



Crests of actors

K. OKUNO

## JAPANESE HOUSEHOLD CRESTS

The origin of the Japanese household crest dates back to the 10th century. It was used in the ornamental designs on silken wearing apparel, flags and draperies. In ancient times a crest served as symbol of the names of powerful persons, great and small, living in all parts of the country. Not only clothing, war banners and armour were decorated with the household crest, but also buildings and household goods down to the smallest utensil. The man of power and his near and distant relatives bore the same crest. In order to prove the relationship to the ancestral line, the family coat of arms or crest was altered very little. In spite of the manifold variety of objects suitable for crests—flowers, animals, birds, plants, fruit, shells, weapons, household goods, coins, letters, constellations, instruments, etc.—the significance of the crests is divided into six different groups. The first group signifies "Love of Beauty". This group was usually chosen by the ancient Japanese aristocratic families who filled their lives with music and poetry. Their household crests were dominated by dainty flowers. The second group was called "Significance of the Senses". When, for instance, a man's family name was "Bird", "Crab" or "Crane", then his crest was designed accordingly. The fortunate significance of the third group was "Longevity" or "Prosperity of Descendants". Among the signs found on these crests were pine-needles, tortoises, chrysanthemums and so on. Group four was in the sign of "Remembrance" and was dedicated to the memory of the place where the family originated. If the place were named "Sleeping Butterfly", for instance, then this device would be chosen for the crest. The meaning of the fifth group was "Heroism". For this group such symbols were chosen as the sword,



葵 花 唐



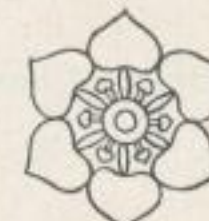
葵 持 子 葉 六



葵 花 劍



葵 葉 六



葵 裏 持 子 葉 六



葵 三



上 同



葵 津 會



葵 六



上 同

Familienwappen des Reichsverwesers  
Household Crests of the Shogun Family