Mon (Crest) & Kamon (Family Crest)

Also known as monsho and mondokoro

Takeshi was born and raised in Japan. His wealthy family lived on a takenoko farm with his grandparents. At the age of eighteen, Takeshi left the comforts of home. Seeking adventure, Takeshi stowed away on a ship bound for California. Takeshi met Sachie, the daughter of a prosperous shop keeper, and in time they married. After several years, Takeshi and Sachie opened a restaurant in Nihonmachi. They used Takeshi’s *kamon* for their restaurant’s logo. The restaurant served the popular and delicious flavors of the Fukushima prefecture. Nihonmachi was the perfect place to cherish the customs and treasures of Japan.

The origin of the Japanese family *mon* goes back to the eleventh century. High ranking officers displayed their special kamon (family crest) designs on their formal wear to identify their clan. Later, their *mon* was also displayed on their carriages and other items.

At the end of the twelfth century, samurai warriors used their *mon* on banners, flags, tents, and weapons to identify their camps and headquarters.

Gradually, many commoners adopted a *mon*. It was considered improper for someone to use the *mon* of another person’s family lineage. The Chrysanthemum Flower Seal is the Imperial Seal of Japan and may only be used by the Emperor of Japan and members of the Imperial Family.

Today, there are many *mon* designs. *Mons* are used by many families or organizations to identify their ancestry.