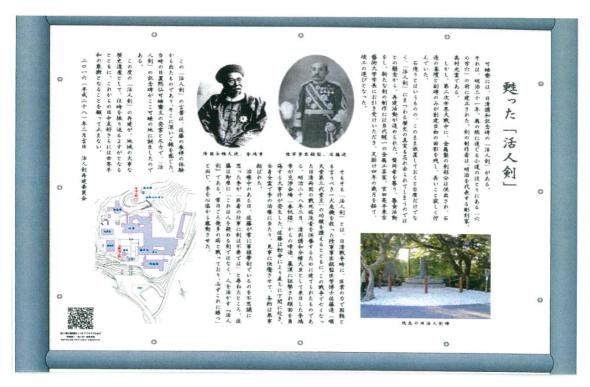
Revived Katsunin-Ken



Explanatory Plate for the Present Katsunin-Ken

In the precinct of Kasuisai temple, there used to be a monument of Katsunin-ken or a healing-sword erected as a memorial to the Sino-Japanese Peace Treaty. It was erected in front of a cave called "Rokunoji" along the trail leading to an inner shrine. It was designed by Koun Takamura (1852-1934), a renowned sculptor of the Meiji Era (1868-1912).

However, during World War II, the metallic part of the sword was delivered to the government for war purposes. Since then only its stone pedestal and an accompanying monument stood alone for a long time.

Made of stone as the pedestal was, if left, it was feared that it could become excessively weathered over the course of time. Some people were concerned that, together with the weathering of the pedestal, the historic truth related to the Katsunin-ken could also be relegated to a forgotten past. It was such apprehension that prompted the people to launch a campaign for its reerection. They called for volunteers and raised funds. Consequently, they invited as a creator of a new sword, Prof. Ryohei Miyata (1945 ~), a former

President of Tokyo University of the Arts (appointed as a commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs from April 2016), who has been called the greatest metal craftsman of the day. After four years of struggle, the new monument was finally unveiled.

Originally, the Katsunin-ken monument was erected for the repose of the war dead of the Sino-Japanese War (1894-5) as well as in honor of Dr. Susumu Sato, Surgeon General of the Imperial Japanese Army at the time of the war and subsequently the 3rd President of Juntendo Medical University, who averted a national crisis with the help of his knowledge of medicine. In March 1895 (in the 28th year of the Meiji Era), Mr. Li Hong Zhang, Imperial Commissioner of the Qing Empire who was visiting Japan, was shot by a scoundrel and was seriously injured in the face while on his way back from "Shunpanro" Restaurant, a peace conference venue. No sooner had Dr. Sato been given an order by Emperor Meiji than he headed for Shimonoseki and devoted himself to administering immediate treatment to Li. Mr. Li made a remarkable recovery thanks to Dr. Sato's devotion and eventually the peace treaty was concluded.

One day when Li was being treated, he wondered why Sato was always wearing a sword and asked, "Doctors do not need a sword, do they?" to which Sato immediately answered, "This is not a sword for killing, but one to let people survive. It is called 'Katsunin-ken' or a healing-sword, which constantly fights against all kinds of diseases and will never fail to defeat them." They were words which deeply moved Li.

The word "Katsunin-ken" came from Sato's own Zen experience. Meanwhile, a Buddhist monk, Hioki Mokusen (1849-1920), the 48th Master of Kasuisai temple at that time, who heard the anecdote of Sato's remarks, found a profound bond to Zen in it. Therefore the monk proposed an erection of the monument. His cherished desire and all-out efforts made it possible for the monument to come into being in the precinct of Kasuisai temple.

We sincerely hope the re-erected monument of Katsunin-ken will serve as a reminder of bygone times, as a local important historic heritage, and will be a symbol of friendly relations between Japan and China and promote world peace.

> In March 2016 (in the 28th year of the Heisei Era) Katsunin-ken Re-erection Committee