

< Introduction of England >

This is the manuscript that was written by Kenji Takizawa the Chairman of Atsugi Kendo Federation.

1. The exchange between England and Japan in Kendo.
It began with the Olympic held in Rome 54 years ago.

While let me skip a detailed introduction because it had been already published in the 50th anniversary book of the founding of Atsugi Kendo Federation, I'd like to introduce in brief Kouzou Takizawa who was the first president of Shiseikan .

He was born and bred in Atsugi Japan.

In 1960 around 50 years ago from now he, at that time working in the National Police Agency, got the information about Kendo which people just started in Rome when he took part in the Olympic being held in Rome as a coach of Athletic Gun Competition, and Japanese athlete got the Bronze medal.

Two years later he, as a coach, participated in the International Shooting Competition held in Cairo Egypt and Japanese athlete got the Silver medal.

After that competition ended up, he surveyed the situation of Kendo in European countries for 20 days.

It was 50 years ago that he did again the duty of coach of Athletic Gun Competition in the Olympic held in Tokyo Japan, and Japanese player got the Bronze medal.

In 1969 he visited several countries as a leader of Euro & International Kendo Mission to support the activities to expand the Kendo to the world.

From then lots of Kendo players came to Atsugi in order to learn the teaching method and in Shiseikan there still are the photos and signatures taken and done at that time.

Among European countries England is the most zealous, which asked Master Kouzou Takizawa to be a chairman of the England Kendo Federation, and then the activities started in the right direction.

After that he took part in a start of the European Kendo Federation as well.

2. The new exchange has started in the new generation.

I was requested to give a course of lecture on Kendo 10 years ago. It was the reason of request that son of Takizawa the ex-Chairman of Atsugi Kendo Federation succeeded in the examination to be 8th grade in Kendo.

I visited various places of England three times. One day Mr. and Mrs. the Chairman of the England



TAKIZAWA KOZO, 7th. Dan Kyoshi
President of the British Kendo Association

Kendo Federation came to the place of the course of lecture being held in Glasgow and said to me that we owe it to your father that we are now so successful in expanding Kendo in England, and also he said that I'd like to say thank you very much for your coming to England from the bottom of my heart.

It was really impressive experience.

The persons coming this time whom I met at that course of lecture are Mr. Paul Badden the 7th grade who is a leader of England members and Mrs. Kazuyo Matsuda Badden the 6th grade.

Mr. Badden the 7th grade is master who has been receiving several instructions long time from Master Kouzou Takizawa.

Mrs. Kazuyo Matsuda the 6th grade showed great activities in Kendo Club of Ebina High School and later 20 years ago she went to England and married Mr. Badden.

She has been teaching Kendo there with him working as architect.

Mr. Badden and Mrs. Matsuda came to Atsugi together several times with saying that we are looking forward to coming to the Atsugu Kendo Festival with throbbing heart.

Two guys (they are brothers) who had been Kendo training at Shiseikan in Japan went to London because of their father's transfer to England and they still keep up training at Badden & Kazuyo's Kendo gymnasium taking one hour per one way to get to the gymnasium from the suburbs of London.

And there are some families who have splendid memories that they visited their home three times and learned English touching English Culture with training Kendo.

3. Regarding the general situation of Kendo in England

In England there are about 1,000 people who practice the Kendo.

While the population of Kendo trainee remain on a stable level in England and the results of game are not so good, many people keep up training steadily for a long time.

This time 5 young men and women have come here from England which has been keeping long time exchange with Japan.

I'd like to put trust in the future that they must act as go-between for two countries' new exchange.