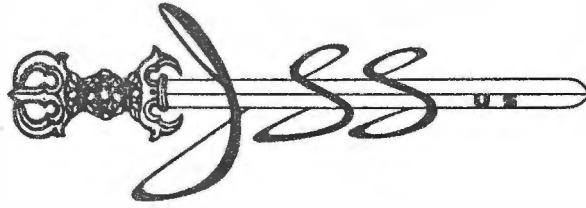


Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V NO.3

MAY - JUNE · 1973

NEW MEMBERS -

We have three new members to our society this issue. They are:

W. Scott Nekrosius M.D.

Dr. Frank B. Falbey

Mr. Ken Sawitzky

On behalf of the membership....Welcome!

IMPORTANT NOTICE -

TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE TANTO TRANSLATION: Anyone who has already contributed money towards purchase of the TANTO translation and text, should send a verification of the amount sent, to Jim Mitchell

This is for a cross-check of the records, so that all due credits are given. TO NOT DELAY....DO IT TODAY.

MORE ADVANCED PAYMENTS ARE NEEDED:

The translation is ready for printing. The only hold up now is the building up of our treasury to handle these printing costs. If you are planning on ordering copies of the translation and of the excellently illustrated text, an advanced payment at this time would greatly speed up printing. We need more money in our account and these advanced payments would give us this working power. Of course any prepayments will be deducted from the final cost of the package. Make checks payable to the society and mail directly to Ron Hartmann. All checks will be deposited and a record of your payment, sent to Jim Mitchell. Please help us out by sending in a check (any amount) TODAY.

Final cost of the translation has not been tallied since the printing costs are not available, thus the price of the finished product can not be figured. The translation will be available this late summer and the price will be most nominal, that much is for sure.

Keep
America
Beautiful



SUPPLIES AVAILABLE -

A small supply of ink stones (Sekka Boku) and oshigata paper (Tangu Jo) is available via the Newsletter. The stones are \$3 pp each and the paper is \$2.50 per package (20 sheets, 18" x 12")pp.

If more orders are received than there are supplies, they will be filled as soon as more supplies can be received from Japan. A small supply of such items will be kept on hand at all time, for the convenience of the membership.

Refer to the last issue of the NL (Vol. 5 No. 2) for other items available.

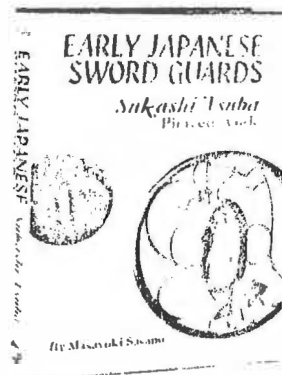
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EARLY JAPANESE SWORD GUARDS:
Sukashi Tsuba

By MASAYUKI SASANO, photos by SHIHACHI FUJIMOTO

Japanese sword guards have been little known in the West, except to a limited group of collectors and specialists. But now, in this handsome and economical volume, the layman has an opportunity to enjoy 220 of the finest open-work sword guards dating from a number of historical periods and representing most of the major schools of weapons design. All of the guards are illustrated in gravure plates in the actual dimensions. Their complete descriptions and backgrounds are listed for the information of collectors. But perhaps most important of all, the author, a leading authority in the field, explains how and why artistic talent and superb craftsmanship were lavished on what might seem to be no more than a subsidiary part of the sword. The delicacy and spiritual depth revealed in traditional Japanese sword guards reflect the deep-rooted belief that the sword is the soul of the warrior.

256 pp., 7 1/2 x 10 1/2 in., 220 black-and-white illus. LC-72-796-17, ISBN-0-87040-176-9



\$15.30 P.P.

Japan Publications Trading Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

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SALE - TRADE - WANTED ITEMS

Members wishing to place items in this column should send them to the NL. No charge for this service.

WANTED: Works by JAKUSHI of Nagasaki, any generation or off-shoot school JAKUSHI work. I will take signed or unsigned pieces. Any of JAKUSHI motif are acceptable...dragons, chinese landscapes, etc. Need tsuba, kozuka, kogai, wari-bashi, menuki, and Fuchi-Kashira. Will pay cash or trade.
CONTACT: Mike Quigley

SALE - TRADE - WANTED ITEMS (cont'd.)

WANTED: Japanese Arrowheads - would like to buy some good representative examples for my collection.
CONTACT: W. Scott Nekrosius

WANTED: Volumes Koto and Shinto - Fujishiro.
Buy or trade.

&
TRADE: Have several good kinko tsuba which I would like to trade on good iron sukashi tsuba or on kozuka and/or kogai in flower motif. Write for details.
CONTACT: Ron Hartmann

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ARTICLES NEEDED -

As always, an annual BULLETIN is being planned for this fall. Although the editors have several articles promised and/or in hand to date, other articles - long or short - are again needed. If you have something to contribute to this years Bulletin or if you know of any worthwhile published articles which would be worth reprinting, please let us know.

Short articles are always needed for the Newsletter, so send these along too.

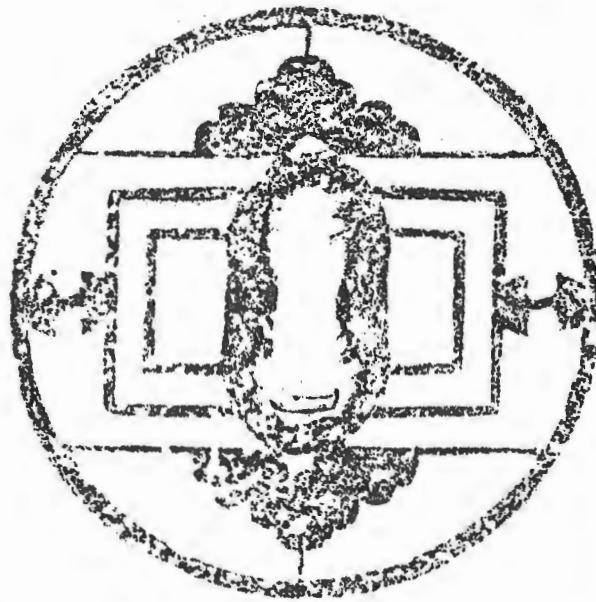
The oshigata of tsuba (last issue of the NL) was well received. As always, Dean Hartley has come through with some fine tsuba plus an important blade for this issue of the NL, as one can see from the following two pages. There should be many such worthy items with papers since TKK....send in your oshigata and full description soon!

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -

Next issue of the NL will come out about the 1st of July, 1973. All material, notices, oshigata, etc., intended for inclusion in that issue should be in the hands of the editor no later than the third week of June. (Make that the end of June due to the late issue this time).

RON HARTMANN

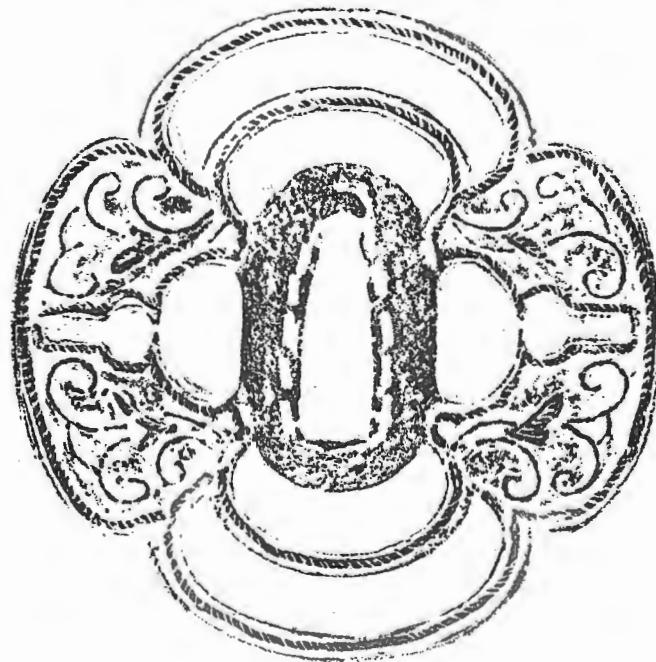




KO-OWARI SUKASHI (IRON) -

Rounded-square rim. Other cuts sharp and crisp.
 Height: 79.5mm (round)
 Rim Thickness: 4.5mm, Seppa-dai: 4.5mm
 Green Paper (TKK)

The bold, symmetrical design, rounded-square rim, and overall manly appearance of this fine guard is typical of Owari work. One can plainly see the "Samurai aesthetic ideal plus profound strength and great dignity" which Mr. Sasano speaks of in his book.

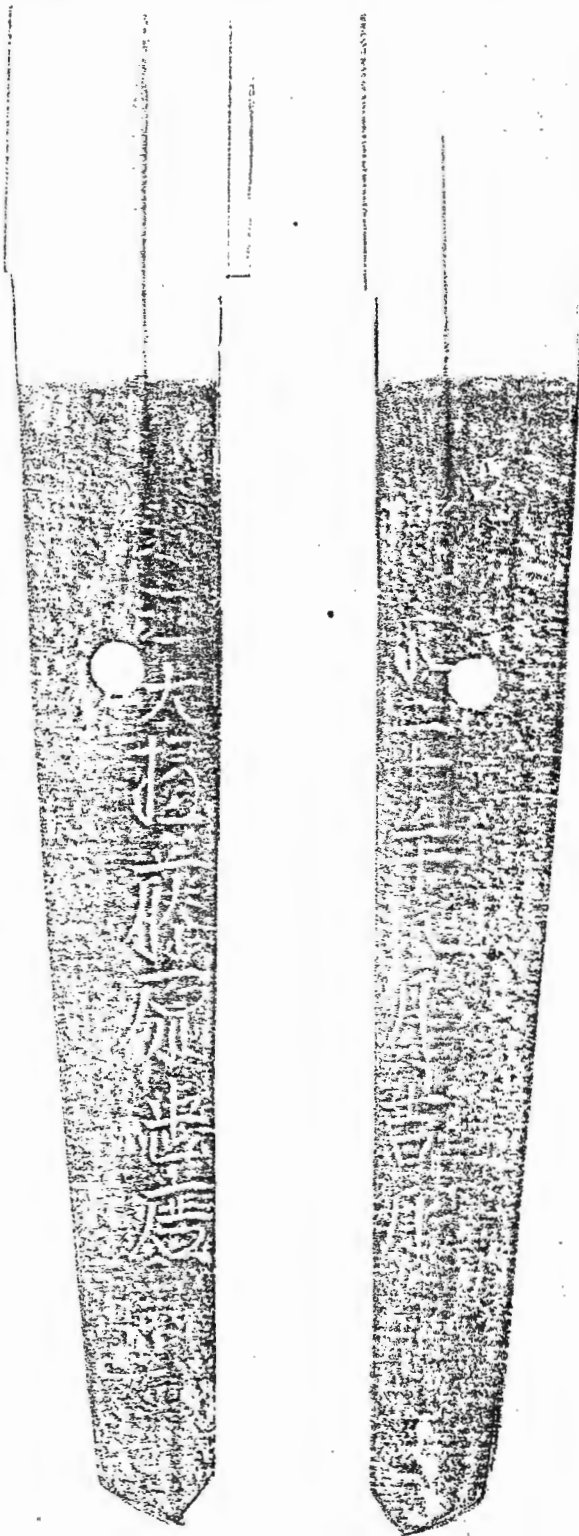


ONIN - Raised brass inlay on iron.

Rounded Rim. Other cuts square.
 Height: 110mm, Width: 105mm
 Rim thickness: 5.5mm, Seppa-dai: 4.5mm
 Green Paper (TKK)

The large open-work top and bottom, the mushroom design on either side, the brass inlay, all are typical of Onin works. A most beautiful tsuba!

Oshigata: OMI DAIJO FUJIWARA TADAHIRO
by: Dean Hartley



Signed: OMI DAIJO FUJIWARA TADAHIRO and dated KANEI NI-JU
NEN HACHI GATSU KITSUHI (1643).

Wakizashi - 54.7cm. Tight mokume hada. Chu-suguha with ko-nie
and some slight midare. Green Paper (TKK).

This is the second oldest blade with the "OMI DAIJO..." title.
The older blade is dated 1642. According to Dr. Homma, this is a
very important piece due to the early date and title.