

Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Inc.



NEWSLETTER

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1988 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The March 15th deadline for additional nominations from the membership passed with no additional nominations having been received by the Nominating Committee. At that time a slate was drawn up and presented to the Board of Directors and approved. A ballot has been drafted and will be distributed to the entire membership for their use in voting.

Ballots will be distributed via a separate mailing or possibly, just included along with this issue of the *Newsletter*, depending on printing schedules. Please notice the deadline for returning the ballots and the address to be used for returning ballots. One last reminder; please do take the time to vote. A lot of effort has gone into this election and your vote is needed to show that it was a worthwhile effort for all those involved.

1988 JSS/US ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Society's 1988 Annual General Membership Meeting was held Saturday, February 27, 1988 in Houston, Texas. The meeting took place during the Houston Token Kai sword show weekend. Twenty-two people attended our annual meeting and contributed towards making it an interesting one. Minutes of the meeting, an address entitled *State of the Society*, and other significant meeting information is presented elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter* for your reading.

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A SHINSAKU SWORD BY A MEMBER
OF THE HORII FAMILY (HIDEAKI)

by L.E. Ottaiano and F.A.B. Coutinho

It was a great pleasure to read the article by Major Ian Brooks on the Horii family of Gendai sword smiths, *Newsletter* Volume 19, No. 3, page 25.

Since however there is no description of the workmanship nor oshigata given, we think it would be of interest to have some information in that direction. It happens that we have access to a sword by *HIDEAKI* (see Brooks article under *Toshihide*) whose authenticity can not be doubted (it was bought by the father of the present owner to the Horii family in Muroran, Hokkaido, Japan

The mei shown in oshigata is *not* listed for in example in the book by Tokuno, *Toko Taikan*. The oshigata also shows, we hope, the very well executed yasurime with a beautiful kesho. The nakago mune is rounded and the ha side is flat.

The sword is about 68 cm long and has an average koshizori in addition to sakizori. It is very well balanced and fits snugly in the hand. The kitae is very fine running itame hada. It has tiny chikei. The steel has a rather dark hue. The hamon is suguha with a tight ko-nie habuchi. The boshi is komaru with kaeri.

