal discussions we had at the last ToKen meeting. In order to connect the flights there is now an extra day and night in Tokyo at the New Otani which has been negotiated at £6.15 and the flight going is via Moscow returning via the North Pole. There is now a scheduled flight, not charter, and there is now no requirement to become members of the Midland ToKen Society to go on this trip though they would welcome additional members naturally.

Bookings have been made and confirmed as follows:-

Depart London JL. 442 Friday 22nd March 13.00 hours.

Arrive Tokyo next day Saturday 23rd March 11.15 hours.

Stop at Moscow for one hour to refuel.

New Otani Hotel March 23rd to March 30th (7 nights)

Go by bullet express to Kyoto.

Grand Hotel Kyoto March 30th to April 3rd (4 nights)

Leave Kyoto/Osaka by air JL.124 at 18.55 hours arriving Tokyo 19.30 hours.

Leave Tokyo JL. 421 at 22.30 hours. This allows time for last minute shopping at the airport.

Pole Route stopping at Anchorage. Arrive London Thursday April 4th at 07.10 hours.

Included in the cost are all private motor coaches - airport to hotel - hotel to station - rail fares (reserved seats) Tokyo to Kyoto, station to hotel - hotel to Osaka airport - air fare Osaka to Tokyo.

All hotel service charges and taxes, tips to hotel servants and drivers, portage of luggage. 5 vouchers £1 value each for use towards cost of sightseeing tours, entertainment or admission charges.

No meals are included. Cost including the extra night in Tokyo is now £384.15. Currency fluctuations may cause a slight increase. When we first looked into this the exchange rate was 676 yen = £1 and a worsening exchange rate was foreseen, this was allowed for at 640 yen = £1. The travel agents can hold this within 5% but if sterling falls

past this then we have to be prepared for a small increase in cost on the land element in Japan (i.e. hotels, fares, etc.) but not on the J.A.L. air fares unless Japan Airlines put these up in the meantime. Overseas members will find that this should not affect them as any increase should be counterbalanced by the better rate they get for their currency.

Please note the following:-

1. Holders of U.K. or German passports do not require a visa for Japan. Others please check.
2. No transit visas are required for Moscow or Anchorage.
3. A valid vaccination certificate against smallpox is required for Japan.
4. Credit terms are available from Travel Finance Ltd., 56 Newhall Street, Birmingham 3. Apply for Plan 4 or 5 (U.K. residents only).
5. Holiday cancellation insurance and medical insurance (in case of doctor or hospital treatment in Japan) costs very little and we would advise everyone to take these out. Forms available from me or Miki Travel.
6. Miki Travel Agency, 95 St. Paul's Churchyard, London, E.C.4. will be pleased to see anyone who cares to call. They will give you all the literature you want and suggest sightseeing tours, etc. Contact Mr. Morris or Mr. Kelson.

Further information will be published in Newsletter No. 3.

#### NEW MEMBERS

The Society has much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

- E. Kremers, 7000 Stuttgart 31, Kahlhieb 29, West Germany.
- P.G. Hoare, Kings Cottage, Kings Road, Teddington, Middlesex.
- P. Kerrey, 5, The Florins, Purbrook, Hants.
- R.W. Vout, 33 Cavanna Close, Rowner, Gosport, Hants
- R. Buraway, 25 Boulevard d'Antuil, 92 Boulogne sur Seine, France
- L.U. Wandasiewicz, P.O. Box 45, Byrmdale, Pennsylvania 15827, U.S.A.

#### Change of Address

- A. Ford, 5 Clarence Road, Wallington, Surrey
- A. Offermann, 5 C8ln 60, Colonia Hochhaus 39/9, West Germany