

2022 Gary Grose Bio

About me:

- Age 65
- Hometown – Seattle, WA
- Current residence – Greensboro, NC
- Education: BS Chemistry, BA Business, MBA – Focus on Management, Certified Six Sigma Black Belt
- Occupation: I have worked my entire adult life in manufacturing, holding positions in Quality and Continuous Improvement. I am an avid practitioner of Japanese-style manufacturing and quality techniques. My first job was with a Japanese company, which gave me an opportunity to learn a little about Japanese culture.

About my collection:

- Japanese armor – pieces from 1550 to 1800
- Japanese swords and *tsuba* – pieces from 1220 to 1850
- Japanese matchlock guns – pieces from 1650 to 1800
- Japanese archery-related items, furniture, *netsuke*, and various objects from the Edo period – 1600-1867

What motivates me to collect Japanese antiques:

- I love Japan and Japanese culture. I have Japanese family members, and where I grew up in Seattle gave me the opportunity to have many Japanese and Chinese friends in school.
- In high school I discovered French poster art, which led me to Japanese woodblocks and then all other forms of Japanese art.
- When I was in college, a friend of my older brother had a small collection of Japanese swords he acquired in the 1960's. He sold me my first sword in 1979, which started me on this path for the last 43 years.

What do I hope to achieve by collecting these objects:

- I enjoy the process of learning about the people who made and used these items and the culture and history of the time periods. There is also a preservation aspect of making sure the items are available to be appreciated long after I am gone.
- I especially enjoy sharing the items with others and hearing how they relate to the objects. I always learn something from their comments.
- I hope in some small way I can help others develop an interest and understanding of Japanese culture and history.