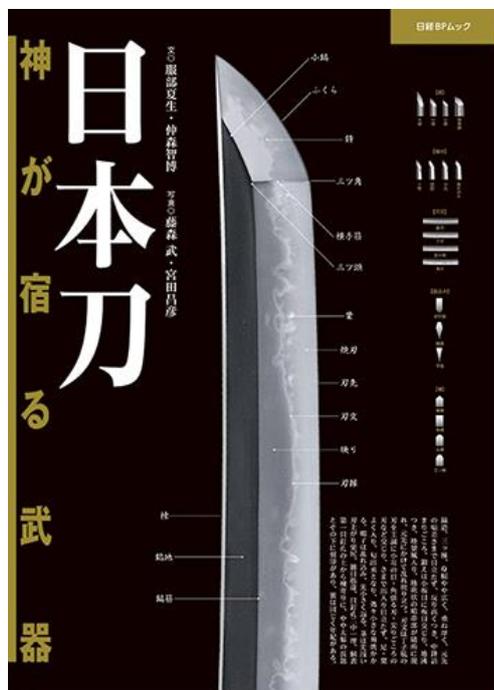


# SANTASADŌ

## Natsuo Hattori & Tomohiro Nakamori - The Japanese Sword

The Sacred Weapon of God

HISTORY | LIFESTYLE



With a rich collection of captivating photographs, this book delves into the mystery of the Japanese sword, the most powerful and beautiful weapon on the earth.

The Japanese sword is said to have the hardest blade in the world. It is a weapon as well as a piece of art, sometimes admired as a sacred treasure.

The book looks back the history of Japanese sword that originated from the Heian period (from 794 to 1185 a.d.), dives into the secrets of its astonishing features, and unveils the complete process of Japanese sword-making by Kunihiro Kawachi, one of the best swordsmiths of our time. Vivid photographs depict the scenes of selecting Tamahagane steel, forging, hot forming, and polishing (kajioshi).

Published in June 2015 | Hardcover | 184 pages | with photographs

- English sample translation available
- Over 5,000 copies sold
- Italian rights sold to Nuinui
- French rights sold to Nuinui
- Simplified Chinese rights sold to Chongqing Publishing Media
- Japanese edition published by Nikkei Business Publications

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

### **Natsuo Hattori** - Editor, Writer

Born in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture in 1973, Natsuo Hattori graduated from Tohoku University with a degree in English Literature and began working for a publishing company in 1996, where he also served as editor-in-chief of cutlery magazines and mooks. As a writer, he has written and serialized articles in magazines and newspapers such as *Nikkei Technology Online*, *National Geographic*, *Hitotoki*, and the Tokyo Shimbun in the fields of traditional crafts and organic life, in addition to cutlery and iron-related topics. His publications include *Uchihamono Shokunin* (with photos from Hisaaki Mihara, World Photo Press). Books he has produced and edited include *Chiyotsuru Korehide: Works and Life of a Blacksmith Who Embodies Japanese Hand Tool Culture* and *Cutlery Compendium* (both published by World Photo Press), and *Hakaru, Shiru, Kurasu* (published by Kodomo Mirai Keisokusho).

### **Tomohiro Nakamori** - General Manager, Nikkei BP Future Research Institute, Nikkei BP, Inc. - Executive Officer

Tomohiro Nakamori was born in 1959. He joined Oki Electric Industry in 1984, where he was engaged in research on thin-film materials at the Fundamental Technology Research Laboratory. He joined Nikkei BP in 1989 and served as editor-in-chief of Nikkei Mechanical and Nikkei BizTech before assuming his current position in 2013. He is also a visiting professor at the Waseda University Research Institute. He is the co-author of *Developer Biographies* (co-authored, Nikkei BP, Inc.), *Side Effects of Speculation* (2010, Nikkei BP, Inc.), *FUKUSHIMA Report: The Essence of the Nuclear Accident* (co-authored, Nikkei BP Consulting, Inc.), and *Automatic Operation* (co-authored, Nikkei BP, Inc.) He has also done a lot of work in the field of Japanese culture and traditional crafts, including *Honmono no Nihonjin* (Nikkei BP, Inc.) and *Gino no Kokoro* (Nikkei Technology Online, Inc.)

### **Takeshi Fujimori** - Photographer

Born in Tokyo in 1942, Takeshi Fujimori graduated from Tokyo College of Photography (now Tokyo Polytechnic University). After studying under photographer Ken Domon, he began freelancing in 1970 and mainly focuses on Japanese cultural traditions such as antiques and Buddhist statues. He also continues to photograph the collections of over 90 museums throughout Japan. His photo collections include *Koma: The World of Kumagai Moriichi* (Kodansha), *Hibutsu: The Eleven-Faced Kannon* (Heibonsha), *Hidden Buddhas* (5 volumes; Tokyo Bijutsu), *Nata-bori Arabori: Mysterious Wood Carved Buddhas* (Tamagawa University Press), *Gozaru: Kyogenji Nomura Mansaku no Gei* (Kodansha), and *Yanagi Muneyoshi Collection: Beauty for Use* (first and second volumes; Sekai Bunka Sha). He co-authored with Masako Shirasu of *Masako Shirasu: My Antiques* (Kyuryudo) and *Flower Diary* (Sekaibunka-sha). Takeshi Fujimori is a member of the Japan Professional

