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Welcome sho-shin reader. A new sword publication begins! This newsletter will bring you Japanese sword news and events, interviews with top experts, a full range of arms and armor services and restoration, and presentations of fine pieces for sale. Our pledge is service, reliability and honesty.

We are proud to have the unique opportunity, for our first interview, to share an evening with Dr KAZUO TOKUNO, author of the famous TOKO-TAIKAN and MINO-TO TAIKAN, two among his several and well-known works. This scholar gives many lectures throughout Japan but this is his first interview for the English speaking West. His interview becomes more involved as it unfolds and will be presented in its entirety over the next one or two issues.

We will present for sale, swords, fittings and armaments in each issue for which I will try, as space permits, to include at least the core aspect of smith line or school study. Most serious collectors of the sword keep and use such available literature as part of their personal reference library. In this way the **sho-shin** newsletter will be of somewhat enduring use for its readers.

When purchasing...

A seller authorizes **sho-shin** as his or her agent. A purchaser sends the full amount and the desired piece is sent registered mail. The purchaser has a three day examination period. If the purchaser decides to pass, the piece must be returned immediately in exactly the same condition as sent. Payment by **sho-shin** to any party is immediate. Each party sending, pays shipping and insurance.

I would like to make a necessary appeal to individuals desiring to sell. Our association with the YOKOHAMA BIJUTSU BOEKI is a unique turn in the normal economic theater we call the world sword market. Their sword catalogue has over 3000 active buyers. This is three times the worldwide membership of the JSS/US.

We can, indeed, place your fine quality items! Please do not hesitate to consider our forum.

I would also like to call your attention to the very unusual GEN-DAI armor. These are fabulous suits of real armor that have flatly fooled experts. Our in-house armor man will send all armor buffs complete details and options.

Again, *thank you* for joining the readership, and please tell your friends! Our world is small and all sword publications need our support.