

02. アンジエス



INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

Tokyo, Japan.

Cable: IANMUTSU Tokyo

TEL: 563-1341~4

Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 79-3

MASTER ARMOURER

79 feet 2 min. 12 sec.

1. (PAINTINGS) Suits of armour; the elaborate protection worn by the Samurai warriors of old Japan. Once a matter of life and death, the suits are still made today, both as a means of preserving a traditional craft, and for their value as art-works.

2. (FORGING) The ability to work with metal, as in forging this steel helmet, is just one of the many skills which today's armourer must master..... Hiromichi Miura is one of only 12 professional armour-makers in Japan. An office worker until 6 years ago, his interest in this ancient craft was sparked off by an exhibition..... At one time, the individual crafts involved..... design, laquerwork, engraving, and so on..... would have been done by different craftsmen. Today, however, one man must master them all.

3. (WEAVING) Weaving is another example. Twines of silk woven between a framework of Lacquered rawhide make up the breastplate... The suit of armour will require 3,000 strips of woven silk, each 10 cms wide..... In addition, it will use the hides of 2 cows and 3 deer.

4. (HELMET) Small wonder then that the finished suit of armour, excluding the all-important helmet, weighs 25 kilos.... The helmet

itself, a magnificent crowning of the entire ensemble, weighs another 6 kilos. This is an example of armour from the Kamakura Period, around the end of the 13th Century.

5. (TOOLS) A master armourer, working solely at his craft, will need between two and a half to three years to make just one suit. Most have other work to do, in which case it will take five. The cost? The equivalent of \$60,000.

6. (HELMET) Another helmet..... this one from the 14th Century.

7. (ORANGE MATERIAL) And this, from the 17th Century..... Items that kept alive the warriors of yesterday are, themselves, being kept alive by the craftsmen of today.

NEW KENDAMA RECORD

51 feet 1 min. 25 sec.

1. (MAN DEMONSTRATING) The kendama is a traditional Japanese toy consisting of a ball and a stick with three small cups and a pointed end with which to catch it.

2. (GROUP) Once a mere toy, the kendama today rises to the prestige of an international sport, with enthusiasts in Europe, Canada, and even at the Japanese observation base at the South Pole... Some of the 500 registered enthusiasts in Japan warm up for the 5th National Kendama Championships in Tokyo.

3. (HAND COUNTING) The defending champion and a challenger engage in hot competition. Body posture and movement play a vital part in sorting out the men from the boys, especially in championships such as this.

(CU OF BALL) The defending champ breaks his own past record of 5,068 catches, but is defeated by the challenger with a new world kendama record of 11,056 catches.

4. (DEMONSTRATION) But for those who go for skill rather than endurance, here's a way of showing that the hand is still quicker than the eye.

A MUSEUM FOR GRAMOPHONES

58 feet 1 min. 35 sec.

1. (BRICK BUILDING) Japan is known today for its outstanding audio technology.... As that becomes still more sophisticated, there's one man who's doing his part to preserve the earliest attempts at sound reproduction... Hideo Matsushita is the 59 year old president of an audio components company... and today he's also busy preparing a brochure for his soon-to-be-opened gramophone museum.

2. (INTERIOR) Mr. Matsushita's collection of old gramophones started just seven years ago, when he was on a business trip to North America and Europe... In the years since then, he's been collecting steadily, and today the museum in Tokyo houses 250 different gramophones from different periods, and from a variety of countries.... It's a collection which he intends to make available to the public, and in a country as sound-conscious as Japan, he's certain to have an enthusiastic response.

3. (CRANKING G'PHONE) The exhibits are in working order, and are a joy to the eye and the ear of anyone with a feeling for the days gone by..... This model dates back to 1910..... It was made in England by the HMV Company.

4. (CABINET G'PHONE) One of the earliest cabinet-type gramophones... manufactured in the United States over sixty years ago..... It's the Edison C250..... Once the pride and joy of some lucky person's home, it joins the other 249 gramophones in Mr. Matsushita's museum, where, in these transistorised, stereo days, the golden age of gramophone can be remembered.

HAKODATE--FIRST STEP TO HOKKAIDO

145 feet 4 min. 02 sec.

1. (PEOPLE WALKING) Across the Tsugaru Straits from the main island of Japan, lies the city of Hakodate. On the same latitude as New York and Rome, Hakodate is the doorstep to the northern island of Hokkaido.

2. (PAN OF CITY) 300,000 people live in an area of 348 square kilometers, where the buildings for the most part are not typically Japanese... It's a port city, and 60% of those who visit Hokkaido arrive at Hakodate aboard the ferry from the main island of Honshu.

It's the northern island's most historic city, as its architecture shows. Towards the end of Japan's long isolation in the late 1800s, Hakodate was one of the first ports to be opened to the West. Commodore Perry paid a visit, and in 1859 Hakodate joined Yokohama and Nagasaki as the only trading points with the Western world.

3. (MARKET) Life in Hakodate starts early. In front of the city station the daily market's on the go by four o'clock. Fresh fruits and vegetables from nearby farms... a variety of other sundry items... and of course, seafood. Hakodate's a fishing port, and the area is blessed with rich fishing grounds...

The hairy crabs, for which Hokkaido is justly famous, are much in evidence.

4. (CHURCH STEEPLES) Inevitably the inroads from the West brought Christianity to Japan. In the north, a Russian missionary, Nikkolai, was the first man to preach the Orthodox faith, as the Nikkolai Church in Hakodate testifies.

(GREY CHURCH) Catholicism, too, became well established as seen in churches such as this.

5. (RED BRICK BUILDINGS) In 1898 a group of nuns from a Cistercian Order in France were sent to Hokkaido to found a Convent. The Trappistine Convent in Hakodate today baosts an order of 75 sisters.

6. (MAN IN WHITE) From Europe, too, came Carl Raymon, a German who has lived in Hakodate for approximately 60 years.... A long way from his native land, Herr Raymon nevertheless preserves an Old German skill -- that of making sausages... Made by hand to a traditional receipe, strung by hand in the traditional way, and smoked as traditon dictates, the old-fashioned sausages and other delicatessen foods are still very popular in Hakodate.

7. (TRAIN) An hour from the city of Hakodate is the government-owned Onuma Park. A vast and uninhabited wilderness, it sprawls around Mt. Komagatake and is well known for its rugged beauty. Rare in Japan, too, is the abundant wildlife in its natural habitat... foxes for example - creatures that to most city-dwellers these days exist mainly in folktales.

8. (SKIING) The area is a favorite spot for skiing. The Niyama ski slope is reputedly the best in all Japan, mainly due to the powdery quality of the snow, which makes it ideal for this

popular pastime..... It's a long way from Tokyo, but it remains the number one venue among the true enthusiasts.

9. (BIRDS) From November to the end of March, Onuma Park is the home for tens of thousands of migratory birds,..... in particular, the Siberian swan..... There are also countless duck who leave their summer homes and make for the comparatively mild winter that Hokkaido has to offer them. Onuma Park, with its two lakes and a single mountain, is a perfect winter home - wild and uninhabited. Untouched by developers, and unconcerned by economic booms or recessions, it remains a fine example of the natural beauty of Japan.
