

KENDO forum

by Musashi of the
Shinto Ryu

Dojo Etiquette

Kendo *reigi* (etiquette) is very formal in many respects due to our close connections with the feudal structure of the retainer system in Old Japan. It may be of interest to British Kendoka to study some of the basic procedure applied in the main *dojos* of the *Beitoku Kendo Renmei* (American Kendo Renmei) for which I am indebted to Mr. Benjamin H. Hazard, 4th *dan*.

On approaching the door to the *dojo* carrying the *bogu* the *bogu* bag is lowered to the floor and in the doorway the *kendoka* bows to the *kamiza* and then passes to the dressing room. On returning to the *dojo* floor fully prepared except for *men*, *kote* and *tenugui*, bow toward the *kamiza* from the doorway of the dressing room, a standing *rei*. Take one's place seated *seiza* with great toes touching but not overlapping and a hands breadth between the knees, the hands on the thighs, fingers together and pointing inward. The *kote* are placed beside the right knee with thumbs touching either parallel to the thigh (Kansai) or at right angles to the thigh (Kanto style). The *men* rests on the *kote* with *men himo* coiled inside and *tenugui* carefully spread over the *men*. The *shinai* is to the left with the *tsuba* on a line with the left knee. On a normal training night the senior junior gives the preparatory command: "*Seiza*" and then "*Rei*." The *rei* is executed by moving the hands forward in front of the knees and resting flat on the floor with the tips of the index fin-

gers and thumbs touching and the body is inclined forward until the forehead almost touches the hands. Care must be taken that the buttocks are not allowed to rise. The elbows are parallel to and outside of the knees. After a slight pause return to *seiza* position. Warm up exercises are gone through without *men* and *kote*. After exercises the *kendoka* are ordered to don them. When a senior *sensei* visits the *dojo* he is offered a position before the *kamiza* midway between the two lines of juniors and the *dojo sensei*. The senior *dojo sensei* commands: "..... *Sensei Ni mukae*" (Face*Sensei*). All shift slightly to face in the direction of the *sensei*, then command, "*Rei*." After completion of the *rei* all face to the original front without command. At this point he next commands "*Tagai ni, Rei*" (to each other, bow). Then proceed as above. At the conclusion of the practice the same sequence is repeated.

Mr. Oura Yoshihiko, 7th Dan, Kyoshi

The long-awaited return visit of Oura *Sensei* is expected this 17th-19th May, when he will be in London. At the present no other details are available, but *Kendoka* should keep these dates free.

Prof. Nakajima Yasuji, 3rd Dan

After a stay of eight months in England our very good friend, Professor Nakajima, has now left for a tour of Northern Europe and the



Mr. Vic Cook, 1st *dan*, during a recent training visit to the Lancaster and Morecambe Dojo.

U.S.A. and Canada in order to study his subject of Marine Navigational Law for the Japanese Government. As many *Kendoka* will know he has provided us with a very valuable liaison between Japanese and British Kendo, and on this continuation of his travels he will establish closer Kendo relations between several of the communities on his route, notably in Sweden and California. The British Kendo Renmei sincerely wish Professor Nakajima every future success and look forward eagerly to his next London visit.

Bushi Budokai Taikai (13th March, 1965)

The results of this 2nd Annual match were:—

- 1st, Mr. Victor C. Cook, 1st Dan, Liverpool.
- 2nd, Mr. Melvin Grey, 1st Dan, Shinto Ryu.

3rd, Miss Sue Richardson, 3rd Kyu, Bushi Budokai.

3rd, Mr. Brian Gemmell 2nd Kyu, Bushi Budokai.

Miss Richardson, of the Bushi Budokai, is particularly singled out for showing excellent spirit in her long match against the formidable Mr. Burel, 2nd Kyu, of the Shinto Ryu, which she at length won by taking *Do* and *Kote* after four minutes 15 seconds. In her later match against Mr. Cook it took the *shodan* two minutes twenty seconds to dispose of his opponent.

As expected, the final match produced some fast, clean-cut Kendo. Mr. Grey, who is now an experienced level-headed swordsman, pressed forward all the time against the taller man. Mr. Cook's Kendo at the beginning of this contest was a trifle erratic and he appeared nervous of making a mistake that

might cost him the match. Fencing from *migi-jodan* and obviously tensed, he gave Mr. Grey an advantage which his opponent was not slow to exploit. Avoiding a strong *shomen*, Mr. Grey cut *nukete* to take first point.

The next four minutes were much calmer although one still had a feeling that Mr. Grey could easily have taken match point with one of his many *kote* techniques.

In the first extension hardly had the match restarted when Mr. Cook took *men* with a fine combination attack to level the score. There was now plenty of action in this balanced *shiai*, but it was not until three seconds before time ran out that Mr. Cook took a fine *kote* to win.

Both Mr. Cook and Mr. Grey are to be congratulated on showing such excellent spirit despite setbacks in their match.

Japanese Minister is Guest of Honour at Shinto Ryu

Mr. Uyama, together with his wife, Sir Frank and Lady Bowden and Mr. C.L. de Beaumont, were among the guests that attended a

private invitation evening of Kendo and Karate on 24th March. Mr. Suzuki Tatsuo, 5th Dan Karate, and Mr. Knutsen led their groups in an integrated display of normal dojo training and kata.

12th All Japan Kendo Championship

The 12th All Japan Championship *taikai* was organised by the **Zen Nippon Kendo Renmei** on 29th November, 1964, at the Nihon Budokan, Tokyo. The matches were attended by the Prince and Princess of Hitachi and more than 13,000 spectators.

Mr. Toda Tadoo, 5th Dan, won the Emperor's Cup for the second time, the first being in the 10th tournament two years ago, following Mr. Nakamura Taro, 7th Dan, who also won the championship twice (the 3rd and 7th tournaments). Mr. Yano Taro, 7th Dan, who won the championship last year, was out of condition this year and unluckily was defeated in the second round.

The full results of the Semi-finals and the Final were:—

Nishiyama Yasuhiro 6th Dan, Tokyo	kote — — men kote —	Nakamura Takeshi 5th Dan, Tokyo
Toda Tadao 5th Dan, Shiga-ken	men — — men men —	Keido Takayoshi 5th Dan, Aichi-ken
FINAL		
Toda, 5th Dan	men — — kote men —	Nishiyama, 6th Dan

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