The refined sounds of a traditional Satsuma instrument.

During the period of the Satsuma Clan, samurais were encouraged to excel in both academic and military arts. The musical Satsuma biwa was liked by the Spartan-like Satsuma Hayato men. To this day, the majority of Satsuma biwas are manufactured by hand, giving it a simple yet refined appearance.

Satsuma Biwa Craftsman, Jiro Shiota 1008-5 Chuzan-cho, Kagoshima City TEL 099-264-2580

The unchanging doll of prayers.

Satsuma-ribbon dolls were born in the Edo Period. In preveter days, it was customary to send these dolls to families when their first daughter was born. During the Doll Festival, families displayed their dolls, taking great pride in how many they had received. The doll is made from a strip of split bamboo, does not have a face, and has hair made from hemp yarn. While simple, it carries the prayers of the Satsumato people.

Ozawa Ningyo 3-6-7-12 Murasakihara, Kagoshima city TEL 099-254-5731

• Satsuma-ribbon Doll (From 2,300yen to 8,000yen)

Simple and sharp swords of Satsuma

Satsuma edged tools are made from sheets of copper, steel and stainless steel. They are made by craftsmen with traditional handicraft skills. Known for having extremely sharp edges, there are a variety of knives made for different purposes.

Fukami Hamono Corporation 2-14-3 Utsuki, Kagoshima city TEL 099-235-3743

• Kitchen Knife (From 1,960yen)

An essential part of Amami’s August Dance Festival.

The Chijin drum is a unique drum from Amami Island. It is made of camphor trees, chinaberry trees, horse skins and goat skins. People in Amami use Chijin drums during their “Onigihu-odo” (August Dance Festival).

Kawabata Weaving Manufacture 55-5 Masagohonmachi, Kagoshima city TEL 099-254-9035

• Chijin Drum (From 25,000yen to 30,000yen)