

# Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V NO.2

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### SOCIETY MEETING -

Anyone interested in having a bay-area meeting in May, should contact Richard Mantigani and express your interest.

### NEW MEMBERS -

We have two new members in our society. On behalf of the membership, the NL offers a sincere welcome to them.

Marie E. Eshelman

Dr. Wilbert G. Thielemann

### OBITUARY -

The society has been notified of the death on the 23rd of February this year, of Mr. Russell Jones of Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Jones has been a member of the society for many years and he will be missed from the society.

The daughter of Mr. Jones, Ms. Marie E. Eshelman, has expressed a desire to continue a membership in her fathers behalf so we now add her name to our membership roster.

### NAMBAN ART EXHIBIT -

The St. Louis Art Museum (St. Louis, Missouri) is presenting a special exhibition of Namban art, March 23rd through May 6th. The exhibition is the first of its kind ever to be shown in the west, and consists of approximately 70 highly important loans from various Japanese museums and private collections.

Namban art is work done by christian converts in Japan during the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

Although the exhibit consists primarily of paintings, ceramics, and lacquerwork, several outstanding tsuba are shown plus some other items of metalwork.

A well illustrated catalogue of this exhibit is available from the museum. Anyone interested in obtaining this catalogue can do so by sending a check in the amount of \$7.50 to the NL editor.



TREASURER'S REPORT (COMMENTS) -

To date, our balance (cash on hand) is approximately \$200. The projected budget for 1973 consists of the following items:

Newsletter printing/mailing.....	\$250
Bulletin printing/mailing.....	150
* TANTO printing (to come).....	300
Misc. clerical expenses.....	50
Advance purchase of supplies for resale.....	100
Meetings/Convention/Misc.....	(?)

From the above figures, it is obvious that we need some working capital. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY when they are due...and of course, we hope to gain some membership too. The old story of "it takes money to make money" is so true, and with a little management we can make enough profits from our ventures to operate our society publications at a high level, and even attempt new projects from time to time.

\* The TANTO translation is at long last ready for printing, and will be printed and offered for sale even if a loan is required to accomplish this goal. Once the booklet is "in print", the society treasury will be reimbursed for its outlay of dollars, and hopefully, show a nice profit from the sales of the translation.

JAPANESE MON IDENTIFICATION -

Don Winland has recently come across an old French museum catalogue (1896) that has over 200 Japanese MON illustrated and identified as to clan, the founder of the clan, their residence and income of koku of rice!

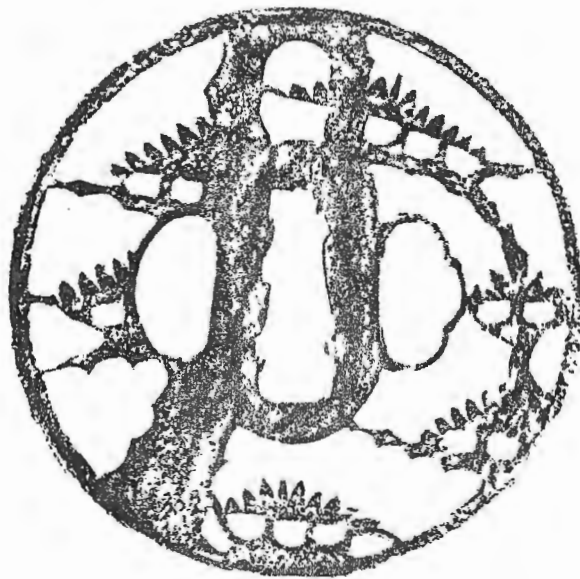
Don has been kind enough to offer his services to anyone who would like to identify a particular MON, if by chance it might be illustrated in this catalogue. An accurate drawing of the MON in question would have to be supplied to Don in order for him to do this.

Anyone interested in this offer should contact Don Winland.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS -

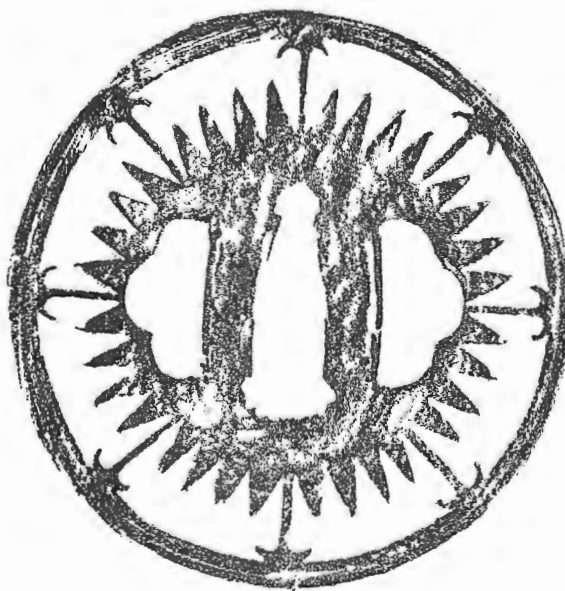
Two (2) copies of the Token Kenkyu Kai BOOK OF THE SWORD have been added to our library. They can be borrowed from our library simply by contacting Jim Mitchell. As always, postage would be paid by the borrower.

AS A CONTINUED REMINDER...back issues of the society Bulletins are still available. For prices and particulars, contact Jim Mitchell.



AKASAKA - Old pine tree design - 19th century (late generation)  
Rounded-square rim  
Height: 77mm, Width: 77mm  
Rim thickness: 5.2mm, Seppa-dai: 5.5mm  
Green paper (TKK)

This is a rather thick guard and has much appeal. The pine tree, the purplish color, thickness (thinning towards the rim) is typical of Akasaka school tsuba.



AKASAKA - Clock gear design - middle 18th century.  
Rounded rim  
Height: 78mm, Width: 75mm  
Rim thickness: 4.5mm, Seppa-dai: 4.8mm  
White paper (TKK)

A bold, crisp design, yet graceful and dignified. A most interesting design (rare). The design is bold and symmetrical like Owari work, but the thinning towards the rim, the deep black-purple color, rounded rim, say Akasaka.