

### “Living Doll” Lord Yamanoi



This is a historical doll passed down to the Tanegashima family from generation to generation. It is said that it was sent from the Lord Tokugawa family to the Shimazu family, and then passed down to the Tanegashima family from the Shimazu family through the marriage.

It is a life-sized doll that has a clear-cut face and downcast eyes, and is sitting upright neatly with its white hands on its lap. It is treated carefully as a living doll in the Tanegashima family and its clothes are changed at the change of seasons. Only females carry out this seasonal change of clothing, because there is a taboo that doesn't allow males to see and touch this doll at this time.

According to one theory, Lord Yamanoi was daughter of Tokitsune Nishinotouin and served the 4<sup>th</sup> shogun Ietsuna after the demise of the retired emperor. However, in spite of her young age, she met an unnatural death for a certain reason. The shogun grieved over her death, and had this life-sized seated figure made. Moreover, the older sister of Lord Yamanoi left the imperial court and got married to Mitsuhsa Shimazu



after the demise of the retired emperor and the death of Mitsuhsa's ex-wife. It is said that this older sister gave the seated figure of her younger sister ('Living Doll' Lord Yamanoi) to the Shimazu family, and then it was given to the Tanegashima family from the Shimazu family through the marriage. However, there are several theories about the origin of 'Living Doll' Lord Yamanoi.



'Living Doll' Lord Yamanoi which was made about 370 years ago is the doll with the soul. Even now, its clothes are changed by the Tanegashima family twice a year. In 2013, the doll was repaired at the national treasure repair department in Kyoto because it was in a very bad condition after many years.

(Translator: HIRATA SHOKO, The 7<sup>th</sup> Tanegashima High School Student)

## Why don't you feel the tradition of Tanegashima and OMOTENASHI in a historic house?



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