

KENDO forum

by Musashi of the
Shinto Ryu

Hatsu-Geiko—1964. The Shinto-Ryu Kendo Dojo celebrated the New Year by inviting kendoka from several dojo to take part in the Hatsu-Geiko on Saturday, 4th January, 1964, in London. Several travelled long distances, one all the way from Glasgow, others from the Midlands, East Anglia, and Hampshire.

For the opening *rei* the *gakusei* up to 2nd *Kyu* sat facing the *sensei* side of the dojo where the *yudansha* were Mr. Roald Knutsen, (3rd *dan*); Miss Etsuko Horie (2nd *dan*); Mr. R. A. Lidstone (2nd *dan*); Mr. Jock Hopson (1st *dan*); and Mr. Keith Feltham (1st *dan*). Also given honorary places this side were the two leading members of the Bushi Budokai, Portsmouth—Mr. Victor C. Cook (1st *kyu*), and Mr. Brian Frearson, (1st *kyu*)—neither of who were able to practice, unfortunately, due to illness or accident.

The host *sensei*, Mr. Knutsen, gave New Year's Greetings to all *Kendoka* present and their guests, then briefly reviewed the development of Kendo in the past year and mentioned in order the visits of Taizo Takami *Sensei* (4th *dan*); Katsuzo Kudo *Sensei* (9th *dan*) Judo; Yoshihiko Oura, *Sensei* (7th *dan*); and ending with the arrival of Miss Horie (2nd *dan*), who will be at the Shinto-Ryu dojo for almost all 1964. He also stressed the keen interest felt in the British Kendo Association and the development of

English Kendo by several leading *sensei* in Japan, particularly by Mr. Toshio Watanabe (8th *dan*), and Mr. Takizawa (7th *dan*), of the *Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei*, and called for great efforts to support and strengthen Kendo during the coming year. These efforts would be helped considerably by the return visits of Oura *Sensei* and Mr. Takami in the early summer.

Part of a film received from Takizawa *Sensei* was shown. This was of great interest since it was the whole of the *Nihon Kendo-no-kata* performed by Seiji Mochida *Hanshi* (10th *dan*), as *Shidachi*, and Goro Saimura *Hanshi* (10th *dan*), as *Uchidachi*. Filmed about three years ago it shows the whole of the *Tachi-no-kata* and the *Ko-dachi-no-kata* with the full etiquette proper to the occasion.

Mr. Knutsen and Mr. Feltham demonstrated the Shinto-Ryu *Tachi-no-kata*, the second form of which has now been revised and is an interesting variation of *tsuki*.

The last *kata* was the eight techniques of the *Oku-Iai*, or "Close Space" *Iai*, by Mr. Knutsen.

The Shinto-Ryu dojo, specially cleared for the evening, was hardly big enough for the twenty-four *kendoka* who practised simultaneously after the *kata* demonstrations. For the next sixty minutes

opportunities to practice with the *yudansha* were eagerly sought by the *musha-shugyosha* students from outside London but a very hard time was had by everyone. Col. Graham Gauntlet (3rd *kyu*), gave a very good account of himself surprising many opponents less than a third his age with his fast *kote* and devastating "*nashi wara*" *men* cut—the "pear-splitter").

Mr. Knutsen's opponents came in quick succession as did those of Mr. Feltham and Mr. Hopson. Miss Horie paid particular attention to the two lady members of the Bushi Budokai and the lower *kyu*. The youngest member present—Master Alexander Knutsen (6th *kyu*), (aged 6½) felt somewhat overawed and preferred to sit beside his mother, but he did practise with his father during the early part of

the evening to the delight of everyone. He is the first member of the Shinto-Ryu Junior Group.

At the end of the *keiko*, Mr. Knutsen and Miss Horie fenced and everyone closely watched this practice in which many techniques were shown.

The Hatsu Geiko closed with the final *rei*. It had been a great success.

All Japan Kendo Championships. The All Japan Championships held in Tokyo on the 1st December, 1963, was won by Mr. Yano Taro (7th *dan*) (aged about 40) from the Police Board in Hyogo Prefecture. He defeated Mr. Toda, a graduate of Keio University now with the Toyo Rayon Company, scoring *kote* with his winning point.

OPPOSITE:

Mr. Toshio Watanabe, 8th *dan* *Kyoshi*, former Secretary of the *Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei*. Mr. Watanabe is now Chairman of the Equipment Research Committee and a Standing Director of the *Renmei*.

