

Programme Secretary
Asst. to Programme Sec.
Swords to Japan
Member

Tony Chapman
Alan Bale
David Parker
Edward Newman

I would like to welcome the two new members to the committee and hope that this year we can iron out a few of the problems that have arisen during the past 12 months. Some of the discussions during the elections were heated and personal but I hope by now the heat has subsided sufficiently so that we may be able to get back to a friendly and less political form of meeting. Your programme secretary has one of the most difficult jobs arranging subjects and lectures and would be greatly helped by the members either offering themselves for a talk or if you all insist on being shy violets, at least show your interest by telling the committee your ideas.

You have voted the committee in so give them your support.

CAPTAIN RAYMOND JOHNES

It was with deep personal sorrow and sense of loss that I heard of the recent death of Capt. Raymond Johnes who had been in poor health for some time since the death of his wife.

Raymond will always be remembered by me as a most charming man of the "old school" and a delightful eccentric in the nicest sense of the word. His eccentricity showed in such acts as wearing a Japanese sword in combat in the first world war, and a Japanese helmet for firewatching in the second. He was ever a collector and his collecting was a way of life to him. Although mainly interested in Japan, visitors to his flat were amazed at the diversity of his collecting and knowledge. He was a member of the Arms & Armour Society, the Japan Society and Art Circle and of course of our own To Ken Society and was a regular attender at all these meetings. I had known Raymond for some 15 years and will miss him, as will all his friends.

SEPTEMBER MEETING:- A slight change of subject

Sydney Divers opened the meeting from the chair. He had been in further communication with the B.B.C. about the T.V. films for our special viewing. The Spirit of the Samurai apparently has its copyright owned by the French director who made it. Because of this, the Bebe cannot let us have it, but they have given us the Director's name so we can chase him up. The other film on Tameshigiro will be available to us in due course. Bill mentioned that B.B.C. II was holding a short season of Kurasawa films. The first on September 11th is to

be The Seven Samurai. This screening is forty-five minutes longer than any version previously shown over here, the running time being approximately three and a half hours. It was suggested that the Programme Secretary should contact the B.B.C. to get advance notices of any Japanese items likely to be screened, so that members can be better informed. The subject of the projected Shinsa was again raised. The Prog. Sec. announced that only two people had written in expressing interest. Sydney, in reply to a question on what blades would be acceptable for the panel, said that they would probably need swords to be in a good state of polish.

When the cost of the Shinsa per sword was raised, Bill Baxter mentioned that no firm costs had been announced but he had heard £15 per sword quoted. I think at that price the Shinsa members will be sitting in an empty room. Nothing firm has been done in organising the Shinsa and time is getting desperately short. It was proposed that the new committee contact John Harding as soon as possible. Concern was expressed that no news of Captain Johnes had been received and that all his friends at the Society wished him well.

Sydney mentioned that with the A.G.M. being the next meeting and that both the Programme Secretary and Secretary retiring, members should give some thought as to who would be suitable and willing to take over these positions. Any volunteers? A hush crept over the assembled multitude. No one was willing to commit themselves at this time. Someone asked the Prog. Sec. what the job entailed. The Prog. Sec. replied that it might put people off if the amount of work involved was disclosed. However, he said he felt very strongly that the organising of the meetings - subjects and speakers, was a job for the committee as a whole and this should be separated out from the work of producing the Programme. The dissatisfaction of members with many recent meetings directly stems from the fact that one man cannot put in the effort required to find new and interesting speakers, or for that matter to continue to cajole our faithful stalwarts who step into the breach when plans go astray and produce the Programme at the same time. Our evening's advertised speaker, Alan Bale, was heavily involved in buying a house so had to cancel out. D.V. wasn't, it seems. However, luck was on our side - Sydney had a talk up his sleeve on aspects of forging and steels with particular reference to the Japanese sword.

Sydney started his talk by prefixing the remark that those present who know how blades were made should please bear with him in the initial part of the lecture. He took us through the process of using native iron and later Indian iron (Namban), the forging temperatures, and all the other things connected with making Japanese swords. He devoted the majority of the lecture on the folding technique as he has been involved in research on the strength of steel to the number of foldings and gave examples of the experiments done under controlled conditions. He showed by graphical means (reprinted in this programme) that the strength of the steel increased with the number of foldings. The main object of repeated foldings was to float off impurities in slag form but the foldings themselves increased the steel strength even with relatively pure steel.

Each folding doubled the number of all the previous layers, thus at 20 folds there existed over a million layers. The graph showed that the Strength of Steel to Number of Folds followed the Natural Exponential Law $S = S_{max} (1 - e^{-kN})$ where S is strength and N is number of folds, the others being constants for any given set of conditions.

The Strength and number of folds would vary from steel to steel and conditions of hammering, temperature etc., and from smith to smith but the format of the equation was the same for any given set of conditions.

What caused interest to some of our technical members was the breakdown of the strength after a maximum was reached. This meant that there existed a point after which further foldings only weakened the blade. Sydney explained this by showing that the infinitesimally thin layer (because there were such a large number of layers) was now approaching the width of the molecule and adhesion of the molecules was being made more difficult after this maximum point had been reached. He explained this by analogy. In his own words:-

"If you fill an aquarium with water and have a piece of wood across the water from one side to the other, you can, by moving the wood, vary the water area enclosed by three sides and the wood. If you put in a measured amount of oil (say 1 cc) this will float on the water surface. You move the wood across the water surface and thus enlarge the area covered by the oil. The oil covers this larger area. You keep enlarging this area and suddenly the oil film breaks up into smaller units (globules) instead of being a complete film. The area at this point divided into the oil volume (i.e. 1 cc) will then give you the thickness of the oil molecule. It cannot evenly adhere as a film if the thinness becomes the same as the width of the individual molecule. The same applies to steel and a strength breakdown occurs".

He showed that N1E and N1O1 were martensite of different sizes respectively coarse and fine, and discussed the grain structure of the blade. Fewer foldings meant coarser grain pattern and though the blade may look prettier it was not as strong.

Though the wrought iron core, as opposed to the outer tool steel, was required to be softer this also had to be repeatedly doubled by folding. The number of folds was less, approximately half the foldings needed for the outer steel. Folding and hammering drove out the impurities which floated off as slag, air bubbles eliminated and also compressed the iron making it denser.

Having by trial and error mostly, arrived at the maximum blade strength the swordsmith then improved the strength further by hamon design and utsuri the latter tending to increase strength just where it is needed on the blade.

Sydney then talked about modern technology and how steel strengths can be increased by the laminated process used in sword blades. Whereas the flux medium used by swordsmiths, to eliminate oxidation was a mixture of clay, charcoal and straw ash, modern technology uses nickel copper, etc., foil in between carbon steel foils, then rolled or pressed to the eventual required thickness. Though this is an expensive process per unit volume of final steel, in many cases such as experimental aeroplanes it was much cheaper as the volume of steel was less and lighter.

(Sydney has just sent a note saying: Dear Fred, As you know my talk the other night was 'off the cuff' so I enclose a graph similar to the one I drew in case you may care to publish it. I find that the Japanese have produced high tensile steel of 250 kgs. per sq. mm. using the sword process. (Ishikawajima - Harima Heavy Industries). It is called IN-U Steel. Steels of this strength are now being used in oil tankers of 325,000 D.W. tons and a submarine No.563 has been built of similar high tension steel. Apparently weldability is poor but they seem confident of getting over this.

Puzzle:- What happens when so many foldings are made that the steel strength graph gets back to the x-axis again where it started from? Does this process start all over again (same format but different high spot), or has the steel become useless as it is exhausted and its heart has gone?)

After a pause for the members to collect their thoughts, Vic Harris rose to tell us about HIS sword which he had just acquired. He had also brought a diagram of the blade showing where to see the relevant highlights, and also a good lamp to view by. Vic said that he loved every crack and blister of this blade, but your Prog. Sec. couldn't find any. Vic said that the blade belonged to the Nambokocho period but was not a typical shape. The blade was signed Munechika and Vic was becoming convinced that it was the work of Iga Munechika. It seems to have the characteristics of this smith, said Vic. The grain was masame but not a true one, it was tending to go into itame. The shinogi is high and a line of chikeo can be seen which Vic enjoys looking at every night. The hamon is curious, in one light it looks like sugu-ha but when viewed from the other direction it is chogi midare with small ashi. The hamon has hotsure and uchinoke. Most of us had never seen Uchinoke so seeing it in the flesh, so to speak, was very rewarding. The boshi is ko-maru and nie can be seen in the masame of the blade. It was great to hear the enthusiasm and personal identification with his sword by Vic and the opportunity to examine the blade at leisure was quickly taken up by the members present.

Looking around the meeting, Vic Saville had brought along a tanto with mounts en suite. These were iron with silver globules all over known as Gama-hada. The blade was very rubbed and Vic had been rebinding the hilt. Those mounts seem to hold a fascination, I don't know why. "Dave the Spear" Parker had a real rarity. A daisho of Yari blades by Kishu no fu Naohiro. Both blades need a polish and looked of good quality. Dave also had a spectacular and very good yari of stubby shape with a socket type tang. It was inlaid in gold Kishu no fu Naomichi who was Monjushiro III apparently. Where does he get them? Luciano Federico seems to be king of the tsuba fanciers these days. He seems to bring very attractive pieces along and that's not only the tsuba. One was of a chinese landscape in iron from the Garbutt collection in very crisp condition. It had an interesting sunken seppa-dai. A fine marubori tsuba of wheat ears by Toshisada of Sado was stark but very beautiful. Another in iron was of bamboo leaves and smoke clouds in marubori, signed Echizen Kinai. Amongst his other pieces all of merit, was a splendid ito-sukashi guard of Myoga crests with two very tiny and beautifully cut birds in flight (chidori).

Brian Turner had a very good and handsome long sword blade signed Sakkakura Bakashi Masamori Tsukuru and with a kakihau. Our Len Holtaway had also been finding a new treasure. A naginata blade in wakizashi mounts. The blade was made in

the 17th century and was signed Harima no Kami Tadakuni. A cutting test dated 1850 by a Yamada tester stated that the blade had cut a body through across the armpits and into the dodan - the test block. Yoicks!

OCTOBER MEETING: The Annual General Meeting.

Examinations and night-school behind him, John Anderson took the chair. He welcomed a new member, Robert Savoury of Montreal who had found us at the Arms Fair. "Any Business?" queried John. Yes, there is news of a Japanese Season at the National Film Theatre. Those films of greatest interest to us occur on the 12th, 17th and 27th October. All these films are of 71/72 vintage and for the most part have not been shown over here before. So here is a great opportunity to escape to the swashbuckling feudal days without having to see the old familiar material that continually does the rounds. Bill Baxter brought up the subject of the Arms Fair. A special effort had been made this year so that club members could have an interesting visit to the Fair. Where the hell were the members for whom so much effort had been made? Whilst the stand was a thumping success, it is most disappointing that Society members just couldn't be bothered to come along. Do they consider it a waste of time? Incidentally, we took over £25 from the sale of literature which is pretty good going. Alan Bale gave us a donation for selling some books and it should be remembered that Sydney Divers generously donated nearly two dozen copies of Michael Hardwicks "Discovery of Japan" to swell the Society funds. Sydney added that the stand was a credit to the Society and that if we don't support such events, the whole thing will fizzle out. The sad news was announced that Captain Raymond Johnes had passed on. Syd said that he was the only Allied Officer to carry a Samurai Sword to war in the first World War trenches. He had a fantastic collection and Sydney, as also the rest of us, regarded the Captain as the Senior Statesman of the Society. It was felt appropriate to stand for one minute's silence in respect for our lost friend.

"Is there any other business?" asked John. "Yes", says Andy, the forthcoming Shinsa panel visit. The lack of response is overwhelming(!) and it is better that we abandon the idea. A very long and acrimonious discussion developed as to the motives of those who were pushing this event. Your Prog. Sec. thought it too late anyway to organise the Shinsa and inform members as only one month was available. The Society, it was pointed out, had not been approached at all by the would-be visitors and common courtesy would have expected it. It was decided that the

new Committee would make the final decision if and when any news is forthcoming from the Japanese visitors. There being no further business, as of this moment there is no committee, but in my capacity as Chairman, said John, I will guide the meeting until the new committee is appointed. John said that the old committee was composed of 10 members but some had fallen by the wayside. A committee of eight members would be more efficient, and this number was agreed upon. Six members of the old committee were willing to be re-elected. These were John Anderson, Bill Baxter, Malcolm Hutchinson, Andrew Ford, David Parker and Alan Bale. Ted Newman proposed that we should adopt the practice of previous years and vote the six members back en bloc. Sydney Divers objected to this procedure. He said that we should have a completely new committee to inject new life into the Society. Sydney suggested Edward Newman, Don Bayney and Brian Carver should be nominated. Graham Gemmell objected to Sydney's objection and added that by all means have new committee members but let's also use the experience of the old members too. A motion was put that "we shall vote for the 6 committee members en block". Graham Gemmell seconded the motion. There were 14 for, 8 against. Motion carried. Things now started to get hectic. The undercurrents in the club began to rise to the surface and the meeting began to degenerate into violent personal abuse and confusion. Only the strong hand of Chairman-by-consent John Anderson brought control to the meeting. The Chairman over-ruled the previous motions and directed that members should be voted individually onto the committee.

The new committee possibilities were Edward Newman, Tony Chapman, Brian Carver and Don Bayney, as well as the original six members. Neither Brian Carver or Don Bayney were in a position to accept nomination, so we were left with eight people for eight places. Voting began on an individual basis and nearly all members received a unanimous vote. The meeting was then closed except for the usual chin-wagging and sword viewing that make our evenings so pleasant. John Anderson called a committee meeting to decide the new officers of the club and this was held there and then.

So ended our A.G.M. It was relatively poorly attended, although the new influx of dealers was in attendance. It was disappointing that so many of our first generation dealers stayed away. Your Prog. Sec. would like to see those who take or have taken so much from the SWORD and the SOCIETY, put something solid back in the way of support for the Society and its efforts.

THE TO KEN OSHIGATA SERIES

Having heard for so long members saying that they didn't know enough to do anything useful, Bill Baxter and Brian Turner decided that from small beginnings, they could and would do something positive. They decided that it would be of interest to publish on behalf of the Society a collection of oshigata of little known smiths which are the sort that are usually found. A collection of ten very well taken oshigata are reproduced with as much information as can be found alongside. If club members are interested, and you ought to be, we could build up a useful catalogue and what's more, all can help. If you have information on any of the smiths illustrated, send it to Bill or Brian. I won't say it's good value for money, because it's way beyond that, at 25p. What can you get for 25p these days? By the way, it's been found that the "smoke" type oshigata do not reproduce very well, so if you are going to send a rubbing, please make it a good wax pencil type.

Send 25p plus postage to:

The Secretary, Malcolm Hutchinson,
141, Nork Way, Banstead, Surrey.

Postage rates are:-

Gt. Britain	3p
Commonwealth	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ p
Foreign	12p
	20p 2nd class Air

EXIT YOUR PROG. SEC:- Fred Stride

Well, here we are, retiring after three years. I'm going to take a back seat for a while to devote some time to study. It's been great fun with lots of interest, but also hard work, and now it is time for a change. Your new Prog. Sec. is Tony Chapman, who will inject new life and ideas into the Programme as soon as he gets settled to his new task. In future all questions and manuscripts also oshigata should be forwarded to Tony, who lives at:

71, Ingaway,
Basildon, Essex.

THE ARMS FAIR AT THE CUMBERLAND HOTEL - 29th, 30th September

Brian Turner and Bill Baxter didn't disappoint us and provided a first class stall. What a change from previous years! Our stall, for once, was the most spectacular of the rather few societies and organisations in attendance. As we were situated at the entrance and

in the heart of the refreshment area, there was plenty of opportunity for those who visited the Fair to look us over. A large board above head height was covered with purple silk. Upon this was fixed seven large blow-up photographs showing the sequences by which Toshiro Mifune demolished eight opponents with a virtuoso display of swordsmanship in the film "Sanjuro". Next to the photos was the Society insignia. The table was covered with a white cloth which hung down in front. Brian Turner's mother had wielded her needle mightily to fix a large black felt copy of our Tsuba motif on the front of the draped cloth. The display consisted of about a dozen tanto and wakizashi blades in a glass case. They were lying on a rich maroon velvet cloth and neatly labelled. What was striking, was that all the blades were in mint condition and the variety was sufficient to please all tastes. The case covered just over half the table width; the remaining open space was occupied by three TACHI each on a tachi stand. All beautiful, it would be invidious to compare but I cannot help being biased in favour of Brian Turner's very sober black tachi, although the flamboyant tachi of Sir Frank Bowden and Ron Gregory appealed strongly to most visitors. The front of the stand had a good supply of our literature including the new Oshigata series produced by Bill and Brian.

On both days we did a very good trade in selling these items. There is no doubt, it's a very enjoyable event, chatting to folk and meeting club members, with also the faint hope of finding a sword on the exhibitors stalls. The Society certainly showed the flag and all credit goes to Bill and Brian for their efforts.

SWORDS IN THE BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

I had seen swords in the stores of the Brighton Museum some eight years ago and I remembered being excited by a tachi and a tanto. I wondered if I could renew acquaintance with them and see how my taste had changed. Dr. George Bankes has recently taken over the re-organisation of the Ethnographical section at the Museum and he was extremely kind in permitting me to spend the whole day examining the swords at my leisure. What is remarkable about some of the swords is that they were donated in the year 1877, which meant that the swords were collected just after Meiji and whilst samurai still wore their swords. The collector in question was a certain Mr. Ashbury who was one of those remarkable adventurous Victorians who sailed the Pacific in his yacht collecting fine artifacts from South America to New Guinea. He had donated a daisho in excellent taste. The sayas were in plain black lacquer which like most of the pieces showed much accumulated dirt and neglect

from years of storage. But with loving care, they will look gorgeous again and I think they will get this now. The mounts for both blades were all en suite and signed Yanagawa Naomasa with a kakihan and looked of the highest quality. The ground for the fittings was Shakudo nanako with silver paeonies and and gold foliage in high relief. The menuki are shishi with silver paeonies. The wood of the tsuka when the Fuchi was removed looked as fresh as yesterday, as were the bindings. The daito was of shallow sori and a typical Bizen tang signed Bishu Osafune no Ju Yokoyama Kodzuke no Daijo Fujiwara Sukesada Saku. As with most blades in the collection dried grease, whilst saving the blades, made viewing impossible, but the hamon seemed to be chu sugu ha.

The sho-to was a very nicely proportioned blade with a wide groove on each side of the blade. The blade was signed Omi no Daijo Fujinara Tadahiro which corresponded very well to that in Fujishiro, and the hamon again was chu-sugu ha. My old mind-stirrer, the Tachi, was a good quality 19th century Ito-Maki-No-Tachi. The Nashiji lacquer was covered in sheet gold Hama bishi mons of possibly the Yanagisawa family. Some of the sheet gold was coming away and the binding of the tsuke was in tatters. The blade of strong uniform sori had a newly dressed unsigned tang. Whether it was an old blade or a shin shinto copy, I wasn't sure, but it was very elegant. Just like another similar tachi at a recent auction, whilst the overall effect is splendid, I find the rough file marks left of the Tsuba's edge disconcerting and I wonder what a Samurai of good taste would think.

A Handachi Katana took my fancy. I like saya of crushed straw effect brown lacquer. The iron mounts needed work to fully restore but looked good iron with gold tendrils inlay. The elegant blade was signed Bishu Osafune Norimitsu, a late smith, I thought. The chogi looked good and was very oblique to give a regular wave-like appearance. The blade was in a very good state.

There were several other katanas of interest, one of which had a horimono on both sides of the blade in shallow Soshu writing. A wakizashi blade in a shirasaya which still had the tissue packing wrapped around, made me sit up. Dr. Bankes kindly allowed me to clean off the grease and uchiko the blade. The near-mint blade looked very powerful and the hamon was full of nie. There was tobiyaki and muneyaki. I thought it tremendous. The tang looked shortened and I wondered whether this was a very fine old blade, but I kept getting Chorensai Tsunatoshi

coming to mind. The polish, by the way, which must have been done prior to 1938 was very similar to the modern better polishes which we have been getting. Then I got to the tanto which I had found so exciting. I still did! The mounts are in beautiful taste, being oxidised silver and highly polished black lacquer saya. The mounts had the large 3 comma mon and a motif of a knotted rope which also could have been a mon. Absolutely fit for a daimyo. The tsuka binding was in doeskin and the menuki of horses looked gold. The blade was a beautiful hiradzukuri shape about 9 ins. long. The very old tang was of classic Furisode and was signed Rai Kunitoshi. It was very similar to that in Fujishino, in fact the tang shape fitted also very very well. I was given permission to clean the blade and the little beauty is in a good state. Much worn down and a little tired but showing a masame-itame hada and a narrow sugu ha with subtle activity within when examined with a glass. Another tanto but of different style was in an Ebi saya of black lacquer. The ishime mounts highly dirty but the Butterfly Cho-mon of the Taira was on the Kozuka. The beautiful broad Bizen hiradzuikuri blade was by Bizen Osafune Sukekane who worked around 1865 in the Yokoyama Bizen school. The blade was in itame masame hada with a flamboyant chogi hamon. There were islands of nioi in the choji. There was also strong kaeri with muneyaki. A very satisfying blade that. I think this was also an Ashbury piece. He must have bought it fresh from the forge. There were several other tanto and several curiosities. A nata with horn mounts and white lacquered fish scales covering the tsuka and saya. The blade with a large horimono copying the signature of Tsuda Echizen no Kami Sukehiro. There was also a 19th century no-dachi with a European pommel with a sunken screw. Tres odd, and to round off an item even more so - this was a Burmese dha, or very similar, with a red wood scabbard and raffia cord binding the full length of the hilt and parts of the scabbard. The blade had been polished in Japan and was complete with frosted hamon, real or not and burnished mune. I think the blade could be Japanese as it looked of very good workmanship.

I was reminded of the Burmese shield with Japanese lacquer decoration which I believe is in the Rochester museum. There seems to have been an export trade possibly. Dr. Bankes in time will arrange a Japanese section and will no doubt give some of the swords a well deserved place on public view. I look forward to it.

LETTER FROM LAURIE ALLEN:The Australian Scene:-

"As a footnote in your last letter you enquired of our success in collecting Japanese weapons. Not being one of the old school of collectors, I can only account for the last 8 years. My initial interest was Japanese armour, it all started when I flicked through the pages of Stones 'Glossary of Arms & Armour of All Times etc.' and became intrigued with the different forms of armour and the endless listing of classification terms.

Armour being difficult to obtain at the time, I had to contend myself with the perusing of catalogues and the Transactions of the Japan Soc etc. Some time later I acquired a helmet which I restored and was given a fragmental suit of armour by an institution, who allowed me to unearth it from beneath the floorboards after it was cast there during W.W.II. Unfortunately rats had devoured most of the braid and leather sections.

One cannot be interested in one aspect of Japanese craft only without taking notice of others. Before long my horizon broadened to take in other forms of arms, metal and lacquer ware. By this time I was treading the same path that is familiar to most of us which leads to the object that incorporates all, the sword.

All this time I was a loner, not knowing any other with the same interests or specialising in Japanese arms collecting. From the bibliography in Stones 'Glossary' I learned of the Arms and Armour Soc. of Gt. Britain and from the bibliography in their journal the To-Ken Soc. From the To-Ken members list I learned of another two collectors residing local to myself. This led to the inevitable get-together and during the last 2 years our local group has swollen to 5 and communication has developed with other interested bodies.

Every so often U.S. collector Alan Harvie visits Sydney and this is always an occasion for a meeting. Alan brings a newly polished blade with him or some tsuba from his extensive collection and we show our latest acquisitions for discussion. Occasionally inter-state member Barry Thomas drops in for a chat.

Items are not particularly plentiful here especially if a comparison is drawn with what you chaps tend to pick up, one does seem to get the impression from the programme that interesting pieces are more readily accessible in the U.K. than here. It is only on very rare occasions that a sword or fittings is auctioned. As far as fittings are concerned, if any ever do turn up at auction, it is tsuba only.

In most cases a new find comes only after one has followed up several leads with a Sherlock Holmes diligence. Purchases are sometimes made from dealers but not often. Swapping here is most prevalent as it is in most cases the only way to obtain something new. This is particularly so in my own case, I have not purchased anything in the last 12 months, only swapped. Prices here are still reasonable but are increasing rather rapidly. The old story of supply and demand is most certainly the case here. Still there is always the chance that a bargain or quality piece will turn up. I know only of 2 graded blades in Australia, both are Tokubetsu Kicho. One is a tanto by Yukimitsu owned by an interstate member and the other a Wakizashi blade by Hirokumi (HI 278) owned by myself. There are quite a few blades here including 2 from my own collection that would, if presented to an N.B.T.H.K. Shinsa, would receive papers. (This is only my opinion).

Amongst the Sydney group there would be divided the following items:

4 suits of armour	approx 11 Katana	1 in Shirasaya
4 Matchlock	"	14 Wakizashi " "
13 Polearms (approx)		6 Tanto
2 Bows 1 Arrow case	80-90	Separate Tsuba
1 large (nagamaki ?)	6 separate	Kogatana
blade in shirasaya	approx 12 sets	Fuchi Kashira
1 Tachi	"	10 sets Menuki
2 Daisho		

Well, that's about the general scene here, possibly not as exciting as you may have thought. Actually I didn't put as much thought in writing this letter as I should have. Whilst dashing off these lines I've lit the fire, cut the chicken and fed the dog. I only hope what I have written makes sense.

Kind Regards,
Laurie Allen

P.S. If you can obtain any recent illustrated sword auction catalogues, I would appreciate you writing me advising availability and cost."

NOTE:

Your Prog.Sec. owes Laurie an apology. He has had a large pile of catalogues ready to send but has accidentally thrown them away. Can members help?

HISTORICAL NOTES FROM RON GREGORY

Ron has supplied some items of interest for the students of recent history and gendai-to.

Notes Taken from Official Histories on the Japanese Surrender at Hong Kong

Plans were hurriedly made for units of the British Pacific Fleet to move to Hong Kong and proclaim the establishment

of Military Administration pending the restoration of civil government, since the British Government considered it essential that the Japanese there should surrender to the British rather than to Chinese or American forces from the mainland of China. After some negotiation Chiang Kai Shek agreed on the 27th August 1945 to Rear Admiral C.H.J. Harcourt (Flag Officer 11th Aircraft Carrier Squadron British Pacific Fleet) accepting the surrender of the Japanese forces in Hong Kong on behalf of both the British Government and himself as Supreme Commander, China Theatre.

On the 29th August Harcourt with his task force arrived off Hong Kong. We then sent a message by wireless to the Japanese Commander informing him that a British aircraft would be landing at Kai Tak airfield at a specified time and that a Japanese Officer should be ready on the airfield to be flown back to the Indomitable to receive instructions about the entry of the British Fleet into the harbour. The Japanese, on the grounds that they had no authority to negotiate, proposed to reply that the dispatch of an aircraft would serve no useful purpose.

An Avenger aircraft escorted by Hellcats flew to Kai Tak airfield on the 29th but on landing burst a tyre, a spare wheel was sent and that afternoon a Japanese representative of the Foreign Relations Department dressed in an Officers uniform complete with Samurai sword arrived on the Carrier. When he had given information on the location of the minefields and received detailed instructions on what was required of the Japanese Commander, the Japanese representative left to return to the Colony but the weather closed in and the aircraft, unable to find Kai Tak or the Indomitable, force-landed in Chinese territory. Chinese who arrived to investigate wanted to kill the Japanese, but the crew insisted he was their prisoner and managed to save his life. The senior Japanese Naval Officer was told to move all Japanese Naval Officers and ratings from the dockyard area within 4 hours, an order which the Japanese accepted with bad grace. Harcourt shifted his flag to the cruiser Swiftsure to minimise the risk from mines and entered the harbour about midday on the 30th.

Landing parties of naval ratings and Marines then occupied the dockyard and removed all remaining Japanese personnel. While the fleet was entering the harbour three of the large number of Japanese suicide craft anchored off Lamma Island left their moorings, but they were attacked and sunk or dispersed by aircraft. The rest of the craft were then bombed and those not sunk beached themselves. With the exception of some sniping in Victoria, the Japanese offered no resistance and the occupation of the Island was completed on 1st September, all Japanese troops and naval ratings having been moved to the mainland.

The official surrender of the Japanese forces in the Colony took place at Government House on the 16th September when Major General Okada and Vice Admiral Fujita signed for the Japanese and then surrendered their swords to Harcourt.

The Japanese garrison appear to have been an Independent Mixed Brigade some 7,000 strong. The total number of Japanese who surrendered was 21,065 made up of 6,589 Army, 4,574 Navy, 5,966 civilians, 3,826 hospital patients, and 110 suspected war criminals.

The Japanese units appear to have been a composite force (strengths given above) called Hong Kong Defence Force. It was under the command of 23rd Army forming part of the 6th Area Army. The 23rd Army was responsible for the area of South East China around Canton.

In May 1945 the 23rd Army was reduced from 6 to 3 divisions and left to hold the Liuchow Peninsula, the area Hong Kong, Canton, and Swatow. The remainder of the 6th Area Army withdrew towards Hankow. Both the above formations were parts of the Japanese China Expeditionary Force under the command of General Y. Okamura.

And here is a copy of the actual Surrender Document:-

Instrument of Surrender

We, Major General Umekichi Okada and Vice Admiral Ruitaro Fujita, in virtue of the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of all Japanese Armed Forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated, as proclaimed in Article Two of the Instrument of Surrender signed in Tokio Bay on 2nd September 1945, on behalf of the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Imperial Headquarters, do hereby unconditionally surrender ourselves and all forces under our control to Rear Admiral Cecil Halliday Jepson Harcourt, C.B.C.B.E. and undertake to carry out all such instructions as may be given by him or under his authority, and to issue all necessary orders for the purpose of giving effect to all his instructions.

Given under our hands this 16th day of September, 1945, at Government House, Hong Kong.

Signed

Major Gen. Umekichi Okada.

Signed

Vice Admiral Ruitaro Fujita

In the presence of Cecil Harcourt

On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom

Cecil Harcourt

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief,
China Theatre.

And here is a copy of the surrender of a Lt.Col. Miyahara and his personal history which gives an interesting insight into the career of an Army Officer.

Sir: Saigon 15 December 1945.

In accordance with your message of the 14th inst. I will report at your Port H.Q. on 24th December 1945, at 10.00 hours, to present my sword to you. I avail myself of this occasion to express my sincere thanks for the very considerate and sympathetic attitude which you have brought to the handling of all the problems that were my special concern. It pleases me indeed that you have specified my sword for presentation to you, for I would much rather surrender it to you than to anybody else.

Faithfully yours,
Lt. Col. T. Miyahara.

To: Lt.Col. R.C.W. Thomas, O.B.E.
SACSEA Commission No.1, SAIGON, F.I.C.

Brief Curriculum of Lt. Colonel Miyahara

Oct. 1929	Commissioned to 2nd Lt. and attached to 34 Inf.Rt.
Dec. 1931	Entered to Infantry School as a student of machine gun operation, and completed the course.
May 1932- July 1933	Despatched to Peking, North China, and had been in service of guarding (attached to Inf.Unit at Peking)
Oct. 1932	Promoted to Lieutenant.
Aug. 1933	Attached to Training Unit of Infantry School.
Aug. 1936	Promoted to Captain and attached to 34th Inf.Regt. as a Company Commander.
Aug. 1937	Despatched to Central China as Coy.Commander when Sino-Japanese Incident occurred, and participated in combat near Shanghai. September, injured in action (piercing bullet wound at right jaw), sent back to Tokyo and entered to hospital of Military Medical College.
Aug. 1938	Discharged from the hospital.
Aug. 1938	Attached to Military Education Bureau.
Dec. 1938	Entered to Military Staff College.
Mar. 1941	Promoted to Major.
Jul. 1941	Graduated at Staff College.
Aug. - Sept. 1941	Studied the duties of Staff-Officer in charge of railway, at General Staff Office.
Oct. 1941	Attached to H.Q. field railway, Kwantung Army.
Dec. 1941	Commissioned to Staff Officer of H.Q. Field Railway, Kwantung Army.
Mar. 1944	Transferred to Staff Officer of Kwantung Army (in charge of Railway).

Jun. 1944 Transferred to Staff Officer of Southern Army (in charge of Railway).
 Aug. 1944 Promoted to Lt. Colonel.
 Apr. 1945 Commissioned to Chief Staff Officer of H.Q. Field Railway, Southern Army. Had been in service at Saigon as Chief Staff Officer of H.Q. traffic facilities, Southern Army, concurrently attached Officer to H.Q. Southern Army after the formation of H.Q. traffic facilities.
 Aug. 1945 Relieved of Chief Staff Officer of H.Q. Traffic Facilities (The H.Q. was disbanded).
 Oct. 1945 Attached to H.Q. Japanese Army, Southern F.I.C. concurrently to H.Q. Southern Army (In charge of General Traffic Facilities).
 Rank and Order Lieutenant Colonel. The senior grade of sixth court rank. The Fourth Order of Merit. Fifth Order of the Golden Kite.

Signed TOSHIO MIYAHARA
 With seal stamp.

A LETTER FROM HAN BIN SIONG

September 29, 1972

I share your worries about the present sword situation. Like you, I'm afraid that sword collecting has come, or very soon will come, to an end for most of us. Nevertheless I think it is quite a natural development that only a few of us are in a position to continue sword collecting. In Japan it has been so for a long time. That common people like you and me have had the opportunity to collect Japanese swords was due to the lack of true knowledge of them outside Japan, which in combination with the Japanese import restrictions has maintained prices at a level many of us could pay. Now that the Japanese import restrictions seem to have been slackened, we have to compete with fellow enthusiasts from Japan who have a far more profound knowledge of swords than we (apart from exceptions like Dr. Compton for instance) and who therefore can value them better. In auctions the non-Japanese collectors can of course rely on the knowledge of the Japanese and try to outbid them, but then they have to accept the Japanese estimates as well.

That we have been lucky to have the opportunity to collect Japanese swords was also due to the fact that a considerable amount of them was surrendered by the Japanese at the end of World War II and brought back by Allied servicemen as war trophies. From this point of view I think it is also comprehensible that the Japanese now try to return as many swords as possible to Japan. What Captain Ohno Ihigemi has written in his letter of April 15, 1946 (our Programme No.69) seems to come true now. As regards the export from Japan of Japanese swords as war trophies I have found some interesting information in the "Reports of General

MacArthur", prepared by his General Staff. I cite note 46 on page 138 of Volume I, Supplement on "MacArthur in Japan: the Occupation: Military Phase". "To the average U.S. soldier in Japan one of the more interesting aspects of the demobilisation program was something that affected him personally; the distribution of war trophies. WD Cir. No.155 and 267 (1945) authorised the issue of souvenirs to military and naval personnel who served in the S.W.P.A. during World War II. On the basis of these circulars, each officer and enlisted man received one of the following articles: rifle, carbine, sabre, bayonet, pistol or pair of binoculars. Responsibility for collection of these items rested with corps commanders, who issued instructions for their distribution to field units under their respective commands. The War Trophy Depot, located in Yokohama, issued trophies to officers and men who were on orders to return to the U.S. A central issuing agency to fleet units within the Eighth Army Area was established at Yokosuka Naval Base for distribution to naval personnel at sea. G.H.Q. and F.E.A.F. personnel were supplied by Eighth Army facilities". And on page 142, note 47 there are the following figures:

Captured and surrendered swords and sabres: 661621
 Disposed of: Trophy, Museum, Technical use: 372609
 Destroyed: 289012
 Returned to Japanese: none.

The estimates on page 45 of John Yumoto's handbook correspond fairly well with these figures.

In the sale at Christies on June 6 there was a very interesting military sword (lot 36) with yellow tassels attached to a brown and fawn udeukio stitched with gold thread in a zigzag way and also with a black leather hanging strap lined with red felt. According to the accompanying paper of which I have made a xerox copy herewith enclosed, the sword belonged to Lieutenant-General Nishioeda, Commander of the Japanese Army in Southern French Indo China. His name was inscribed on the pierced tsuba, both o-seppa, all four ko seppa, the fuchi, the safety catch and the hilt. Instead of the regular three sakura blossoms there was a dragon and ken menuki on the hilt. As the sword came from the property of Lady Gracey, it may be assumed that it was surrendered by General Nishioeda to Major-General Douglas D. Gracey, C.B., C.B.E., M.C., Commander of the 20th Indian Division. After having fought at Imphal and Mandalay this division had the difficult task at the end of the War to maintain law and order in French Indo-China south of the 16th Parallel. In keeping law and order, British, French, Indian and Japanese troops fought side by side, so General Gracey and General Nishioeda must have co-operated closely for a while. As regards the Japanese army in Southern French

Indo-China, according to the "Reports of General MacArthur" at the end of the war the 2nd division (that had fought in West Java, Guadalcanal and Burma previously) was garrisoned in Saigon, the 55th Division (Guam and Burma) in Pnompenh and the 34th Independent Mixed Brigade in Danaugh, that was still named Tourane then.

If you think these informations are interesting enough to be published in the Programme, I'll certainly be glad.

With best wishes, yours,

Han Bin Siong

And here is a copy of the accompanying surrender paper of Lt. General Nishioeda's sword:

"This sword has been worn by Lt. General Y. Nishioeda, the Chief Commander of Southern Indo-China Army.

The history is as follows:

- 1) This is one of the old sword handed down for generations in the Nishioeda Family.
- 2) This was made by Morikage Osafune who was a famous swordsmith about five hundred and thirty years ago.
- 3) Especially, the ornamental head of the rivet (a dragon around a dagger) is the product of an expert artisan of present Japan.

(Signed) Y. Nishioeda.

SOTHEBY'S NEWS FROM GRAHAM GEMMELL

The first two Sales of Sotheby's new season that will be of interest to To-Ken members are on October 25th and December 13th or 14th (as yet the precise day has not been fixed). October 25th, in fact, is the second day of the first Sale of the Henri Vever Collection, a French collection amassed in the first two decades of this century. The hugely varied and very important collection comprises nearly 1500 tsuba, kozuka and sets of fuchi-kashira. Unfortunately, no blades. Such a large number of fittings demands careful handling and Sothebys envisage spending nearly 18 months selling it.

The sale on December 13th or 14th will be a general sale of blades, naginata armour and fittings and, like the July sale, should provide some surprises for everyone.

TANG PATINATION

If any member has a proven method of obtaining that excellent chocolate-brown deep patination onto a cleaned tang, could you please come to Fred Stride's aid. In desperation, any permanent good colour would do. HELP!

NIHON TO NEWSLETTER

New members will like to know and others be reminded of a venture started in Japan in January 1968 by Albert Yamanaka and Associates. The Nihon To Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication in English, 30 plus pages on Japanese swords and its related fields. Packed with information from authoritative Japanese sources, there is no other publication in English which can offer such a wealth of knowledge to the serious student of the sword. Members wishing to subscribe to this non-profit making publication should write to:

NIHON TO NEWSLETTER
C.P.O. Box 967,
Tokyo, Japan.

enclosing Name, Address, City, State, etc. and remit Twenty (20) U.S. dollars or equivalent. Bank cashiers cheque only - NO personal cheques.

AIR MAIL POSTAGE

For overseas members wishing to have their Programmes sent Air Mail, the subscription rates are increased as follows:

Europe..... £3.50
U.S.A. and elsewhere. \$10.00

OSHIKATA

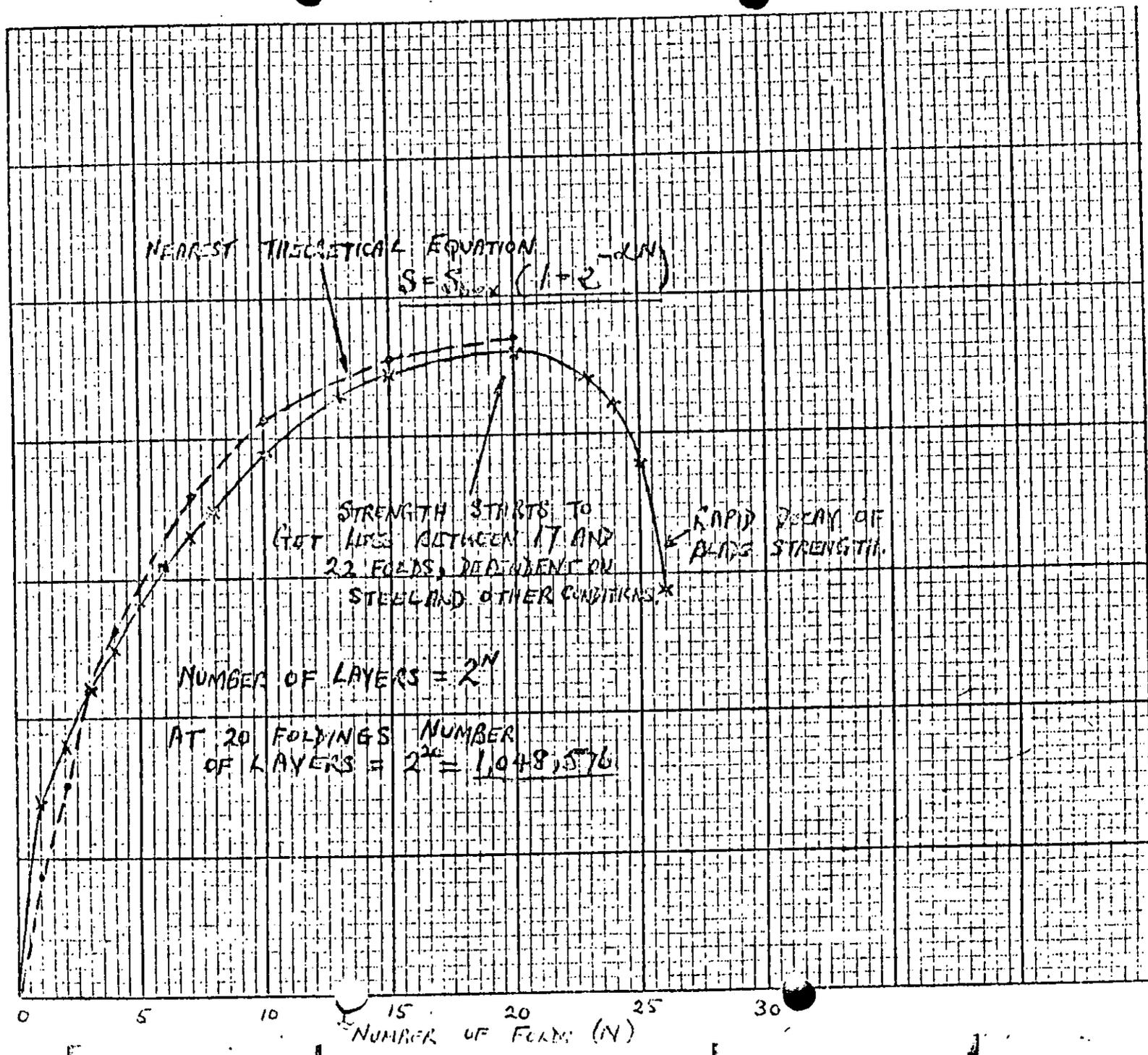
A reminder to new members who may have difficulties in reading tang inscriptions due to inadequate references, that if they care to send a rubbing (oshigata) of the tang, addressed to Tony Chapman, 71 Ingaway, Basildon, Essex, he will check it for them and send them all available information he has on the swordsmith or inscription; please remember to make a careful rubbing of the whole tang, both sides, not just the inscription.

NEW MEMBERS

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

P. Straton	189 Pampisford Road, S.Croydon, Surrey
G. Williams	Preston House, St.Michaels Place, Hastings, Sussex.
A.J. Gibb	39 Rodenhurst Road, Clapham, S.W.4.
R. Savoie	3874 Rue Parc Lafontaine, Montreal, Canada.
Marriott-Smith, R.L.	Brentwood, 66 Hawthylands Road, Hailsham, Sussex.

STRENGTH OF BLADE (S)



NEAREST THEORETICAL EQUATION
 $S = S_{max} (1 + 2^N)$

STRENGTH STARTS TO GO UP SLOTTED BETWEEN 17 AND 22 FOLDS, DEPENDENT ON STEEL AND OTHER CONDITIONS *

RAPID DECAY OF BLADE STRENGTH.

NUMBER OF LAYERS = 2^N

AT 20 FOLDINGS NUMBER OF LAYERS = $2^{20} = 1,048,576$

NUMBER OF FOLDS (N)