

## <Introduction about Argentina and Italy>

I introduce Argentina and Italy at once because these 2 countries have relation through Spain.

I have already informed that I have been keeping touch with Spain for more than 30 years.

200 persons from Spain and 20 persons from the other countries took part in the Kendo Lesson held in Barcelona which continued around 10 years. From Atsugi Mr.Moriyama the 7<sup>th</sup> dan grade and Mr.Fujiwara the 7<sup>th</sup> dan grade participated along with me.

From England Mr.Batten the 7<sup>th</sup> dan grade (coming to Atsugi this time) and Mr.Mtasuda the 6<sup>th</sup> dan grade participated in it, and many people from Italy, France, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, and Australia also took part in it.

### < Argentina >

I met a Japanese gentleman whose name was Sr. Ernest Kimura speaking Spanish very well.

He participated in our lesson every time zealously.

It was getting clear gradually that he (the 5<sup>th</sup> dan grade in Kendo) was second generation Japanese having nationality of Argentina and worked in Barcelona alone.

After becoming intimately acquainted with him, he became wanted to practice in Japan and came to Japan twice.

It was very impressive that he told us in tears that his heart was full of deep emotion because he never imagined to be able to come to Japan again which was home land of his parents.

Now he already retired from his business and now enjoys Kendo in Buenos Aires (capital of Argentina),

He said that although the population of Kendo in Argentina has not reached still 500, those people enjoy Kendo thanks to the efforts of second generation Japanese.

He will come with his 4 Kendo friends.

In this connection I may add that consul Mr.Sato of Japanese consulate took part in the lesson at Barcelona several times.

He graduated from Ikuta High School in Kanagawa prefecture and got the 2<sup>nd</sup> dan grade in his school days, and now promoted to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> dan grade. He came all the way to Atsugi and Kanagawa prefecture Kendo Federation to report that he became the 3<sup>rd</sup> dan grade. Now he makes efforts to introduce Japanese Culture as first secretary of the Japanese Embassy Buenos Aires and the president of Japanese Culture Center.



Buenos Aires (Quote from Wikipedia)

### <Italy >

Sr.Rolezo Zago the 7<sup>th</sup> dan grade came to the lesson at Barcelona several times as my assistant instructor from Italy. He studied in Osaka Sport Science University and without fail took part in the Kyoto Martial Arts Event held in May every year, so he is very familiar with us.

He does Kendo admirably and has been learning the Shape of Kendo, so we asked him to give an example of the Shape of Kendo together with Sr. Antonio Gonzales of Zaragoza Spain the 7<sup>th</sup> dan grade who shows also great Shape of Kendo. We are planning to ask both of them to show their great Shape of Kendo at the opening ceremony of Champion ship held in Nov.2 this year.

The people of Dojo (exercise-hall) called “Zen-Ken-Yu” came to the lesson in Spain from Milano Italy.

They told us that they practice Kendo learning the spirit of “Zen” with their friends.

I was invited by them to come, so I visited there once. They practiced Kendo with easy and relaxed manner without caring whether they win or lose, which was very impressed for me.



Representative of the Zen-Ken-Yu Sr. Enrico Monaco the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will come to Japan for the first time.

They said that in Italy the population Kendo has been increasing to 2,000.

2 years ago the 15<sup>th</sup> World Kendo Champion ship was held in Susano city near Milano and Kendo is getting popular more and more in Italy.

We heard that Italian team got the 1<sup>st</sup> prize beating French team at the European Kendo Champion ship held in France this year.

(Written by Kenji Takizawa, chairman of Atsugi Kendo Federation)