

AUSKF NEWSLETTER

Vol.5 No. 1
June 30, 2002

KENDO

2002 AUSKF CHAMPIONSHIPS-July 5 & 6 !

2001-2002

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

Charlie Tanaka

EXECUTIVE VP:

Dr. Walter Hashimoto

VP-PROM & EXAMS:

Atsushi Hori

VP-COMPETITION:

Yoshiteru Tagawa

VP-EDUCATION:

Koki Ariga

TREASURER & RECORDER

Masaharu Makino

SEC-HISTORIAN:

Norman K. Otani, Esq.

AUDITOR:

Dr. Ken Lorimer

DIRECTORS:

Kazuharu Arima

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Morihei Henmi

Noboru Kataoka

Shozo Kato

Shinichi Koike

Maki Miyahara

Dr. James Parker

Takeshi Yamaguchi

Tim Yuge

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

To the Kenshi of AUSKF:

As the date of the 2002 AUSKF Championships is fast approaching, on behalf of the AUSKF Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to AUSKF VP-Competition Yoshiteru Tagawa for his diligent and steadfast efforts to efficiently facilitate and complete the 1st & 2nd Kyoka Senshu Tournaments, which now leads into the 2002 AUSKF Championships that will be held on July 5-6, 2002, in Los Angeles, California.

To all of the competitors in the 2002 AUSKF Championships good-luck and best wishes for an enjoyable and successful competition.

With the end of my first term as the AUSKF President 2001-2002, coming to an end soon, I would like to report that I have worked very hard to put into place several cost-saving/fiscal measures to achieve a personal goal of raising \$250,000 in the treasury, for the members of the AUSKF.

When I began my term as AUSKF President on January 1, 2001, the balance in the AUSKF Treasury was reported as \$45,009.74. As of the last AUSKF financial reporting period ending 4/4/02, the total cash assets totaled \$234,383.58; this significant change in fiscal savings and increase in the treasury has been due to the support given to me to implement these policy changes by the current AUSKF Officers and Board of Directors.

With the increased amount of financial reserves being built-up, it is my hope that we can now plan to implement new programs that will

hopefully achieve new important goals for AUSKF. One such program I envision, is one in which AUSKF will invite and sponsor Kendo Sensei from the All Japan Kendo Federation, and qualified AUSKF Kendo Sensei to visit and assist interested member federations to buildup their level of kendo skills to a world-class level.

In addition, due to the increased demand of the AUSKF members for better communication, and improved membership services, an idea of an AUSKF Headquarters Office with an initial part-time staff person is being considered, if the financial base of operations allows.

So, with all of that being said; I am asking for your continued support of my efforts, with the assistance of the AUSKF officers and board of directors, to reach the financial goal of raising \$250,000 and thereby be able to implement my proposed plans stated above.

Sincerely,

Charlie Tanaka, AUSKF President

Mailing address: 1156 Blackfield Drive, Santa Clara, CA. 95051.

Telephone & FAX: (408) 984-0226.

E-mail: ktanaka1115@aol.com

Highlights from the April 5-6, 2002 AUSKF Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, Illinois:

Reported by AUSKF Secretary -Historian, Norman K. Otani.

The AUSKF Board of Directors met in Chicago, Illinois on April 5-6, 2002; it was decided at that meeting to provide the HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUSKF BOARD OF DIRECTORS meetings via the AUSKF Newsletter.

Highlights of the AUSKF Board of Directors

Meeting April 5-6, 2002

[continued]:

[Note: As this report is being made pending the approval of the minutes of the April 5-6, 2002 AUSKF Board of Directors meeting, the reader is forewarned that this information is subject to modification]

A. AUSKF VP-Competition Yoshiteru Tagawa finalized the Schedule of Events, and details of the 2002 AUSKF Championships.

Decided:

- (1.) The manager and coach of the respective member federations cannot be a shimpan.
- (2.) Senshu will be issued an identification number to be used throughout the tournament.

B. AUSKF VP-Promotion & Exams Atsushi Hori reviewed the Regulations for Kendo Promotional Exams.

Decided:

- (1.) Repealed Section I, Article 13. 5-Dan & Above Re-Testing Waiting Period.
- (2.) New Regulation: Section III, Section 2.1-Special Circumstances For 6 Dan-8 Dan and age 60 years and older.

C. AUSKF VP-Education Koki Ariga:

Decided:

There will be no AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp in 2002, due to the conflict in date with the 2002 AUSKF Championships.

Tentative location being considered for the 2003 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp is the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

D. 27th Foreign Kendo Leader's Summer Seminar in Kitamoto 2002:

Decided:

Will be attended by: J. Akagi (GNEUSKF), D. Cooper (SWUSKIF), and J. Sills (AEUSKF).

E. AUSKF Board of Director prior meeting minutes and treasurer's report:

Decided:

Hereafter, the approved minutes and treasurer's reports of the previous AUSKF Board of Director's meeting will be sent to each member federation president.

F. The Korea Kumbo Association in U.S.A. [KKAUSA]:

Decided:

This matter is tabled until the next AUSKF Board of Directors meeting.

G. Record Date For Election of 2003-2004 AUSKF Board of Directors:

Decided:

The record date of July 11, 2002, was selected for the purpose of setting the number of member representatives eligible to vote for the 2003-2004 AUSKF Board of Directors.

Report From VP-Prom & Exams:

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF Vice-President Promotions and Exam recently announced that the 2002 AUSKF Summer Promotional Examination for grades 1-Kyu-7-Dan, and Shogo, will be held on Sunday, July 7, 2002, from 1:00 pm, at the Nishi Honganji Buddhist Temple, 815 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA. 90012.

In addition, for grades 1 Kyu and above, a written examination is required, and the written test papers are due on July 7, 2002.

Any additional information regarding promotional examinations can be obtained by contacting:

Atsushi Hori, AUSKF VP-Prom & Exam. Mailing address: 3041 S. Bristol, Santa Ana, California 92704.

FAX: 714-557-1920.

Telephone: 714-557-3282.

Report From VP-Competition:

12th WKC-USA Team:

Results of 2nd Kyoka Senshu:

On April 7, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, the AUSKF held the 2nd Kyoka Senshu tryouts for the 12th WKC-USA Team.

The final results are as follows:

Men's Division:

1. Mike Minami, NCKF.
2. Michael Yoshimura, SCKF.
3. Tadasu Abe, SCKF.
4. Chris Yang, SCKF.
5. Daniel Yang, SCKF.
6. Arnold Matsuda, NCKF.
7. Steven Yoshimura, SCKF.
8. Brandon Harada, SCKF.
9. Yoshiyuki Goya, SCKF.
10. Katsumi Chinen, SCKF.
11. Yutaka Kitajima, SCKF.
12. Kevin Abe, SWKF.
13. Fumihide Itokazu, SCKF.
14. Katsushi Chinen, SCKF.
15. Theodore Terashima, SCKF.
16. Spencer Hosokawa, SCKF.
17. Omito Hashimoto, SCKF.

Women's Division:

1. Jean Kodama, SCKF.
2. Shaun Devine, MWKF.
3. Rika Uto, SCKF.
4. Kaori Takada, SCKO.
5. Reika Mikuni, NCKF.
6. Elizabeth Marsten, PNWKF.
7. Mitsuyo Sakae, SCKF.
8. Debi Farmer, GNEUSKF.
9. Mayura Takasaki, MWKF.
10. Michi Takeda, SCKF.
11. Judy Abe, SCKF.
12. Kaori Kikunaga, NCKF.

AUSKF VP-Competition, Yoshiteru Tagawa, and his committee members, consisting of AUSKF Board of Directors Kazuharu Arima, Noboru Kataoka, and Shozo Kato would like to thank the Midwest Kendo Federation leadership, sensei and volunteers for the support given to AUSKF in having a successful 2nd Kyoka Senshu event.

In addition to the above finalists from the 2nd Kyoka Senshu, two additional competitors will be selected at the 2002 AUSKF Championships to be held on July 5, 2002; the 1st Place Winners in the Men's and Women's Individual Championships will be eligible for the final selection [Kyoka Senshu].

The Final Selection will be held on September 1, 2002, at a site in Los Angeles, California, [TBA].

Report From Vp-Competiton

[continued]:

For any additional information regarding the 2002 AUSKF Championships, Final Selection Elimination tournament, etc., please contact:

Yoshiteru Tagawa, AUSKF VP-Comp.
Mailing address: 41444 Fawn Trail, Novi, MI. 48375-4813.
FAX: 248-349-9718.
Telephone: [Home](248)349-5209;
[Office](248)-349-5377.
E-mail: mts_Tagawa@ameritech.net

Report From VP-Education:

Due to the 2002 AUSKF Championships being held this year in July, 2002, there will not be a 2002 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp.

The 2003 AUSKF Summer Kendo Camp is being proposed to be held at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.

Any additional information can be obtained by contacting:
Koki Ariga, AUSKF VP-Education.
E-mail address: kariga@fandp.com.
FAX: (937) 339-0065.
Telephone: (937) 339-0212.

Report From Treasurer:

Thank you to each member federation for your cooperation to submit their membership reports by the annual deadline of March 31, 2002.

Any additional information about the AUSKF membership dues, membership services, etc., can be obtained by contacting:
Masaharu Makino, AUSKF Treasurer.
Mailing address: c/o JIT, 327 Towne Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90013.
Telephone: [Home](909)595-7241;
[Office](213)617-7272.
E-mail: MakinoMasaharu@aol.com

REGIONAL MEMBER’S NEWS:

1. Report from the Central California Kendo Federation submitted by Norman K. Otani.

On April 28, 2002, the Central California Kendo Federation conducted a promotional examination, the following kenshi were successful candidates:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Toshio Livingston | 2-Dan |
| Jerry Espiritu | 2-Dan |
| Toshio Koshiba | 2-Dan |
| John Nidever | 1-Dan |
| Thad Robeck | 1-Dan |
| Huy Nguyen | 1-Dan |
| Tim Shiomi | 1-kyu |
| Scott Lee | 4-kyu |

2. Report from the Midwest Kendo Federation submitted by Tom Okawara; with contributions from “Sempo: Midwest Kendo Newsletter,” Tom Bolling, Editor of “Kenyu,” and credit to Dave Christman and Gary Imanishi.

In Memoriam:

Seichi Michael Yasutake [1920-2001]
On December 29, 2001, at the age of 81, Kendo 5-Dan, Yasutake Sensei, passed away in Chicago, Illinois.

Yasutake Sensei began his kendo training in Seattle, Washington, at the age of fifteen.

Later, after having furthered his kendo training in 1938 with Nakamura, Tokeichi Sensei in Japan, Yasutake Sensei returned to the United States in 1941, just in time for the outbreak of WWII .

Yasutake Sensei later was able to attend college and obtained his B.A, M.A, Ph.D., and a Master of Divinity from Seabury Western Theological Seminary.

After his ordination in th e Episcopal Church in 1950, Yasutake Sensei served in a number of capacities in both the diocese of Chicago and the national church.

Following a hiatus of some forty years, Yasutake Sensei once again began practicing kendo twice a week at the Chicago Kendo Dojo, up until the last

week of his life. At the age of 73 years, Yasutake Sensei achieved the rank of 5 Dan.

After his “retirement” from full-time employment, Yasutake Sensei assisted at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Evanston, and was the priest-in-charge of a Japanese Episcopal Congregation at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Chicago.

In Memoriam:

George Izui [1923-2002]
On January 25, 2002, at the age of 78 yrs, Kendo Kyoshi 7th Dan, Izui Sensei, passed away in Chicago, Illinois.

Izui Sensei began his kendo training in Seattle, Washington; his teachers there included Umajiro Imanishi, Kazuo Shoji, Yoriaki Nakagawa, Kiyoshi Yasui and chief instructor Takizaki Sensei. He moved to Chicago after WWII, attended the Art Institute of Chicago, then worked as a dental technician.

Izui Sensei was one of the founders of the Chicago Kendo Dojo in 1964, and later helped to establish the Midwest Kendo Federation and their journal *Sempo*.

3. Report from the Northern California Kendo Federation submitted by Richard Tanaka.

Th San Jose Kendo Dojo will be hosting its 40th Aniversay Invitational Kendo Tournament on August 17, 2002, at the Santa Clara University, Leavey Center.

For more information, contact:
Richard Tanaka
3144 Mabury Road, San Jose, CA. 95127
Tel. (408) 929-9005
Fax:(408) 929-9491

4 . Report from the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation [PNKF] submitted by Tom Bolling.

For further information about this news article contact: Tom Bolling. Telephone: Work (206) 616-3793; Home (206) 527-1190. E-mail: <http://faculty.washington.edu/kendo>. Also, read PNKF’s *Kenyu* online at:

Member Report From PNKF [continued]:

<http://www.kendo-pnkf.org/kenyu.html>

**12th Annual Bellevue Kendo Taikai
May 5, 2002:**

9yrs and under-Kachinuki

1st place - Deon Holmes, Tacoma
2nd place- Conor Marsten, Renton

9yrs and under-Round Robin

1st place- Deon Holmes, Tacoma
2nd place-Conor Marsten, Renton

10yrs-12yrs Kachinuki

1st place- Michelle Rasmussen, Tacoma
2nd place-Albert Young, Obukan
3rd place -Jayson Nunokawa, Bellevue
4th place- Ikaika Yoshikawa, Tacoma

10yrs-12yrs-Elimination:

1st place-Jed Sarmiento, Highline
2nd place-Kelvin Winder, Seattle
3rd place-Ikaika Yoshikawa, Tacoma
3rd place-Jason Akahoshi, Obukan

13yrs-15yrs-Kachinuki:

1st place-Yuko Iwanaga, Obukan
2nd place- Tristan W-Burden, Bellevue
3rd place-K. Alexander, Renton
4thPlace-James Young, Obukan

13yrs-15yrs-Elimination:

1st place-Jeff Lundell, Renton
2nd place-Bryan Imanishi, Cascade
3rd place-Kaori Tsukagoshi, Obukan
3rd place-Yuko Iwanaga, Obukan

16yrs-18yrs-Kachinuki:

1st place-Lonny Hancock, Obukan
2nd place-Nate Janega, Tacoma
3rd place-Kelly Goodwin, Obukan
4th place-Jeff Marsten, Highline

16yrs-18yrs-Elimination:

1st place-Jeff Marsten, Highline
2nd place-Lonny Hancock, Obukan
3rd place-Jennifer Wang, Cascade
3rd place-Roger Yau, Cascade

Team:

1st place- Obukan
2nd place-Highline

Awesome Spirit Award:

Michelle Rasmussen, Tacoma

Honorable Mention:

Yuko Iwanaga, Obukan
Tomoko Iwanaga, Obukan
Kaori Tsukagoshi, Obukan
Deon Holmes, Tacoma
Ikaika Yoshikawa, Tacoma

DATEBOOK:

- Aug 10: PNKF Kendo and Iaido Shinsa. Kent Commons Recreation Center, 525 4th Avenue N. (corner of 4th & James Street), Kent, Washington. Iaido: 8am-12noon
Kendo: 12:30pm-4pm
- Sep 14: PNKF Board Meeting, 2:30pm, Renton
- Oct 12, PNKF Board Meeting, 2:30pm, Renton
- Nov 9: PNKF Taikai, 9:30am, Renton
- Nov 23: PNKF Board Meeting

5. Report from the Southern California Kendo Federation [SCKF] submitted by Tom Tew, Executive Secretary. Also, see the SCKF Website at: www.eanet.com/sckf; also, contributions from Tom Bolling: *Kenyu*, and Brian Olson.

If you have additional questions about this news article contact:

Tom Tew
1229 Paseo Los Gavilanes
San Dimas, CA. 91773

In Memoriam:

Hisashi Herbert Higuchi [1920-2002]
On April 30, 2002, at the age of 81yrs, Hanshi 8th Dan, Higuchi Sensei passed away in Gardena, California.

Higuchi sensei was born in Gardena, California, and at the age of 7 began his kendo training up until the outbreak of WWII.

In 1952, with the help of Tadao Mori Sensei, Higuchi Sensei opened the Gardena Kendo Dojo, where he practiced regularly up until several weeks before he passed away.

In addition, Higuchi Sensei was an engineer with Cal-Trans and was involved with many highway development projects, including the freeway infrastructure

restoration following the devastating earthquake of 1994.

2002 CALENDAR:

- July 13-SCKF Board Meeting
Chuo Gakuen, 7:30pm
- July 21-Kata Seminar
11:30am-LA Police Academy
- Aug 10-SCKF Board Meeting
Chuo Gakuen, 7:30pm
- Aug.11-Nisei Week Tournament
Hompa Hongwanji Gym
- Sep 14 -SCKF Board Meeting
Chuo Gakuen, 7:30pm
- Oct 12 -SCKF Board Meeting
Chuo Gakuen, 7:30pm
- Oct 20- Shinkyu Shinsa
Wilson Park
- Nov 9-SCKF Board Meeting
Chuo Gakuen, 7:30pm
- Dec 7-SCKF Board Meeting
Chuo Gakuen, 7:30pm

6. Report from the South Eastern United States Kendo Federation submitted by Editors Ken Strawn; and Mike Yongue, the following article is reprinted with permission from the December, 2001 Issue of the SEUSKF NEWS.

13th Annual Southeastern U.S. Kendo Federation Championships
October 20, 2001:

Junior Youth:

1st- G. Park (GKA)
2nd-Yuki DeSouza (GKA)
3rd-Andrew Hamilton (KOR)
3rd-Eun Dea Park (GKA)
Kanto Sho-Raffield

Senior Youth:

1st-Iwakami (TMG)
2nd-Arizuku (TMG)
3rd-Eddie Desch (KOR)
3rd-Yoshimi DeSouza (GKA)
Kanto Sho-Yoshima DeSouza

Mudansha:

1st-Colin Maruoka
2nd-Antonin Vacheret (KOR)
3rd-Philip Smith (CKIC)

13th Annual Southeastern U.S. Kendo Federation Championships October 20, 2001[continued]:

Kanto Sho-Craig Philbeck (CHAR)

Shodan-Nidan:

- 1st-Yojiro Kakoki (TMG)
- 2nd-Goto (GKA)
- 3rd-Leon Shanklin (CHAR)

Sandan & above:

- 1st-Ryujiro Hara (NRAL)
- 2nd-Shinobu Maeda (TMG)
- 3rd-Kentaro Hara (TMG)
- 3rd-Kunitoshi Arai (GKA)

Women:

- 1st-Yatsuki Hoang (KOR)
- 2nd-Yoshima DeSouza (GKA)
- 3rd-Jody Abas (WASH)
- 3rd-Reiko DeSouza (GKA)

Seniors:

- 1st-Kunitoshi Arai (GKA)
- 2nd-Larry Scanlon (ANAP)
- 3rd-James Parker (NRAL)

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IAIDO NEWS:

Report submitted by AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman Takeshi Yamaguchi. Any additional information needed regarding iaido, or iaido related matters [including the issuance of menjo], please contact:

Takeshi Yamaguchi
Mailing address: 13434 E. Reis Street, Whittier, CA. 90605
Telephone: (562) 693-0088.

2002 AUSKF Iaido Seminar & Taikai:

This year's 2002 AUSKF Iaido Summer Camp will be hosted by the Pacific Northwest Kendo Federation. The event is scheduled for Friday, September 20th through Sunday, September 22nd at the Renton Community Center located in Renton, Washington.

The three-day seminar is open to all levels of participants and will cost \$80.00 for AUSKF members and \$130.00 for non-AUSKF members. This fee includes lunch for Saturday and Sunday, and dinner Saturday evening.

Registration and Check-In will begin Friday, September 20th at 3:00pm; opening ceremonies will begin at 4:00pm, followed by Koryu practice and an open Kendo jigeiko in the evening.

Saturday, September 21st will consist of ZNKR Iaido practice and the AUSKF National Iaido Taikai, followed by a banquet and awards presentation in the evening.

On Sunday, September 22nd, the AUSKF Iaido Promotional Examinations will be held in the morning, followed by a ZNKR Iaido Practice session and closing ceremonies.

The iaido instructors for the 3-day seminar will include:
Takeshi Yamaguchi Sensei, Iaido Renshi 7th Dan, Kendo Kyoshi 7th Dan;
Yamaguchi Sensei is the AUSKF Iaido Committee Chairman and a AUSKF Board of Director.

Shozo Kato Sensei, Iaido Kyoshi 7th Dan, Kendo Kyoshi 7th Dan; Kato Sensei is a member of the AUSKF Iaido Committee and a AUSKF Board of Director.

Tatsuhiko Konno Sensei, Iaido Renshi 7th Dan, Kendo Kyoshi 7th Dan; Konno Sensei is a member of the AUSKF Iaido Committee.

Ichiro Murakami Sensei, Iaido 5th Dan, Kendo Kyoshi 7th Dan; Murakami Sensei is a member of the AUSKF Iaido Committee.

Thomas Hooper, Iaido 6th Dan, Kendo 6th Dan.

For further information regarding the 2002 AUSKF Iaido Seminar & Taikai contact:
Brian Blomquist
724 170th St. SW
Lynwood, WA. 98037
e-mail: brianb@concur.com
Tel. (425) 497-6411

INTERNATIONAL KENDO FEDERATION NEWS:

12TH WORLD KENDO CHAMPIONSHIPS, GLASGOW 2003:

For anyone interested in making plans to

attend the 12th WKC, Glasgow 2003, the Schedule of Events has been formally announced as follows

- July 1: Referee Seminar
- July 2: Referee Seminar/Meeting
- July 3: Manager's Meeting
IKF Board of Directors Meeting & General Assembly
- July 4: Opening Ceremony
Women's Ind. Championships
Women's Team Championships
Good-will Keiko
- July 5: Men's Individual Championships
Good-will Keiko
- July 6: Men's Team Championships
Closing Ceremony
- July 7: AJKF Kendo Seminar & Dan Examination

The venue for the 12th WKC, Glasgow 2003 will be at Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena, Glasgow, Scotland.

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AUSKF WEBSITE

Over the past several years, the AUSKF has been indebted to its Webmaster Curtis Marsten, for his dedication in establishing and maintaining a very professional website for AUSKF.

Regretfully, Curtis Marsten, has notified AUSKF that he would like to relinquish his responsibility as the AUSKF Webmaster, in order to allow him to explore and develop other interests.

The AUSKF Board of Directors has formally gone on record at its last meeting on April 5-6, 2002, to express their appreciation and thanks to Curtis Marsten for the countless hours of dedicated service to AUSKF as its Webmaster.

The new AUSKF Webmaster is Frank H. Lin, and he hopes to be able to continue the stellar efforts of his predecessor Curtis Marsten, in maintaining the AUSKF website

The AUSKF Internet Home Page has **changed its website address**, and is now located at: <http://www.nckf.org/auskf.info>.

All AUSKF dojos and member federations who wish to request any changes in their dojo/member federation information on

AUSKF Website [continued]

the AUSKF website, should send these requests to: AUSKF Webmaster, Frank H. Lin, e-mail address: frankhlin@earthlink.net

Note: Please include the name of the regional member federation affiliation when submitting new dojo or changes in dojo/member federation information.

OTHER KENDO RELATED NEWS/INFORMATION:

I. BOOK REVIEW:

Contribution by Dr. Walter Hashimoto.

1. *Cyclopedia of the Japanese Societies in North America, pre-1939 Vol.1, 2.* This book has been re-printed with an Introduction by PNKF *Kenyu* editor Thomas E. Bolling.

Mr. Bolling describes this book as “extremely rare,” due to its identification of the many Kendo teachers who taught kendo in the United States at that time; information which was subsequently used as a ready made directory for the F.B.I. in its round-up of Kendo teachers immediately following Pearl Harbor...long before the general Relocation.

Cyclopedia of the Japanese Societies in North America, pre-1939 Vol. 1, 2. (\$375-\$400) Hardback. ISBN 4-89253-101-4 Bunsei Shoin Booksellers, Co., Ltd. 6-16-3 Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033 JAPAN e-mail inquiry: @bunsei.co.jp

II. GUEST AUTHORS & KENDO RELATED ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED BY AUSKF MEMBERS:

This is the first of a series of authors and kendo related articles contributed by AUSKF members to be shared with our readers.

1. GUEST AUTHOR:

Benjamin H. Hazard, Ph.D.
Professor of History-Emeritus (ret.)
San Jose State University
Kendo Hanshi 7th Dan

An Overview of Kendo 1945-2000

Part One:

When the Pacific War ended and Occupation of the Allied Powers began, they took measures to eliminate Japan’s potential to wage war. Among the institutions considered to be the roots of militarism was the Dai Nippon Butokukai (Great Japan Martial Virtue Association). This was the umbrella organization for kendo, judo, kyudo (Japanese archery) and naginata (glaive, polearm), and as such, was ordered to disband in November 9, 1946. However, it had dissolved itself on October 31, 1945.

In 1948 the Allied Powers issued orders that kendo and judo could be reinstated as physical training for Japanese police. Most of the police at that time had served in the Japanese armed forces, and had grown up with Butokukai kendo and during the war years, many had been drilled in shinken kendo (live sword kendo). Shinken kendo prepared one to use the sword in combat. The shinai (bamboo sword) was 36 sun (Japanese inches = 109 cm) long; about the length of a gunto (army issue sword). The practice was predominantly owaza (large motion techniques) with great emphasis on tenouchi (within the hand), the movement of the fingers and wrists, while grasping the hilt when cutting. This was of the utmost importance in controlling the blade when actually cutting in combat. Both men and do cuts were followed by a slicing movement immediately after the shinai made contact, with a concurrent lowering of the hips. In the police dojo ashi-barai (foot sweeping), tai-atari (colliding with the opponent), were routine; as well as the practice of grappling with the opponent and attempting to remove his men (mask) when he dropped his shinai in practice.

The Tokyo police in attempting to control the disorder that accompanied the Communist May Day demonstrations, May 1, 1949, used the jo (staff) for crowd

control. The GHQ provost Marshall (Beigun Soshireibu Kempeitai-cho) had seen that some of the Communists had been able to seize some of the staffs and were beating the police with them. The provost marshal was able to have orders issued prohibiting kendo training for all police. Kendo was reinstated later in that year, but when practice resumed, those elements in kendo which were clearly associated with a real sword, such as the slicing movement after the cut, were not allowed; nor were blows delivered with as much strength as they had been prior to the ban.

In this same time 1945-1950, occurred another development having considerable influence on kendo - the introduction of foreign elements. These emerged largely from two sources: fencing and sports athletics. The Allied Powers permitted Japanese universities to have fencing classes. The first university to conduct western fencing classes was Meiji University in Tokyo, in 1945. On August of 1946, the Nippon Fuenshingu Kyokai (Japan Fencing Association) was established. Students wished to engage in kendo as a competitive sport. A sports kendo was created that would satisfy all the objections of the Occupation. Authorities had to even drop the word “kendo.” This sport kendo finally evolved into shinai kyogi (pliant competition). “Shinai” for kendo was written with one character, “shinai” (to be pliant) but its gerund form - which is “shinai.” Obviously a deception for the Occupation, which had rejected “bamboo sword.”

[To be continued in next issue]

Future news items for the next issue of the AUSKF Newsletter to be published on or about December, 2002, can be submitted to:

AUSKF Newsletter Editor, Norman K. Otani
2338 E. Minarets Avenue, Fresno, CA. 93720
FAX: (559) 322-1210
E-mail address:
otanimnorman@hotmail.com

Thanks to all of the contributing reporters for the news items; my apologies for having to edit the material due to space limitations.

Norman K. Otani, Esq. Editor

Future news items for the next issue of the AUSKF Newsletter to be published on or about December, 2002, can be submitted to:

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otaninorman@hotmail.
com

AUSKF NEWSLETTER
Norman K. Otani, Esq., Editor

*Thanks to all of the
contributing reporters for the
news items; my apologies for
having to edit the material due
to space limitations.*
