

KENDŌ forum

by MUSASHI

Japanese Sensei visit Europe

Otaki Goro *Hanshi*, 9th *dan*, returned to England on the 28th February after visiting Brussels and Stockholm for Kendo while away. Back in this country this unusual master spent his usual long hours teaching at the London Nenriki Dojo and made a special visit to Mr. Knutsen's Butokukan Dojo in Brighton.

In teaching his nonconformist style, Otaki *Sensei*, continually presents the student with all four poisons of Kendo: doubt, confusion, surprise, and fear; and once the Kendoka thinks he has control of the first he finds a fresh set of permutations facing him! Otaki *Sensei's* style is one of combat technique.

On the 23rd February, Izawa Zensaku *Kyoshi*, 8th *dan* Kendo and 8th *dan* *Iai*, came to the Nenriki Dojo for a short visit while in London on business. He brought messages from his friend, Ozawa *Hanshi*, 9th *dan*, who was here in November last year. Izawa *Sensei* was in Paris for two days prior to coming here.

And in addition, a further interesting visitor to our dojo was Dr. Claude Durix, 3rd *dan* Judo, President of the Moroccan Budo Federation, from Casablanca, here to have special training in Kendo and discussions with the British Kendo Renmei. Kendo is just starting effectively in Morocco and Dr. Durix precedes M. Stobbaerts, the well known Judoka, who will

be here at the end of April to study Kendo.

Team Match and Yudansha Tournament

A last reminder of this important event scheduled for the 11th May at the Portsmouth Dojo. Dojo may enter 5-man teams of any ranks; all *yudansha* should enter the other tournament ladder. Entries to the Secretary of the British Kendo Association, *Shiai* under the rules of the All Japan Kendo Renmei.

French Kendo

The promise of increased Kendo activity for 1968 has so far held true. Winter Training schedules now seem almost commonplace as the training becomes more intense. Roald Knutsen, 4th *dan*, flew over to Paris over the weekend 24th/26th February, for a full schedule of training in the various Parisian dojo. Met at Orly Airport by Mr. Alain Floquet and Mr. Marc Bigoureau from the France Kendo Renmei, he almost immediately went to the Police Dojo right next to Notre Dame, meeting once again Mr. Shiga Tadakatsu, 5th *dan*.

Later in the afternoon more training at the "Plage 50" dojo of the "Amicale Mochizuki" with some of the more advanced French Kendoka.

After dinner at Mr. Bigoureau's apartment, the executive of the France Kendo Renmei discussed many Kendo problems with Mr. Knutsen as Secretary of the Oshu Kendo Renmei. There was com-

plete accord on all points touched on in this meeting.

The following morning, Sunday, the Kendoka met at the Maison des Jeunes Dojo in the 13th Arrondissement where more than twenty-five members of all ages, girls and men, trained under Shiga-san and Knutsen.

French Kendo is now effectively some eighteen months old, although several members such as Mr. Hamot, the Secretary of the Renmei, have practiced Kendo since 1956 with breaks. Roald Knutsen at the request of the Renmei and in consultation with Mr. Shiga was able to officially confirm three members in their *shodan* promotions and to advance three more to *shodan*, much to the surprise of

the Renmei. But for European Kendo it is a sign of maturity, a re-dress of balance, when we consider that up to the time of writing we have thirty-five Kendo *yudansha* of whom no less than nine come from countries outside England. And it must be emphasised clearly that all these ranks conform to international Kendo standards including Japan.

Kendo is centred in the Paris region with five *dojo* at present. There are some more further south but as yet these are not affiliated. Under the Presidency of Mr. Lassein and the firm hand of Mr. Hamot, Kendoka now number around two hundred including many children. Credit is due to Mr. Shiga's untiring efforts and great patience.

Izawa Zensaku *Kyoshi*, 8th *dan* Kendo and *Iai*, with Roald Knutsen, 4th *dan*, and Fujii Okimitsu, 5th *dan*, at the Nenriki Dojo, London.



The chief critique of French Kendo is that at present most of these dojo are for Judo and in consequence the Kendoka have to train on *tatami*. While Kendo can be practiced anywhere, basic training for beginners on *tatami* presents serious drawbacks in later years, chiefly in inadequate use of the feet and inattention to good compound attacks. Perhaps, also, there is too much attention to technique and not enough to mental and intellectual levels in the Kendo? On the credit side, practice is hard

and keen. All the students work very hard without flagging and there is little sitting out for rests, something always to be avoided in Kendo dojo.

Kendoka wishing to visit the French Kendo Renmei should get in touch with Mr. Claude Hamot, Secretary-General France Kendo Renmei, 143 Rue du Docteur Bauer, 93 Saint Ouen, France; or with Mr. Bernard Durand, 86 Rue Claude Bernard, 75 Paris 5e.

BRITISH KENDO ASSOCIATION

Official Announcements

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in London on Friday, 1st March, 1968. The following were re-elected to serve as officers for the coming year:

CHAIRMAN: R. A. Lidstone.
SECRETARY: R. M. Knutsen.
TREASURER: S. Divers.
COMMITTEE: V. C. Cook (Llangollen), J. Clarke (Bristol), B. Muter (Blyth), C. Chadwick (Portsmouth).

Finance

A special sub-committee was set up to examine methods to expand the finances and will report to a general meeting of the Association to be held in Portsmouth at the time of the tournaments on 11th May.

Promotions into the Dan degree

On behalf of the European Kendo Renmei the following is advanced to *Shodan* degree, the promotion dated from 3rd February, 1968:

W. Prytherch (Coalville, Leicester).

Enquiries about Kendo

Information about all the Kendo clubs in this country is readily available from the Secretary of the British Kendo Association, 29 Egremont Place, Brighton BN2 2GA, but please send a stamped addressed envelope with your enquiry. Remember, there are dojo in London, Brighton, Portsmouth, Bristol, Swindon, Norwich, Leicester, Coalville, Burton-upon-Trent, Llangollen, Fleetwood, Lancaster, Middlesbrough, Blyth and Sudbury (Suffolk).