



"Ethic and aesthetic aspects of Japanese sword practice"

Lecture at the
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organised by the Belgium-Japan Association (BJA)

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ULiège

« Three teachings one family »

三教一家

(sankyô ikka)

Shintoism

神道 (shintô)

Confucianism

儒教 (jukyô)

Buddhism

仏教 (bukkyô)

1. Shintoism 神道 (shintô)



Three Sacred Treasures 三種の神器 (sanshu no jingi)

Kusanagi-no-tsurugi (草薙の剣)

Ame-no-murakumo-no-tsurugi (天叢雲剣)



2. Confucianism 儒教 (jukyō)



Traditions and transmissions

- **Buddha** (-560 / -480), **Confucius** (-551 / -479) **Jimmu** (reign: -660 ~)
- **Han** (-206 / + 220): introduction of Buddhism to China (1st century)
- Bodhidharma 菩提達磨 (?/ 535 ?), introduction of Chan to China
- **Tang** (618-907): development of Chan
- **Kamakura** (1185-1333): introduction of Zen to Japan
 - Eisai 栄西 (1141 / 1215), Rinzai school, Kissa yôjô ki 喫茶養生記
 - Dôgen 道元 (1200 / 1253), Sôtô school
- **Muromachi** (1392-1568)
- **Azuchi-Momoyama** (1573-1603): Oda Nobunaga 織田信長 (1534-1582)
Toyotomi Hideyoshi 豊臣秀吉 (1537-1598)
- **Edo** (1603-1867): Tokugawa Ieyasu 德川家康 (1543-1616)

Japan - Traditional Chronology

I.

~ - 200 : Jômon

-200 ~ +250 : Yayoi

250 ~ 552 : Kôfun

II.

300 ~ 710 : Yamato (大和)

710 ~ 794 : Nara

794 ~ 1185 : Heian

III.

1185 ~ 1333 : Kamakura

1333 ~ 1392 : Nambokuchô

1392 ~ 1568 : Muromachi

1568 ~ 1603 : Azuchi-Momoyama

1603 ~ 1867 : Edo / Tokugawa

IV.

1868 ~ 1912 : Meiji

1912 ~ 1926 : Taishô

1926 ~ 1989 : Shôwa

1989 ~ 2019 : Heisei

2019 ~ : Reiwa

JAPAN IN THE AZUCHI-MOMOYAMA PERIOD

安土桃山時代の日本





3. 仏教 (bukkyō) 禅 (zen)





About disturbances at the Daitokuji

狂雲集 (kyôunshû)

The Zennists fight over Zen, the poets over poetry;
On the horns of a snake appear safety and danger;
The knife that kills, the sword that makes men live - -
Only the lovely lady of Ch'ang hsin knows.

題大德寺動亂

禪者爭禪詩客詩

蝸牛角上現安危

殺人刀矣活人劍

長信佳人独自知

『無門關』 Mumonkan, 第十一則

眼流星	The eye like a shooting star,	(manako ryûsei)
機掣電	The spirit like a lightning;	(ki seiden)
殺人刀	A death-dealing blade,	(setsunin tô)
活人劍	A life-giving sword.	(katsunin ken)

逢佛...

If You meet Buddha, ...

逢佛殺佛。

仏に逢えば仏を殺せ。

(butsu ni aeba, butsu wo korose)

If You meet Buddha, kill Buddha.

4. 居合道 Iaidō

常に居て、急に合わす

(Tsune ni ite, kyū ni awasu)

“being constantly present, match immediately”

一期一会 (ichigo ichie)

一生懸命 (isshôkenmei)

無雙直傳英信流

(Musô Jikiden Eishin-Ryû)

“peerless, directly transmitted school of Eishin.”

林崎甚助源の重信 (1546-1621)

Hayashizaki Jinsuke Minamoto no Shigenobu

長谷川主税助英信 (school c. 1716-1736)

Hasegawa Chikaranosuke Eishin (or Hidenobu)

大江正路 (1852-1927)

Ôe Masaji

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SESKO, Markus: Encyclopedia of Japanese Swords, Lulu Enterprises, 2014

SUZUKI Daisetz T.: Zen and Japanese Culture, Routledge and Kegan Paul, London 1959

YAMAKOSHI Masaki & TSUKIMOTO Kazutake: Musô Jikiden Eishin –Ryû, Maruzen, Kyôto 2004



