

The Samurai Armour Glossary



Ian Bottomley & David Thatcher

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Nihon-No-Katchu.com

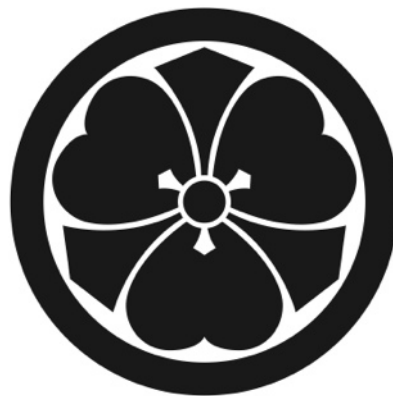
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Nihon No Katchu

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This glossary has been compiled for students of Japanese Armour. Unlike conventional glossaries, this text has been divided into two versions. The first section features terminology by armour component, the second is indexed in alphabetical order. We hope you will enjoy using this valuable resource.

Ian & Dave

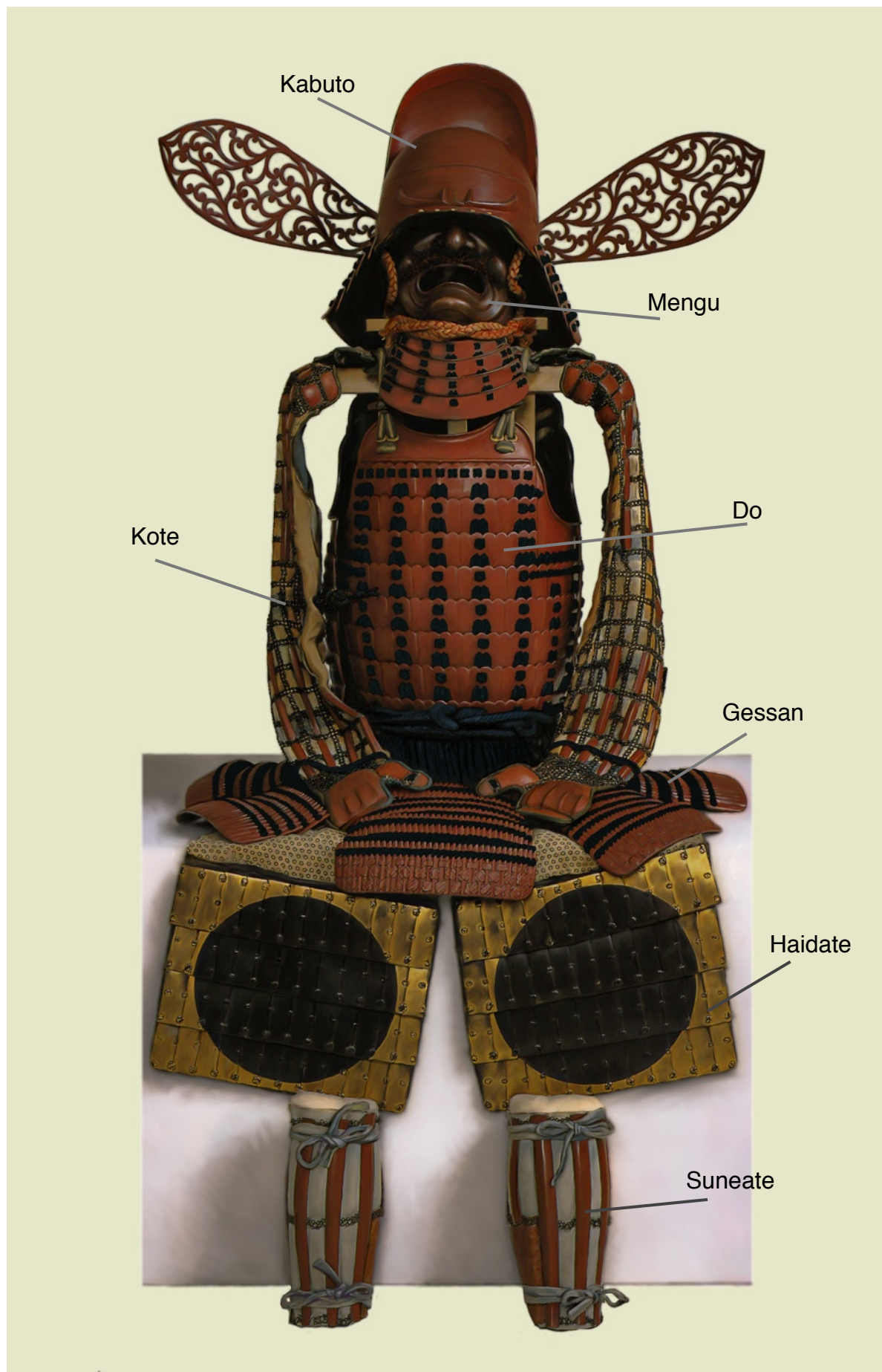


A Namban gusoku with tameshi
Edo-Jindai

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Armour



A Nuinobe-do gusoku with kawari kabuto
Edo-Jindai

Armour Makers

Bamen - A small but respected group of armourers that worked during the Muromachi period until the 1700s.

Haruta - One of the oldest documented schools of armourers, they produced items in accordance with a centrally taught doctrine and were the first group of smiths to sign their armours. They were instrumental in the evolution of the Saika style and the establishment of the Unkai branch of smiths in Kaga.

Iwai - Katchu shi commissioned by the Tokugawa Shogunate, their speciality being armours made from leather.

Katchu shi - Armour maker, also known as yoroi shi. The highest skilled makers were graded as follows:

Chu i - good

Jo i - very good

Jo jo i - excellent

Sai jo i - superb

Kiwame fuda - A certificate attributing the authorship of an armour to a particular maker.

Mei - The signature of a master katchu shi, engraved or lacquered on an item of armour that they, or one of their protégé had produced. Translates as 'name'.

Miyata - Based in Saga in Hizen during the Edo period, the Miyata were known for making *yukinoshita do* in the style of Myochin Hisaiye.

Myochin - A renowned school of katchu shi, founded in the early sixteenth century by the master smith Myochin Nobuie and the largest and most prolific group of armour makers in Japan from the mid-sixteenth century onward.

Nagasone - A short lived group of katchu shi that worked during the Edo period between 1647-1678. The founder Nagasone Okisato moved away from armour production to make swords.

Neo - A group of armourers with little documentation but known to be based in Nara between the Momoyama and Tokugawa periods. Neo Masanobu was their best known smith, being held in high regard for his 120 plate *kabuto*.

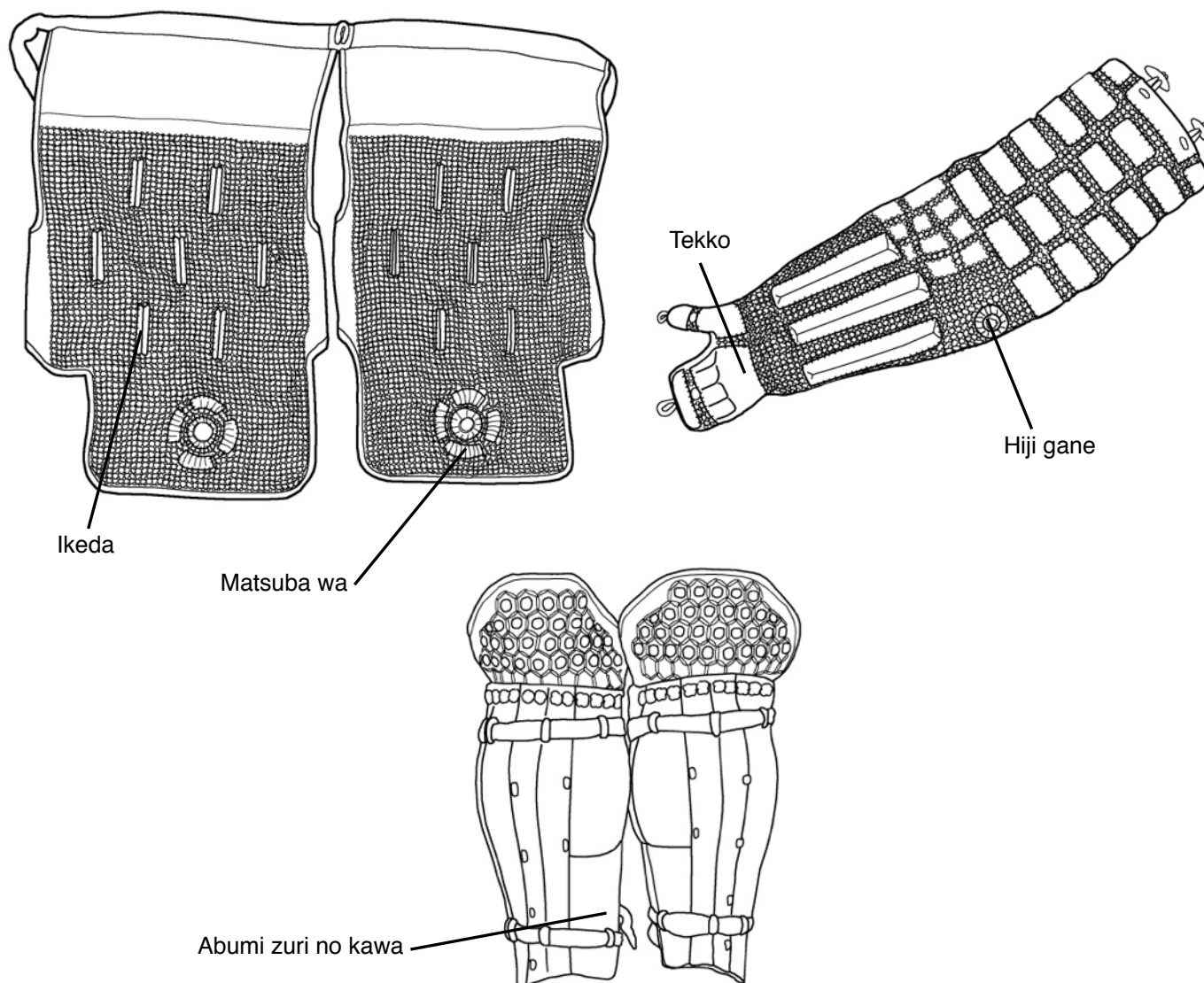
Saiga - Located in the province of Kii, the Saiga were renowned for their production of Saiga bachi kabuto.

Sakonji - Located in Edo, with the exception of those members who worked for the Satake clan. Like the Iwai, the Sakonji were known for making armour from leather.

Saotome - A group of katchu shi who came to prominence in the mid 17th century. They were renowned for their high quality workmanship and use of *fukurumu tate hagi no ita*.

Unkai - An extremely talented group of katchu shi. Founded by Unkai Mitsunao during the mid Edo period, they were renowned for the highly artistic and excellent quality of their pieces.

Armour for the Limbs



Abumi zuri no kawa - A leather patch on the inside of *tosei do* shin guards, designed to prevent chafing of the stirrup leathers.

Bishamon gote - Armoured sleeves that have a small, integral *sode* covering the upper arm.

Chirimen namban kusari - European type mail made with small, densely packed links.

Etchu haidate - *Haidate* covered with only a sparse grid of mail and splints.

Etchu suneate - Splint shin guards without a fabric backing.

Fukube - A gourd shaped plate applied to armoured sleeves.

Haidate - An apron shaped defense for the thighs.

Hiji gane - The elbow plate of an armoured sleeve.

Hiza yoroi - An old term for armour that covers the thigh and knee.

Hodo haidate - Haidate that have the lower part of the armoured portion divided into pendant sections.

Hyotan - A gourd shaped plate that forms part of an armoured sleeve.

Ikeda - Small raft like plates set in chain mail.

Ita haidate - Scale haidate.

Kaihan suneate - *Suneate* without knee guards.

Kawari haidate - Haidate of s-shaped scales that are overlapped like roof tiles.

Kobakama - Abbreviated trousers worn under *tosei do* armour.

Kobakama jitate - Thigh armour that is sown onto a pair of trousers.

Kogake - Armour for the feet.

Kote - An armoured sleeve.

Kusari gote - A mail and plate kote.

Kusari haidate - A mail and plate haidate.

Kusari suneate - A mail and plate *suneate*.

Kusazuri - Pendant sections of scales attached to the lower edge of the *do* to cover the thighs.

Kyubi no ita - Defense for the left armpit, worn with *o yoroi*.

Matsuba wa - Curved plates arranged in a ring around the elbow plate of an armoured sleeve.

Oda gote - Kote with gourd shaped plates applied over the forearm and upper arm.

Oda haidate - Haidate of mail, with ikeda and knee plates resembling those at the elbow of oda gote.

O tateage suneate - Shin guards with large standing plate defenses for the knees.

Sashinuki gote - A pair of kote that form part of a small jacket.

Shino gote - Kote with splints over the forearm, sometimes connected by mail.

Shino haidate - Haidate that consist of splints connected by mail.

Shino suneate - Shin guards that consist of splints connected by mail.

Suneate - A shin guard.

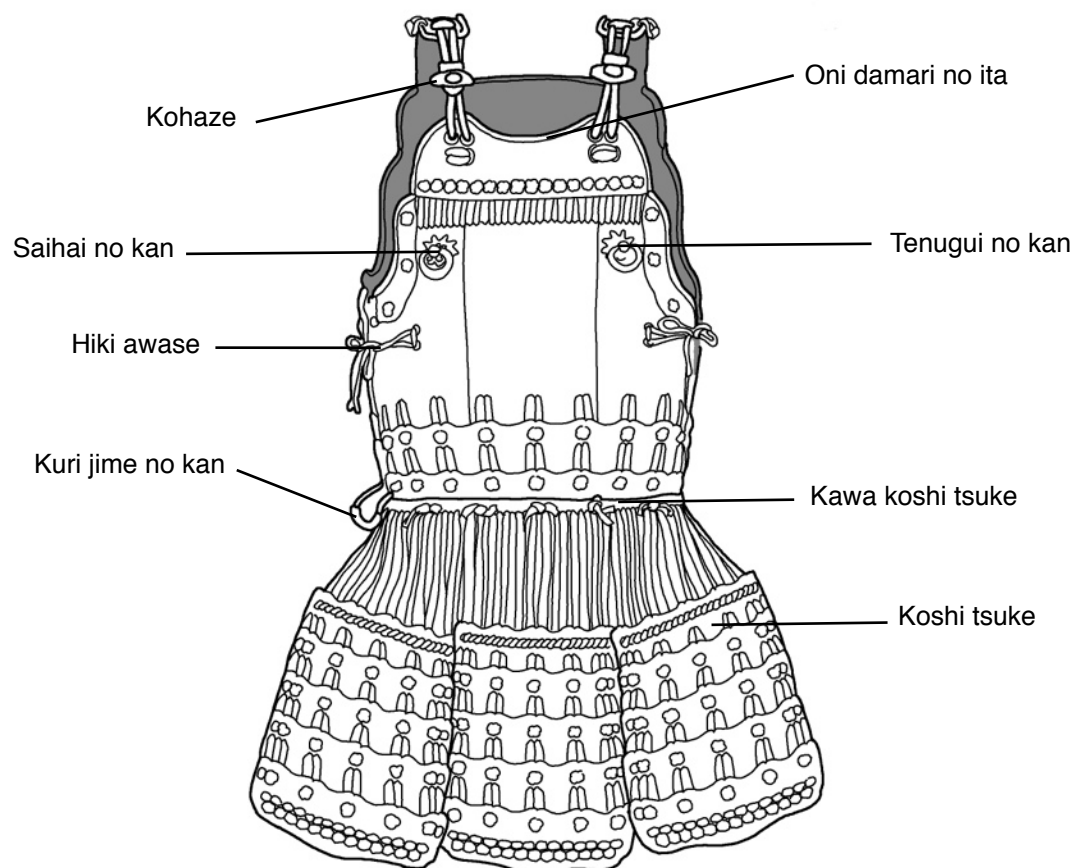
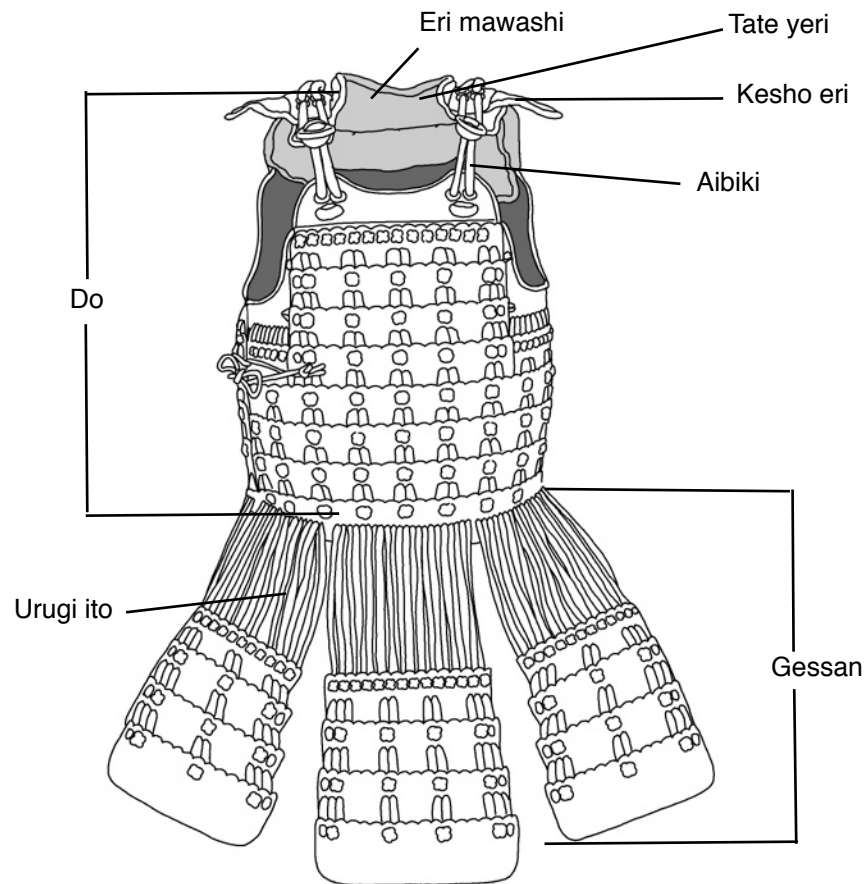
Tekko - A plate covering the back of the hand which forms part of the kote.

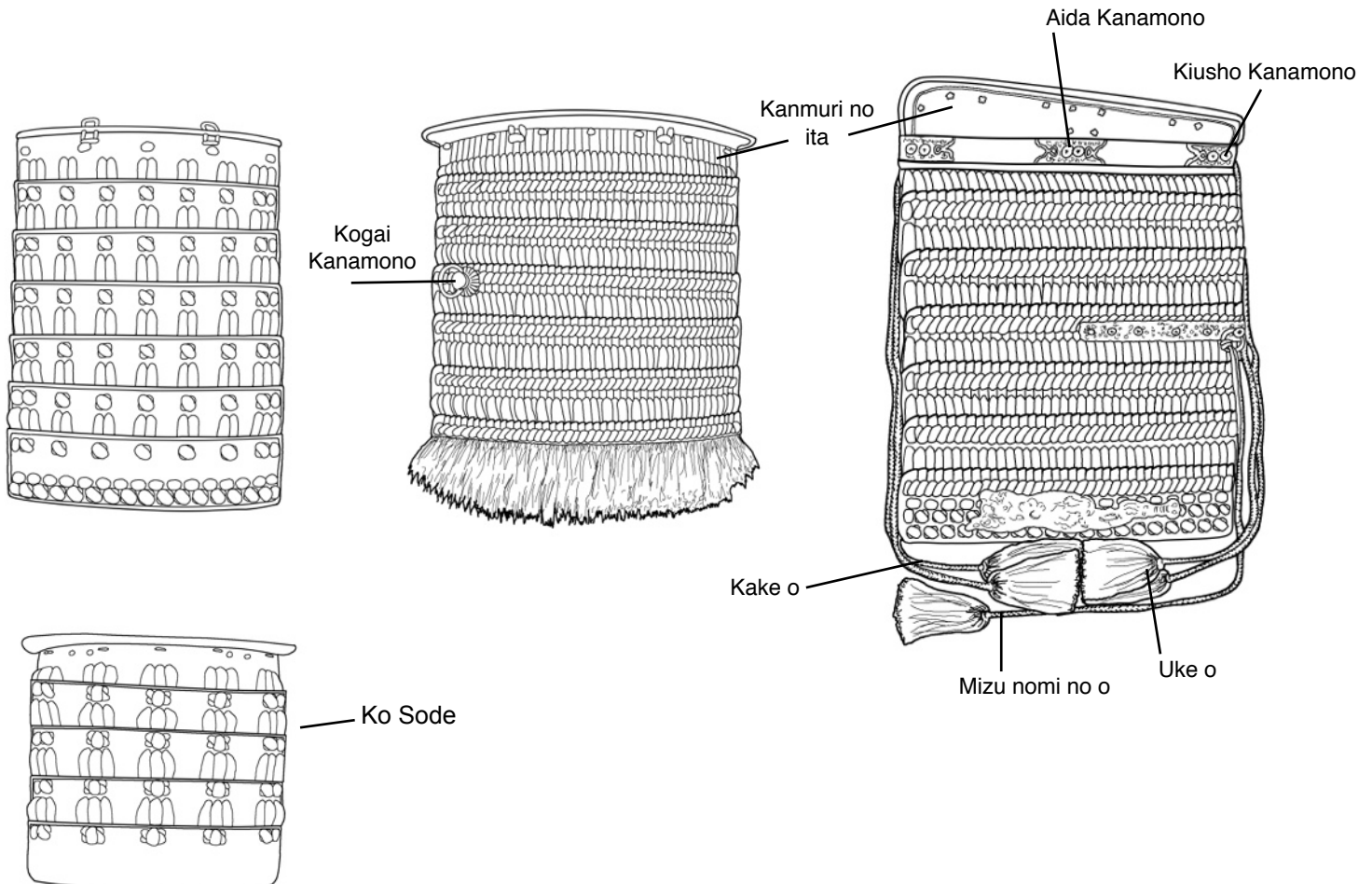
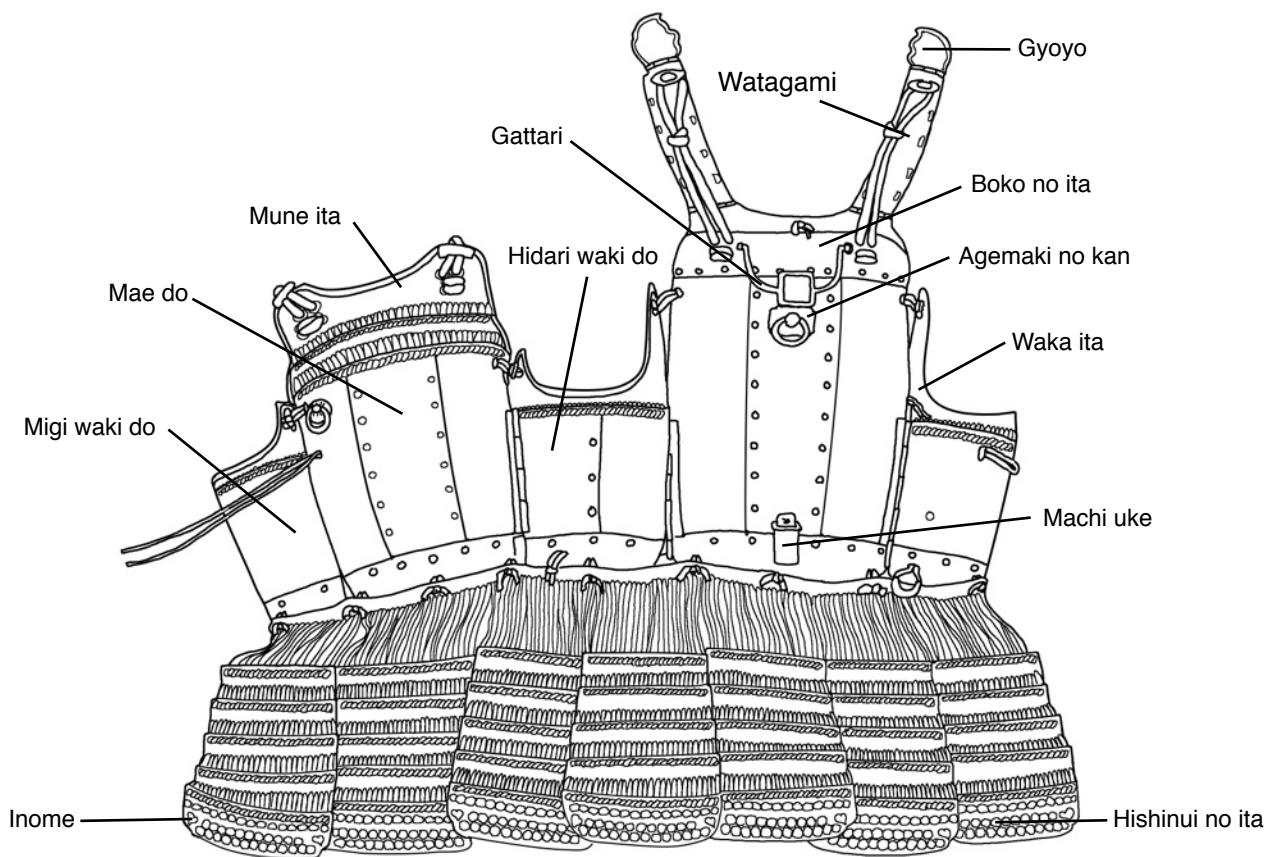
Tominaga sashinuki gote - Kote attached to a short jacket with an armoured collar.

Tsutsu gote - Kote in which the plates over the forearm are hinged or sewn to each other.

Tsutsu suneate - Shin guards in which three or more plates hinged or sewn together.

Body Armour





Agemaki - A decorative bow of silk cord which was tied in a special knot and hung from rings on an armour. Said to look like a dragonfly, an especially large one was hung on the back as part of the shoulder guard attachments.

Agemaki no kan - A swivel ring fitted to the back of a *do*, from which a large agemaki is hung.

Aibiki - Shoulder strap fastenings for *tosei do*.

Aida kanamono - Decorative metal ornaments in the centre of a *do* or *sode*. Also refers to the metal fittings used to hold the *kesho no ita* in place.

Boko no ita - The top plate at the back of a *tosei do*, to which the *watagami* are riveted.

Byo kakari do - See *byo toji yokohagi okegawa do*.

Byo toji yokohagi okegawa do - A *tosei do* consisting of horizontal plates, fastened by prominent, often decorated rivets.

Dangaye do - A *tosei do* in which different styles of lacing are used in the upper and lower sections.

Do - Armour for the body (also *dou* or *doh*).

Do maru - Scale armour which wraps around the body and fastens under the right arm (see *haramaki*).

Gattari - An attachment for a *sashimono*, fastened to the back of *do* at the level of the shoulder blades.

Gendai - Technically, any item of armour produced after about 1868, but more commonly used to refer to pieces that have been made since the end of WWII. Translates as 'modern'.

Gessan - Pendant shaped, armoured sections attached to the lower edge of a *tosei do*. Equivalent to *kusazuri* on lamellar armours.

Goishi gashira - *Iyo zane* scales with heads of a rounded shape.

Go mai do - A *do* consisting of 5 sections - front, side, back and two half pieces under the right arm, all joined by hinges.

Gumi wa - A leather loop fitted with an elongated metal bead. Found on the shoulder strap of an armour to which the shoulder guards are tied.

Gusoku - A set of something, for example, a complete armour.

Gyoyo - A leaf shaped plate used as a shoulder protector or to guard the fastenings of the shoulder straps.

Hanagami bukuro - A pouch attached to the front of a *do* or behind one of the gessan.

Hara ate - An abbreviated armour that covers the front and sides of the body, also has short gessan over the hips.

Haramaki - Armour worn during the Muromachi period which opens down the centre line of the back.

Hatomune do - A *do* with a medial ridge.

Hikone gusoku - Red lacquered armour.

Hiro sode - A shoulder guard which widens and flattens towards the bottom.

Hishi nui - A cross knot used on the lowest row of scales of a gessan or piece of armour and generally of contrasting colour.

Hishinui no ita - The lowest row of scales on a piece of armour, or the lowest plate.

Hishinui nui do - Plates that are merely decorated with cross knots, they are actually riveted (all types).

Hishi toji - A cross knot used on any but the lowest row of scales.

Hishi toji do - A type of *yoko hagi okegawa do* in which the plates are connected by cross knots.

Hishi toji hotoke do - A smooth faced do, decorated by cross knots.

Hon iyo zane - Sections of lamellar armour plating assembled from individual *sane* and made in the *iyo zane* style. Literally translates as 'real' *iyo zane*.

Horo - A cape like cloth attached to the back of an armour, which inflates with air when riding.

Hotoke do - A smooth faced do.

Inome - A heart shaped aperture, commonly incorporated into the decorative design of an armour's component parts. Translates as 'boar's eye'.

Iyo zane do - *Tosei do* of *iyo zane* that wraps around the body and fastens under the right arm.

Kake o - The front tying cord of a sode. Also refers to a length of braid fastened to the upper edge of a mask that tied it to the head.

Kanmuri no ita - The cap plate of a sode or kote.

Karuta gane do - A folding armour of rectangular plates.

Katahada nugi do - A type of *nio do*.

Katahagi nui do - A do modelled to resemble a torso, with left shoulder and breast uncovered.

Kata yori - A shoulder armour worn with the *tanko* during the Yamato period.

Kawa koshi tsuke - A leather belt used to attach a gessan to a do, usually held into place with leather or silk ties.

Kawa zutsumi do - A do covered with a sheet of leather.

Kedate no ana - The holes in a scale through which the upright lengths of lacing pass.

Kikko do - A do made of hexagonal plates quilted between layers of cloth.

Kikko gane do - A folding do made from hexagonal plates.

Kiusho kanamono - Decorative, lateral metal features on a do or sode.

Kogai kanamono - A decorative plate and ring combination attached to the rear edge of a shoulder guard, to which the rear most tying cord is fastened.

Kohire - Winglets connected to the watagami of a do.

Koshi tsuke - The upper plate of a gessan.

Kusari do - A mail and plate do.

Kusari do maru - A mail and plate do maru.

Kusari haramaki - A mail and plate haramaki.

Kusazuri - Pendant sections hanging from the lower edge of a lamellar do.

Kusugai do - *Yokohagi okegawa do* in which the plates are joined by a variety of staples.

Machi uke - The socket at the waist on the back of a do, into which the *sashimono* assembly is fitted.

Maki e do - A do decorated with a lacquered design or picture.

Manju wa - A short, armoured waistcoat worn beneath an armour to protect the armpits and upper chest.

Maro do - A *tosei* version of the do maru, differing from the original versions of the armour in that they have an extra row of scales in the *naka gawa*.

Maru do yoroi - A hybrid armour between an *o yoroi* and a do maru.

Midzu nomi no o - A cord that secures the sode to the age maki bow of a do from the kogai kanamono.

Mizu nomi no o - Cord attached to the rear edge of a sode.

Mogami do - A do of horizontal plates, each of which is articulated by separate hinges.

Muna ita - The uppermost plate on the front of a do.

Muna tori hotoke do - A smooth faced do with a laced top section.

Muna zuri no ita - The lowermost lame of a tare. Translates as 'chest sliding plate'.

Naka gawa - The part of a do which encircles the trunk.

Nanban kiri gane - Small, decorative, cut metal pieces applied to items of armour that were influenced by foreign designs and made in non-traditional Japanese shapes.

Nanban yoroi - A foreign made piece of armour.

Ni mai do - A do in two parts, joined by a hinge under the left arm.

Nio do - A do modelled to represent the human torso.

No dowa - A bib like defense to protect the throat and upper chest, consisting of of a u-shaped plate with two or three curved rows of scales attached to it.

Nuinobe do - A *sugake* laced ni mai do, made of *iyo zane*.

Odoshi no ana - Holes drilled in an armoured plate or scale, through which lengths of *odoshi ge* are laced.

Okashi gusoku - Armour issued to low a ranking soldier, usually of low quality.

Omodaka do - A do with a metal ridge.

Oni damari no ita - The turned out upper edge of the muna ita, designed to deflect spear or sword thrusts.

Oshitsuke ita - The uppermost plate at the back of a scale of armour, to which the shoulder straps are attached.

O sode - A large, rectangular sode.

O yoroi - A lamellar armour that has a separate defense for the right side of the body, classic of the Heian period.

Renjaku do - A *tosei do* fitted with internal suspensory cords.

Roku mai do - A *tosei do* with five hinges that is divisible into six sections.

Ryo takahimo - A *tosei do* in either two or six sections, with ties at each side of the body.

Sai han no kan - A ring on the right breast of a *tosei do*.

Saka ita - A plate at the back of an *o yoroi*, laced in reverse to allow the shoulder straps to be swung backwards.

Sane - An individual scale of either iron or rawhide, from which lamellar armour was made.

Sane gashira - The shape of the upper part of a scale.

Sane ita - A lame assembled from individual sane bound together.

Sashimono - An ornamental device attached to the back of an armour, often a flag.

Sei ita - A narrow plate that covered the opening down the back of a haramaki.

Sendai do - An alternative name for a *yukinoshita do*.

Sendan no ita - A laminated guard for the right armpit, worn originally with an *o yoroi*.

Sode - A shoulder guard.

Sode tsuke no o - The fastening cord of a shoulder guard.

Tachi do - A do sufficiently long in the body to rest on the hips.

Takahimo - The fastenings on the shoulder straps of a scale armour. Alternatively, the fastenings on the opening of a *tosei do*.

Tameshi gusoku - Armour showing the marks of bullets used to test its defensive quality.

Tanko - Early plate armour of the Yamamoto period.

Tare - A protective apron, found for example, on kusari do. Also the throat guard attached to a mask.

Tatami do - A folding do.

Tateage - Those parts of a do that do not encircle the body but extend up the chest and back.

Tate hagi okegawa do - A *tosei do* made of vertical plates.

Tate yeri - An armoured collar.

Tenugui no kan - The ring on the left breast of a *tosei do*.

Tosei do - A 'modern' do that evolved during the sixteenth century.

Tosei gusoku - A 'modern' armour fabricated from the late fifteenth century onward.

Tosei sode - A small 'modern' sode, hanging from the fastenings of the kote.

Tsubo ita - A plate forming the upper part of a *waidate*.

Tsubo sode - A sode that is curved towards the arm and narrows towards the bottom.

Tsuru bashiri gawa - A leather sheet that covers the front of an *o yoroi* to prevent the bow string snagging on the heads of the scales.

Uchi dashi do - A tosei do decorated by embossing.

Uke o - A cord that secures the top of a sode to an age maki bow on a do.

Uke zutsu - A wooden socket into which the sashimono pole is fitted.

Uname toji do - A do in which the plates appear to be fastened together by horizontal rows of stitching.

Urugi ito - Lacing that attaches the kusazuri or gessan to the do.

Waidate - A piece of armour that forms part of an o yoroi and guards the right side of the body.

Waka ita - Plates attached to the upper edge of the naka gawa, under the arms.

Wakibiki - An arm pit guard.

Wasei nanban yoroi - Items of armour influenced by, or made to replicate, their foreign counterparts.

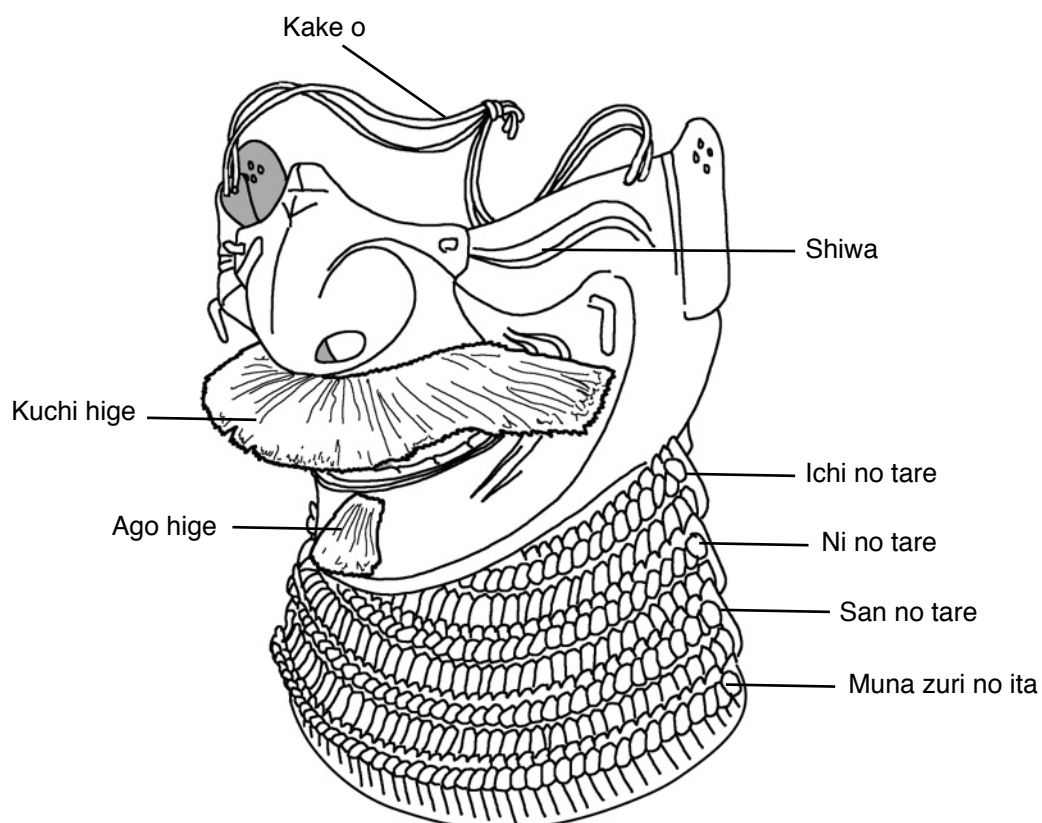
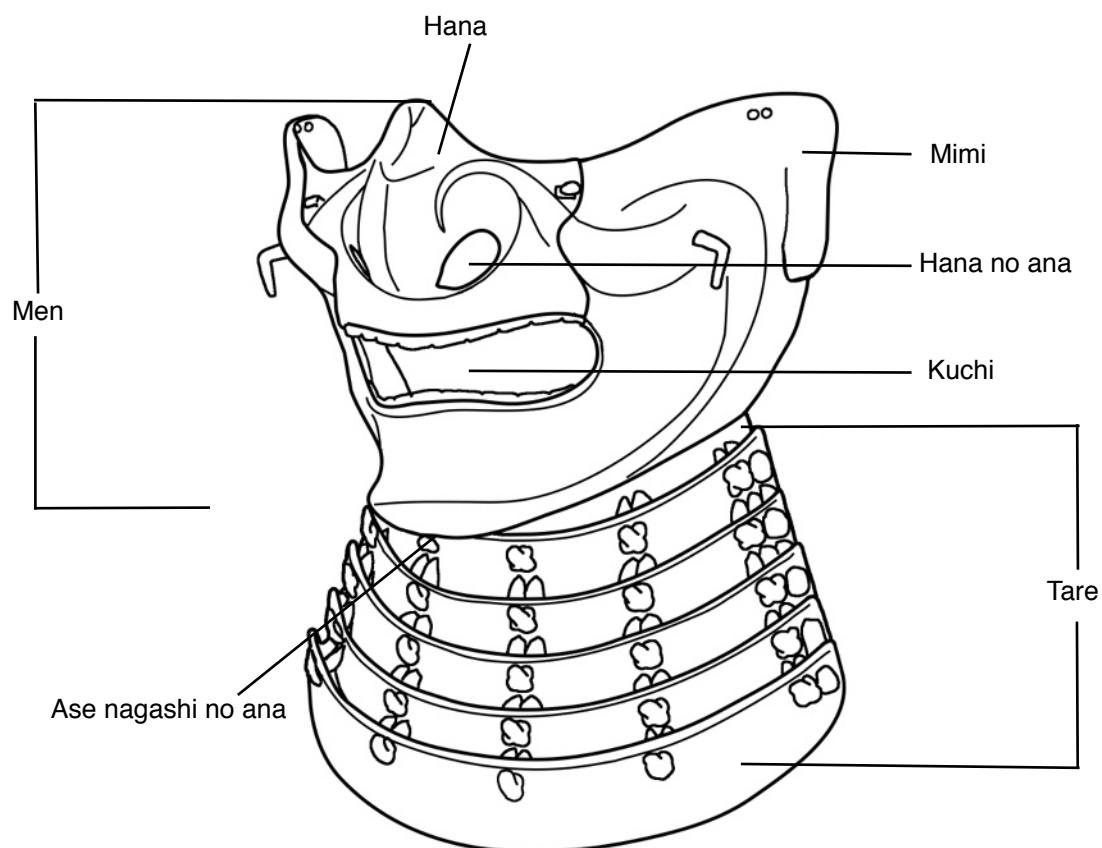
Watagami - The shoulder straps of an armour.

Yokohagi okegawa do - A tosei do made from horizontal plates.

Yoroi - Armour.

Yukinoshita do - A go mai do of solid plates with external hinges, popular in Sendai.

Facial Armour





Ago hige - A simulated, imperial style goatee beard. Although they were generally made using animal hair, they could also be etched into the surface or applied in lacquer.

Ago no o benri - The protruding studs on the chin of a mengu, designed to prevent the helmet cords from slipping forwards.

Ase nagashi no ana - An opening on the underside of the chin of a mengu, either a hole or tube, which allows perspiration to drain away.

Emi men - A mengu made in the form of a laughing face.

Etchu bo - A simple mask that covered only the chin and lower jaw.

Hachi gane - Armour that protects the forehead. Can also be used to refer to a rare type of mengu that resembles a catcher mask.

Haku hatsu men - A mengu with a disheveled ago hige, designed to look like an unkempt old man.

Hana - A nose, specifically on a mengu.

Hana no ana - Holes on the hana of a mengu which simulate nostrils.

Hana no ita - A detachable nose guard plate.

Hanbo - A mengu that covers the chin and lower cheeks only.

Happuri - A plate tied to the forehead that extended down onto the cheeks.

Hige - A simulated beard. Although they were generally made using animal hair, they could also be etched into the surface or applied in lacquer.

Hineri dome - L-shaped prongs on the upper inside edges of a mengu, used to attach the nose guard on masks where this was designed to be a feature.

Hitai ate - A plate tied to the forehead and worn in place of a helmet. They were sometimes made of several plates that extended over the front of the head.

Hiya zuri - An embossed feature that creates the profile of a jaw line.

Hoate - A mask without a nose, that covers the face below the eyes.

Kaga bo - A distinctive type of etchu bo, decorated with *kiri gane* and *yasurime*.

Kaga hanbo - A *tsubame bo* decorated with *kiri gane* and *za boshi*.

Kake o - A length of braid fastened to the upper edge of a mask that tied it to the head. Also refers to the front tying cord of a sode.

Kake o no ana - The holes near the upper edges of the cheeks on a mengu, used to thread the *kake o* through.

Kenuki gane - A low, erect, metal flange applied horizontally across the exterior face of a hanbo and made in the distinctive kaga bo style.

Komori tsuke - An intermediate band of leather used to connect a tare to a mengu.

Kuchi - An open mouth shape.

Kuchi hige - A simulated moustache. Although they were generally made using animal hair, they could also be etched into the surface, or applied in lacquer.

Mayu - Simulated eyebrows.

Men - Mask.

Mengu - Face armour.

Men no shita men - A face mask covering the face and nose from below the level of the eyes. Could also be referred to as *men no shita bo* (face below the eyes).

Menpo - An alternative and abbreviated term for men no shita men.

Miage shiwa - Simulated forehead wrinkles.

Mimi - Purely decorative ear shaped plates present on some mengu.

Mimi no ana - The small holes in the mimi that simulate the opening of the ear canal.

Oda yori gane - A pair of erect flanges that fasten diagonally across the cheeks on some examples of mengu.

Oda yori kugi - A pair of erect posts fitted to either side of the lower jaw of a mengu, used to anchor the *shinobi no o* of a *kabuto* when tying the helmet in place.

Oda yori no kan - A pair of metal rings attached to both cheeks of a mengu, through which the *shinobi no o* of a *kabuto* are threaded when tying the helmet in place.

Oda yori ore kugi - A pair of sturdy I-shaped posts set into both cheeks of a mengu, used to anchor the *shinobi no o* of a *kabuto* when tying the helmet in place.

Okina men - Men no shita men and *so men* that feature short and well groomed hige and kuchi hige.

Oni gashira - An item with a demon like face or façade.

Ori kugi - A hook on the cheek of a mengu, around which the helmet cord is fastened.

Ressei men - A mengu with an aggressive looking expression and prominent facial wrinkles.

Ressei men no shita bo - The most typical type of men no shita men, made in the ressei style.

Ryubu men - A mengu with a calm, noble expression devoid of any facial wrinkles.

Ryubu men no shita men - A men no shita men made in the Ryubu style.

Saru bo - A v-shaped hanbo with indented cheeks that partially frame the upper outline of the mouth. Translates as 'monkey cheek'.

Sasa mayu - A type of simulated mayu with sharp pointed features that resemble the shape of bamboo leaves. Translates as 'bamboo leaf eyebrow'.

Shiwa - Simulated facial wrinkles.

So men - A mask that covers the entire face from the top of the forehead to the underside of the chin.

Tsubame bo - A v-shaped hanbo that covers the cheeks and lower jaw.

Tsuyu otoshi no kuda - An extended pipe-like fitting set into the underside of the chin on face mask which allows perspiration to drain away. A variation on the *ase nagashi no ana*.

Uchi dashi mayu - Embossed eyebrows on a *kabuto* or *so men*.

Ue ba - Simulated rows of teeth in the kuchi of a mengu.

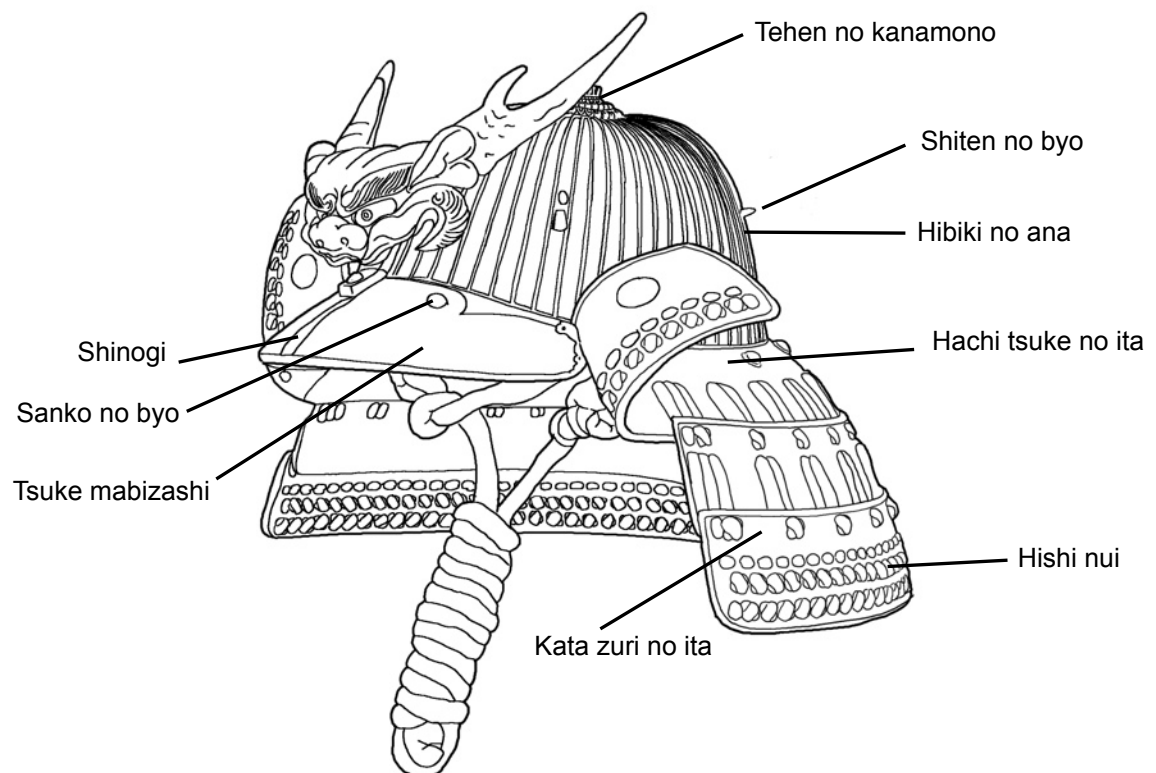
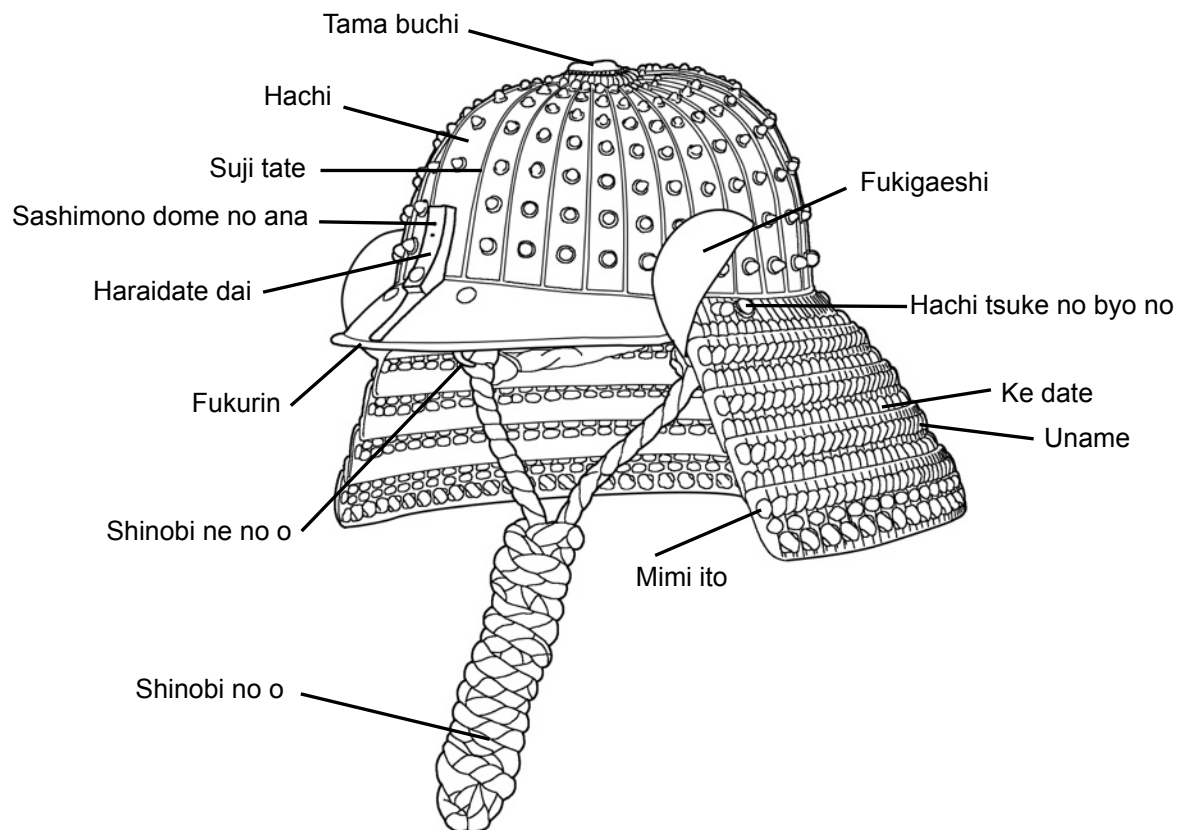
Ue ge - Simulated areas of hair on an item of armour such as a mengu.

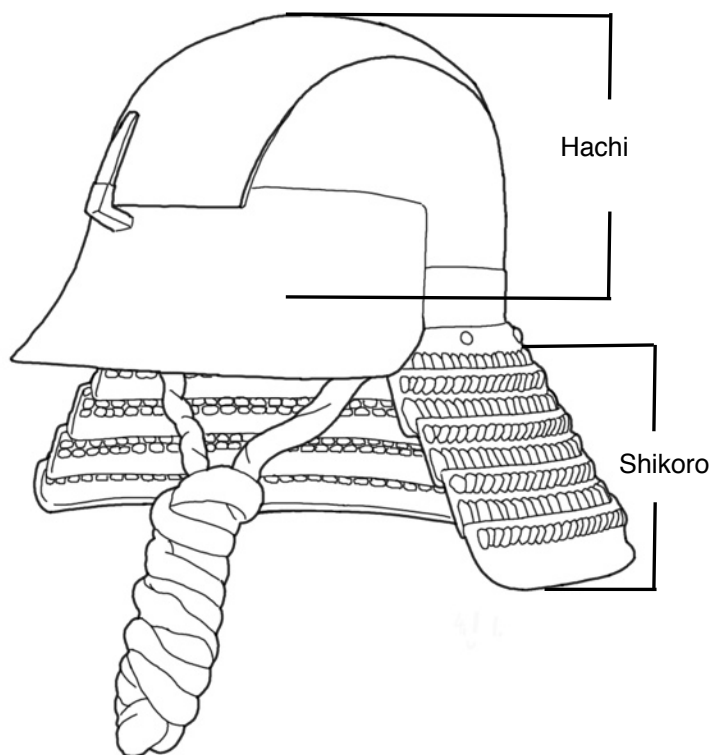
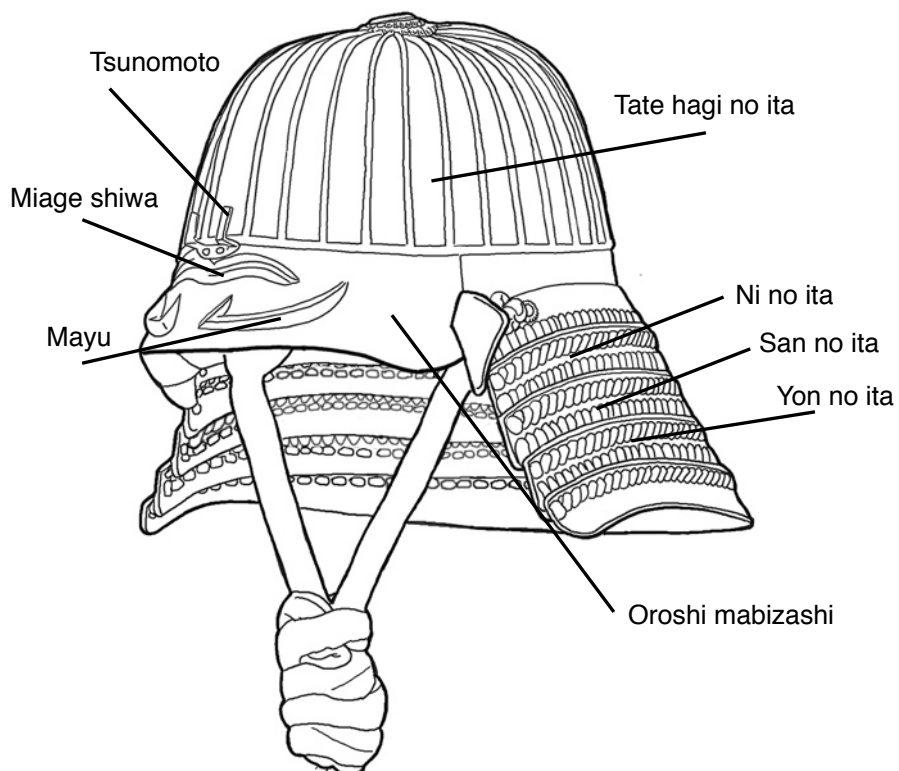
Yadome - The erect flanges on the cheeks of a mengu.

Yasurime - Decorative, incised lines etched into the surface of a mengu.

Yodare kake - A throat defense attached to the lower edge of a face mask.

Helmets





Agemaki - A decorative bow of silk cord which was tied in a special knot and hung from rings on an armour. Said to look like a dragonfly.

Akoda nari bachi - A style of helmet which is distinctly swollen at the back and normally without prominent rivets, developed during the Muromachi period.

Amakusa mabizashi - A flat form of *tsuke mabizashi* which protrudes horizontally from the external face of the *hachi*.

Aoiba za - A decorative iron plate surrounding the *tehen* of a helmet bowl from the Heian period.

Aoi no za - A *za* fixture that features a hollyhock leaf pattern around it's outer edge.

Arare boshi bachi - A term used to describe a helmet bowl made or decorated with large, exaggerated rivets.

Bachi - The bowl of a helmet.

Chikara gawa - Crossed strips of leather, fastened to the rim of a helmet above the lining to support the weight.

Chochin kabuto - A helmet of separate horizontal rings that collapses like a folding lantern.

Daianzan bachi - A helmet bowl with a more or less hemispherical shape.

Daisha guchi - An erect, funnel like tube at the apex of some foreign *bachi* or those influenced by foreign *bachi*.

Daki bana - A *za* fitting that stands vertically erect and can either protrude past the *tama buchi* or rest under its rim.

Do maki - An intermediate strip of iron that forms the framework of *shoshaku tsuki kabuto*.

Eboshi - A tall cap of variable shape, often curving backwards at the top.

Eboshi nari bachi - A helmet made to resemble the shape of an eboshi.

Etchu zunari bachi - A helmet bowl of simple construction, in which the longitudinal top plate overlaps the brow plate.

Fukigaeshi - The turn back at the front edge of the upper row or rows of a neck guard.

Fukigaeshi no suemon - Chrysanthemum shaped ornaments applied to the *fukigaeshi* of helmets from the Heian period.

Fukuramu tate hagi no ita - A *tate hagi no ita* that has been embossed down one side with a convex channel.

Fuse ita - A plate forming the top of a *mabizashi tsuki kabuto*.

Goshozan - A high sided helmet in which the back is higher than the front.

Hachi - The bowl of a helmet.

Hachiman za - An alternative name for a *tehen no kanamono*.

Hachi tsuke no byo - A split shank rivet used to attach a *shikoro* to the *koshi maki* of a *hachi*.

Hachi tsuke no byo no ana - Holes drilled into the lower edge of a helmet bowl, through which the hachi tsuke no byo are inserted in order to attach a *shikoro*.

Haraidate dai - A tubular crest holder that is attached to the centre of a helmet peak.

Haraidate dai shinogi - The lower, prong like section of a haraidate dai.

Harikake – Lightweight, molded shapes made from lacquered rawhide, papier-mâché, or wood. They can be grafted to objects such as *kabuto bachi* in order to transform the item's physical appearance.

Harikake bachi - A helmet bowl that has been decorated and embellished with a light, decorative superstructure of wood, paper, leather and lacquer.

Heichoza - A high sided helmet with a relatively flat apex.

Hibiki no ana - A set of four holes drilled half way up a helmet bowl. They were originally used for attaching the *shinobi no o* cords, but later became merely decorative.

Higaki - A decorative plate attached to the *tate hagi no ita* on the lower, exterior rim of a hachi. Designed to anchor the lower *so fukurin* in place (when present).

Hineno zunari bachi - A head shaped helmet bowl of simple construction with only five plates, the central longitudinal plate being overlaid by a brow plate and peak combination.

Hineri kaeshi - An erect rim that bends out 90 degrees from the external upper edge of a *koshi maki*.

Hirame - Two vertically aligned *sashimono dome no ana* holes in the haraidate dai.

Hishi nui - A cross knot used on the lowest row of scales of a *kabuto* or piece of armour and generally of contrasting colour.

Hitai ate - A plate tied to the forehead and worn in place of a helmet. They were sometimes made of several plates that extended over the front of the head.

Hohei - A decorative, ball like feature, sometimes included in the *tehen no kanamono*.

Hoshi bachi - A helmet bowl with prominent rivets.

Ichi mai fuse bachi - A helmet bowl from the Heian period, beaten from a single sheet of iron.

Igaki - Ornamental plates around the base of a helmet bowl.

Ji ita - A decorative plate commonly fitted to the *mae shochu no ita* and *ushiro shochu no ta* of a hachi, often decorated with *shinodare*.

Jingasa - A conical open hat of iron or lacquered leather, worn as a light defense.

Kabuto – A helmet.

Kabuto no o - The tying cord of a helmet.

Kara hana za - A distinctive type of *za* fitting in the form of a flower, with petal shaped flanges protruding from the circumference that are often etched with surface details. Translates as 'chinese flower'.

Kasa jirushi no kan - A ring at the back of a helmet, designed to carry a small identification flag or, on later helmets, an *agemaki* bow.

Kashira date - A crest mounted on the top of a helmet.

Kata jiro - A gilt or silvered plate applied as decoration between the *suji* of a helmet bowl.

Kata zuri no ita - A sliding shoulder plate and the lowest lame on a *shikoro*.

Kawari bachi - A helmet bowl of unconventional shape.

Kawari kabuto - A kawari bachi fitted with a *shikoro* to form a complete kabuto.

Ken - A term used to describe the number of *tate hagi no ita* used to make a hachi. Also a crest in the shape of a stylised Buddhist sword.

Kiku za - A type of *za* with radial lines around its circumference that divide the ring into individual, petal like segments so that it resembles the flower of a chrysanthemum.

Kiri komi - A pair of mirrored, wedge shaped indentations found on the upper edge of some *tsuke mabizashi*.

Kiri take nari - A helmet shape like a short length of bamboo.

Ko boshi bachi - A helmet bowl with small, standing, external rivets.

Ko kizami za - A type of *za* with a fine scalloped exterior edge, commonly used in the stack of the *tehen no kanamono* and other decorative metal fittings.

Koseizan - A high sided helmet, usually flat on top, whereby the profile is taller than the hemisphere. Translates as 'high sided mountain'.

Koshi maki - A narrow strip of metal forming the lower edge of a helmet bowl.

Kuwagata - Flat, stylized horns or antlers, worn as a frontal crest.

Kuwagata dai - A shallow, u-shaped holder on the *tsuke mabizashi* of a helmet bowl, designed to mount and display a pair of *kuwagata*.

Mabizashi - The peak of a helmet.

Mabizashi tsuki kabuto - An ancient style of helmet with a horizontal fretted peak.

Maedate - A crest or decorative fitting mounted on the front of a helmet.

Mae shochu no ita - The front and central *tate hagi no ita* of a helmet.

Maru bachi - See *daienzan bachi*.

Maru za - A low circular *za* with an etched design on the surface, sometimes used in a *tehen no kanamono* stack.

Mei no ana - A slit in the lining of a helmet through which the signature can be read.

Mitsu kuwagata dai - *Kuwagata dai* with an additional central socket to carry a crest.

Momonari bachi - A pointed helmet that has a medial flange inspired by a European cabasset.

Namazu o kabuto - A tall, laterally flattened helmet with a rounded profile, said to resemble the tail of a catfish.

Nami za - A *za* made with an undulating wave like shape or engraved with wave like patterns.

Nanban Kabuto - A helmet of European manufacture, or one inspired by a European prototype.

Ni hon no tsunomoto - A double pronged variety of *tsunomoto*.

Niten no byo - An arrangement of two large rivets used to anchor a *tsuke mabizashi* to a hachi. (NB - The rivet through a haraidate dai is not considered to be one of the niten no byo).

Nunome zogan - Decorative, raised relief designs using precious metals such as gold and silver, sometimes applied to the exterior surface of *tetsu sabiji kabuto bachi*.

Oki tenugui bachi - A helmet bowl with almost vertical sides and top plates which are extended rearwards, beyond the back of the bowl.

Oroshi mabizashi - A peak plate, integral to the finished form of a hachi, such as those made in the *zu nari bachi* style.

Reiseizan - See akoda nari bachi.

Roku ju ni ken - Used in conjunction with other terms to describe a hachi that has been assembled from 62 *tate hagi no ita*.

Saiga - A unique style of hachi design and fabrication. Named after a town in the province of Kii which produced many of the pieces made in this style.

Saiga bachi - A type of multi plate helmet made in the distinctive Saiga style. The term can refer to any bowl made in Saiga but is most commonly used in relation to a helmet bowl topped by a number of large chrysanthemum shaped plates.

San ju hachi ken - Used in conjunction with other terms to describe a hachi that has been assembled from 38 *tate hagi no ita*.

San ju ni ken - Used in conjunction with other terms to describe a hachi that has been assembled from 32 *tate hagi no ita*.

Sanko no byo - Dome headed rivets that attach the peak to the bowl of a hachi.

Sashimono dome no ana - Small holes in a haraidate dai in which to insert pins that lock a maedate in position when the latter is mounted on a kabuto. These often go from side to side. See also, hirame.

Shiho jiro - A helmet decorated with four groups of *shinodare*.

Shinobi no o - A helmet cord.

Shinobi ne no o - Closed loops of cord or solid metal rings that extend from, or are set into, the underside of a koshi maki in order to secure the shinobi no o cord in place. When the shinobi ne no o are made of cord, the ends may be tied into ornate knots.

Shinodare - A long, ornamental strip that emerges from under the *tehen no kanamono* and extends down the front, sides or back of a hachi.

Shiten no byo - Four vestigial rivets used as a decorative feature on the mid exterior of a hachi.

Shokaku bo - A plate that forms the top and front of a *shoshaku tsuki kabuto*.

Shoshaku tei ita - A triangular plate under the beaked front of a *shoshaku tsuki kabuto*.

Shoshaku tsuki kabuto - An ancient helmet with a prominent beaked front.

So fukurin - Decorative moldings that fit over the *suji tate* of a hachi, anchored in place by the *tehen no kanamono* on the top of the helmet and by the *higaki* around its lower rim.

Suemon - An heraldic crest applied to the surface of a *fukigaeshi*.

Suji bachi - A multi plate helmet in which the rivets are countersunk, leaving the flanged edges of the plates prominent.

Suji tate - An erect flange, fitted along the vertical edge of a *tate hagi no ita* at a 90 degree angle to the facing surface of the plate.

Suji tate bachi - A conventional hachi made using *tate hagi no ita* with a suji tate.

Sukashi kiku za - A *ura giku za* that has had the concave central channels of each petal like radial segment cut out to create an open frame work outline of a kiku za.

Sumi zokin nari bachi - A type of kawari bachi made to resemble a cloth tied around the head whereby the loose end lies towards the rear of the head.

Tama buchi - A tube with a rounded flange at the top and tabs at the bottom that are opened out inside the bowl to hold all the elements of the *tehen no kanamono* in place.

Tate mono - A crest.

Tehen - The hole in the crown of a helmet bowl.

Tehen no kanamono - An ornamental metal surround, made up of one or more *za* that are stacked on top of each other over the *tehen* and anchored in place by the *tama buchi*.

Tehen no za - An alternative name for any *za* used in the stacked assembly of the *tehen no kanamono*.

Tenkokuzan - A high sided helmet in which the top dips in the area of the *tehen*.

Tombo jiri shinogi - The lower end of a haraidate dai that has been fabricated to resemble the shape of a dragonfly's tail. Commonly associated with Saotome made kabuto bachi.

Toppai bachi - A pointed helmet bowl. Those with convex sides are called *shii nari* or 'acorn shaped'.

Tsuke mabizashi - A non integral peak that is fastened by rivets, to the front of the koshimaki on a full formed hachi.

Tsunomoto - A hook or spiked form of crest attachment on a hachi.

Tsuru no kubi - A fitting used to mount a maedate to a haraidate dai of a kabuto. Translates as 'crane's neck'.

Uchi mabizashi - A short, vertical, peak-like plate, generally shaped to contour with the brow line and riveted to the koshimaki of hachi below the main peak.

Ukebari - Helmet lining.

Ura giku za - A variation of kiku za, made so that each of the petal like radial segments feature a concave central channel.

Ushiro date - A crest fitted to the back of a helmet.

Ushiro shochu no ita - The central, back plate of a hachi.

Waki date - Crests or similar decorative features fitted to the sides of a helmet.

Waki date tsunomoto - Erect prongs fitted to both the left and right sides of a helmet, upon which to mount *waki date*.

Za - A decorative, ring like metal fitting, used to create the stacked assembly of a *tehen no kanamono*. There are several unique forms of *za* that differ from each other in their aesthetic appearance, shape, and size.

Zenshozan - A high sided helmet that is higher at the front than the back.

Zu date - A crest or other form of decorative feature fitted to the apex of a helmet (see also kashira date).

Zukin nari kabuto - A type of oki tenugui kabuto.

Zu nari bachi - A head shaped helmet bowl, generally assembled from five plates, with a distinctive longitudinal top plate that extends front to back over the centre of the head.

Neck Armour

Akabe yoroi - Neck armour, particularly that worn with the *tanko* during the Yamato period.

Etchu jikoro - A *tosei shikoro* that falls in a concave curve and terminates in a bottom plate with a straight, lower edge.

Fukigaeshi - The turn back at the front edge of the upper row or rows of a neck guard.

Fukigaeshi no suemon - Chrysanthemum shaped ornaments applied to the *fukigaeshi* of helmets from the Heian period.

Gessan jikoro - A *tosei shikoro* with all but the uppermost plate divided into pendant shaped sections that hang in part, or entirely independently of each other.

Guru wa - A type of protective neck armour.

Hachi tsuke no ita - The uppermost plate or row of scales in a *shikoro*.

Hineno jikoro - A close fitting neck guard with a lower edge that is shaped to the shoulders.

Ichimai jikoro - A *shikoro* that consists of one large plate alone.

Ichimaju jikoro - A neck guard whereby only the top plate is curved.

Ichino tare - The top plate of a *shikoro*.

Ite jikoro - A *tosei shikoro* in which the right *fukigaeshi* can be removed or folded back for archery.

Kasa jikoro - A hat shaped *shikoro* that is almost horizontal. Common on Muromachi helmets.

Kata zuri no ita - A sliding shoulder plate and the lowest lame on a *shikoro*.

Ko manju jikoro - A small rounded neck guard.

Manchira - Worn by the Japanese on top of the do, not under it as intended by the Europeans.

Ni no ita - The lame second from the top on a *shikoro*, immediately following the *hachi tsuke no ita*.

No dowa - A bib like defense to protect the throat and upper chest, consisting of of a u-shaped plate with two or three curved rows of scales attached to it.

O manju jikoro - An early design of neck guard with large rounded lames.

San no ita - The lame third from the top on a *shikoro*, immediately following the *ni no ita*.

Shikoro - The neck guard of a helmet.

Shita jiroko - An auxiliary neck guard fitted below the regular one.

Yodarekake - A throat defense attached to the lower edge of a face mask. This term seems to be dropping out of use in favour of tare.

Yon no ita - The fourth lame from the top on a shikoro.

Armour Components

Applied Decoration

Fukurin - An applied, decorative metal trim.

Fuse gumi - Multicoloured over-sewing used at the junction of two different leathers.

Harikake - Lightweight, molded shapes made from lacquered rawhide, papier-mâché, or wood. They can be grafted to objects such as kabuto bachi in order to transform the item's physical appearance.

Iri hasso kizami - A decorative, v-shaped indentation.

Ishime - An irregular, rough texture, like the surface of a stone.

Jabara fuse - A piping made of two threads twisted in opposite ways to give a chevron pattern, often multi-coloured.

Jumonji kitae - A method of forging armour plate with a crossed grain.

Katagiri - An engraving technique in which one side of the cut is vertical.

Kawa fukurin - A narrow band of leather used as an edge trim.

Kebori - Surface etching.

Kiri gane - Small, decorative cut metal pieces applied to the surface of an armour.

Koberi gawa - Narrow bands of e gawa that were used to trim the outer edges of larger surface areas such as tsuke mabizashi.

Mimi ito - Braid around the outer edges of a piece of armour, often variegated.

Nami gata - An item made with an undulating wave like shape.

Nanako - A granular texture given to ornamental metal work in which the ground is raised into a series of hemispheres.

Nanban kiri gane - Small, decorative, cut metal pieces applied to the surface of an armour that was influenced by foreign designs and made in non-traditional Japanese shapes.

Nawame fukurin - A roped fukurin copying the edging of European armours.

Nunome - An overlay of gold, silver or copper on iron.

Nunome zogan - Decorative, raised relief designs using precious metals such as gold and silver, sometimes applied to the exterior surface of tetsu sabiji kabuto bachi.

Sasa heri - Leather or braid edging around the fabric portion of an armour.

Sawari - Silver alloy, splashed onto russet iron when in a molten state to create a decorative finish. Generally associated with items produced by smiths from the province of Kaga.

Shakudo - An alloy of copper and gold that patinates to create a deep purple-black finish.

Shibuichi - An alloy of copper and silver that patinates to create a grey finish.

Shishi - A mythical Japanese "lion-dog" creature, representations of which, are often found to be incorporated into fabrics and items of armour.

Shishiai bori - A sunken relief carving.

So fukurin - Decorative moldings that fit over the suji tate of a hachi, anchored in place by the tehen no kanamono on the top of the helmet and by the higaki around its lower rim.

Sukashi - Decorative details or designs that are created by cutting out areas of a metal surface.

Taka bori - A relief carving.

Uchi dashi - Embossed or repousse metal.

Uchi fukuramu - To emboss in a convex manner. This term relates specifically to fukuramu tate hagi no ita.

Zogan - Inlaid precious metals.

Chain Mail

Asa no ha gusari - Mail in which each round link connects to two others by oval links.

Chirimen namban kusari - European type mail made with small, densely packed links.

Ikada - Small, rectangular plates set in mail.

Ikada haidate - Mail haidate with scattered ikada.

Kake kusari - An oval link that connects the circular links of a mail.

Koshi gusari - Mail that has rectangular spaces to increase flexibility, especially on the inside of the elbow.

Kusari - Iron mail.

Kusari do - A mail and plate do.

Kusari do maru - A mail and plate do maru.

Kusari gote - A mail and plate kote.

Kusari haidate - A mail and plate haidate.

Kusari haramaki - A mail and plate haramaki.

Kusari suneate - A mail and plate suneate.

Naka kusari - The circular links in Japanese mail which lie horizontal to its surface.

Nanban gusari - International style mail in which each link is meshed with four others.

Seiro gusari - A type of mail in which the oval links consist of two or three turns of wire.

So gusari - Mail in which each circular link is connected to four others, ie the normal Japanese construction.

General Features

Dan - Refers to the number of lames or lamellar that a component part features and/or has been assembled from. An example *ichi dan* (1), *ni dan* (2), *san dan* (3), *yon dan* (4) and *go dan* (5).

Hira zogan - Inlay that is finished flush with the surrounding surface.

Hon kozane - True scales.

Hon zogane - Inlay.

Ichi mai maze - The alternation of iron and leather scales along a row.

Ita mono - A solid iron or rawhide lame of armour plating.

Iyo zane - A wide scale with two columns of 7 holes each assembled with almost no overlap.

Kane maze - The technique of concentrating iron scales at vulnerable points of an armour.

Kara kozane - Scales embossed from the back.

Kaza domari no kanamono - Ornamental, triangular shaped fitting, often found on the outside corners of items of armour such as *gessan*.

Kesho no ita - A leather covered wooden strip that covers the heads of the scales where they affix onto a metal plate. At the top of a *sode* for example.

Kikko - A type of brigandine consisting of small hexagonal plates quilted between layers of fabric.

Kikko gane - Small hexagonal pieces of iron or rawhide, sewn to or between layers of cloth to create a form of brigandine covering.

Kohaze - A toggle.

Komori zuke - An intermediate band of leather connecting a row of scales or plates to some other part of armour.

Ko zane - A small scale, as opposed to those worn during the Heian period.

Ko zane gashira - The top edge of an *iyo zane*, cut to resemble two *ko zane*.

Moriage ko zane - Scales that have the outer visible surface built up with lacquer.

Ni dan - Refers to the second lame or lamellar on any component part of armour.

Ni no tare - The lame second from the top on a *tare*.

Okke mei - A signature applied by another as a mark of respect.

San no tare - The lame third from the top on a *tare*.

Seme kohaze - A double holed bead that slides on the loop of a cord to close it over a toggle.

Shiki gane - A narrow strip of iron, bound with *shita garami* to the back of a leather plate in order to increase its rigidity and maintain its shape.

Shikime zane - A scale with three columns of holes.

Shino - A splint.

Shita haramaki - See *hara ate*.

Shita toji no ana - The lower group of eight holes in a scale.

Shiwa fukube - A pleated, gourd shaped plate used for oda gote.

Shoji no ita - A standing plate on the watagami that prevents the sode striking the neck when the arms are raised.

Suji - A rib or flange.

Suso no ita - A general term for the lower most lame on a item of armour such as a shikoro, sode or tare. The lower lame of a shikoro is generally referred to as the kata zuri no ita. The lower lame of a tare is called the muna zuri no ita.

Taka zogan - Raised inlay.

Ya huza gashira - An iyo zane with a notched upper edge.

Yon no tare - The fourth lame from the top on a tare.

Lacing

Hachiman kuro - A very dark blue/black colour used for armour lacing during the Edo period.

Hishi nui - A cross knot used on the lowest row of scales of a kabuto or piece of armour and generally of contrasting colour.

Iro iro odoshi - Multi coloured lacing.

Kawa odoshi - Leather lacing.

Kawa shiki - A rawhide thong to which *iyozane* are laced to hold them in rows.

Kebiki odoshi - Closely spaced lacing.

Ke date - The vertical lengths of lacing that connect and suspend one segment of an armour from another.

Mitsu suji gaki - A variant of *sugake* lacing involving three braids.

Nio i - A lacing pattern in shades of one colour, fading to white at the bottom.

Odoshi ge - Lacing material, silk, leather, hemp or cotton twill.

Shita garami - A strip of leather used to bind rows of individual sane together to create a sane ita. They were also used to bind the shiki gane to the back of a sane ita.

Shita toji - A leather lacing used to fasten scales into a row.

Shizuka no o - A leather tie used to attach an o sode to the rear loop on the watagami.

Sugake odoshi - A lacing technique in which pairs of laces are threaded vertically, up a row of scales and cross knotted before being connected to another section. Translates as 'simple hang'.

Susogoi - Lacing with a graduated colour that grows lighter towards the top.

Takanoha uchi - Braid patterned with chevrons.

Takuboku uchi - Multi coloured braid of white, green, purple and dark blue.

Tokoro kebiki odoshi - Closely spaced lacing that is strung in channelled rows, with open vertical breaks between the laced areas that create an alternating pattern of laced and unlaced strips.

Uname - A horizontal length of lacing filling the unused holes above the cross-knots on the hishi nui no ita, often variegated braid.

Uname toji - Lacing in which a length of braid is threaded in and out of a straight row of holes.

Urugi ito - Lacing that attaches the kusazuri or gessan to the do.

Lacquer

Byakudan nuri - A transparent lacquer of golden yellow colour.

Kiritsuke iyo zane - Iyo zane simulated by lacquer applied to a solid plate.

Kiritsuke ko zane - Ko zane simulated by lacquer applied to a solid plate.

Kuro urushi nuri - A black lacquer finish.

Moriage ko zane - Scales that have the outer visible surface built up with lacquer.

Sabi nuri - A lacquered surface imitating rusty iron.

Shu urushi nuri - A red lacquer finish.

Tataki nuri - A unique lacquer finish that features a raised relief rippled texture.

Tetsu sabiji - A lacquer effect that simulates rusty iron.

Tome urushi - Translucent lacquer.

Urushi - Lacquer.

Urushi nuri - Lacquered.

Materials

Akome - Iron ore.

Birodo - Velvet.

Donsu - Damask.

E gawa - Doe skin leather panels decorated with a pictorial or geometric design.

Fusube gawa - Smoked leather with a yellow or brown colour.

Gose gawa - Red leather decorated with groups of white spots.

Hana gata shobu gawa - Blue leather decorated with naturalistic iris flowers and leaves.

Hana ni cho gawa - Leather decorated with flowers and butterflies.

Ie ji - Cloth material. Primarily refers to the cloth bodices of a sangu.

Iro gawa - Self coloured leather.

Kinkara gawa - Leather embossed with ornate designs and areas of applied gold leaf and paint. Imported from Holland.

Kinpaku - Gold leaf.

Kinpaku oshi - Applied or pressed gold leaf.

Kinran - Gold brocade.

Kosakura gawa - Dark blue or green printed leather decorated with an all over pattern of small flowers.

Kusureru - Steel spoiled by over forging.

Masa kogane - Iron ore.

Momen - Cotton cloth.

Nibe - Animal glue.

Neri gawa - A single layer of rawhide, generally horse or ox hide, or several layers secured together with adhesives.

Nishiki - Brocade.

Rasha - Woollen cloth.

Sarasa - Calico.

Sentoku - A type of brass.

Shishi no sakura gawa - Printed leather decorated with a design of *shishi* against a background of peony blossoms and foliage.

Shobu gawa - Dark blue leather decorated with irises and leaves.

Shohei gawa - A type of shishi no sakura gawa that incorporates the date into the design.

Sugi shobu gawa - A debased variety of shobu gawa.

Tasuki no shishi no maru e gawa - Printed leather decorated with a design of *shishi* against a diagonal lattice of foliage.

Tetsu - Iron.

Tongo gawa - Printed leather decorated with dragonflies.

Tsume gata gawa - Dark blue leather decorated with white, truncated, triangular shapes.

Uzura gawa - Brown leather decorated with white and black spots.

Rivets & Hinges

Byo - A rivet

Byo gashira - The head of a rivet.

Chotsugai - A hinge.

Chotsugai kugi - A hinge pin.

Hachi tsuke no byo - A split shank rivet used to attach a shikoro to the koshi maki of a hachi.

Hasso byo - A soft metal rivet with an ornamental head.

Hoshi - A rivet with a prominent head. Literally translates as 'star'.

Kara boshi - A large rivet with a hollow head.

Kasa byo - A rivet with a flattened hemispherical head.

Kiku byo - A rivet with byo gashira that resembles the flower of a chrysanthemum.

Ko boshi - Small bullet tip shaped rivets.

Muku boshi - A rivet with a narrow pointed head.

Niten no byo - An arrangement of two large rivets used to anchor a tsuke mabizashi to a hachi. (NB - The rivet through a haraidate dai is not considered to be one of the niten no byo).

O boshi - A rivet made with an oversized head, used for decorative purposes.

Omote kaku kuri - A rivet that is closed on the outside, leaving it only slightly proud of the surface.

Sakura byo - A small decorative rivet with raised relief, made to resemble the profile and shape of a cherry blossom.

Sanko no byo - Dome headed rivets that attach the peak to the bowl of a hachi.

Shiten no byo - Vestigial rivets used as a decorative feature on the mid exterior of a hachi.

Za boshi - A prominent rivet head, set on a washer and cut with incised radiating lines. A Kaga feature.

General

Clothing

Jinabaori - Surcoat worn over armour.

Kaihan - Leggings.

Kami shimo - A ceremonial dress of stiffened hemp, worn by samurai during the Edo period.

Kesho eri - A collar decorated with a silk frill, in imitation of a European ruff.

Kobakama - Abbreviated trousers worn under a tosei do.

Kutsu - Stiff boots or shoes of fur.

Obi - A belt or sash.

Shitagi - A shirt like garment worn under armour.

Tabi - Socks.

Uwa obi - Outer sash or belt.

Waraji - Straw sandals.

Yoroi hitatare - A costume of brocade, worn under armour.

Zukin - A hood.

Colours

Ai - Indigo

Aka - Crimson

Asagi - Pale blue

Fujiwara iro - Pale lilac

Hakushi - Pale purple

Hi - Vermillion

Hyo - Dark green

Iro - Colour

Kikujin - Yellowish green

Ko - Yellow

Kobai - Dark red

Kon - Dark blue

Kuchi ba - Dull brown

Kuro - Black

Moegi - Leaf green

Murasaki - Purple

Sakura iro - Pink

Shi - Purple

Shira - White

Yamabuki - Golden yellow

Crests

Kamon - Heraldic symbol.

Tate mono - A crest.

Uma jirushi - A large heraldic emblem or ensign.

Ushiro date - A crest fitted to the back of a helmet.

Waki date - Crests or similar decorative features fitted to the sides of a helmet.

Historic Periods

Azuchi Momoyama - Circa 1574 to 1603.

Edo - Circa 1603 to 1868. Corresponds with the reign of the Tokugawa shoguns and named after the city of Edo.

Kamakura - Circa 1185 to 1333. Named after the city of Kamakura where the shogunate established its seat of government.

Muromachi - Circa 1333 to 1573. Corresponds with the reign of the Ashikaga shoguns.

Nambokucho - Circa 1336 to 1392. Corresponds with the conflicts between the northern and southern branches of the imperial court to establish themselves as the legitimate line of the imperial family during the early years of the Muromachi period.

Sengoku - Circa 1467 to 1573. Corresponds with a century or so, of intense civil war that raged almost continuously throughout Japan's feudal provinces during the second half of the Muromachi period.

Sundry Items

Gumbai uchiwa - A non folding variety of fan.

Gunsen - A folding war fan.

Gusoku bitsu - A box for the storage and transportation of armour.

Hata - A long banner hung by a cross bar from a pole.

Hitsu - A box for storing armour.

Kara bitsu - A chest used for storing armour.

Sai hai - A commander's baton hung with a tassel of hair or paper.

Tate - A free standing wooden shield.

Washi - Japanese paper, generally made from the bark fibre of gampi trees but also from bamboo, hemp, rice and wheat.

Alphabetical Index

A -----

Abumi zuri no kawa - A leather patch on the inside of tosei do shin guards designed to prevent chafing of the stirrup leathers.

Agemaki - A decorative bow of silk cord which was tied in a special knot and hung from rings on an armour. Said to look like a dragonfly, an especially large one was hung on the back as part of the shoulder guard attachments.

Agemaki no kan - A swivel ring fitted to the back of a do, from which a large agemaki is hung.

Ago hige - A simulated, imperial style goatee beard. Although they were generally made using animal hair, they could also be etched into the surface or applied in lacquer.

Ago no o benri - The protruding studs on the chin of a mengu, designed to prevent the helmet cords from slipping forwards.

Ai - Indigo

Aibiki - Shoulder strap fastenings for tosei do.

Aida kanamono - Decorative metal ornaments in the centre of a do or sode. Also refers to the metal fittings used to hold the kesho no ita in place.

Aka - Crimson

Akabe yoroi - Neck armour, particularly that worn with the tanko during the Yamato period.

Akoda nari bachi - A style of helmet which is distinctly swollen at the back and normally without prominent rivets, developed during the Muromachi period.

Akome - Iron ore.

Amakusa mabizashi - A flat form of tsuke mabizashi which protrudes horizontally from the external face of the hachi.

Aoiba za - A decorative iron plate surrounding the tehen of a helmet bowl from the Heian period.

Aoi no za - A za fixture that features a hollyhock leaf pattern around it's outer edge.

Arare boshi bachi - A term used to describe a helmet bowl made or decorated with large, exaggerated rivets.

Asa no ha gusari - Mail in which each round link connects to two others by oval links.

Asagi - Pale blue

Ase nagashi no ana - An opening on the underside of the chin of a mengu, either a hole or tube, which allows perspiration to drain away.

Azuchi Momoyama - Circa 1574 to 1603.

B -----

Bachi - The bowl of a helmet.

Bamen - A small but respected group of armourers that worked during the Muromachi period until the 1700s.

Birodo - Velvet.

Bishamon gote - Armoured sleeves that have a small, integral sode covering the upper arm.

Boko no ita - The top plate at the back of a tosei do, to which the watagami are riveted.

Byakudan nuri - A transparent lacquer of golden yellow colour.

Byo - A rivet

Byo gashira - The head of a rivet.

Byo kakari do - See byo toji yokohagi okegawa do.

Byo toji yokohagi okegawa do - A tosei do consisting of horizontal plates, fastened by prominent, often decorated rivets.

C -----

Chikara gawa - Crossed strips of leather, fastened to the rim of a helmet above the lining to support the weight.

Chirimen namban kusari - European type mail made with small, densely packed links.

Chochin kabuto - A helmet of separate horizontal rings that collapses like a folding lantern.

Chotsugai - A hinge.

Chotsugai kugi - A hinge pin.

D -----

Daizenan bachi - A helmet bowl with a more or less hemispherical shape.

Daisha guchi - An erect, funnel like tube at the apex of some foreign bachi or those influenced by foreign bachi.

Daki bana - A za fitting that stands vertically erect and can either protrude past the tama buchi or rest under its rim.

Dan - Refers to the number of lames or lamellar that a component part features and/or has been assembled from. An example ichi dan (1), ni dan (2), san dan (3), yon dan (4) and go dan (5).

Dangaye do - A tosei do in which different styles of lacing are used in the upper and lower sections.

Do - Armour for the body (also dou or doh).

Do maki - An intermediate strip of iron that forms the framework of shoshaku tsuki kabuto.

Do maru - Scale armour which wraps around the body and fastens under the right arm (see haramaki).

Donsu - Damask.

E -----

Eboshi - A tall cap of variable shape, often curving backwards at the top.

Eboshi nari bachi - A helmet made to resemble the shape of an eboshi.

Edo - Circa 1603 to 1868. Corresponds with the reign of the Tokugawa shoguns and named after the city of Edo.

E gawa - Doe skin leather panels decorated with a pictorial or geometric design.

Emi men - A mengu made in the form of a laughing face.

Etchu bo - A simple mask that covered only the chin and lower jaw.

Etchu haidate - Haidate covered with only a sparse grid of mail and splints.

Etchu jikoro - A tosei shikoro that falls in a concave curve and terminates in a bottom plate with a straight, lower edge.

Etchu suneate - Splint shin guards without a fabric backing.

Etchu zunari bachi - A helmet bowl of simple construction, in which the longitudinal top plate overlaps the brow plate.

F -----

Fujiwara iro - Pale lilac

Fukigaeshi - The turn back at the front edge of the upper row or rows of a neck guard.

Fukigaeshi no suemon - Chrysanthemum shaped ornaments applied to the fukigaeshi of helmets from the Heian period.

Fukube - A gourd shaped plate applied to armoured sleeves.

Fukuramu tate hagi no ita - A tate hagi no ita that has been embossed down one side with a convex channel.

Fukurin - An applied, decorative metal trim.

Fuse gumi - Multicoloured over-sewing used at the junction of two different leathers.

Fuse ita - A plate forming the top of a mabizashi tsuki kabuto.

Fusube gawa - Smoked leather with a yellow or brown colour.

G -----

Gattari - An attachment for a sashimono, fastened to the back of do at the level of the shoulder blades.

Gendai - Technically, any item of armour produced after about 1868, but more commonly used to refer to pieces that have been made since the end of WWII. Translates as 'modern'.

Gessan - Pendant shaped, armoured sections attached to the lower edge of a tosei do. Equivalent to kusazuri on lamellar armours.

Gessan jikoro - A tosei shikoro with all but the uppermost plate divided into pendant shaped sections that hang in part, or entirely independently of each other.

Goishi gashira - Iyo zane scales with heads of a rounded shape.

Go mai do - A do consisting of 5 sections - front, side, back and two half pieces under the right arm, all joined by hinges.

Gose gawa - Red leather decorated with groups of white spots.

Goshozan - A high sided helmet in which the back is higher than the front.

Gumbai uchiwa - A non folding variety of fan.

Gumi wa - A leather loop fitted with an elongated metal bead. Found on the shoulder strap of an armour to which the shoulder guards are tied.

Gunsen - A folding war fan.

Guru wa - A type of protective neck armour.

Gusoku - A set of something, for example, a complete armour.

Gusoku bitsu - A box for the storage and transportation of armour.

Gyoyo - A leaf shaped plate used as a shoulder protector or to guard the fastenings of the shoulder straps.

H -----

Hachi - The bowl of a helmet.

Hachi gane - Armour that protects the forehead. Can also be used to refer to a rare type of mengu that resembles a catcher mask.

Hachiman kuro - A very dark blue/black colour used for armour lacing during the Edo period.

Hachiman za - An alternative name for a tehen no kanamono.

Hachi tsuke no byo - A split shank rivet used to attach a shikoro to the koshi maki of a hachi.

Hachi tsuke no byo no ana - Holes drilled into the lower edge of a helmet bowl, through which the hachi tsuke no byo are inserted in order to attach a shikoro.

Hachi tsuke no ita - The uppermost plate or row of scales in a shikoro.

Haidate - An apron shaped defense for the thighs.

Haku hatsu men - A mengu with a disheveled ago hige, designed to look like an unkempt old man.

Hakushi - Pale purple

Hana - A nose, specifically on a mengu.

Hanagami bukuro - A pouch attached to the front of a do or behind one of the gessan.

Hana gata shobu gawa - Blue leather decorated with naturalistic iris flowers and leaves.

Hana ni cho gawa - Leather decorated with flowers and butterflies.

Hana no ana - Holes on the hana of a mengu which simulate nostrils.

Hana no ita - A detachable nose guard plate.

Hanbo - A mengu that covers the chin and lower cheeks only.

Happuri - A plate tied to the forehead that extended down onto the cheeks.

Hara ate - An abbreviated armour that covers the front and sides of the body, also has short gessan over the hips.

Haraidate dai - A tubular crest holder that is attached to the centre of a helmet peak.

Haraidate dai shinogi - The lower, prong like section of a haraidate dai.

Haramaki - Armour worn during the Muromachi period which opens down the centre line of the back.

Harikake - Lightweight, molded shapes made from lacquered rawhide, papier-mâché, or wood. They can be grafted to objects such as kabuto bachi in order to transform the item's

Harikake bachi - A helmet bowl that has been decorated and embellished with a light, decorative superstructure of wood, paper, leather and lacquer.

Haruta - One of the oldest documented schools of armourers, they produced items in accordance with a centrally taught doctrine and were the first group of smiths to sign their armours.

Hasso byo - A soft metal rivet with an ornamental head.

Hata - A long banner hung by a cross bar from a pole.

Hatomune do - A do with a medial ridge.

Heichozaan - A high sided helmet with a relatively flat apex.

Hi - Vermillion

Hibiki no ana - A set of four holes drilled half way up a helmet bowl. They were originally used for attaching the shinobi no o cords, but later became merely decorative.

Higaki - A decorative plate attached to the tate hagi no ita on the lower, exterior rim of a hachi. Designed to anchor the lower so fukurin in place (when present).

Hige - A simulated beard. Although they were generally made using animal hair, they could also be etched into the surface or applied in lacquer.

Hiji gane - The elbow plate of an armoured sleeve.

Hikone gusoku - Red lacquered armour.

Hineno jikoro - A close fitting neck guard with a lower edge that is shaped to the shoulders.

Hineno zunari bachi - A head shaped helmet bowl of simple construction with only five plates, the central longitudinal plate being overlaid by a brow plate and peak combination.

Hineri dome - L-shaped prongs on the upper inside edges of a mengu, used to attach the nose guard on masks where this was designed to be a feature.

Hineri kaeshi - An erect rim that bends out 90 degrees from the external upper edge of a koshi maki.

Hira zogan - Inlay that is finished flush with the surrounding surface.

Hirame - Two vertically aligned sashimono dome no ana holes in the haraidate dai.

Hiro sode - A shoulder guard which widens and flattens towards the bottom.

Hishi nui - A cross knot used on the lowest row of scales of a kabuto or piece of armour and generally of contrasting colour.

Hishi nui no ita - The lowest row of scales on a piece of armour, or the lowest plate.

Hishi nui do - Plates that are merely decorated with cross knots, they are actually riveted (all types).

Hishi toji - A cross knot used on any but the lowest row of scales.

Hishi toji do - A type of yoko hagi okegawa do in which the plates are connected by cross knots.

Hishi toji hotoke do - A smooth faced do, decorated by cross knots.

Hitai ate - A plate tied to the forehead and worn in place of a helmet. They were sometimes made of several plates that extended over the front of the head.

Hitsu - A box for storing armour.

Hiza yoroi - An old term for armour that covers the thigh and knee.

Hiya zuri - An embossed feature that creates the profile of a jaw line.

Hoate - A mask without a nose, that covers the face below the eyes.

Hodo haidate - Haidate that have the lower part of the armoured portion divided into pendant sections.

Hohei - A decorative, ball like feature, sometimes included in the tehen no kanamono.

Hon iyo zane - Sections of lamellar armour plating assembled from individual sane and made in the iyo zane style. Literally translates as 'real' iyo zane.

Hon kozane - True scales.

Hon zogane - Inlay.

Horo - A cape like cloth attached to the back of an armour, which inflates with air when riding.

Hoshi - A rivet with a prominent head. Literally translates as 'star'.

Hoshi bachi - A helmet bowl with prominent rivets.

Hotoke do - A smooth faced do.

Hyo - Dark green

Hyotan - A gourd shaped plate that forms part of an armoured sleeve.

I -----

Ichimai fuse bachi - A helmet bowl from the Heian period, beaten from a single sheet of iron.

Ichimai jikoro - A shikoro that consists of one large plate alone.

Ichimai maze - The alternation of iron and leather scales along a row.

Ichimaju jikoro - A neck guard whereby only the top plate is curved.

Ichino tare - The top plate of a shikoro.

Ieji - Cloth material. Primarily refers to the cloth bodices of a sangu.

Igaki - Ornamental plates around the base of a helmet bowl.

Ikada - Small, rectangular plates set in mail.

Ikada haidate - Mail haidate with scattered ikada.

Ikeda - Small raft like plates set in chain mail.

Inome - A heart shaped aperture, commonly incorporated into the decorative design of an armour's component parts. Translates as 'boar's eye'.

Iri hasso kizami - A decorative, v-shaped indentation.

Iro - Colour

Iro gawa - Self coloured leather.

Iro iro odoshi - Multi coloured lacing.

Ishime - An irregular, rough texture, like the surface of a stone.

Ita haidate - Scale haidate.

Ita mono - A solid iron or rawhide lame of armour plating.

Ite jikoro - A tosei shikoro in which the right fukigaeshi can be removed or folded back for archery.

Iwai - Katchu shi commissioned by the Tokugawa Shogunate, their speciality being armours made from leather.

Iyo zane - A wide scale with two columns of 7 holes each assembled with almost no overlap.

Iyo zane do - Tosei do of iyo zane that wraps around the body and fastens under the right arm.

J -----

Jabara fuse - A piping made of two threads twisted in opposite ways to give a chevron pattern, often multi-coloured.

Ji ita - A decorative plate commonly fitted to the mae shochu no ita and ushiro shochu no ta of a hachi, often decorated with shinodare.

Jinabaori - Surcoat worn over armour.

Jingasa - A conical open hat of iron or lacquered leather, worn as a light defense.

Jumonji kitae - A method of forging armour plate with a crossed grain.

K -----

Kabuto - A helmet.

Kabuto no o - The tying cord of a helmet.

Kaga bo - A distinctive type of etchu bo, decorated with kiri gane and yasurime.

Kaga hanbo - A tsubame bo decorated with kiri gane and za boshi.

Kaihan - Leggings.

Kaihan suneate - Suneate without knee guards.

Kake kusari - An oval link that connects the circular links of a mail.

Kake o - A length of braid fastened to the upper edge of a mask that tied it to the head. Also refers to the front tying cord of a sode.

Kake o no ana - The holes near the upper edges of the cheeks on a mengu, used to thread the kake o through.

Kamakura - Circa 1185 to 1333. Named after the city of Kamakura where the shogunate established its seat of government.

Kami shimo - A ceremonial dress of stiffened hemp, worn by samurai during the Edo period.

Kamon - Heraldic symbol.

Kane maze - The technique of concentrating iron scales at vulnerable points of an armour.

Kanmuri no ita - The cap plate of a sode or kote.

Kara bitsu - A chest used for storing armour.

Kara boshi - A large rivet with a hollow head.

Kara hana za - A distinctive type of za fitting in the form of a flower, with petal shaped flanges protruding from the circumference that are often etched with surface details.

Kara kozane - Scales embossed from the back.

Karuta gane do - A folding armour of rectangular plates.

Kasa byo - A rivet with a flattened hemispherical head.

Kasa jikoro - A hat shaped shikoro that is almost horizontal. Common on Muromachi helmets.

Kasa jirushi no kan - A ring at the back of a helmet, designed to carry a small identification flag or, on later helmets, an agemaki bow.

Kashira date - A crest mounted on the top of a helmet.

Katagiri - An engraving technique in which one side of the cut is vertical.

Katahada nugi do - A type of nio do.

Katahagi nui do – A do modelled to resemble a torso, with left shoulder and breast uncovered.

Kata jiro - A gilt or silvered plate applied as decoration between the suji of a helmet bowl.

Kata yori - A shoulder armour worn with the tanko during the Yamato period.

Kata zuri no ita - A sliding shoulder plate and the lowest lame on a shikoro.

Katchu shi - Armour maker, also know as yoroi shi. The highest skilled makers were graded as follows:

Chu i - good

Jo i - very good

Jo jo i - excellent

Sai jo i - superb

Kawa fukurin - A narrow band of leather used as an edge trim.

Kawa koshi tsuke - A leather belt used to attach a gessan to a do, usually held into place with leather or silk ties.

Kawa odoshi - Leather lacing.

Kawa shiki - A rawhide thong to which iyozone are laced to hold them in rows.

Kawa zutsumi do - A do covered with a sheet of leather.

Kawari bachi - A helmet bowl of unconventional shape.

Kawari haidate - Haidate of s-shaped scales that are overlapped like roof tiles.

Kawari kabuto - A kawari bachi fitted with a shikoro to form a complete kabuto.

Kaza domari no kanamono - Ornamental, triangular shaped fitting, often found on the outside corners of items of armour such as gessan.

Kebiki odoshi - Closely spaced lacing.

Kebori - Surface etching.

Ke date - The vertical lengths of lacing that connect and suspend one segment of an armour from another.

Kedate no ana - The holes in a scale through which the upright lengths of lacing pass.

Ken - A term used to describe the number of tate hagi no ita used to make a hachi. Also a crest in the shape of a stylised Buddhist sword.

Kenuki gane - A low, erect, metal flange applied horizontally across the exterior face of a hanbo and made in the distinctive kaga bo style.

Kesho eri - A collar decorated with a silk frill, in imitation of a European ruff.

Kesho no ita - A leather covered wooden strip that covers the heads of the scales where they affix onto a metal plate. At the top of a sode for example.

Kikko - A type of brigandine consisting of small hexagonal plates quilted between layers of fabric.

Kikko do - A do made of hexagonal plates quilted between layers of cloth.

Kikko gane - Small hexagonal pieces of iron or rawhide, sewn to or between layers of cloth to create a form of brigandine covering.

Kikko gane do - A folding do made from hexagonal plates.

Kiku byo - A rivet with byo gashira that resembles the flower of a chrysanthemum.

Kikujin - Yellowish green

Kiku za - A type of za with radial lines around its circumference that divide the ring into individual, petal like segments so that it resembles the flower of a chrysanthemum.

Kinkara gawa - Leather embossed with ornate designs and areas of applied gold leaf and paint. Imported from Holland.

Kinpaku - Gold leaf.

Kinpaku oshi - Applied or pressed gold leaf.

Kinran - Gold brocade.

Kiri gane - Small, decorative cut metal pieces applied to the surface of an armour.

Kiri komi - A pair of mirrored, wedge shaped indentations found on the upper edge of some tsuke mabizashi.

Kiri take nari - A helmet shape like a short length of bamboo.

Kiritsuke iyo zane - Iyo zane simulated by lacquer applied to a solid plate.

Kiritsuke ko zane - Ko zane simulated by lacquer applied to a solid plate.

Kiusho Kanamono - Decorative, lateral metal features on a do or sode.

Kiwame fuda - A certificate attributing the authorship of an armour to a particular maker.

Ko - Yellow

Kobai - Dark red

Kobakama - Abbreviated trousers worn under tosei do armour.

Kobakama jitate - Thigh armour that is sown onto a pair of trousers.

Koberi gawa - Narrow bands of e gawa that were used to trim the outer edges of larger surface areas such as tsuke mabizashi.

Ko boshi - Small bullet tip shaped rivets.

Ko boshi bachi - A helmet bowl with small, standing, external rivets.

Kogai kanamono - A decorative plate and ring combination attached to the rear edge of a shoulder guard, to which the rear most tying cord is fastened.

Kogake - Armour for the feet.

Kohaze - A toggle.

Kohire - Winglets connected to the watagami of a do.

Ko kizami za - A type of za with a fine scalloped exterior edge, commonly used in the stack of the tehen no kanamono and other decorative metal fittings.

Ko manju jikoro - A small rounded neck guard.

Komori tsuke - An intermediate band of leather used to connect a tare to a mengu.

Kon - Dark blue

Kosakura gawa - Dark blue or green printed leather decorated with an all over pattern of small flowers.

Koseizan - A high sided helmet, usually flat on top, whereby the profile is taller than the hemisphere. Translates as 'high sided mountain'.

Koshi gusari - Mail that has rectangular spaces to increase flexibility, especially on the inside of the elbow.

Koshi maki - A narrow strip of metal forming the lower edge of a helmet bowl.

Koshi tsuke - The upper plate of a gessan.

Kote - An armoured sleeve.

Ko zane - A small scale, as opposed to those worn during the Heian period.

Ko zane gashira - The top edge of an iyo zane, cut to resemble two ko zane.

Kuchi - An open mouth shape.

Kuchi ba - Dull brown

Kuchi hige - A simulated moustache. Although they were generally made using animal hair, they could also be etched into the surface, or applied in lacquer.

Kuro - Black

Kuro urushi nuri - A black lacquer finish.

Kusari - Iron mail.

Kusari do - A mail and plate do.

Kusari do maru - A mail and plate do maru.

Kusari gote - A mail and plate kote.

Kusari haidate - A mail and plate haidate.

Kusari haramaki - A mail and plate haramaki.

Kusari suneate - A mail and plate suneate.

Kusazuri - Pendant sections hanging from the lower edge of a lamellar do.

Kusugai do - Yokohagi okegawa do in which the plates are joined by a variety of staples.

Kusureru - Steel spoiled by over forging.

Kutsu - Stiff boots or shoes of fur.

Kuwagata - Flat, stylized horns or antlers, worn as a frontal crest.

Kuwagata dai - A shallow, u-shaped holder on the tsuke mabizashi of a helmet bowl, designed to mount and display a pair of kuwagata.

Kyubi no ita - Defense for the left armpit, worn with o yoroi.

M -----

Mabizashi - The peak of a helmet.

Mabizashi tsuki kabuto - An ancient style of helmet with a horizontal fretted peak.

Machi uke - The socket at the waist on the back of a do, into which the sashimono assembly is fitted.

Mae shochu no ita - The front and central tate hagi no ita of a helmet.

Maedate - A crest or decorative fitting mounted on the front of a helmet.

Maki e do - A do decorated with a lacquered design or picture.

Manchira - Worn by the Japanese on top of the do, not under it as intended by the Europeans.

Manju wa - A short, armoured waistcoat worn beneath an armour to protect the armpits and upper chest.

Maro do - A tosei version of the do maru, differing from the original versions of the armour in that they have an extra row of scales in the naka gawa.

Maru bachi - See *daienzan bachi*.

Maru do yoroi - A hybrid armour between an o yoroi and a do maru.

Maru za - A low circular za with an etched design on the surface, sometimes used in a tehen no kanamono stack.

Masa kogane - Iron ore.

Matsuba wa - Curved plates arranged in a ring around the elbow plate of an armoured sleeve.

Mayu - Simulated eyebrows.

Mei - The signature of a master katchu shi, engraved or lacquered on an item of armour that they, or one of their protégé had produced. Translates as 'name'.

Mei no ana - A slit in the lining of a helmet through which the signature can be read.

Men - Mask.

Mengu - Face armour.

Men no shita men - A face mask covering the face and nose from below the level of the eyes. Could also be referred to as men no shita bo (face below the eyes).

Menpo - An alternative and abbreviated term for men no shita men.

Miage shiwa - Simulated forehead wrinkles.

Midzu nomi no o - A cord that secures the sode to the age maki bow of a do from the kogai kanamono.

Mimi - Purely decorative ear shaped plates present on some mengu.

Mimi ito - Braid around the outer edges of a piece of armour, often variegated.

Mimi no ana - The small holes in the mimi that simulate the opening of the ear canal.

Mitsu kuwagata dai - Kuwagata dai with an additional central socket to carry a crest.

Mitsu suji gaki - A variant of sugake lacing involving three braids.

Miyata - Based in Saga in Hizen during the edo period, the Miyata were known for making yukinoshita do in the style of Myochin Hisaiye.

Mizu nomi no o - Cord attached to the rear edge of a sode.

Moegi - Leaf green

Mogami do - A do of horizontal plates, each of which is articulated by separate hinges.

Momen - Cotton cloth.

Momonari bachi - A pointed helmet that has a medial flange inspired by a European cabasset.

Moriage ko zane - Scales that have the outer visible surface built up with lacquer.

Muku boshi - A rivet with a narrow pointed head.

Muna ita - The uppermost plate on the front of a do.

Muna tori hotoke do - A smooth faced do with a laced top section.

Muna zuri no ita - The lowermost lame of a tare. Translates as 'chest sliding plate'.

Murasaki - Purple

Muromachi - Circa 1333 to 1573. Corresponds with the reign of the Ashikaga shoguns.

Myochin - A renowned school of katchu shi founded in the early sixteenth century by the master smith Myochin Nobuie and the largest and most prolific group of armour makers.

N -----

Nagasone - A short lived group of katchu shi that worked during the Edo period between 1647-1678. The founder Nagasone Okisato moved away from armour production to make swords.

Naka gawa - The part of a do which encircles the trunk.

Naka kusari - The circular links in Japanese mail which lie horizontal to its surface.

Namazu o kabuto - A tall, laterally flattened helmet with a rounded profile, said to resemble the tail of a catfish.

Nambokucho - Circa 1336 to 1392. Corresponds with the conflicts between the northern and southern branches of the imperial court to establish themselves as the legitimate line

Nami gata - An item made with an undulating wave like shape.

Nami za - A za made with an undulating wave like shape or engraved with wave like patterns.

Nanako - A granular texture given to ornamental metal work in which the ground is raised into a series of hemispheres.

Nanban gusari - International style mail in which each link is meshed with four others.

Nanban kabuto - A helmet of European manufacture, or one inspired by a European prototype.

Nanban kiri gane - Small , decorative, cut metal pieces applied to the surface of an armour that was influenced by foreign designs and made in non-traditional Japanese shapes.

Nanban yoroi - A foreign made piece of armour.

Nawame fukurin - A roped fukurin copying the edging of European armours.

Neo - A group of armourers with little documentation but known to be based in Nara between the Momoyama and Tokugawa periods. Neo Masanobu was their best known smith, being held in high regard for his 120 plate kabuto.

Neri gawa - A single layer of rawhide, generally horse or ox hide, or several layers secured together with adhesives.

Nibe - Animal glue.

Ni dan - A term used to refer to the second lame or lamellar in on any component part of armour.

Ni hon no tsunomoto - A double pronged variety of tsunomoto.

Ni mai do - A do in two parts, joined by a hinge under the left arm.

Ni no ita - The lame second from the top on a shikoro, immediately following the hachi tsuke no ita.

Ni no tare - The lame second from the top on a tare.

Nio do - A do modelled to represent the human torso.

Nio i - A lacing pattern in shades of one colour, fading to white at the bottom.

Nishiki - Brocade.

Niten no byo - An arrangement of two large rivets used to anchor a tsuke mabizashi to a hachi. (NB - The rivet through a haraidate dai is not considered to be one of the niten no byo).

Nodowa - A bib like defense to protect the throat and upper chest, consisting of of a u-shaped plate with two or three curved rows of scales attached to it.

Nuinobe do - A sugake laced ni mai do, made of iyo zane.

Nunome - An overlay of gold, silver or copper on iron.

Nunome zogan - Decorative, raised relief designs using precious metals such as gold and silver, sometimes applied to the exterior surface of tetsu sabiji kabuto bachi.

O -----

Obi - A belt or sash.

O boshi - A rivet made with an oversized head, used for decorative purposes.

Oda gote - Kote with gourd shaped plates applied over the forearm and upper arm.

Oda haidate - Haidate of mail, with ikeda and knee plates resembling those at the elbow of oda gote.

Oda yori gane, or Yadome - A pair of erect flanges that fasten diagonally across the cheeks on some examples of mengu.

Oda yori kugi - A pair of erect posts fitted to either side of the lower jaw of a mengu, used to anchor the shinobi no o of a kabuto when tying the helmet in place.

Oda yori no kan - A pair of metal rings attached to both cheeks of a mengu, through which the shinobi no o of a kabuto are threaded when tying the helmet in place.

Oda yori ore kugi - A pair of sturdy I-shaped posts set into both cheeks of a mengu, used to anchor the shinobi no o of a kabuto when tying the helmet in place.

Odoshi ge - Lacing material, silk, leather, hemp or cotton twill.

Odoshi no ana - Holes drilled in an armoured plate or scale, through which lengths of odoshi ge are laced.

Okashi gusoku - Armour issued to low ranking soldier, usually of low quality.

Oki tenugui bachi - A helmet bowl with almost vertical sides and top plates which are extended rearwards, beyond the back of the bowl.

Okina men - Men no shita men and so men that feature short and well groomed hige and kuchi hige.

Okke mei - A signature applied by another as a mark of respect.

O manju jikoro - An early design of neck guard with large rounded lames.

Omodaka do - A do with a metal ridge.

Omote kaku kuri - A rivet that is closed on the outside, leaving it only slightly proud of the surface.

Oni damari no ita - The turned out upper edge of the muna ita, designed to deflect spear or sword thrusts.

Oni gashira - An item with a demon like face or façade.

Ori kugi - A hook on the cheek of a mengu, around which the helmet cord is fastened.

Oroshi mabizashi - A peak plate, integral to the finished form of a hachi, such as those made in the zu nari bachi style.

Oshitsuke ita - The uppermost plate at the back of a scale of armour, to which the shoulder straps are attached.

O sode - A large, rectangular sode.

O Tateage suneate - Shin guards with large standing plate defenses for the knees.

O yoroi - A lamellar armour that has a separate defense for the right side of the body, classic of the Heian period.

R -----

Rasha - Woollen cloth.

Reiseizan - See akoda nari bachi.

Renjaku do - A tosei do fitted with internal suspensory cords.

Ressei men - A mengu with an aggressive looking expression and prominent facial wrinkles.

Ressei men no shita bo - The most typical type of men no shita men, made in the ressei style.

Roku ju ni ken - Used in conjunction with other terms to describe a hachi that has been assembled from 62 tate hagi no ita.

Roku mai do - A tosei do with five hinges that is divisible into six sections.

Ryo takahimo - A tosei do in either two or six sections, with ties at each side of the body.

Ryubu men - A mengu with a calm, noble expression devoid of any facial wrinkles.

Ryubu men no shita men - A men no shita men made in the Ryubu style.

S -----

Sabi nuri - A lacquered surface imitating rusty iron.

Sai hai - A commander's baton hung with a tassel of hair or paper.

Sai han no kan - A ring on the right breast of a tosei do.

Saiga - Located in the province of Kii, the Saiga were renowned for their production of Saiga bachi kabuto.

Saiga bachi - A type of multi plate helmet made in the distinctive Saiga style. The term can refer to any bowl made in Saiga but is most commonly used in relation to a helmet bowl topped by a number of large chrysanthemum shaped plates.

Saka ita - A plate at the back of an o yoroi, laced in reverse to allow the shoulder straps to be swung backwards.

Sakonji - Located in Edo with the exception of those members who worked for the Satake clan. Like the Iwai, the Sakonji were known for making armour from leather.

Sakura byo - A small decorative rivet with raised relief, made to resemble the profile and shape of a cherry blossom.

Sakura iro - Pink

Sane - An individual scale of either iron or rawhide, from which lamellar armour was made.

Sane gashira - The shape of the upper part of a scale.

Sane ita - A lame assembled from individual sane bound together.

San ju hachi ken - Used in conjunction with other terms to describe a hachi that has been assembled from 38 tate hagi no ita.

San ju ni ken - Used in conjunction with other terms to describe a hachi that has been assembled from 32 tate hagi no ita.

Sanko no byo - Dome headed rivets that attach the peak to the bowl of a hachi.

San no ita - The lame third from the top on a shikoro, immediately following the ni no ita.

San no tare - The lame third from the top on a tare.

Saotome - A group of katchu shi who came to prominence in the mid 17th century. They were renowned for their high quality workmanship and use of *fukurumu tate hagi no ita*.

Sarasa - Calico.

Saru bo - A v-shaped hanbo with indented cheeks that partially frame the upper outline of the mouth. Translates as 'monkey cheek'.

Sasa heri - Leather or braid edging around the fabric portion of an armour.

Sasa mayu - A type of simulated mayu with sharp pointed features that resemble the shape of bamboo leaves. Translates as 'bamboo leaf eyebrow'.

Sashimono - An ornamental device attached to the back of an armour, often a flag.

Sashimono dome no ana - Small holes in a haraidate dai in which to insert pins that lock a maedate in position when the latter is mounted on a kabuto. These often go from side to side. See also, hirame.

Sashinuki gote - A pair of kote that form part of a small jacket.

Sawari - Silver alloy, splashed onto russet iron when in a molten state to create a decorative finish. Generally associated with items produced by smiths from the province of Kaga.

Sei ita - A narrow plate that covered the opening down the back of a haramaki.

Seiro gusari - A type of mail in which the oval links consist of two or three turns of wire.

Seme kohaze - A double holed bead that slides on the loop of a cord to close it over a toggle.

Sendai do - An alternative name for a yukinoshita do.

Sendan no ita - A laminated guard for the right armpit, worn originally with an o yoroi.

Sengoku - Circa 1467 to 1573. Corresponds with a century or so, of intense civil war that raged almost continuously throughout Japan's feudal provinces during the second half

Sentoku - A type of brass.

Shakudo - An alloy of copper and gold that patinates to create a deep purple-black finish.

Shi - Purple

Shibuichi - An alloy of copper and silver that patinates to create a grey finish.

Shiho jiro - A helmet decorated with four groups of shinodare.

Shiki gane - A narrow strip of iron, bound with shita garami to the back of a leather plate in order to increase its rigidity and maintain its shape.

Shikime zane - A scale with three columns of holes.

Shikoro - The neck guard of a helmet.

Shino - A splint.

Shinobi no o - A helmet cord.

Shinobi ne no o - Closed loops of cord or solid metal rings that extend from, or are set into, the underside of a koshi maki in order to secure the shinobi no o cord in place. When the shinobi ne no o are made of cord, the ends may be tied into ornate knots.

Shinodare - A long, ornamental strip that emerges from under the tehen no kanamono and extends down the front, sides or back of a hachi.

Shino gote - Kote with splints over the forearm, sometimes connected by mail.

Shino haidate - Haidate that consist of splints connected by mail.

Shino suneate - Shin guards that consist of splints connected by mail.

Shira - White

Shishi - A mythical Japanese "lion-dog" creature, representations of which, are often found to be incorporated into fabrics and items of armour.

Shishi no sakura gawa - Printed leather decorated with a design of shishi against a background of peony blossoms and foliage.

Shishiai bori - A sunken relief carving.

Shita garami - A strip of leather used to bind rows of individual sane together to create a sane ita. They were also used to bind the shiki gane to the back of a sane ita.

Shitag - A shirt like garment worn under armour.

Shita haramaki - See hara ate.

Shita jiroko - An auxiliary neck guard fitted below the regular one.

Shita toji - A leather lacing used to fasten scales into a row.

Shita toji no ana - The lower group of eight holes in a scale.

Shiten no byo - Four vestigial rivets used as a decorative feature on the mid exterior of a hachi.

Shiwa - Simulated facial wrinkles.

Shiwa fukube - A pleated, gourd shaped plate used for oda gote.

Shizuka no o - A leather tie used to attach an o sode to the rear loop on the watagami.

Shobu gawa - Dark blue leather decorated with irises and leaves.

Shohei gawa - A type of shishi no sakura gawa that incorporates the date into the design.

Shoji no ita - A standing plate on the watagami that prevents the sode striking the neck when the arms are raised.

Shokaku bo - A plate that forms the top and front of a shoshaku tsuki kabuto.

Shoshaku tei ita - A triangular plate under the beaked front of a shoshaku tsuki kabuto.

Shoshaku tsuki kabuto - An ancient helmet with a prominent beaked front.

Shu urushi nuri - A red lacquer finish.

Sode - A shoulder guard.

Sode tsuke no o - The fastening cord of a shoulder guard.

So fukurin - Decorative moldings that fit over the suji tate of a hachi, anchored in place by the tehen no kanamono on the top of the helmet and by the higaki around its lower rim.

So gusari - Mail in which each circular link is connected to four others, ie the normal Japanese construction.

So men - A mask that covers the entire face from the top of the forehead to the underside of the chin.

Suemon - An heraldic crest applied to the surface of a fukigaeshi.

Sugake odoshi - A lacing technique in which pairs of laces are threaded vertically, up a row of scales and cross knotted before being connected to another section. Translates as 'simple hang'.

Sugi shobu gawa - A debased variety of shobu gawa.

Suji - A rib or flange.

Suji bachi - A multi plate helmet in which the rivets are countersunk, leaving the flanged edges of the plates prominent.

Suji tate - An erect flange, fitted along the vertical edge of a tate hagi no ita at a 90-degree angle to the facing surface of the plate.

Suji tate bachi - A conventional hachi made using tate hagi no ita with a suji tate.

Sukashi - Decorative details or designs that are created by cutting out areas of a metal surface.

Sukashi kiku za - A ura giku za that has had the concave central channels of each petal like radial segment cut out to create an open frame work outline of a kiku za.

Sumi zukin nari bachi - A type of kawari bachi made to resemble a cloth tied around the head whereby the loose end lies towards the rear of the head.

Suneate - A shin guard.

Susogoi - Lacing with a graduated colour that grows lighter towards the top.

Suso no ita - A general term for the lower most lame on a item of armour such as a shikoro, sode or tare. The lower lame of a shikoro is generally referred to as the kata zuri no ita.

T -----

Tabi - Socks.

Tachi do - A do sufficiently long in the body to rest on the hips.

Taka bori - A relief carving.

Taka zogan - Raised inlay.

Takahimo - The fastenings on the shoulder straps of a scale armour. Alternatively, the fastenings on the opening of a tosei do.

Takanoha uchi - Braid patterned with chevrons.

Takuboku uchi - Multi coloured braid of white, green, purple and dark blue.

Tama buchi - A tube with a rounded flange at the top and tabs at the bottom that are opened out inside the bowl to hold all the elements of the tehen no kanamono in place.

Tameshi gusoku - Armour showing the marks of bullets used to test its defensive quality.

Tanko - Early plate armour of the Yamamoto period.

Tare - A protective apron, found for example, on kusari do. Also the throat guard attached to a mask.

Tasuki no shishi no maru e gawa - Printed leather decorated with a design of shishi against a diagonal lattice of foliage.

Tataki nuri - A unique lacquer finish that features a raised relief rippled texture.

Tatami do - A folding do.

Tate - A free standing wooden shield.

Tateage - Those parts of a do that do not encircle the body but extend up the chest and back.

Tate hagi okegawa do - A tosei do made of vertical plates.

Tate mono - A crest.

Tate yeri - An armoured collar.

Tehen - The hole in the crown of a helmet bowl.

Tehen no kanamono - An ornamental metal surround, made up of one or more za that are stacked on top of each other over the tehen and anchored in place by the tama buchi.

Tehen no za - An alternative name for any za used in the stacked assembly of the tehen no kanamono.

Tekko - A plate covering the back of the hand which forms part of the kote.

Tenkokuzan - A high sided helmet in which the top dips in the area of the tehen.

Tenugui no kan - The ring on the left breast of a tosei do.

Tetsu - Iron.

Tetsu sabiji - A lacquer effect that simulates rusty iron.

Tokoro kebiki odoshi - Closely spaced lacing that is strung in channelled rows, with open vertical breaks between the laced areas that create an alternating pattern of laced and unlaced strips.

Tombo jiri shinogi - The lower end of a haraidate dai that has been fabricated to resemble the shape of a dragonfly's tail. Commonly associated with Saotome made kabuto bachi.

Tome urushi - Translucent lacquer.

Tominaga sashinuki gote - Kote attached to a short jacket with an armoured collar.

Tongo gawa - Printed leather decorated with dragonflies.

Toppai bachi - A pointed helmet bowl. Those with convex sides are called shii nari or 'acorn shaped'.

Tosei do - A 'modern' do that evolved during the sixteenth century.

Tosei gusoku - A 'modern' armour fabricated from the late fifteenth century onward.

Tosei sode - A small 'modern' sode hanging from the fastenings of the kote.

Tsubame bo - A v-shaped hanbo that covers the cheeks and lower jaw.

Tsubo ita - A plate forming the upper part of a waidate.

Tsubo sode - A sode that is curved towards the arm and narrows towards the bottom.

Tsuke mabizashi - A non integral peak that is fastened by rivets, to the front of the koshimaki on a full formed hachi.

Tsume gata gawa - Dark blue leather decorated with white, truncated, triangular shapes.

Tsunomoto - A hook or spiked form of crest attachment on a hachi.

Tsuru bashiri gawa - A leather sheet that covers the front of an o yoroi to prevent the bow string snagging on the heads of the scales.

Tsuru no kubi - A fitting used to mount a maedate to a haraidate dai of a kabuto. Translates as 'crane's neck'.

Tsutsu gote - Kote in which the plates over the forearm are hinged or sewn to each other.

Tsutsu suneate - Shin guards in which three or more plates hinged or sewn together.

Tsuyu otoshi no kuda - An extended pipe-like fitting set into the underside of the chin on face mask which allows perspiration to drain away. A variation on the ase nagashi no ana.

U -----

Uchi dashi - Embossed or repousse metal.

Uchi dashi do - A tosei do decorated by embossing.

Uchi dashi mayu - Embossed eyebrows on a kabuto or so men.

Uchi fukuramu - To emboss in a convex manner. This term relates specifically to fukuramu tate hagi no ita.

Uchi mabizashi - A short, vertical, peak-like plate, generally shaped to contour with the brow line and riveted to the koshimaki of hachi below the main peak.

Ue ba - Simulated rows of teeth in the kuchi of a mengu.

Ue ge - Simulated areas of hair on an item of armour such as a mengu.

Ukebari - Helmet lining.

Uke o - A cord that secures the top of a sode to an age maki bow on a do.

Uke zutsu - A wooden socket into which the sashimono pole is fitted.

Uma jirushi - A large heraldic emblem or ensign.

Uname - A horizontal length of lacing filling the unused holes above the cross knots on the hishi nui no ita, often variegated braid.

Uname toji - Lacing in which a length of braid is threaded in and out of a straight row of holes.

Uname toji do - A do in which the plates appear to be fastened together by horizontal rows of stitching.

Unkai - An extremely talented group of katchu shi. Founded by Unkai Mitsunao during the mid Edo period, they were renowned for the highly artistic and excellent quality of their pieces.

Ura giku za - A variation of kiku za, made so that each of the petal like radial segments, feature a concave central channel.

Urugi ito - Lacing that attaches the kusazuri or gessan to the do.

Urushi - Lacquer.

Urushi nuri - Applied lacquer.

Ushiro date - A crest fitted to the back of a helmet.

Ushiro shochu no ita - The central, back plate of a hachi.

Uwa obi - Outer sash or belt.

Uzura gawa - Brown leather decorated with white and black spots.

W -----

Waidate - A piece of armour that forms part of an o yoroi and guards the right side of the body.

Waka ita - Plates attached to the upper edge of the naka gawa, under the arms.

Wakibiki - An arm pit guard.

Waki date - Crests or similar decorative features fitted to the sides of a helmet.

Waki date tsunomoto - Erect prongs fitted to both the left and right sides of a helmet, upon which to mount waki date.

Waraji - Straw sandals.

Wasei nanban yoroi - Items of armour influenced by or made to replicate their foreign counterparts.

Washi - Japanese paper, generally made from the bark fibre of gampi trees but also from bamboo, hemp, rice and wheat.

Watagami - The shoulder straps of an armour.

Y -----

Yadome - The erect flanges on the cheeks of a mengu.

Ya huza gashira - An iyo zane with a notched upper edge.

Yamabuki - Golden yellow

Yasurime - Decorative, incised lines etched into the surface of a mengu.

Yodarekake - A throat defense attached to the lower edge of a face mask. This term seems to be dropping out of use in favour of tare.

Yokohagi okegawa do - A tosei do made from horizontal plates.

Yon no ita - The fourth lame from the top on a shikoro.

Yon no tare - The fourth lame from the top on a tare.

Yoroi - Armour.

Yoroi hitatare - A costume of brocade, worn under armour.

Yukinoshita do - A go mai do of solid plates with external hinges popular in Sendai.

Z -----

Za - A decorative, ring like metal fitting, used to create the stacked assembly of a tehen no kanamono. There are several unique forms of za that differ from each other in their aesthetic

Za boshi - A prominent rivet head, set on a washer and cut with incised radiating lines. A Kaga feature.

Zenshozan - A high sided helmet that is higher at the front than the back.

Zogan - Inlaid precious metals.

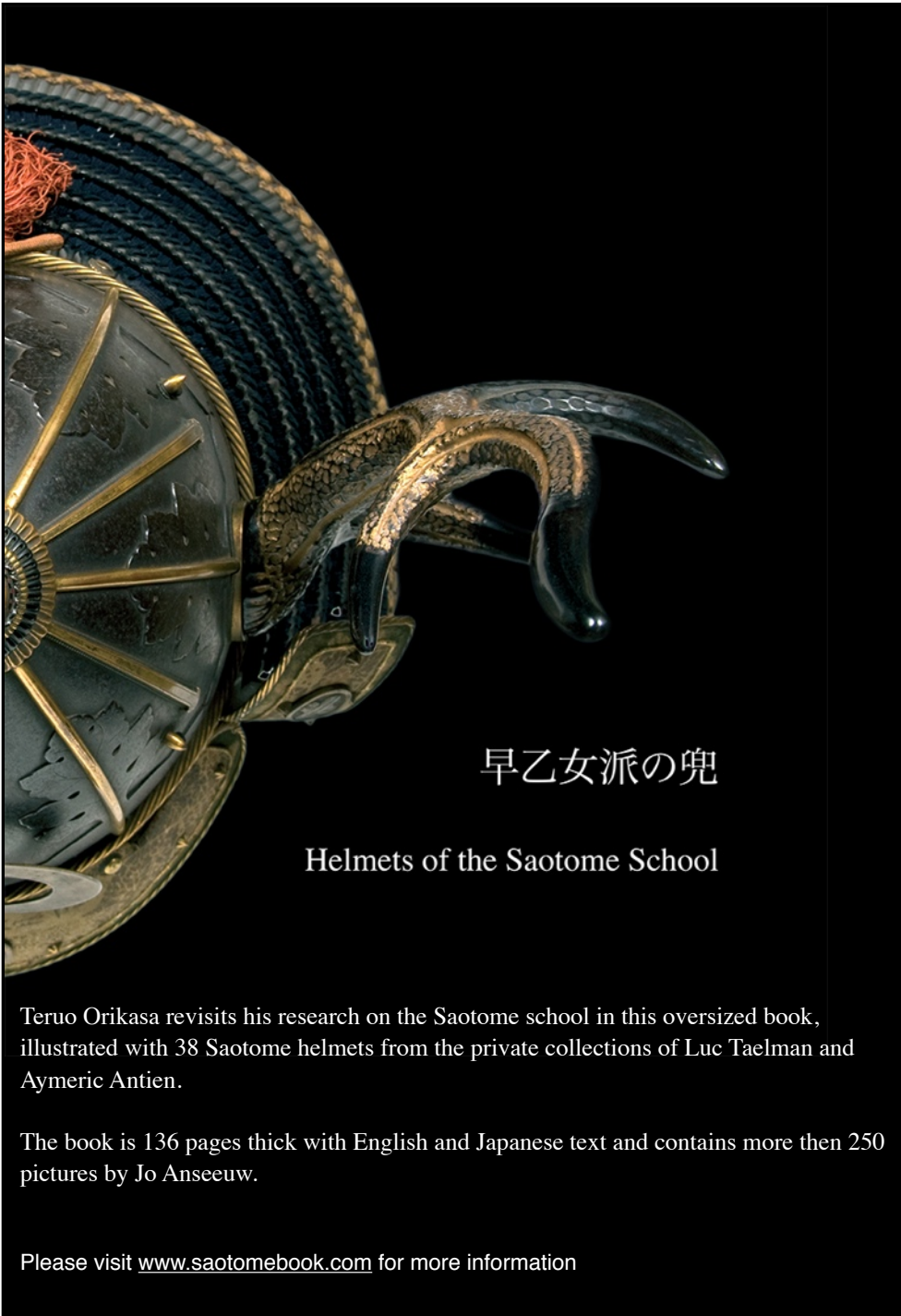
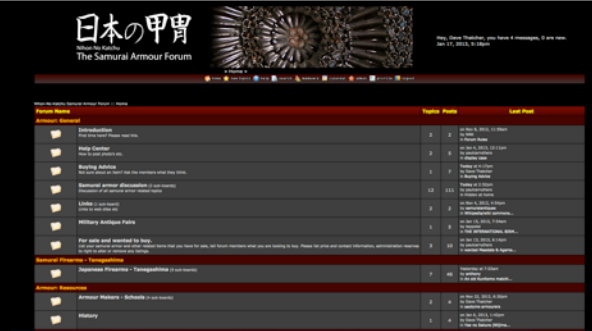
Zu date - A crest or other form of decorative feature fitted to the apex of a helmet (see also kashira date).

Zukin - A hood.

Zukin nari kabuto - A type of oki tenugui kabuto.

Zu nari bachi - A head shaped helmet bowl, generally assembled from five plates, with a distinctive longitudinal top plate that extends front to back over the centre of the head.

<http://nihon-no-katchu.proboards.com/>



A full-body view of a samurai armor (yoroi) displayed against a white background. The armor consists of a helmet (kabuto) with a decorative crest (maedate), a chest plate (kuibiki) with a central emblem, arm guards (kote), and a skirt (haramaki) with a hexagonal pattern. The armor is made of dark brown and black lacquered metal plates.