

The Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai

- A Gathering of the Shorinjiryu Family
- Largest Group of Shorinjiryu Practitioners Worldwide
- Exchanging, Knowledge, Spirit & Friendship

Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai Shorinjiryu Shimbun

The Pot Calling the Kettle Black

by Dan Hayes, Renshi

The "good old days" of training with the ANZEN BOGU! These are the old style bogu, which are the same consistency and density of a good motorcycle helmet. Broken knuckles, fingers, toes, elbows, etc. Why I even cut my head scoring an ippon with my forehead on a felled opponent.

My family has never seen me compete, or even in a class for that matter. They were too appalled by my weekly bloody and broken condition. There was no need to see the cause. I remember the pride as I looked at the bloodstains on my gi. The weekly event of looking down and seeing my knuckles "capped." (The knuckle skin popped off like the open hood of a car to the bone.) I thought to myself, "this is a sign of how hard I am working!" The Anzen Bogu was a friend of mine. With its rounded, glazed surface it taught me target, distance, alignment, and pain. I needed to learn diverse striking techniques in order to allow my previous breaks, and other various forms of damage, to heal.

Variety was necessary, which afforded me with a wealth of experience and knowledge, all thought through pain. I was 13 years old (this was 30 years ago). I went away to college and practiced with Kyokushinkai, Shorinryu, Washinryu, PKA, Vin Tsuan, Jujitsu, and other assorted players. They all seemed weak and/or limited to me. Full Kime, POWER; follow through...the base of the Shorinjiryu Mountain! It baffled them all.

Then on one trip home I was introduced to "Super Safe" soft armor. "You have got to be kidding me!" I thought to myself. It was indeed assign of weakness to me. The surface was flat and soft. It was leather, so much less slippery. Many elements that afforded me to my training were eliminated. Much to my chagrin, we began using this protection more often. It was not Shorinjiryu! Why as a 6th kyu, I was even taught to remember the style name of Shorinjiryu by repeating SURE INJURY quickly (we only had 6 kyu back then). I had to be creative

in my home training to compensate for the modifications; I discovered new ways to learn the same lessons, without the same pain. But the memory of the old pain was indeed my guide. On occasion, Sensei would pull out the Anzen Bogu. Like a good friend, we would share painful, yet meaningful old memories.

I had witnessed a dojo full of students 30 years ago. Shorinjiryu Kenkokan was on the tip of everyone's tongue. I watched as the members slowly diminished. Many believed it was due to the harshness of the old Anzen Bogu. So we (Kenyukai, Kenkokan, and Kenryukan) adopted the less abrasive Super Safe course and worked towards assimilation. By and by (late 70's) we began to realize more students and popularity. Our new problems of a diminishing enrollment were more political and organizationally oriented now.

Again we need to assess our future. Our numbers within the older categories of competition are diminishing, as

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Calendar of Events

October 13, 2002

16th Annual International Shorinjiryu Shinzen Shia
Queens, NY
The Gathering of the Shorinjiryu Karate Family

December 7, 2002

Winter Regional Tournament
Imperial Dragon Hombu Dojo, New York

March 16th, 2003

St. Patrick's Day All Shorinjiryu Seminar
London, Canada

May 26, 2003

7th Annual Shindo Budo Kwai Koshiki Tournament
St. Jerome, Canada

October 12, 2003

17th Annual International Shorinjiryu Shinzen Shia
Queens, NY

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From the Desk of the President by Myron M. Lubitsch, Kyoshi

Earlier this year, I had one of my frequent and stimulating conversations with Tashi John P. Mirrione, a/k/a and affectionately, John Junior. During this particular discussion, we discussed the recent attitude change of Mr. Watanabe towards me as evidenced by the invitations he extended to me to attend a number of his sponsored events. During that discussion, Tashi John suggested that we honor Mr. Watanabe, as Mr. Watanabe is one of only a few of the original instructors still active. Tashi John thought that the Kyokai should promote Mr. Watanabe. The concept was very appealing to me; however, I then reminded Tashi John that we really could not do that. As the discussion progressed, I changed

the concept from promotion to recognition of what he should in fact be. Tashi agreed. From that point on, the implementation was placed into my hands. The various chief instructors were contacted and consulted. Kyoshi John A. Mirrione and I were in constant communication and finally the correct wording was agreed upon. Renshi Dan Hayes set the stage and on May 18, 2002 a laminated wooden black and gold 19 X 13 inch plaque was presented to Mr. Watanabe.

Kyoshi John Mirrione, Renshi Dan Hayes, Sensei Paul Jackman and myself stood together and with a thunderous standing ovation, Mr. Watanabe accepted the plaque recognizing him as a ninth dan black

belt with the honorable title of Hanshi of Shorinjiryu Karatedo.

Later that week, when I contacted Hanshi Watanabe, he indicated that he thought the rank was too high. I indicated to him that this was what he deserved and should rightfully be.

We, of the Kyokai, did the correct thing.



History of Shorinjiryu in North America

by John A. Mirrione, Kyoshi

I would like to share with you some interesting history of Shorinjiryu that up until now has not been written about in any Shorinjiryu text. Shorinjiryu was, as most already know, formally introduced to the United States at the New York World's Fair. Current practitioners do not know what took place soon after. I will give the reader my experiences and also give the recognition denied to those Japanese Sensei who were the original pioneers of what is now the most dynamic karate style of the 21st century. Some of these transplanted instructors have retired from the practice of Shorinjiryu, however, they still in some way support the practice and growth. Handfuls have continued to teach but have formed their own organizations.

In the early 1960's many Japanese Sensei, who had recently arrived in the United States, found themselves practicing and teaching Karatedo at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Shorinjiryu and Kyokushinkai were two of the major Karatedo disciplines to use this facility as a temporary home. Sensei Tadashi Nakamura of Kyokushinkai Karat-

edo, who today heads up his own World Seido Karate Organization, was one very well known sensei. The others were Sensei Masayuki Hisataka of Shorinjiryu Kenkokan Karatedo and his contemporaries. When writing or hearing about early Shorinjiryu one must always speak of the generosity and kindness of Judo Sensei, Kiyoshi Shina, and his wife. Sensei Shina taught judo classes at the Academy and oftentimes acted as a host to Shihan Hisataka and other Japanese sensei until they were able to feel comfortable in their new land. Sensei Shina still has a school in Brooklyn and also teaches judo at St. John's University. Until today, Sensei Shina has kept his close ties to Shorinjiryu instructors. He currently holds the rank of 8th dan. I would be remiss if I did not mention Mrs. Young who, as the landlord of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, found the appropriate space for the martial art being taught.

Soon after the demonstration at the World's Fair in 1964 and the affiliation with the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Shorinjiryu schools were opened all along the eastern

seaboard. Sensei Hisanobu Yamazaki taught in Queens, New York (The Queens Karate Center) and Long Island, New York (Island Judo Center). Sensei Shunji Watanabe taught at two locations in Baltimore, Maryland (Judo Inc.). Sensei Fujio Monjima taught in New Jersey (The Central Jersey Judo School) and Stamford, Conn. (The Stamford School of Self Defense). Sensei Minoru Morita taught in Brooklyn, New York (Japan Judo and Karate, Inc.) and also in Manhattan, New York. Sensei Yashiro Ishigami taught in Stamford, Conn. (Stanford School of Self Defense). Sensei Tamon Kashimoto, at the time the youngest of the sensei, taught in Staten Island, New York (The Richmond Judo School). Each one was a gifted instructor of a truly dynamic Martial Art.

In the 1970's, Sensei Yamazaki returned to Japan. Sensei Watanabe and Sensei Morita established the Shorinjiryu Kenyukai School of Karatedo (1974) and Sensei Kashimoto founded the Nanzen Kai School of Karatedo in 1972. Sensei

Dear Editors

Kudos on your publication of the Shimbun newsletter. It is insightful, informative and an excellent forum for bringing together those Shorinjiryu practitioners descended from Dr. Kori Hisataka. The newsletter facilitated my return to Shorinjiryu after a five-year absence. I read with keenness the Florida Update from Kyoshi John Mirrione and was very excited to know that an active teacher was within driving distance from my home in Orlando.

With the help of Kyoshi Myron Lubitsch, I contacted Kyoshi Mirrione and was invited to train. It has been almost 1 year hence and our Sunday sessions in the Boca Raton outdoors (the world's largest dojo), continue to intrigue and challenge. Of particular note is Kyoshi's focus on precise, clearly defined footwork, which I refer to as, 'legs alive,' to remind myself when training on my own. So, after five-years I have re-

entered my most favorite of pursuits, classical Shorinjiryu Karate, Kenkokai style.

I know that my success in life, in terms of family and work are a direct result of the positive impact of training in Shorinjiryu. Ironically, the one thing that improved me most is what I gave up to advance professionally and to raise a young family. In the past five years, I moved from Toronto to New York to Orlando in pursuit of my career and a better quality of life for my family.

My decision to return to Shorinjiryu specifically instead of some other style was influenced by the lack of a comparable standard in the Orlando area. Not to disrespect any schools that operate here, but as one whom participated fully in the Shorinjiryu curriculum, it was difficult to observe the conduct of some of the many dojos I visited.

They seemed to be more form than substance, and/or substance without meaning or intent. Additionally, I found it disconcerting to see 15-year-old black belts barking orders at grown men and women. The choice was clear; I had to find my way back to Shorinjiryu.

I have learned this since I've begun with Kyoshi Mirrione: re-entering training is a lot harder than I expected it to be, the past is past and can't be regained, the only realistic objective is to practice the best I can to become the best I can be now.

Thank you Sensei Rick Black for your friendship and for always keeping the door open. Thank you Shihan Doug Roberts. And, thank you Kyoshi John Mirrione for teaching me.

Domo arigato gozimashita,
Derek John, Ni Dan.

Commemorative Video

We are pleased to announce that the superb commemorative video created by Renshi Vincent Capers

Jr., *The Chronicle of Shorinjiryu* is still available. This video details the past 3 plus decades of Shorinjiryu

in North America and is a must for serious students of Shorinjiryu. Please contact us with your order.

The Kyokai Patch

Are you wearing the patch with pride? Are you wearing it at all?

The Kyokai represents a statement of family and solidarity. If you

need one please contact us for your order.

History of Shorinjiryu in North America (continued)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
Monjiama retired from teaching and not much is known of the others.

In the early 1960's, I had the honor and privilege to train extensively with Sensei Morita in Brooklyn and Sensei Kashimoto in Staten Island. On occasion, I was also tutored by Sensei Hisataka, Watanabe, Yamazaki and Sensei Shina when they took over instruction at my dojo.

After these schools were established, Shihan Hisataka returned to Japan to head up the Hombu Dojo. Soon after, he went to Canada to give demonstrations at Expo '67 and taught at the Seidokwan Academy of Judo and Karatedo in Montreal, Canada, at McGill University, Loyola College and the National Theater School of Canada in Montreal. In 1979, he founded Koshiki Karatedo.

Although there have been numerous articles written and a couple

of books published on our art, little if any recognition is given to these sensei who came to North America and made the sacrifice to teach and spread the Karatedo of Kaisei Kori Hisataka. If it were not for these pioneers, I, for one, and numerous others would not have enjoyed the everlasting benefits of our training throughout the years.

For this I say, "Domo Arigato Gozaimshita."

Special Comments

I wish everyone a healthy happy summer.

Hanshi Brian Aarons

We wish everyone an enjoyable summer.

Kyoshi Michel Laurin

The 16th Annual International Shorinjiryu Shinzen Shiai

The 16th International Shorinjiryu Shinzen Shiai will take place on Sunday, October 13, 2002 at John Adams H. S. in Queens, NY, USA. Our awards dinner dance will take

place at the Radisson Hotel, JFK Airport. Please pre-register to save time and money. All Shinzen members in good standing will be eligible to receive a discount, however, there

will be no discounts on the day of registration. We hope to see you there.

The Pot Calling the Kettle Black by Dan Hayes, Renshi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

are our resources. In the '90's, our population had become older and more professional. More "white collar" and responsible than before. The reckless student at the age of 20 is over. Again we face the same challenge. Do we look at the past and learn or do we lose our future because of an infantile need to prove progress through personal damage? I know I can always choose those who will benefit from and endure this method of training. Does that mean I should exclude others from benefiting from the many venues of Karate training and tournament competition? Tournaments are held 4 to 6 times a year. They are a game and a shiai (contest) at the same time. Not all who practice are

Bugei. (A martial artist whose primary goal is real combat-Ed.) Some karateka are those who appreciate what they can gain from the limited practice that their responsibilities allow. We now wear cups, mouthpieces, soft armor and headgear. We do not allow contact to the head, soft areas, back of the body, against joints, no throws on hard surfaces, etc. So much has changed, yet our technique is better than ever. If you do not believe me, look at the shiai from some of the available tapes from the '60's.

I believe we need to step back and look at the past. Evaluate how we got this far and assess who we are now. We are both older and younger now. When I began, I was the youngest in the dojo at 13. The average age was about 21. Now my

adult student's average age is 40. My children are an average of 9 years old and I have 4 "teenage" students. Legal issues abound now. This was never a concern when I began. We are evolving to stay alive. We need to further investigate Doko ji gy deki, "Spiritual Development of Individuality in Mind and Body." There is a time and place for everything. Again, in the dojo, I say keep the Anzen Bogu, keep the contact, disavow the hand and foot protection and choose the appropriate players. BUT, do not preclude potential karateka their opportunity to not only benefit from competition but also, possibly contribute some day in ways that limiting our resources will never let us realize.

[We invite comments on this important issue. - ED]

A Thought or Two Regarding the Previous Article

Renshi Hayes has brought up a number of important questions that must be addressed. He is 100% correct when he points out that the techniques of today are sharper and cleaner than those of the '60's. I have to agree with him regarding the demographics of today's student membership. He is also correct in

his assessment of the legal issues of today verses yesterday. Now, regarding the use of protective equipment of the hands and feet, further discussion is absolutely necessary and required. I for one see no problem with the use of shin and instep protectors. I do not believe in the use of foam or leather type

hand protectors. Having said that, some form of protective hand gear should be explored with the definite objective of implementation.

We are requesting that you submit your thoughts.

Kyoshi Myron M. Lubitsch

“Karate-Do” Unum ET Pluribus by Manny Hawthorne, Renshi

Not long ago, I found myself defending the honor of “Karate” to a once upon a time karate parent. Neither the school nor style mattered; what did was that “Karate” was under the characterization microscope. I was the defendant facing the prosecution against the honor of “Karate.” In short, I was doing damage control.

To tell my story: Early one morning, in (of all places) a local hockey arena, while my son Dylan was at hockey practice, a father of one of the players set the spark. We were having a casual conversation when he mentioned his distaste for karate. By the way, he didn’t know I was a Karateka. He went on to say that both his boys used to take karate and that they were, to a degree, quite good; one a black belt and the other a brown belt. The problem, as he commented, was the system, the organization, the judging, the fighting and the lack there of. In his view, if this “Karate” was supposed to offer the means for self-defense, respect, manners, discipline

and develop personal character, then it was not standing up to his measure. On and on he went, not to bore you, I’m sure you’ve all heard the stories, i.e. biased judging, black belts parading around like peacocks and one that I feel amusing, the fighting was nothing less than sissies! To these comments I found myself in an awkward position. Not that they reflect on my Karate-Do (of course not) but that they are a mirror image of what maybe a growing perception out there, about that which I love, “Karate-Do”. Yes, I did my share of damage control and also slipped in a few promotions with an invitation for his boys to attend my classes.

[The Kyoshi asked, “What was the final result?”]

Thanks for asking! I believe I convinced him not to throw out the baby with the bath water! I expressly told him that there are persons out there (too many) who do a great job at posing as karate instructors, and that I strongly recommend all parents do

a little homework, question themselves, what they are looking for (do they even know?), then shop around (so to speak) for a club that meets their expectations. I did get him to admit that he didn’t look around for another school and that he thought they were all the same (NOT!). He did say he would come by, but not as yet (maybe never). That’s about it I’m afraid, except that it bothered the hell out of me. I don’t take bad news well, I guess.

The reason I am writing this story is to bring to light that as Karateka, we have a code of responsibility, “Unum Pluribus”. A mission to ensure the status and respectful name of Karate-Do and to continually uphold the truth that Karate-Do is first and foremost, “A diligent study in empty hand combat”. We must demonstrate with pride and fury at any opportunity, Karate-Do is for the strong in spirit, noble of character and must be promoted as such (period)!

Health & Peace

Sunshine News & Congratulations

Congratulations Kyokai Certifications

- **Peter Hiltz** of the Ake No Myojo upon your promotion to godan with the title of Renshi
- **Alberdeston “Big AL” Gonzalez** of the Kenryukan upon your promotion to yondan with the title of Tashi
- **Dennis “Blood” Dorn** of the Kenryukan upon your promotion to yondan with the title of Tashi, your relocation to Florida, and the upcoming opening of a new dojo
- **Oscar “Ozzy” Salvatierra** of the Kenryukan upon your promotion to sandan with the title of Sensei and graduation from Fordam University
- **Maurizio Milana** of the Kenkukai upon your promotion to nidand and graduation from Stoney Brook University

Shodan Kyokai Certifications

- **Judy Bodor** Kenkokai
- **Cyril Montoya** Kenkokai
- **Doreen Rosario** Kenryukan
- **Angel “Dusty” Garcia** Kenryukan
- **Mahmoud “Moody” Imam** Kenryukai
- **Shaun Terry** Kenkukai
- **Shodan Yesenia Santiago** upon your graduation from Hunter College
- **Sarai Ramos** upon your winning a two thousand dollar scholarship for culinary arts
- Congratulations to **Tashi John P. Mirrione** and his wonderful wife, upon the birth of their beautiful daughter, Sophia

- Ake no Myojo Budo under the excellent tutelage of **Renshi Peter Hiltz**, fifth degree black belt and respected member of the International Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai, is proud to announce the opening of its second dojo in the Carroll County YMCA, in beautiful Westminster, Maryland. With a modest beginning of only two classes per week and with no more than eight students, Renshi Hiltz has embarked on an ambitious program that embodies the motto of Shorinjiryu’s founder, Kori Hisataka, “Spiritual development of individuality in mind and body.” Renshi Hiltz has shared with his students his philosophy that they have just begun a fascinating new and highly educational journey

The Joy of the Journey by Peter M. Hiltz, Renshi

I was reminded yesterday of a fundamental principle of karate-do study: the joy is in the journey, not in reaching the destination. A number of things call this to mind. The first was a talk I had with some new students who wanted to leap ahead in their training and do karate-movie kicks. I had to explain that while we will get there, there is a lot of practice and training that needs to come before. They had a goal in mind but had never thought about the fun of the trip. I likened it to riding a bicycle. The fun is not in getting off your bike at the end of the day, but in the time spent riding the bike.

The riding is the fun part, not the end of the riding.

The second reminder was my own work in setting up my second dojo. In a different area with a different clientele, there are no advanced students. While some had had prior martial arts training, none had studied Shorinjiryu Karate-do. While it will be nice to have the dojo heavily populated with a variety of students of varying ranks, the fun part is the challenge of growing the school. Watching the progress of the individual students, the individual dojo, and the growth of the whole school as the two dojos interact will occupy me for years to come. In a few years, when the dojo is up and running smoothly, it will still be fun, but not in the same fashion. When that time comes, I'm sure I'll choose another 'project' and embark again on a challenging journey!

The final reminder was the sadness I feel at the loss inflicting those

who do not share this understanding. The son of a co-worker of mine studies martial arts at a local storefront school. The other day he mentioned that his son would test this week for his black belt. While I'm glad they are happy with this, the school he attends promotes everyone every three months. I've tracked them for two years now and it appears that as long as you keep your contract paid and show up for class occasionally you will automatically be promoted. Where is the journey in this? Where is the challenge? Where is the growth? Obviously it is not there. If everyone gets promoted every three months (coinciding with the minimum contract length) then how can there be a challenge? Promotions are guaranteed! I have no doubt that they are learning a variety of things, but is it reflexive knowledge or just a large vocabulary of stuff that is practiced a bit for short-term mastery? Their 'style' is one that claims no unique knowledge, but instead claims that students should master up to eighteen other martial arts. Given that if you stay around you're guaranteed a black belt in a predictable time and a Shodan (don't even bother to ask, just think about it from the standpoint of making money and keeping kids happy) in another 2.5 years, how can anything be more than short-term memory? At the end, since they do not recognize the concept of a lifelong journey, they achieve their immediate goal of a black belt, and then typically leave study. A few years later, they have nothing left except a piece of paper.

My coworker, his son, and many others are missing the key concept of martial arts. Martial arts are not something you do until you get your black belt. Martial arts are a life long journey of growth and self-discovery.

Attention All: I'm shutting down the web site www.shorinjiryuforms.com. A few people pulled material from it, including one non-Shorinjiryu school that found a kata it taught under a different name, but with no contributors and no guest book signings, it is clearly not the time for it. HOWEVER, that does not mean I'm done collecting the fantastic variety of forms in Shorinjiryu karate-do. While the web site is going away, the library is not.

If you have forms that we've not captured (see www.akenomyjobudo.com for the list of what we've got so far), or have ones that are not on the list, email me! You can email from the web site in any number of places. We'd love to have a video, either VHS or digital. If you want to send us something, let me know about covering your costs for the tape and shipping. If it is one that is rare or 'forgotten', lets talk about compensating you for your time (this means I might be willing to pay for it).

Of course, if you see one on the list that you don't have, but would like, let me know and we'll see about getting it to you. This is a multi-year project for the school, and we are still working on adding the material we know.

New Services

The Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai is pleased to offer the following member benefits to all member schools.

Electronic Graphics - We'll take a sketch of your logo or other graphic and replicate it as Adobe or Corel drawings, or as a jpeg, tiff, or gif bitmap. We'll remove backgrounds

from photos and create animated gifs for your website. Need bogu? Contact us for deep discounts on body armor and head protection. The Kyokai can offer database design and implementation services under Microsoft Access. Need a pdf form for your website? We can do that too! Need other support to

your school? Ask us! Look for these services on the Kyokai website at www.shorinjiryu.org. These services are free to Kyokai members. Non members will be charged a nominal fee. For additional information email webmaster@shorinjiryu.org.

We Welcome a New Member

We are pleased to announce that Des Paroz of Australia has joined the Kyokai. Des has been a student of Shorinjiryu since 1983 with his major instructors being Shihan Phill Hooper and Renshi Jim Griffin. Des was also a personal student of Hanshi Hisataka while he lived in Japan for almost 2 years. During his

time in Japan, he met Kyoshi Patrick McCarthy, and has been able to train with and gain an insight into Kyoshi McCarthy's research. Currently Des is training privately, and has recently re-established links with Renshi Jim Griffin and the Australian Shorinjiryu Karatedo organization. Des also co-authored much of the

book "Essential Shorinjiryu Karatedo" with Hanshi Hisataka, although the more questionable material was added subsequently and against his recommendation. Sensei Des has devoted much of his energy into the study of the genealogy kata, as you will note in his submitted article. We wish him well.

The Kata of Shorinjiryu - Ananku by Des Paroz, Sandan

Ananku is an interesting kata in the Shorinjiryu Karatedo lineage of Kaiso Kori Hisataka. This kata is undoubtedly of historical importance to our style, but we aren't exactly sure as to who developed this kata.

Evidence suggests that Chotoku Kyan, the leading teacher of Kaiso Kori Hisataka, introduced Ananku to Okinawan karate. It also generally accepted that Kyan introduced it shortly after his return from the c. 1930 visit to Taiwan, on which Ryosei Kuwae and Kaiso Kori Hisataka accompanied him.

Although the exact origins of the kata are uncertain, there are four generally favoured theories among researchers:

1. Kyan, Kuwae and Kaiso Kori Hisataka collaboratively developed the kata based on their experiences in Taiwan (Hisataka, 1994)
2. Kyan developed the kata himself, probably based on the Taiwan experience (Smith, 2002);
3. Kyan learnt it from a Chinese style in Taiwan; or,
4. He learnt it in Okinawa - possibly from a Taiwanese martial artist (Bishop, 1989), or his father (Sells, 2000).

Whilst the first theory has a lot of appeal to practitioners of our Shorinjiryu, the fact that Ananku has not been a part of our system until relatively recent times would make this questionable (although

by no means out of the question). In his earlier book, Hanshi Masayuki Hisataka (1976) made no reference to Ananku in his excellent discussion about the kata of Shorinjiryu.

The third theory is similarly questionable. As the three Okinawan masters are believed to have traveled together for this journey, it would be likely that Kaiso Kori Hisataka would also have learnt the form, and that it would today be part of our system. It is however possible that Kyan learnt the form separately.

The fourth theory is also possible but doubtful, as it does not explain why no one else of Kyan's era or before is known to have taught this kata. Similarly, it does not explain why Kyan began to teach the form immediately following his return. Many leading researchers into Karatedo history believe that Kyan did bring the kata back from the Taiwan visit (McCarthy, 1987).

Therefore, I favour the theory Kyan himself developed Ananku based on his experiences in Taiwan, and possibly "recording" what he saw from local martial artists during those travels. Accordingly, this kata is of special importance to our style, historically.

Ananku remained "lost" from the Shorinjiryu family for many years, until the mid-1980's, when

Shihan Laurie Vann of Australian Shorinjiryu researched this kata, and re-introduced it to as a contribution to the overall development of our style. Its practice has been adopted by various Shorinjiryu schools around the world, notably by members of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai.

As an historical artifact, Ananku is important to our style. It not only records the experiences of our founder and his teacher, but it also gives us greater insight into the techniques of Chotoku Kyan. It is a short, fast kata that emphasizes the angular movements and combinations that are characteristic of our style.

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Shorinjiryu Shimbun

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