

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME IV NO. 6

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1972

ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING-

The annual JSS/US board meeting took place in Dallas, Texas, during the Token Kenkyu Kai event. The minutes of this meeting are as follows:

Minutes for the Meeting of the Board of the Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hartley on 4 November 1972 at 12:15 PM. Present were: Chairman Hartley, Executive Vice Chairman Mitchell, 2nd Vice Chairman Edick, Secretary Oka, Board Members Olsgaard, Mantegani, Hartmann, and Takahashi. Represented by proxy was Board Member Bretnor.

First order of business was the translation. Jim Mitchell stated that most of the time spent on this translation was lost through unsuccessful negotiations with Willis Hawley concerning publication. The final draft is in the hands of Janet Oka who has consented to do the typing for the translation. Jim stated that once the translation is finished being typed, that he would be able to contact several firms for prices on the actual cost of publication. It was agreed that the translation should be made available at cost plus some margin of profit which will be put back into projects of this nature.

Next was a proposal to budget the Newsletter a set amount to preclude the editor from having to spend his own funds on a society function. Ron Hartmann estimated that the yearly cost would run around \$250 for a six page Newsletter published every two months. Bill Edick moved that \$250 be allotted to the Newsletter at the beginning of every year to cover the publication. Richard Mantegani seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Next was discussion of the financial report. It was suggested the the Treasurer file a financial report in December to be included in the December Newsletter, with a note as to the number of outstanding dues as of January 1st of the next year. The treasurer would then file an additional update on the number of dues paid as of the first of February. This arrangement would comply with the Constitution and would also serve to inform the membership of the current status of the society cofers.

MINUTES cont'd.

At this point, Mel Oka moved that this be considered the annual Board Meeting called for in the Constitution. Jim Mitchell seconded this motion. It was carried unanimously.

Next was the upcoming election. Bill Edick suggested that this meeting select a committee of Board Members to select and nominate members for the upcoming vacancies on the board (correction: officers). Bill Edick moved that Ron Hartmann, Henrick Olsgaard, and Richard Mantegani be constituted as the Nomination and Election Committee. Jim Mitchell seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Next was the Annual Convention. Bill Takahashi suggested that the possibility of an all-California or all-Western Area show be considered. There was much discussion about the possibility of having a show with the three major clubs of the western US involved. Bill Takahashi then moved that the other two clubs be approached on the topic of a regional show. Jim Mitchell seconded the motion. It was unanimously passed. Further discussion involved an informal committee to coordinate such a show and be responsible for approaching these various clubs. Henrick Olsgaard, Richard Mantegani, and Steve Crotty were appointed members of this committee. Chairman Hartley said he would approach the Southern California Club about such a show. Jim Mitchell said he would approach John Yumoto about such a show.

There was no further business. Mel Oka moved to adjourn. Mitchell seconded. There was unanimous passage.

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1972 ELECTION OF OFFICERS -

The nominating committee (see minutes above) selected, confirmed acceptance, and established a roster of nominees to be placed on the 1972 ballot for this years election of officers. The ballot is attached to the front of this issue of the Newsletter and must be filled out and returned promptly as specified on the bottom of the ballot.

It should be mentioned at this time that two nominees, Ron Hartmann (for Treasurer) and Ben Hazard (for Chairman) presently are members of the board, and have one years term of office to serve. The question has come up whether a person can serve in a dual capacity if so elected. There appears to be nothing in the Constitution or Articles of the society which prohibits this - they would be entitled to only one vote for both offices. A special meeting will likely be called to discuss this further, with the possible outcome that these

ELECTION cont'd.

board positions be filled (if the nominees are elected) by one or two newly appointed directors. Again, there may not be a problem at all, but this will have to be brought to your attention and the membership given a chance to send in any comments. All such comments should be sent directly to Rick Mantegani as soon as possible.

TOKEN KENKYU KAI -

The TKK exhibit and shinsa was a huge success, or to be more exact, OVER-success! The men who attended and assisted with the paperwork, unpacking, handling, repacking, setting up displays...the many unnamed jobs...ended the week in complete exhaustion. The organizers of the event had been somewhat concerned that the minimum number of items required for shinsa (1000 pieces) would not be submitted.... the staggering amount of some 2500 pieces submitted was a complete surprise! The Japanese team was most surprised to find such quality of items submitted for shinsa, with about 60% of the items bringing papers....an unheard of percentage in Japan today!

Much discussion as to why white paper, why green paper, why no paper....was heard but little concrete answers heard. Hopefully, a complete discussion of this by someone of complete authority can be printed in a near-future Newsletter.

The main exhibit in the Meibutsu Room contained over 90 top quality blades by the smiths we usually only read about. A large display of fittings was also set up...equally fine! The blades were set up in glass cases which let the viewer really "see" the whole blade under great lighting conditions. The only regret was that the room did not get to remain open as long as expected what with the overflow of shinsa items and the pressing schedule of airline schedules. Hopefully, a complete listing of items displayed (pictures???) can be planned for a near-future issue of the Newsletter. There were names like KUNITOSHI, SHINTOGO KUNIMITSU, ICHIMONJI, HANKEI, KUNIMICHI, KUNIHIRO, HISAMICHI, SUKEHIRO.....on and on and on!

The book, "Book of the Sword", is top-notch and a must for all. This of course is the book of papers written by the better known men of the sword world. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this should contact R. B. Caldwell in Dallas to confirm availability and price.

Much of the day was taken up with lectures by the men who wrote the "book" and also by Dr. Sato and John Yumoto. The lectures by Dr. Sato proved most educational and most attending left with a deeper knowledge of what it was all about. It was too bad the subject could not have been gone into much more deep, but time was always a factor. Mr. Nishu Honami, probably the No.1 polisher in Japan today, delivered a talk on sword etiquette, while in costume, which was very interesting.

TKK cont'd.

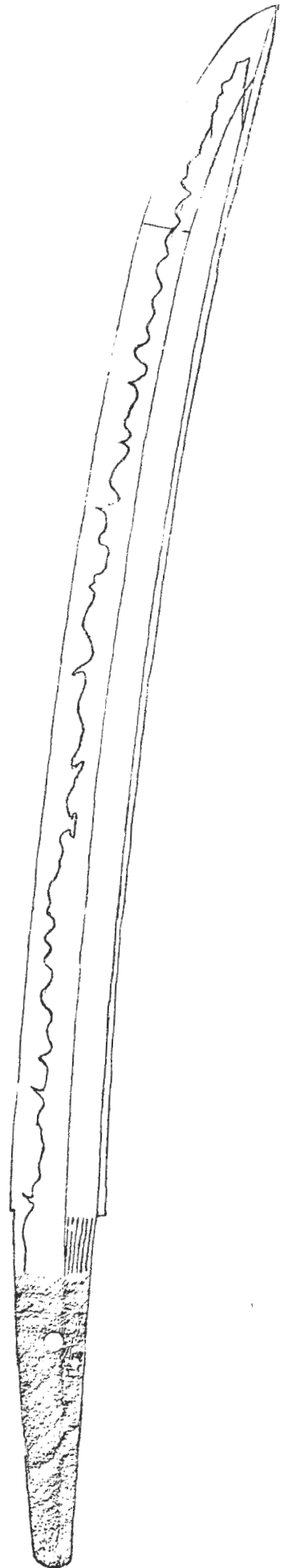
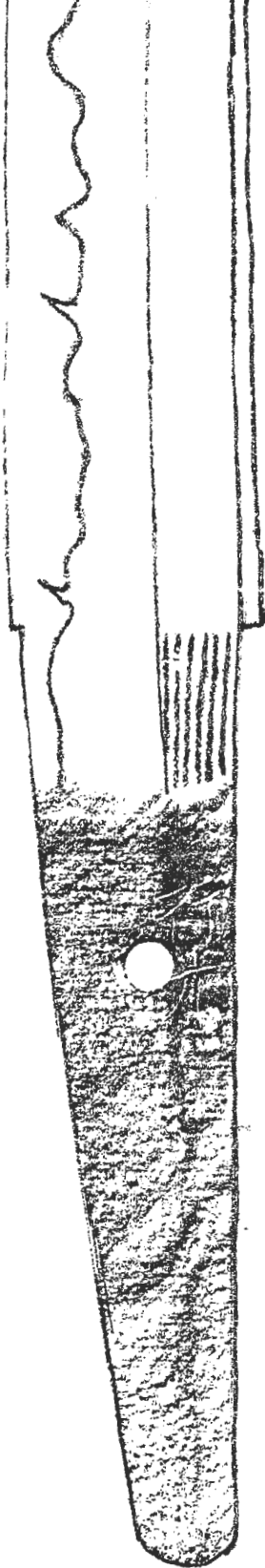
Two other rooms were available for personal displays and discussions but were not used as much as was hoped. The inevitable trading, buying, and selling found its way into these rooms, to the mixed emotions of many.

In summary, this was intended as a very basic and preliminary report. The event was a huge over-success as we said, and the lack of time and the tight schedules made many of our plans beyond the scope of such a weekend. Much can be learned from this first attempt at such an undertaking. It is the societys intent that much material can be gathered and compiled into a very substantial and complete report, to be presented either as a special Newsletter or as part of the next Bulletin. The reality of such a report depends on the cooperation of the many collectors who attended, in the way of their reports, views, complete lists of displays, pictures, and transcribed tapes of the lectures. To list a few of these things which we will need:

1. A translation of the NBTHK report which will list the papers and hopefully, the items of primary interest.
2. Several good photographs of interest.
3. Transcribed lectures.
4. Possibly some general or specific discussions on the show or on a specific blade or whatever.
5. If anyone has any papers which did not get used in 'the book', or which did not get finished in time....to be used by us.
6. Anything which was missed above, but which would add to such a report. Complete lists of display items is a much needed thing!

The gentlemen who conceived, organized, and saw this thing through to its completion, deserve the thanks and admiration of all the sword students and collectors (particularly in the states) for their unselfish and truly dedicated efforts towards making this event a reality. The names of these men will be omitted here for fear of forgetting someone, and will be included in the primary report at a future date. We all know who they are basically....so hats off!

We all look forward to the 'next event' which has already been rumored. Lets hope any politics can be overlooked, and with the complete cooperation of all it will develop and be even bigger and better than the first one.



YUKIMITSU WAKIZASHI

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Oshigata submitted by Andres Rodriques

SHAPE AND CONTRUCTION: Shinogi-zukure wakizashi
saki-zori
blade length: 45cm
nakago length: 13cm
width at machi: 3.5cm
width at yokote: 2.8cm
O-kissaki (very long)

HAMON: Hamon is gunome midare done in ko-nie with ji-nie
and ashi iri.

BOSHI: Boshi is midare komie.

JITETSU AND HADA: Tight mokume with running itame.

NAKAGO: Nakago is ubu- one mekugi-ana.
file marks are kiri (Ichimonji)
Two-character signiture in small characters
Signed: YUKIMITSU

REMARKS:

I (A.R.) believe this smith is the one listed in Hawley's
book as YU-106. Blade is mounted in shirasaya. Koshirae is
mounted on tsunagi. Fuchi-kashira are signed SEKIJOKEN
MOTOZANE. (Birds flying above tree and boat, boatsman and
two passengers.)

MENUKI: Chinese nobles wearing fancy robes, done in zon-zongan.

TSUBA: Tsuba is signed HARUAKI with Kao. (Peasant playing
flute while riding water buffalo, stream and bundles of rice
in foreground, clouds and Mount Fuji in background. Reverse
side has pine tree in kiri-kata.

SAYA: Standard form - black lacquer - horn kojiri.

Habaki and seppas are silver.

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DECEASED - The Newsletter was advised of the death of Mr. K.
Tanaguchi, a rather well known sword dealer in the bay area.
Mr. Tanaguchi died in July of this year. His business is
being carried on by his family. Mr. Tanaguchi was not a JSS
member, but was known to many of our members out on the coast.

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STOLEN SWORDS -

The following blades, property of Alan Harvey, were stolen from the U.S. mails in San Francisco on or about August 8, 1972.

1. KATANA: Mumei, suriage. Attributed to Mino Seki KANETSUNE I with approximate date of 1394. Nakago has four mekugi-ana. 67.5cm in length. Shape is shinogi-zukuri, mokume forging, gunome-midare hamon.
2. KATANA: Signed MUTSU no KAMI FUJIWARA TOSHINAGA. Nakago is complete with two mekugi-ana. 71.2cm in length. Shape is shinogi-zukuri with a long slender, tapering nakago.
3. KATANA: Mumei, suriage. Nakago has three mekugi-ana. 63.1cm in length and lacks habaki. Shape is shinogi-zukuri and has carvings on the blade consisting of bo-hi, marudome, hiskiagari and nyo chiri.
4. WAKIZASHI: Signed SETTSU no JU YOSHIKUNI. Nakago is complete with two mekugi-ana. 52.7cm in length. Shape is shinogi-zukuri, mokume hada, sudare-ha hamon.
5. WAKIZASHI: signed TADAMITSU with a complete nakago. 38.9cm in length.

None of these blades were in mountings and were in saya only with no tsuka. All were in reasonably good condition but in need of polish. Anyone with info on such blades should contact Mr. Ira Duncan of the JSS/US. A suitable reward will be paid for the recovery of these swords. (Info leading to...).

AN INTERESTING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE - (St.Louis Post-Dispatch 11/9)

Japanese Artifacts Sold For \$138,395

NEW YORK, Nov. 9 (AP) — An auction of ancient Japanese swords and armor brought in \$138,395 yesterday.

A spokesman for the gallery conducting the sale described the prices as "just crazy."

The spokesman said Japanese

art was "just screaming up at the moment." He said a new organization of Japanese sword collectors had 500 members.

Some of the 122 items were brought back as souvenirs by American soldiers after World War II. One fourteenth-century sword sold for \$5600; a suit of samurai armor was sold for \$7000.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -

Next issue of the NL will come out about the 1st of February, 1973. All articles, etc., for this issue must be in my hands no later than the last week of January. A special NL may come out earlier, but this is now final at this time. If so, this will be independent of the Jan-Feb issue.
Ron Hartmann - Editor.