Suit of Armour in Haramaki Style

Object: Suit of armour

Place of origin: Japan (made)

Date: ca. 1850 (assembled)

Credit Line: Given by Mr H. R. Robinson

Museum number: M.95:1 to 14-1955

Gallery location: Japan, Room 45, The Toshiba Gallery, case 2

Public access description

Suit of armour in haramaki or 'belly-wrapping' style. The haramaki type of armour differed from the oyoroi and domaru in that it fastened at the back, the fastening being usually protected by a narrow back plate (sei-ita); the small tapering shoulder-guards are also typical. The helmet of sixty-two plates with standing rivets, decorated in soft metals with the spatulate ornaments called shinodare, is signed by Ietada, a member of the distinguished Saotome family of armourers who was active in the late sixteenth century. The armour as a whole was probably assembled in the mid-nineteenth century, when there was a vogue for accurate reproductions of earlier styles.

An inscription inside the box which holds this suit records that the armour was made for a member of the Akitsuki family of Takanabe in the southern island of Kyushu. However, the family crest on the box does not match the crest on the fukigaeshi.

Physical description

Suit of armour of iron, gilded metal, stencilled leather and silk, with black lacquering: stored in a gold and black-lacquered box.

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URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O456926/suit-of-armour-in-haramaki-suit-of-armour/