

## 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.