

MASTER KOTARO IHA - OKINAWA

琉
棍
会



SHORINRYU KARATEDO TORINO

MASTER KOTARO IHA OKINAWA

Kotaro Iha is president of Ryu kon kai, Ryukyu Kobudo association. Kudan ~~(9th degree black belt)~~ ❀

Kotaro Iha was born ^{FEBRUARY 12} ~~April 2~~, 1939. Mr. Iha started first training in Sho Rin Ryu Karate in May of 1958 under Choshin Chibana.

In 1961 Feb. , Mr. Iha began training under Yuchoku Higa.

May. , he started training Bo under Shigenobu Tamai.

1968 May. , Nunchaku, Sai, Kama, under Iloei Ishikawa.

1970 Jan. , Sai, Bo under Shiko Toma.

197⁶³ Mar. , Bo under Kantoku Izumikawa.

1972 Mar. , E-Ku under Takasha Kinjo.
July, Bo under shinchin Tawata.

Mr. Iha trained under several great masters, and he is an expert on many weapons, and particularly the Bo.

In 1974, Mr. Iha opened his first Dojo at his own house in Gushikawacity, Okinawa.

In June 1981, Mr. Iha founded Ryu Kon Kai, the Ryukyu kobudo Association and he was appointed the president of the association.

Encounter with Karate

Mr. Iha was interested in sports combative even when he was small, and when he

was in high school, he joined the Judo club at school and also started to practice Judo at a private Dojo in town. Mr. Iha, however, had to suffer a lot in his efforts to win because there was no classification according to the weight and he was rather small in physique. After graduation from high school, he decided to take up Karate because, he thought, Karate would give him a fair chance of winning despite of this disadvantageous physique. He soon found out, however, that even in Karate one with finer and bigger physique could have an advantage over the smaller opponent. The further thinking made him decide to take up Kobudo for Kobudo- especially Bo- could really give anyone a fair chance of winning disregard of his/ her physical condition though the use of weapons. Mr. Iha has been fascinated by Bo since then.

Mr. Iha's Motto (Creed, favourite saying):

You should not love to fight, but, not, even for a moment, forget to prepare for fighting.

(Musashi, Gorin no Sho, [tr. The Book of Five Rings])

Mottoes of Dojo

1. Be civil, courteous, disciplined and well-behaved.
2. Aim to train your mental and spiritual power as well as your physical power. Endurance is the key to success.

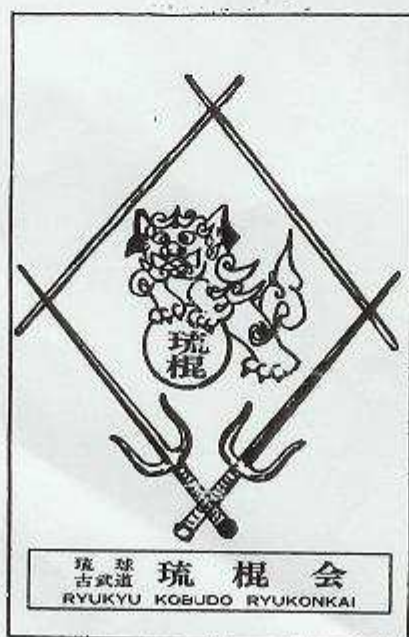
3. Respect your seniors and love your juniors. Regard every member of Dojo as brothers and sisters and treat them as such.
4. Try to master the most efficient skill of self-defence preparing for the emergency.

Ryu kon Kai

Ryukyu Kobudo Association has devoted itself to the practice and training of various martial arts- Bo, Sai, Toifa, Nunchaku, Kama, and E-ku, because the association regards Kobudo as a traditional Budo just like Karate.

Ryu Kon Kai stresses the importance of the skill of perfect self-defence and the power to kill the opponent with a blow and urges the members to master them through the hard and severe training of one Kata after another. At the same time, the association emphasizes the importance of acquiring the mental and spiritual power- the sense of life and death- through the training. The beauty of Kata of Budo is developed into the higher level

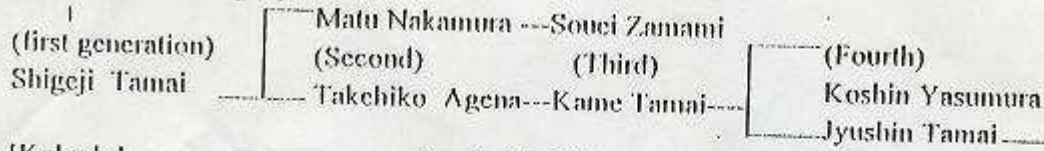
of beauty and power only through the stability and smooth movement of the lower part of the body. The mere acceptance of the traditional Kata may cause the danger of distorting the fundamental ideas and principles of Kata. The Katas of Karate and Kobudo is inevitably essential to Budo seeing from the historical point of view. Up until forty years ago, each master learned only one kata and took it to a country and taught it there. Those masters were quite old and also because they were dispersed around the island, It was quite difficult to collect the Katas of the masters. The Katas were, however, finally collected and the collection of the Katas became the foundation of Ryu Kon Kai. That was how Ryu Kon Kai is proud of proclaiming that all the members of the association have been devoting themselves in training and mastering Kobudo days and nights and also trying their best to properly inherit the traditional value of Budo - Okinawa's valuable cultural legacy - and seeking the best way to hand the legacy down to the future generation.



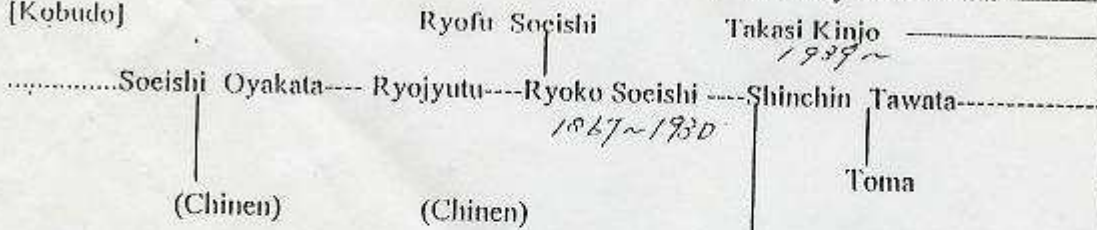
<Ryukyu Kobudou>

Ryu Kon Kai Family Tree of the Masters:

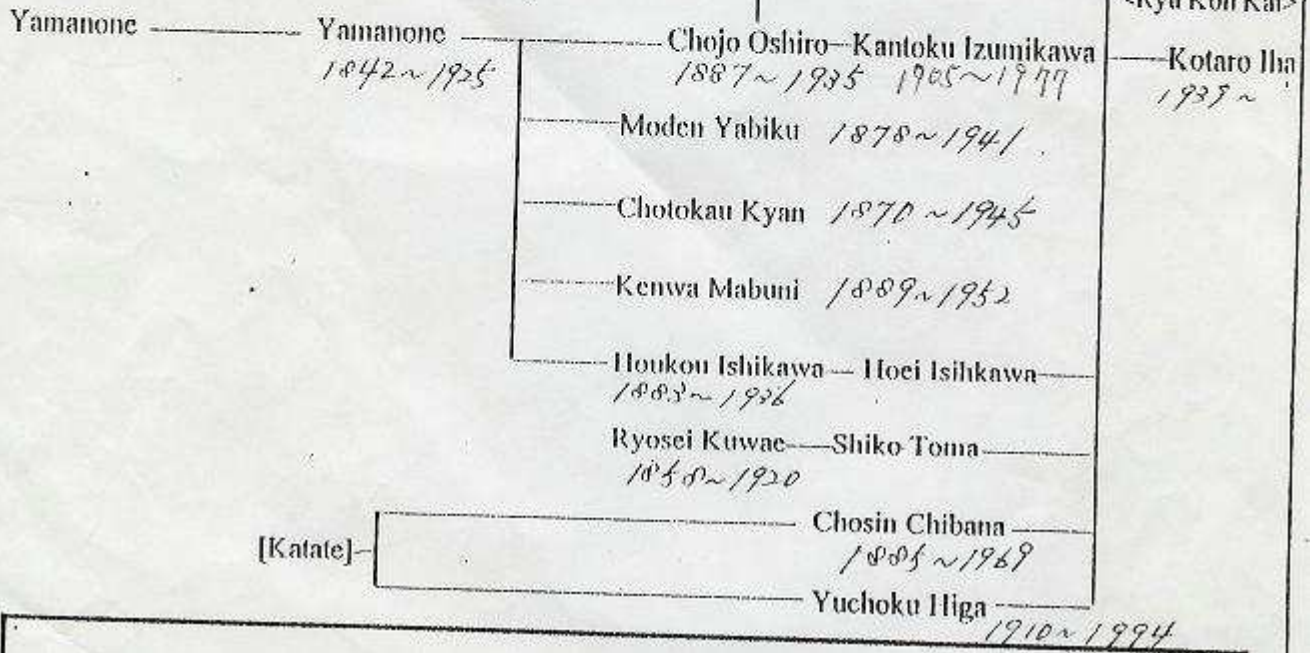
[Machi-Bo of Tengan]



[Kobudo]



<Ryu Kon Kai>



[Katate]