# AN OUTLINE OF JAPANESE VEXILLOLOGY Hiroyuki Innami

- 1. During the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., Japan engaged in an active cultural exchange with ancient Korea. Wooden ships brought the Korean political system, Buddhism, and agricultural technology to Japan.
- 2. Wall paintings in ancient Japanese tombs depict some of these ships. A figure of a bird—the oldest vexilloid in Japan—was attached to their bows.
- 3. In the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D., Japan began a cultural exchange with ancient China, importing its political system and ceremonies, such as that of the Emperor's coronation. The four idols (of four different animals) can be seen in shrines across Japan.
- 4. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the Japanese aristocracy began to decline and with the rise of the Samurai the two classes began to clash. Aristocrats began to use *kamon* (family crests); the Samurai later started using similar emblems (although they used *nobori* flags more than emblems).
- 5. The Samurai fought against each other for power into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Samurai warriors fought off two Mongol invasions and saved the country. During this era Japanese armament and fighting tactics developed and Japan's unique culture began.
- 6. The army of the *daimyo* (warlord) marched valiantly. One of the largest clans in northeast Japan, the Date Clan, still plays the leading part in the annual Samurai parade.
- 7. It was very important to Samurai families to have sons and to bring them up well. Every year on 5 May they displayed armor and Samurai banners and flew carp streamers in their gardens to pray for their sons' growth. Today 5 May is Children's Day—a public holiday.
- 8. War flags and their system of battlefield use were carefully preserved and transmitted.
- 9. In the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, a Portuguese sailing ship visited Japan from Europe for the first time, followed by the Spanish, British, and Dutch. They introduced muskets, other European and Southern Asian products, and Christianity into Japan.

- 10. Three kingdoms in the southernmost Ryukyu Islands preserved their status and culture and paid tribute to China and Japan during the Tokugawa Shogunate. They used ships in the Chinese and Japanese styles. Their Chinese marching style was particularly eye-catching in parades in Japan's capital, Edo (Tokyo).
- 11. Nagasaki, on the southern island of Kyushu, was a major port open to Europe and China for 270 years even though the government otherwise maintained a policy of national isolation. A handful of Europeans and 300 Chinese lived there, with one or two European ships and up to 200 Chinese ships visiting each year.
- 12. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century American and Russian ships arrived to ask Japan to open its ports to trade. In 1854 U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry signed the Japan-U.S. Treaty of Peace and Amity.
- 13. Afterwards, American, British, and French troops were stationed in Yokohama and the Japanese could see their various flags.
- 14. However, generally speaking, the Japanese people could not recognize those flags accurately. In this picture a British ship flies the U.S. flag.
- 15. The opening of Japan led to the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate and a civil war broke out between the Tokugawa *Daimyo* and aristocrats seeking the restoration of the Emperor. The Imperial Army marched in the streets, flying the imperial flag charged with a gold chrysanthemum.
- 16. Meanwhile, Tokugawa *Daimyo* troops introduced Western-style armament and flags became smaller but still bore Japanese letters and emblems (*kamon*).
- 17. French Emperor Napoleon III supported shogunate troops with weaponry for infantry, hussars, and artillery.
- 18. The Meiji government, with an emperor as a head of state, changed its ceremonial coronation style from Chinese to Japanese by adopting a crest of a chrysanthemum, a gold kite, and a three-legged crow originating in Japanese mythology.
- 19. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Japanese troops defeated China and Russia and continued their military buildup. When a 20-year-old boy was sent to boot camp his family and neighbors held a small ceremony. They wrote their names on a flag similar to those used by Samurai and presented it to him.
- 20. Flag-related festivals now take place in many parts of Japan. As the size of home gardens has become smaller, carp streamers tend to fly in parks instead.

- 21. Some shrines use up to 20 *nobori* flags in their flag festivals.
- 22. Some *nobori* flags bear the names of *kabuki* actors or *sumo* wrestlers.
- 23. Japanese fishermen often fly a "Good Catch" flag on their boats. Fishing boats will display "Good Catch" flags in a superb parade.
- 24. Japanese restaurants and confectionary stores will often use a *noren* curtain charged with the owner's family crest.
- 25. The shrine festival in the northeast region of Japan flies a five-color flag first used by Buddhist temples.

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TK edit 10/17/10

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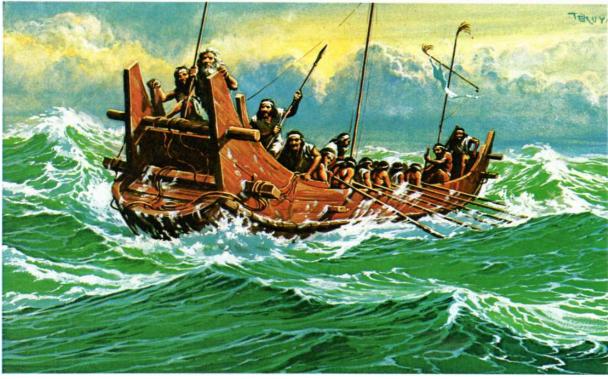


# HIROYUKI INNAMI NIHON KISHOGAKU KYOKAI

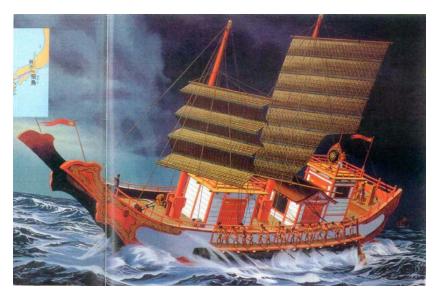
# 1. OLD TIME SHIP FOR EXCHANGE WITH KOREAN KINGDOM 1C







# 2. DIPLOMATIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH ANCIENT CHAINA



# 3. CHINESE EMPEROR'S ACCESSETION CEREMONY 7C



# 4. RED AND WHITE FLAGS AER USED IN BATTLE OF 12C



## 5. MOUNTED WARRIOR AND FOOT SOLDIER



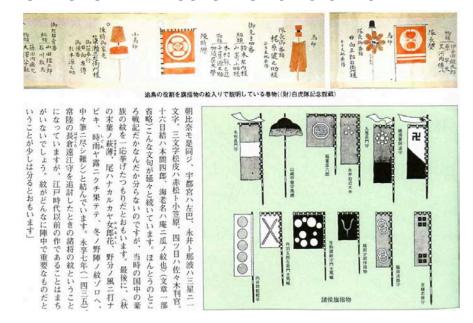
# 6. RE-ENACTMENT OF THE MARCH OF 'DATE' CLAN



# 7. DECORATION OF 'SAMURAI' FAMILIES 'BOYS FESTIVAL'



# 8. 'NOBORI' AND SCROLL OF CRESTS.17C



# 9. DUTCH AND PORTUGUESE SHIPS. 17C



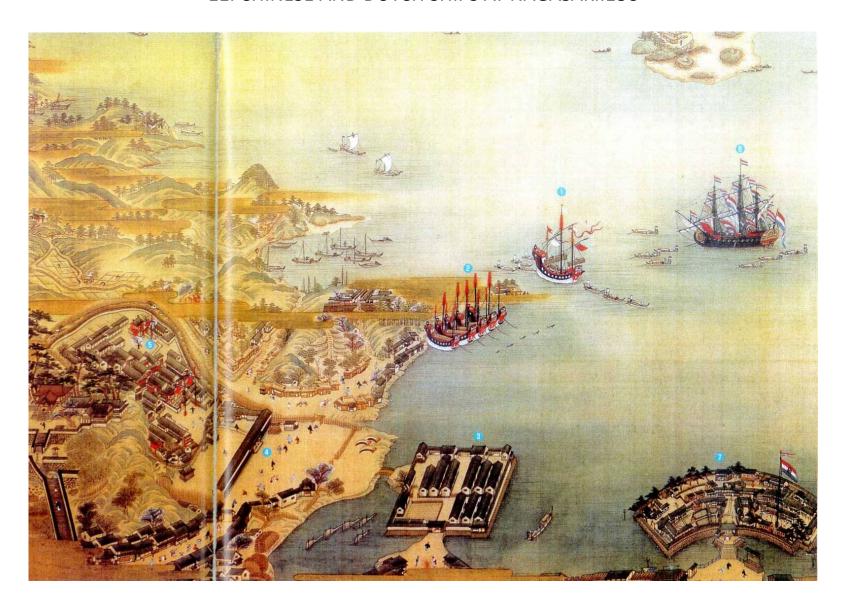
# 10. KINGDOM OF RYUKYU USED JAPANESE AND CHINESE SHIPS



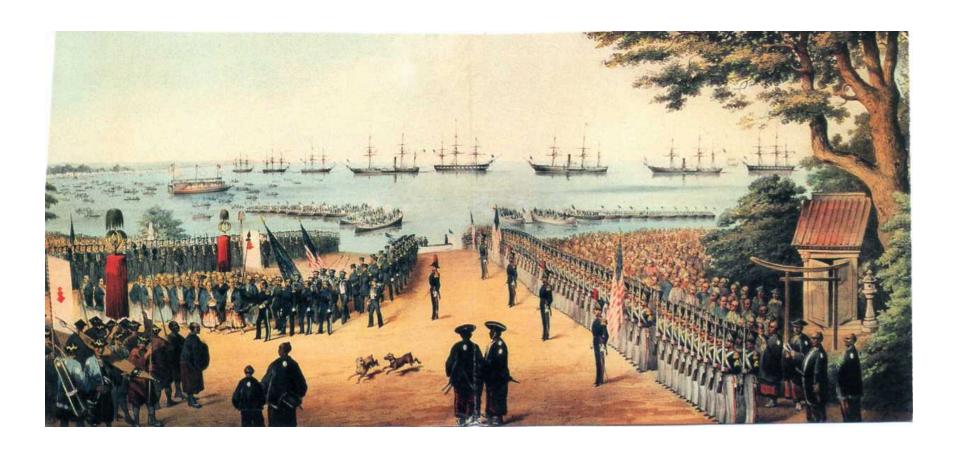




# 11. CHINESE AND DUTCH SHIPS AT NAGASAKI.18C



# 12. COMMODOR PERRY AND MARINES LANDING AT YOKOHAMA



## 13. US AND UK STATIONARY TROOPS AT YOKOHAMA



51・横浜外国人行烈之図 -川芳員 文久元年(1861)2 月 寺院風の屋根と黒い板塀は初期の居留地の様子を伝えている。手前の集団はアメリカの新聞「フランク・レズリー」紙を参考に制作された



52・横浜之新港ニ五箇国之異人調練之図 一猛斎芳虎 文ス3年(1863)8月 生変事件の翌文久3年、イギリス艦隊 は事件の賠償金支払い要求などの報復行動にでるため、 横浜に集結した。こうした状況を反映した作品か

# 14. A 'US PADDLE WHEELER'



120・墨利堅国大船之図 五雲亭貞秀 元治元年(1864)3 月 蒸気船はアメリカの船ではなく、当時、世界最大の イギリスの客船グレイト・イースタン号である。外国の 書物の挿絵を応用した作品となっている

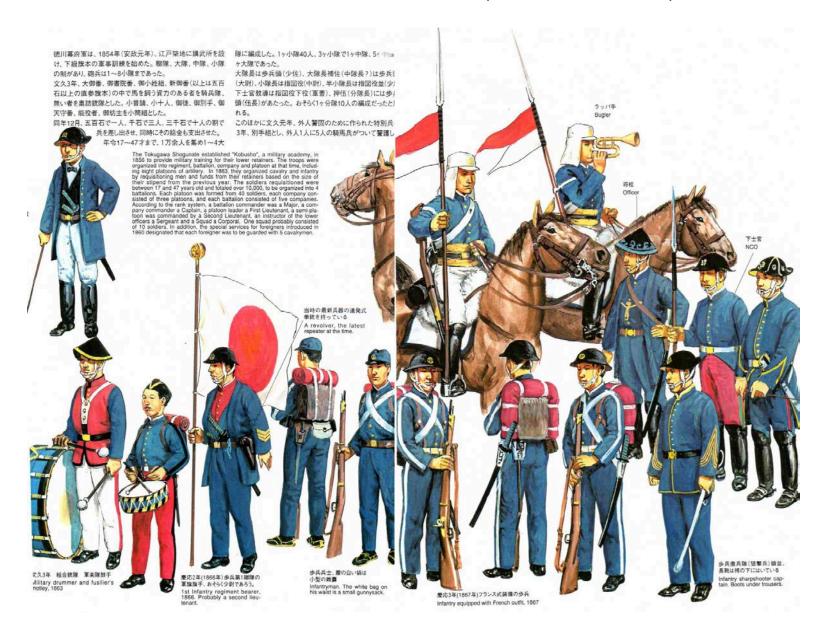
## 15. IMPERIAL COURT TROOPS



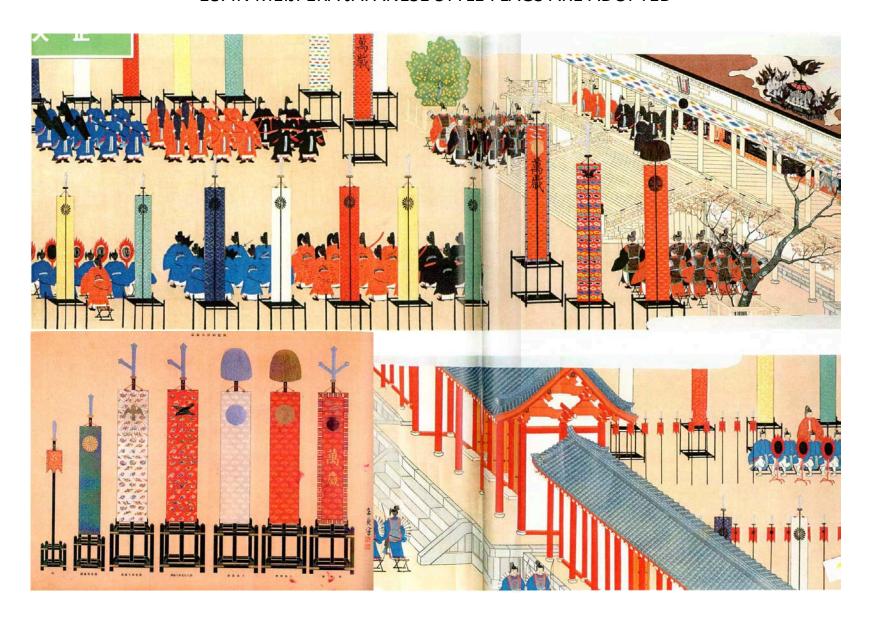
## 16. THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE AND DAIMYO SOLDIERS



# 17. FRENCH STYLE SERVICE UNIFOMS (FROM NAPOLEON III)



# 18. IN MEIJI ERA JAPANESE STYLE FLAGS ARE ADOPTED



# 19. THE RECRUITS LEAVING FOR BOOT CAMP FARWELL CEREMONY OF NEIGHBORS



# 20. KOINOBORI FLYING-CARP FESTIVAL

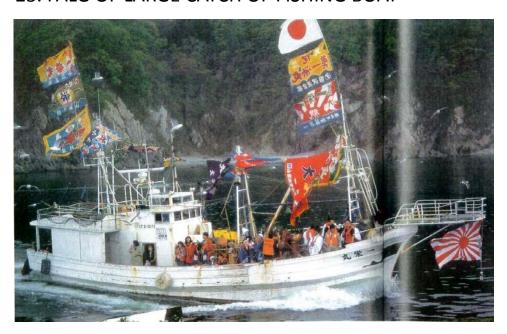
# 21. 'NOBORI' FESTIVAL OF 'SHINTO' SHRINE



# 22. 'NOBORI' AT KABUKI THEATER AND 'SUMOU' WRESTLERS



23. FALG OF LARGE CATCH OF FISHING BOAT



# 24. 'NOREN' SHOP CURTAINS





# 25. FLAG FESTIVAL OF SHINTO SHRINE

