



大塚撃剣会

Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai

13th – 14th of October 2018

at the
Chiba-Dōjō
Floessergasse 8
81369 Munich, Germany
(www.hokushinittoryu.com)

Requirements for participation:

- Koryū or modern kendō / iaidō background (*no rankings required*)
- Provide your own bōgu and shinai (*same as for modern kendō*)
- No previous experience in gekiken necessary
- No permission for taryū-jiai from the own teacher required

Times:

Saturday, 13th of October: 10:00 – 11:00

11:00 – 13:00

13:00 – 14:00

14:00 – 15:00

15:00 – 16:00

18:00 – 21:00

- Introduction into gekiken shiai-geiko
- Gekiken shiai-geiko
- Break and time for discussions
- Gekiken shiai-geiko
- Kata-Enbu
- Party with a grand Japanese buffet

Sunday, 14th of October: 10:00 – 11:30

11:30 – 14:00

14:00 – 15:00

15:00 – 16:00

- Gekiken shiai-geiko
- Waza-geiko
- Break and time for discussions
- Gekiken shiai-geiko

Participation fee:

95, - Euro

(Deposit to be paid to secure place 50, -€)

The participation fee includes the whole event, including the party on Saturday with the grand Japanese buffet and all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as three nights staying at the Chiba-Dōjō

Reservation:

1. Send an application via e-mail to **otsukagekikenkai@gmail.com**

(Name your koryū or modern kendō/iaidō background in the application)

2. If your application is confirmed via e-mail, please send the deposit to the following bank account in order to complete your reservation

(Hokushin Itto-Ryu GbR Muenchner Bank IBAN: DE23 7019 0000 0002 0576 89 BIC: GENODEF1M01)

RESERVATION UNTIL THE 25th OF SEPTEMBER NECESSARY

Your place is only reserved after the deposit is on our bank account and you received the confirmation e-mail

The reservation is mandatory to participate at the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai. There won't be any refund of the deposit when one cancels the participation. The participation at this event is completely at the participant's own risk and responsibility. Neither the Hokushin Ittō-Ryū GbR nor the other participants will be liable for any kind of injuries which may happen to the participant during the event, even if they occur afterwards. They also won't be liable for damage on-, as well as for losses of the property brought by the participant. The Otsuka-Gekikenkai is a private event and no permission for taryū-jiai from the own teacher is required from the koryū or gendai-kendō/iaidō practitioners attending. There won't be any external spectators watching. It is prohibited to take videos and photos during the event without the explicit permission of the Hokushin Ittō-Ryū GbR. All rights of audiovisual content taken (even with permission) at the Otsuka-Gekikenkai belongs to the organizer and has to be reviewed by the Hokushin Ittō-Ryū GbR before allowance is given for any audiovisual content to be published. With the application for this event, the participant declares, that he/she accepts this terms and conditions.



大塚撃剣会

Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai

Introduction:

During the Edo period (1603-1868), as well as nowadays, gekiken taryū-jiai geiko (*free sparring practice against other traditions*) was and is a traditional form of koryū-bujutsu (*traditional Japanese martial art*) practice using various types of bōgu and shinai. It is the parent form of modern day sport kendō, where only certain protected parts of the opponent are allowed to be hit and count as valid points. Traditional gekiken, as it was practiced during the feudal periods of Japan, knows no such restrictions. It is a form of free fighting practice where the whole body of the opponent is considered a valid target. Therefore, even the spots not protected by the opponents bōgu, like legs, arms, armpits and others can be cut with full strength. The use of kumiuchi-waza (*mix of jūjutsu and kenjutsu techniques*) as well as atemi-waza (*striking techniques*) are also allowed. Basically, there are no rules or restrictions in traditional gekiken. The only rule existent is to not get cut by the opponent's weapon and aiuchi (*simultaneous cutting*) should be avoided, as in a real fight both kenshi would die like this. Gekiken shiai-geiko is the traditional fighting practice which comes closest to a real fight, either on the medieval Japanese battlefields or in duels. The purpose of the bōgu is only to prevent major injuries, such as internal bleedings and it is not used as a target.

Modern day kendō adopted the use of bōgu and yotsuwari-shinai (*shinai where the bamboo is split into four equally thick pieces*) during its creation during the 1920s as many schools with a strong gekiken background like Hokushin Ittō-ryū, Shintō Munen-ryū, Kyōshin Meichi-ryū, Shingyōtō-ryū, Mugai-ryū and Jikishinkage-ryū had a major influence in its creation. Therefore, modern kendō might seem similar to its parent form at the first glance, however, after a closer look, gekiken differs significantly in technique and spirit from modern kendō.



Woodblock print depicting a late Edo period gekikenkai. It shows various koryū practitioners having taryū-jiai geiko against each other in front of clan officials observing. Such a gekikenkai was normally not hold as a competition to gain official results and to determine the best fighter, but rather to have a place where practitioners of various ryūha could test their skills against each other and to polish the techniques they studied until perfection. Of course, official shiai could also be hold during such a gekikenkai. However, during official shiai there were only two people fighting at the same time and the duel had to be in the presence of a kenbun'yaku (referee), who would judge the shiai if necessary.

During the Bakumatsu period (1853-1868) gekiken taryū-jiai geiko was practiced by the vast majority (around 90%) of all ryūha extant at that time. The gekiken practice at the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai is done exactly in the same fashion as the bushi of the late Edo period practiced. This gekiken practice was passed down in the Hokushin Ittō-ryū Hyōhō from generation to generation up to the present day and will be explained and taught to all kenshi attending the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai by Ōtsuka Ryūnosuke, the 7th sōke of this ryūha. Therefore, for participating and fighting at the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai there is no previous gekiken experience needed.

The Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai aims to bring kenshi from various koryū, as well as practitioners with a modern kendō or iaidō background together, to fight traditional gekiken shiai against each other. By practicing taryū-jiai geiko, the kenshi gain not only technical expertise in how to actually use the techniques they studied against opponents, who use different techniques and strategies, but they also grow a strong fighting spirit based on the way of the sword.

It is important to point out that there won't be official taryū-jiai hold during the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai this time. This means that the results of the shiai fought there won't be recorded. It will only be documented which swordsmen from which background attended the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai. The record of the participants attending will be done in the same way it was done during the Edo period.



Traditional way of recording the participants attending a gekikenkai. This document is from the "Bujutsu Eimeiroku" published in 1860

This documentation does not mean that those people who are listed in the "Bujutsu Eimeiroku" were official and high-ranking representatives of their arts, but rather that this was the art they were enrolled in. Kenshi who didn't want their ryūha's name to be publicly known due to school internal politics and rules concerning taryū-jiai had the kanji 剣 (*ken / sword*) written instead of their ryūha's name. This is of course also possible at the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai if participants explicitly wish to have it this way.

Enbu:

At the Ōtsuka-Gekikenkai there is also the chance for those kenshi, who are official representatives by their respective ryūha, to perform a kata-enbu on Saturday for the other participants attending. We are grateful for every school which wants to perform and show their skills. After the enbu, there will also be time for discussions about gekiken, koryū and other related topics. If you want to perform an enbu of your ryūha, please let us know in your application.