

Art of the Samuri  
Japanese Arms and Armor 1156-1868

**Most Important Exhibit  
Of Japanese Arms  
Ever Held Outside of Japan**

**October 21, 2009 to January 10, 2010**

**New York  
Metropolitan Museum of Art**



Tachi Mei Yoshifusa 13<sup>th</sup> Century  
Kokuho



Yoroi 14<sup>th</sup> Century  
Kokuho

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in cooperation with the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Japanese Government, and the National Museum in Ueno Tokyo Japan are exhibiting the most important display of Japanese Arms and Armor ever shown outside of Japan. They will be showing 215 masterpieces. This will include 34 Kokuho (National Treasures of Japan) and 60 Important Cultural Properties, and 6 Important Art Objects.

(over)



While there have been more and more exhibits of Japanese Arms by such institutes as the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Metropolitan Museum over the last few years from their own collections, it really requires a joint effort with Japanese sources to put on a comprehensive exhibit. The American collections, public or private, just do not have the breadth and quality to hold high level exhibits. There are currently two exhibits up in California. The Bowers Museum in Santa Ana in cooperation with the National Museum is ending soon. Also, there is an exhibit at the Asian Arts Museum in San Francisco. Both are worth a visit. But, the nearest comparison to the exhibit coming in October requires going back to the exhibit “Japan, The Shaping of Daimyo Culture 1185-1868”, October 1988 to January 1989 at the National Gallery in Washington DC. This was almost as important an exhibit put on by the National Gallery, the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Japanese Government, the National Museum in Tokyo and the Japan Foundation.

**ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN JAPANESE CULTURE, AND SAMURAI ARTS IN PARTICULAR WHO DOES NOT SEE THIS EXHIBIT WILL BE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE THAT THEY WILL REGRET.**

Some important dates:

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, October 21, 2009  | Exhibit Open to public                            |
| Sunday, November 8, 2009     | Free lectures and Panel Discussion                |
| November 30-December 4, 2009 | Approximately 60 objects rotated into the exhibit |
| Thursday, January 10, 2010   | Exhibit Closes                                    |

**SPECIAL NOTICE TO ARMOR FANS.** The Heian Kokuho with red lacing Yoroi from Okayama Museum of Art is **on display only for the first 2 weeks of the exhibit**. This is the oldest Yoroi, and it is exhibited in Okayama for only 2 weeks every 5 years.

There will be a comprehensive catalog available shortly before the exhibit opens. Remember the Met is not open on Mondays except Holiday Mondays (if a holiday falls on a Monday they will be open). They also have limited parking under the museum. For more information visit the Met web site at [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

This flyer is complements of the New York Token Kai. Visit our web site for information about our activities and monthly meetings. Also, we would be happy to answer any questions about this exhibit as far as we might know something not readily apparent on the Met site.

**New York Token Kai**  
**[www.ny-tokenkai.org](http://www.ny-tokenkai.org)**



**Tachi Koshirae - Important Cultural Object**