

To-Ken Society Meeting Report

10 Dec 2015

The well-attended meeting, which brought together around thirty members and family members, constituted the Society's annual general meeting and it was opened with a number of administrative topics. Sadly, but understandably, one of these was the retirement of Clive, who had committed a lot of energy and numerous years of his time to our Society. Clive Sinclair, our honourable chairman, who has been involved with the Society for over forty years, and had been our chairman for twenty years, resigned after having giving notice at the previous AGM in December 2014. During his long Society tenure, he has lectured, coached, guided, published, organised events and contributed in many other immeasurable ways. Thankfully, he will remain closely involved with the Society in an advisory and mentor role. Undoubtedly, given Clive's immense energy (he is still actively practising martial arts, ardent passion for nihonto and great knowledge of the subject, he will continue contributing and participating in our events, for which we shall be deeply grateful.

Next, by unanimous vote, Paul Bowman was elected as the Society new chairman, having been proposed by Clive and seconded by Maurice. Maurice, Ian and Michael stepped down and were re-elected as treasurer, web manager and secretary. Paul did talk briefly about his intentions to bring some new ideas and vigour to the Society, building on Clive's and his predecessors' contributions, for example (most of these have been relayed in a separate message to members):

- More joint events with other sword groups like NBTHK Europe
- Visits to museums and day events not only in London to bring together nation-wide members
- More written resources to the membership
- Various endeavours to increase touch-points and involvement with members, for example through augmented online presence

It has also been decided that the membership fees will be increased due to the overall rise in various costs of the Society and the inflation over the ten or so years that fees have stayed flat:

- Initial joining fee for first-year membership: £20
- Ongoing annual renewal membership fee: £15
- Lifetime membership: £150

Next, the attendees viewed swords and koshirae brought by members, among which were:

- Beautiful Edo tanto koshirae of a high-end published Munetsugu tanto recently acquired by Clive
- A Bungo Fujiwara Yukihiwa wakizashi in exquisite koshirae
- A cutting-test-bearing Masahiro katana
- Various Shinto Kanbun blades
- High-end fuchi, kashira, tsuba and other sword ornaments and furniture

Following the viewing of collectables, the members were treated to a Christmas buffet encompassing traditional bites such as mince pies, sandwiches and Japanese sushi and sashimi. Maurice had also kindly organised for some wine to be decanted and overall everyone had a jolly good time.

The evening was rounded off by a valedictory ceremony in which David Maynard reminisced about how he had met Clive and related Clive's long history of involvement with the Society, members wrote messages to Clive on a giant memento farewell card and Clive was presented with a lovely pair of cufflinks bearing the emblem of the Society.

Fig.1 Tanto koshirae



Fig.2

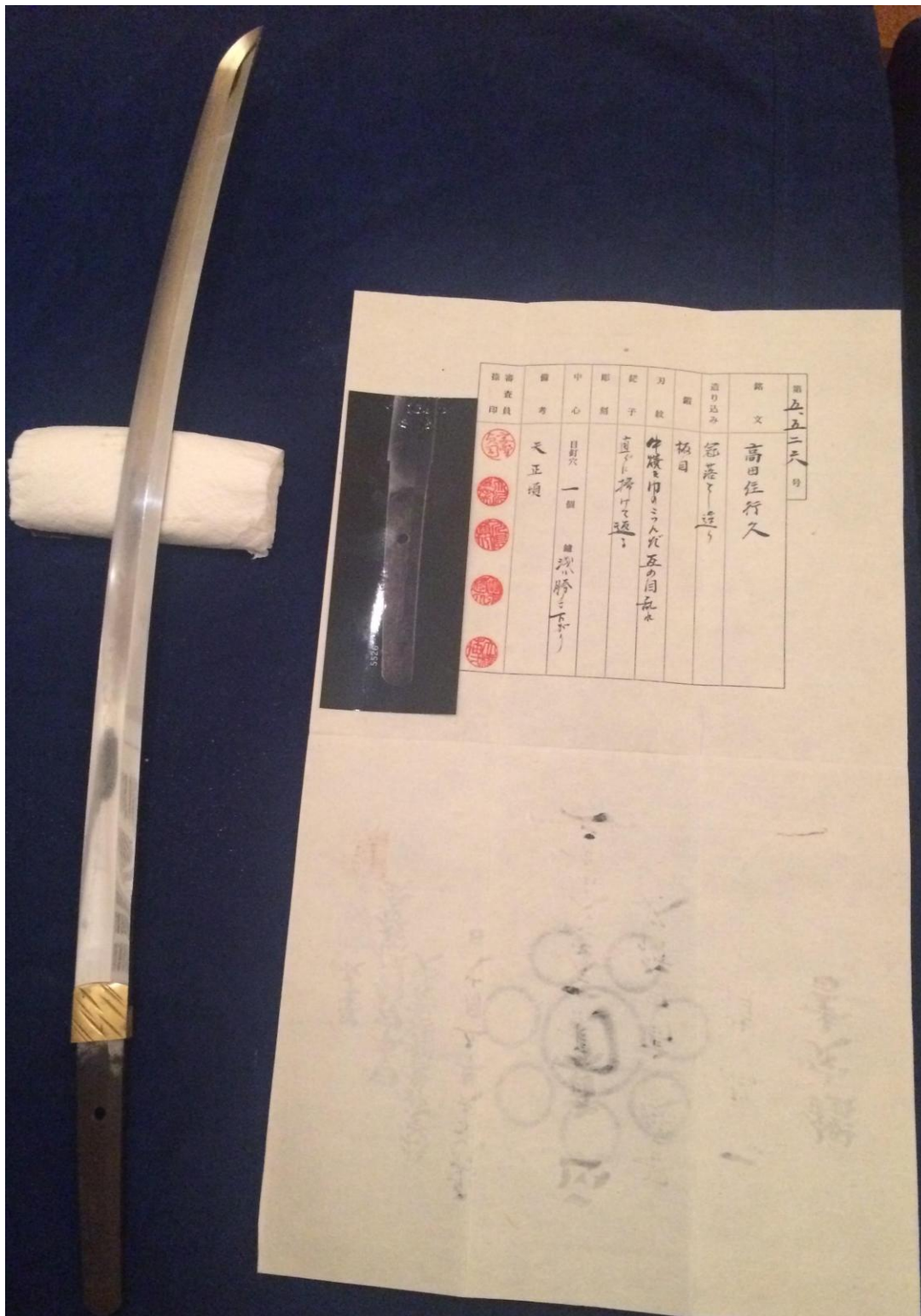


Fig.3 Kanbun katana



Fig.4 Masahiro katana



Fig.5



6. High-end tosogu

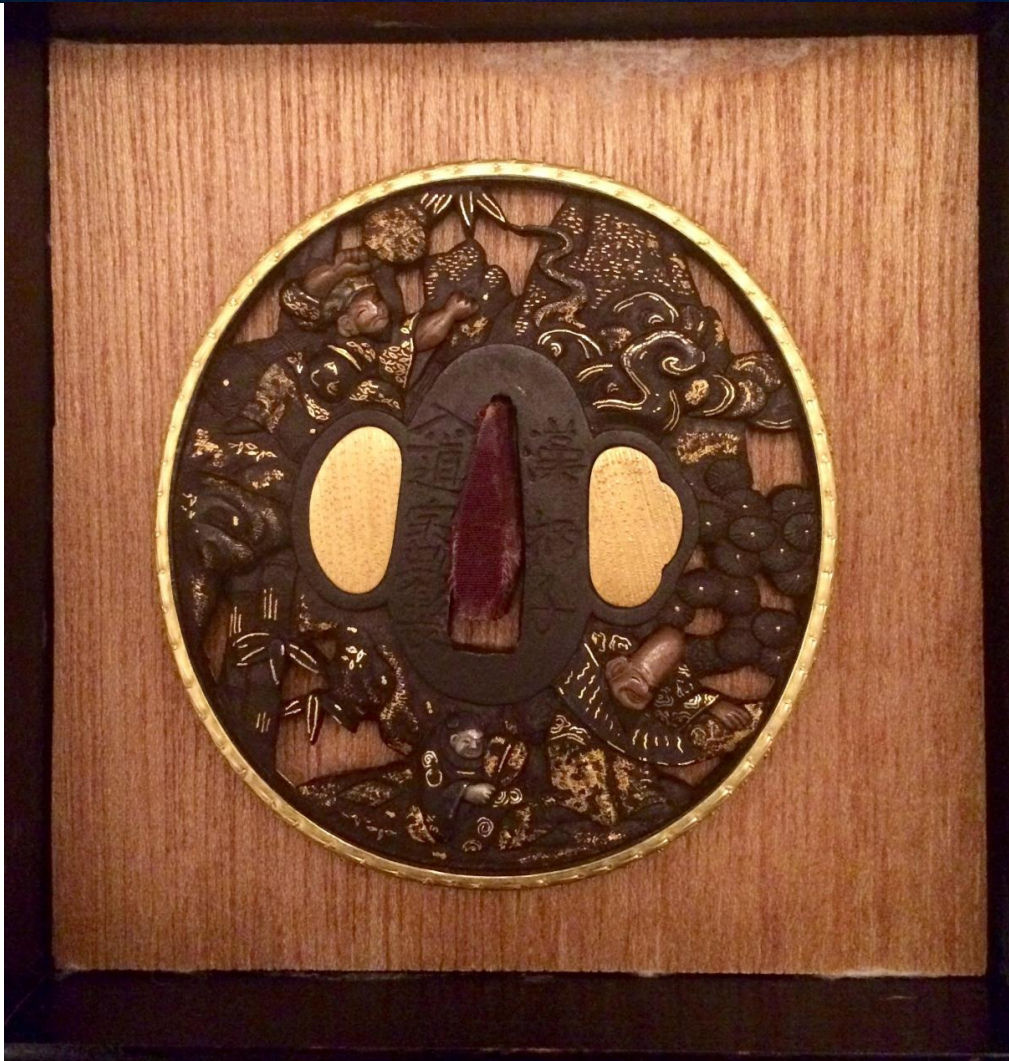
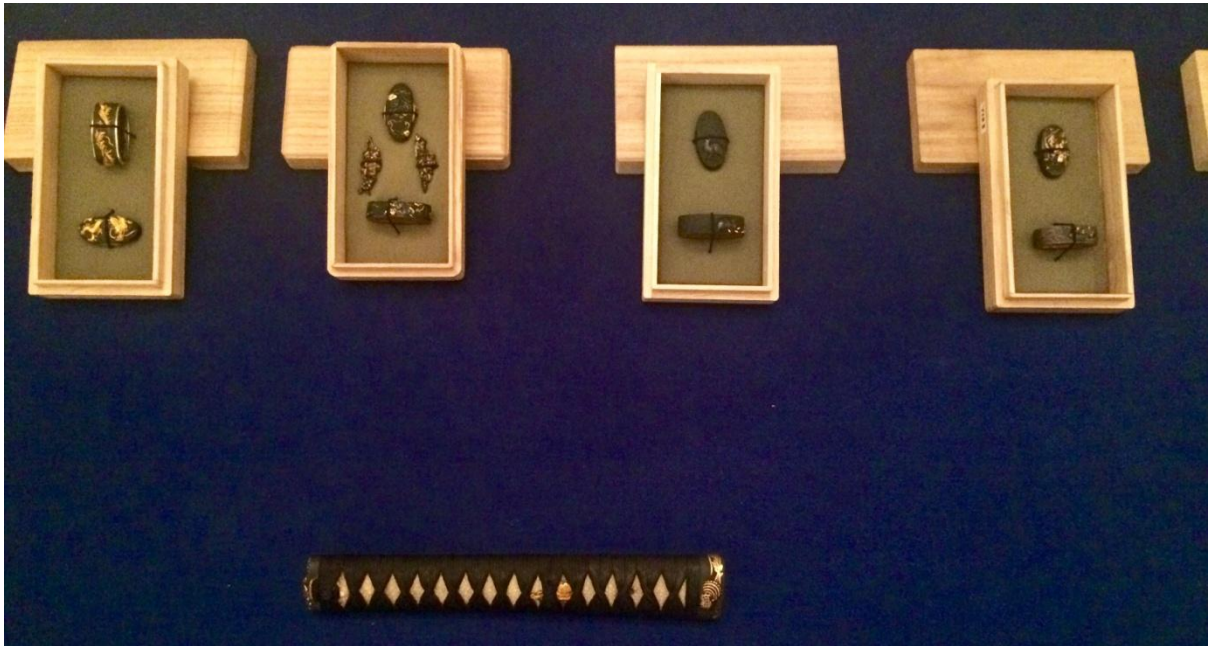


Fig.8 Clive's retirement - presentation ceremony

