

Malcolm Tiki SHEWAN was born the 19th of May, 1951 in Somerville N.J. U.S.A. He began the study of fencing when he was 6 years old. At age 8 his father enrolled him in Judo classes at the Budokwai of LONDON.

In 1961 he abandoned Judo and devoted himself to fencing under the direction of Maître Fredrick RHODES, once a cavalry officer in the Prussian army and reputed to be one of the finest fencers in Europe.

It was at the RHODES ACADEMY that M.T. Shewan began his study of IAI, the art of drawing and cutting with the Japanese sword. His first lessons in the art were given to him by the Reverend Khan who was a Buddhist priest at the Zen Temple of New York and a proficient teacher of Kendo and Iaido in the style of MUSO JIKIDEN EISHIN RYU. The Reverend Khan gave classes regularly at that time at the Rhodes Academy.

Nonetheless his interest in the Japanese Sword began well before this time and, in fact, goes back to his childhood. His father, a noted arms collector and highly versed in the history of Warfare, as well as the manufacture of arms and armor in general cultivated his son's appreciation of the Japanese Sword.

He also attended regularly classes and conferences given by USUI BUMPEI, an expert connoisseur of the Nihon-to, from around 1970-71.

At age 18 he graduated from the Portsmouth Priory in R.I. and he went for his University studies in Modern Languages to Europe. He continued his fencing studies under the direction of Maître BELA IMREGY at Oxford University

When he was 19 his studies took him to Lausanne in Switzerland and there he began the study of AIKIDO at the LAUSANNE AIKIKAI with J.M. BURNIER and D BRUNNER. Soon afterwards he met TAMURA NOBUYOSHI Shihan.

In Mr. Shewan's mind this meeting was a turning point in his life. He abandoned fencing and devoted himself entirely to the study of AIKIDO with Master TAMURA as well as other Japanese Martial Disciplines under various teachers.

From this time onwards (1970) he devoted 4 - 6 hours daily to the practice of Aikido and Budo until 1981 when he travelled to Japan to further these studies.

At this time, his good friend Harvey Konigsberg introduced him to the IAI DOJO of OTANI YOSHITERU Sensei, a teacher of TENSHIN SHO JIGEN RYU and Muso Shinden Ryu.

In 1972 he was awarded Aikido Shodan

In 1973 Mr. Pierre Chassang offered him a teaching post at the Aiki Club de Cannes in France. Honored by this proposal he leaves Switzerland to come to live in Cannes, France. This move offers the possibility to work more intensively under the direction of Tamura Sensei who also lives nearby.

In 1974 he was awarded the Fukushido-In teaching certificate. He was also given the responsibilities as Regional Technical Advisor (DTR) in the U.N.A. (Union Nationale d'Aikido) particularly for the regions - Midi-Pyrennees and Cote d'Azur. He still assures this technical-advisory role within the Aikido Federation (FFAB) to this day.

In 1975 he was awarded Aikido Nidan.

It was also in 1975, while in the U.S., that he met and worked intensively with MITSUZUKA TAKESHI Shihan who Otani Sensei brought to America. During this time he devoted himself to the perfection of MUSO SHINDEN RYU IAI and he began his study of SHINDO MUSO RYU JODO.

Further, on account of his capacity for languages including Japanese, Mr. Shewan also played an active role within the European Aikido Federation.

In 1975 Dosshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba was invited by the E.A.F. to do a tour of Europe during which Mr. Shewan accompanies the delegation and serves as Uke for the Dosshu during most of his European demonstrations. At the end of the tour Dosshu participates in the founding assembly of the International Aikido Federation I.A.F. and Mr. Shewan actively participates in the early functioning of the IAF as translator.

In 1977 MITSUZUKA Sensei came to FRANCE upon the invitation of Tamura Sensei and the E.A.F. for a series of seminars covering both Iaido and Jodo during 2 months. Mr. Shewan served as his personal assistant during this time and this visit brought about the creation of the NATIONAL IAIDO FEDERATION and the EUROPEAN IAIDO FEDERATION and played an important role in the development of this discipline in FRANCE and in EUROPE.

His continuing interest in the practice of Japanese swordsmanship instilled in him an overview integrating all of the disciplines he now studied into a general view for the practice of Budo.

In 1979 he received Aikido Sandan (3rd Dan) thus becoming the youngest technical advisor of the federation to receive this grade.

But his true knowledge about forging and polishing of the Japanese Sword was taught to him by WAKITA RYOSUI SHISSHO during a long visit to EUROPE and during the author's stay in Japan in 1981-1982, where he studied as an apprentice-swordsmith there, that Mr. Shewan devoted his whole time to learning how to build small furnaces in which they made sword steel of the earliest times and refining the steel produced into sword-quality material. Parallel studies at this time included - Sword Polishing, the Techniques of Tsuba (sword guards) making, the fashioning of scabbards and other arts such as : the making of wooden weapons (bokken, etc.), ceramics and carpentry.

This trip also afforded the opportunity to visit numerous classical sword schools rarely (at that time) open to visitors. Thanks to the introductions obtained for him by Mr. Donn F. Draeger, Mr. Shewan was able to visit Schools such as : Tenshin Shoden Katori Shinto Ryu, Jikishin Kage Ryu, Yagyu Shinkage, Toda-ha Buko Ryu,

Tendo Ryu, Kashima Shinto Ryu, Tatsumi Ryu, Ogasawara Ryu, Masaaki Ryu(Y.Nawa), Shinto Muso Ryu, Tenshinsho Jigen Ryu.

In 1982 upon his return from Japan Mr. Shewan founded the G.R.M.T. - Group for the Research into Traditional Metallurgy - in order to permit him to continue and elaborate his study of the forging techniques he had learned during his apprenticeship.

1982 Mr. Shewan receives Aikido Yondan (4th Dan).

Malcolm SHEWAN is a member of the AMERICAN BLADESMITH SOCIETY whose President and founding Mastersmith is WILLIAM F. MORAN. After his 15 month stay in Japan Mr. Shewan spent part of 1983 in the USA to continue his work in swordsmithing. He also studied the making of damascus steel knives with Bill Moran.

The first event that was organized by the G.R.M.T. in collaboration with the Musée du Fer in Vallorbe, Switzerland, was a course in Damascus Steel and the Hand-forged Blade given by the illustrious William F. Moran.

Mr. Shewan also worked in collaboration with the Metals Laboratory and Iron Museum of Nancy in the field of Paleometallurgy particularly in relation to the rediscovering of certain metallurgical techniques of the Gallo-Roman Period. And in the smithy created in Villefranche de Rouergue. Members of the Group participated in the making of Gallo-Roman-style knives from ancient ingots furnished by the Metals Laboratory.

This cooperation gave birth to the organization in 1988 of an extremely significant event : The invitation for 4 japanese smiths to come to France in order to produce the first ever japanese sword made on European soil from european iron ore. The whole event was a great success and influenced many european knife-makers to look into traditional methods.

The author also studied the history and structure of traditional japanese Budo, with Mr. Donn F. Draeger (director of the INTERNATIONAL HOPEOLOGICAL SOCIETY).

The untimely death of this exceptional man deeply affected the author because of the close friendship he had with him. Many French and European trainees had occasion to appreciate the outstanding human qualities and mastery of DONN DRAEGER during the European tour which he made in the company of OTAKE RISUKE Shihan and KAMINODA TSUNEMORI Shihan in 1980 organised by the FEI and the FEJ.

In 1982 M.T. Shewan was named Responsable Technique National (RTN) in the Federation Française Libre d'Aikido et de Budo (F.F.L.A.B.), Aikikai de France.

In 1983-1984 Mr. Shewan wrote his first book on japanese Budo entitled "Iaido - The Art of Japanese Swordsmanship" and it sold 5,000 copies in the dual-language edition.

In 1984 constantly active in the teaching of Aikido and its promotion in France Mr.

Shewan received Aikido Godan (5th Dan).

In 1986 he returned to Japan for further research and studies.

In 1988 he was awarded the Diplôme d'Etat d'Educateur Sportif 1st Degré and at the end of the year was promoted to Aikido Rokudan (6th Dan).

In 1988 he returned once more to Japan for his study.

In 1989 he received the Diplôme d'Etat d'Educateur Sportif 2em Degré.

From 1992-1997 Mr. Shewan studied closely with Arikawa Sadateru Sensei during his multiple visits to France. Arikawa Sensei took the opportunity to teach much of his knowledge of the sword (and weapons) and, in particular, its use in Aikido.

Mr. Shewan continues to participate actively in the teaching of Aikido as CEN of the FFAB, and was a former Member of the Directing Committee (1992-1997).

In 2008 a school, which had been kept closed for many years, decided to open to a greater public - the Ryushin Jigen Ryu was created following a break with the TSS Jigen Ryu much of which Mr. Shewan learned from Otani Sensei and later (1981-1982) with Kawabata Terutaka Sensei. This afforded new opportunities for study which were very complimentary to other disciplines the author had studied.

Today, Mr. Shewan continues to expand his personal study of Budo giving numerous seminars in Iai, Ken and Aikido in collaboration with others who have similar aims and interests such as Pascal Krieger, René Vandroogenbroek, René Trognon, Toshiro Suga, Jaff Raji, Dominique Pierre, Floréal Perez and other valued friends. He maintains an active interest in ancient metallurgy.