

# からくり新聞

KARAKURI NEWS #46  
Dec. 2014

## The report of Karakuri Puzzle Party in Hakone 4 Part1

This is the 4th annual KPH! It was started in 2011.

All kinds of people participate in this event each year. They come from a wide range of ages, careers, and even countries. But they all like "Karakuri Puzzles" and have gathered together for this two-day one-night event.

Date: 27th, 28th Sep. 2014

Place: Hakone and Odawara Area

- The first day of the event -

### ◆ Opening ceremony & Self-introduction ◆

The opening ceremony kicked off the event and allowed everyone to introduce themselves to each other.



### ◆ Lecture on "Cherry Blossom Chest", by the 3 craftsmen who made it. ◆

"Cherry Blossom Chest" was made as a special request product for one customer in 2013. Akio Kamei made the Karakuri parts, Katsuhito Uchida made the chest and Tomoko Hasuo made the marquetry.



The material of this chest, "Japanese raisin tree", is very hard wood, so it was very difficult to make the marquetry. It was also very difficult to make the chest because it needed a thinner plate than usual for the Karakuri mechanism.

### ◆ Charity Auction ◆

There were many valuable puzzles! Everyone was very excited and enjoyed this event. Some sales were designated as a Great East Japan Earthquake contribution. Thank you for your contributions!



The M.C. was Mr. Hirano.



↑ Mr. Hirano exhibited this.  
He put on the same clothes!



↑ This was handmade by  
a participant. It's beautiful.



↑ Ninomiya talked about his works  
that were exhibited.

### ◆ Sale ◆

Everyone was looking forward to buying their favorite product.  
There were many shops, not only Karakuri, but also various puzzle or toy shops.  
At this sale there were some valuable works, so we had a lottery to choose the winners randomly  
for them. Could you buy your favorite one?



↑ Oh, it's interesting!



↑ The participants from foreign countries.



↑ Flea market!

### ◆ Exhibition and talking with craftsmen ◆

The craftsmen and puzzle designers exhibited their works. The participants handled the products  
and talked with the designers. This was a special exhibition where the participants could watch  
and learn valuable things about each work.

They could see the mechanism inside. Many works were available for viewing, only at this party.



←Ninomiya and Kamei talked about their works. Everyone looked like they were enjoying themselves!

Was Iwahara giving a lecture about the mechanism?



### ★ Addition Dinner & Bar Kyoko

Dinner at the hotel. It was a Japanese style dinner.



←It looks delicious!

And the last event of the 1st day was Bar Kyoko!

This bar is organized every year by Kyoko Hoshino, a Karakuri craftsman.

Although this is not an official event, many participants look forward to drinking and relaxing here each year.

They experienced a Japanese style IZAKAYA, which serves alcoholic drinks and snacks that go well with alcohol.

Everyone seemed to be having a good time!

There was one rule though: "Don't get dead drunk!"



They drank world famous Japanese "SAKE". "SAKE" is usually made from rice and brewed somewhat similar to beer. But unlike beer, its alcohol content is much higher ? 15 to 20%! As a result, they were tipsy!

We will report about the day 2 of the KPH4 soon!

## HaRuNe Odawara has opened!

HaRuNe Odawara is the underground shopping center below Odawara Station. It was opened on November 1st, 2014. There are many kinds of shops there and customers can buy things such as fresh fruits and vegetables, fashionable clothing, freshly made side dishes, and some international foods, among others.

There is one shop called, "Takumi-Kan", where you can watch and buy traditional wooden craft works from the Hakone and Odawara area. You can also experience and buy Karakuri works at this shop.



←The Opening ceremony was a success. The mayor of Odawara and many other distinguished guests were present. At many ceremonies, a ribbon is cut, but at this opening ceremony Japanese KAMABOKO was cut! Kamaboko is boiled fish cakes and a delicacy in this area.



Karakuri corner

## Kezurou-Kai was held in Odawara

Kezurou-Kai is a competition of Japanese carpenters. They are to plane the wood in the thinnest layer possible.

There were also many shops at this event, including our own Karakuri shop. Many visitors enjoyed our Karakuri Shop.



←Visitors could plane the wood.



←There were many shops for carpenters. This is a whetstone shop.(under) This is an ink pad shop.(left)

↓ This is the play corner of Karakuri Boxes. Visitors could assemble work-kits.



## Report of Christmas present shipping!

Karakuri club members look forward to getting their Christmas present every year.  
Could you get it? Do you enjoy it?

We packed each Christmas present for shipping in Dec. 2014.  
It was packed at the Karakuri factory in Odawara.  
We hope everyone enjoys the 2014 Christmas present!



↑ Everyone was all smiles at first, but then it became hectic like this ↑!

→We had to take a count of each craftsman's work.



↓ They were picked up soon.  
So many packages!



## Information

★Tokyu-Hands Nagoya:  
"Japanese Traditional craft work- The Secret Box and Karakuri Box"

26th Dec. 2014~8th Jan. 2015  
Tokyu-Hands Nagoya 8 floor

★MAAch ecute KANDA MANSEIBASHI "Products of Odawara"

24th - 25th Jan. 2015  
MAAch ecute KANDA MANSEIBASHI  
Karakuri Creation Group Member, Kakuda will exhibit.