

KENDO forum

by Musashi of the
Shinto Ryu

The Origin of the Shinai and Kendo Bogu. The inventor of the *shinai* was the founder of the *Shinkage-ryu* style of kenjutsu, Kamiidzumi Ise-no-kami Hidetsuna, in the first half of the 16th century. The form of this *shinai*, which was leather covered throughout its length was known as *Fukuro-shinai* and was very similar to the present day *shinai* used in *Shinai-kyogi*. Asked by a well-known fencer, Marume Kurando Dayu, (founder of the *Shinkan-ryu*) why he did not use a *bokuto*, Kamiidzumi replied: "If we fight with *bokutu*, one of us must injure the other. Nobody will praise injuries gained in this way. We are not practising tactics to hurt people, and it is for this reason that I invented this *shinai*."

Nakanishi Chuzo, the second master of the *Nakanishi-ha Itto-ryu*, faced the problem of the loss of spirit among most pupils when trained only in form of *kata*. He considered that since *kenjutsu* had become by his time (mid 18th century) very fashionable among *samurai* that the solution was for some suitable protective clothing to be worn enabling the participants to practise striking and thrusting without injury. He invented *Shinai kode*, (this style of *kenjutsu*) during the Horeki period, (1751-1764), and the innovation became immediately popular. So popular, in fact, that everyone equipped themselves with *men*,

kote, *shinai* and *take-do* and the fashion quickly influenced every school. Nakanishi Chuzo was taken aback by all this and wondered if he had made a mistake. Under the third master of the school, Nakanishi Chuta, *kenjutsu* became known as *Chokuto-uchi no kenjutsu* (Pliable-Striking Kenjutsu) and only a few men studied *kumitachi (kata)* of the *Ona-ha Itto-ryu* and preserved it.

Norwich Judo and Kendo Club. The Kendo group in Norwich, following the example of the Shinto-Ryu dojo, have started a small junior group of older youngsters aged between ten and fourteen. With the promotion of Mr. Eric Pleasants and Mr. Denis Preston, the founders of Norwich Kendo, to *Ikkyu* during the *shinsa-ken* in March we all hope that this dojo will rapidly gain support in East Anglia. Both Mr. Pleasants and Mr. Preston will be taking part in the Kendo demonstration at the 1964 East Anglian Open Judo Tournament at Colchester in aid of Oxfam—30th May, 1964. The Club address is Central Youth Hall, Duke Street, Norwich.

Bushi Budokai, Portsmouth. In April this column noted the 1st Anniversary Tournament held at this vigorous Portsmouth dojo and readers may now like to know more details. The last contests were:—

Mr. Davis (Bushi Budokai), 2nd Kyu
Mr. Cook (Bushi Budokai), 1st Kyu

Mr. Hopson, 1st Dan
Mr. Feltham, 1st Dan

Mr. Cook

Mr. Feltham

Mr. Feltham

Mr. Feltham was presented with a silver cup, the trophy for what is intended to be an annual event.

The matches in this Tournament were marked by good clean Kendo with some excellent variation of technique particularly among the lower *kyu* grades. Only one contest, the final *shobu*, went to the full time of five minutes. Mr. Feltham taking *Do* right in the dying seconds after a hard fight.

Shinto Ryu Kendo Dojo. Congratulations to two members of this dojo, Mr. J. W. A. Self and Mr. J. Mathie, on the recent success in the *Shodan Shinsa-ken* (Promotional Examination). This brings the number of *yudansha* at the Shinto-Ryu Dojo to seven and will greatly help to relieve the teaching

burden. Mr. Jim Self (1st *dan*), also runs the Stour Valley Budo Ryu dojo in Suffolk and his promotion will spur this club on to greater efforts.

One noticeable factor that has contributed to this advance in rank has been the long serious study of *Kendo-no-kata* over the past few months. This has most certainly improved both these *kendoka's* style.

Kangei Taikai. Although there is some doubt at the moment of the date when Mr. Oura Yoshihiko (7th *dan*), will visit the *dojo* this summer, a Welcoming Tournament will be arranged and details announced as early as possible. Another Welcoming reception will be arranged to mark the arrival of Mr. Takami Taizo (4th *dan*).



Keiko just before the tournament at the Bushi Budokai.