

## ZATOICHI ZATOICHI AT LARGE

For more background details on the history of the Shogunate, see our other liner notes, available on our website, [www.animeigo.com](http://www.animeigo.com); we do not have space to present them all here.

Although people may laugh at the image of Zatoichi "breast-feeding" Oshino's baby, it IS possible for men to lactate and breast-feed. Like the female breast, the male breast has milk ducts, sinuses, and some mammary tissue. They also contain prolactin and oxytocin, the hormones responsible for milk production. The prolactin controls the amount of milk produced. The more the baby is fed, the more prolactin is released and the more milk produced. Oxytocin causes the mammary glands in the mothers' breast to contract, so milk is released and flows to the baby. There have also been numerous reports of men breast-feeding children, often times as a result of the loss of the female parent.

The child birthing process in Japan during the Edo period often followed strict procedures and particular customs. Communal birthing huts lying on the outskirts of the village were generally used for delivery, and often only a female relative would be present during the birth. The father would often remain outside, performing rituals to encourage a safe birth. After birth the father would carry away the placenta and bury it outside. Traditionally pregnant women were thought to be "kegare" (impure, dirty, corrupted), and anything coming in contact with the mother during birth was subject to contamination. As a result it was commonly accepted for women and their babies to remain in isolation for almost a month after giving birth.

Director Mori Kazuo (1911-1989), sometimes credited as Issei Mori, is one of the most prolific directors in Japanese history, with almost 50 movies to his credit. Among the Zatoichi line of films, he also directed "The Tale of Zatoichi Continues" (1962) and "Zatoichi and the Doomed Man" (1965). AnimEigo's "Zatoichi at Large" (1972) is the last film he directed.

"Let's cough up 200-ryo to their sons first."

As repayment for Tetsugoro's transgressions, Zatoichi demands that the yakuza pay a fee to the sons of Tobei and Sataro.

"Take him to Shiobara."

Located on the Hokigawa River in Tochigi, Shiobara is one of the largest natural springs in Japan. Its eleven springs were discovered in 806 A.D. An earthquake in 1659 destroyed much of the surrounding area, leaving it uninhabitable for quite some time. It became a popular retreat once again during the Meiji period for scholars, and has recently gained popularity because of its close proximity to Tokyo.

In Memoriam

Katsu Shintaro died of cancer on June 21st, 1997 at the age of 65. The famous, multi-talented actor-director-producer, affectionately called "Katsu-shin" by most Japanese, began his career in the 1940's, and was perhaps best known for his portrayal of the blind swordman, Zatoichi, in a long-running film series which was among the most successful in the history of Japanese cinema.

As a producer, he fathered such hit movies as “Lone Wolf and Cub,” which starred Katsu's brother, Wakayama Tomisaburo, which we have the honor of releasing in the United States.

Known for his love of alcohol and cigarettes, in the final years of his life Katsu-shin spent increasing amounts of time in the hospital, only to be seen lighting up cigars at press conferences held to announce his recovery.

Two days after his death, five thousand people attended his memorial service at a Tokyo temple.

For further reference, we suggest the following sources:

- 1) “Tokugawa Japan - The Social and Economic Antecedents of Modern Japan” Chie Nakane, Shinzaburoo Ooishi and Conrad Totman, eds. Univ. of Tokyo Press, 1990
- 2) “Japan - A Historical Survey” Mikiso Hane. Scribner, 1972
- 3) “A History of Japan: 1615 - 1867” George Sansom. Stanford Univ. Press, 1963