

# KENDO forum

by Musashi of the  
Shinto Ryu

**Kendo on the Canadian West Coast.** Before the 1939-45 war there was a flourishing Kendo community in Canada mainly in the Vancouver area, but in consort with other allied countries, government policy during the war years prevented any expression of Japanese nationalism in Canada. A few years back a Japanese/Canadian judo *yudansha* told me that just after the war he had seen over fifty complete sets of Kendo armour burnt by the army authorities in Canada. Now all this has changed and Kendo is fast reviving along with the other martial arts.

A recent issue of the "London Free Press Weekend Magazine" (26th June, 1965) carried news of the Kendo activities on the West Coast near Vancouver where one of the centres is the Steveston Kendo Dojo. The leaders are Mr. Frank Akuni, Mr. Harry Hyashi, and his brother Mr. Massu Hyashi. In this Dojo is also a Canadian of European extraction, Mr. Jim Murray, who holds the rank of *shodan* and is probably the first Canadian to do so.

Mr. Noguchi, *nidan*, a recent visitor to the Shinto-Ryu Dojo here, has also fenced in Vancouver. We hope to obtain more news of Canadian Kendo through Mr. Lorne Henwood in London, Ontario, who was a pupil of the Shinto-Ryu.

**Butokukan Dojo, Brighton.** Mid-August brought Mr. Vic Cook, *shodan*, down from Liverpool and he fenced at the Butokukan Dojo

together with three of the Bushi Budokai kendoka from Portsmouth. The same evening Mr. Maddams came over from the Reading Dojo with four of his group including his two young sons Royston and Mauryce. To round off the gathering we were pleased to welcome Miss Deborah Wolpe, 3rd Kyu, of the Shinto-Ryu, who came over from Lewes where she was on holiday with her family. Toby and Paul Wolpe were only prevented from coming by measles!

The extensions to the Brighton Boys' Club have now been fully completed and the dojo activities have been in full swing from the first week in September. Practice evening is Friday from 6.30 to 9.00 and there is another session on Sunday morning. Other evenings will be arranged from time to time. The dojo secretary's telephone number is Brighton 682786. Everyone is always welcome, especially children.

**Shinto-Ryu Dojo.** Kendo re-started at the Kennington Dojo after the August break with a display at Rochester organised by Mr. Keith Feltham, *nidan*. News of the Shinto-Ryu kendoka in Japan is most encouraging and Jim Mathie, *nidan*, is now studying at the Kyujo Saineikan Kendo Dojo (at the Imperial Palace), Tokyo, under the main instruction of Matsunaga Sensei, 6th *dan*, the captain of the Saineikan team. One of the first places that Mr. Mathie visited in Japan was the Sengakuji Temple





Naginata-no-kata demonstrated by great masters.

Sword: Sonobe Shigehachi *Hanshi*; Spear: Sonobe Asano *Hanshi*.

where are the graves of the famous samurai, the Forty-Seven Ronin. He reports that he found it a very moving place.

Takizawa *Sensei* and Matsunaga *Sensei* are to take Mr. Mathie to the Tokyo Police Kendo Taikai at the Nihon Budokan and I hope we shall shortly have a report on this for publication.

**Kendo in Northern England.** The Northern kendoka have put in some serious practice during the summer months and there have been several inter-dojo visits. In

Lancashire Mr. Vic Cook, *shodan*, is hard at work establishing an active Kendo community and his recent visit to the Bushi-Budokai and Butokukan Dojo's will have given him fresh ideas. Mr. Knutson, *sandan*, made a *musha shugyo* visit to the Budokan Kendo Dojo in Middlesbrough from the 3rd to the 5th September and everyone did some really hard training. Promotions now being due in the North, the Eikoku Kendo Renmei wish me to list the new ranks in the Budokan and Blyth dojos. These are:—

- W. Appleton, Budokan Dojo, 5th kyu, now 3rd kyu.
- J. Sparkes, Budokan Dojo, 5th kyu, now 4th kyu.
- M. Fish, Budokan Dojo, 4th kyu, now 3rd kyu.
- B. Muter, Blyth Dojo, 4th kyu, now 5th kyu.
- W. Prythech, Blyth Dojo, 4th kyu, now 5th kyu.
- P. Dawson, Blyth Dojo, 4th kyu, now 5th kyu.
- S. Worn, Blyth Dojo, 4th kyu, now 6th kyu.
- Mrs. B. Muter, Blyth Dojo, 4th kyu, now 6th kyu.

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