

甲賀流十四世藤田西湖の晩年の門弟齋藤聰伝  
古武道研究会明神館  
甲賀武田忍法相伝二十一代早坂義文(號覚禅齋)

甲賀流十四世藤田西湖(藤田勇)は、明治32年(1899)東京で生れ、昭和41年(1966)逝去67歳。陸軍中野学校を設立準備から携わり、忍術を教える講師となりました。

そして、全国諸藩に伝わった武術関係の伝書類を模写、保存し、その伝書類の内、武術関係書は、小田原市立図書館へ寄贈、忍術関係書は、伊賀上野市へ寄贈されました。

小田原城にはかつて、藤田西湖の収蔵品の手裏剣などの武具類も天守に展示してありました。

齋藤聰先生は、27歳、昭和24年(1949)に藤田西湖門下に加わり、亡くなる44歳までの間、藤田西湖の忍術、体術、忍者独特の剣法、手裏剣、隠し武器、火薬、毒薬、縄術等を学び、日本古武道振興会の役員の一員として、活動を共にしました。

師は、大正11年(1922)東京で生れ、平成26年(2014)逝去92歳。昭和18年(1943)学徒出陣で出征、陸軍少尉。昭和22年(1947)慶應義塾大学卒業、東京都庁に入庁、東京都立大学事務局長で退任。総理府統計審議会委員。

日本古武道協会常任理事、日本古武道振興会会長、根岸流手裏剣術五代宗家、桑名藩伝山本流居合術十五代宗家。

また、東京都の観光大使として、来日外国人に対し、藤田西湖の伝えた忍術や古武術の技法などを解説しました。

藤田師の武術について語った中で、忍者の体術は、「三十六形逃げるが勝ち」、即ち、敵に囲まれたときに如何に脱出できるかを身に着ける武術で、各流儀の当て身技などを集めて、甲賀流拳法(南蛮殺倒流)と命名したとのことでした。

手裏剣術については、心月流の免許皆伝を許されました。

藤田西湖師が逝去した後も、小田原市立図書館で開催され、藤田西湖文庫展「日本古武道研究の宝庫」所蔵資料展を開催された時、藤田西湖が伝えた忍術を解説し、更に、小田原スポーツ会館で同図書館主催の演武会で心月流手裏剣術を披露しました。

更に、一伝流の捕縛術は、様々な結び方を教わり、甲賀流の忍術に伝わる縄梯子の伝は、非常に貴重な技術です。そして、生かして捕縛し、我が陣に連行しなければならない使命をおびています。

そのために、体術、捕縛術は必修です。平和な時代でも、ある時、突然、人が居なくなり、異国で生還している。これらの術は、未だに不滅なのです。これらの武術は、忍術ではありません。忍術を活用するための武術です。

私が、齋藤道場で藤田西湖伝の武術、忍術の指導を受け、様々な資料や武具、忍具等の贈呈を受け、それを道場生に指導し、現在、後継者の育成に努めています。

A Biography of Saito Satoshi: A Disciple of Fujita Seiko, the  
14th Soke of Koga-ryu, in His Later Years

Hayasaka Yoshifumi

Fujita Seiko (Fujita Isamu), the 14th soke (grandmaster) of Koka-ryu ninjutsu, was born in Tokyo in 1899 (Meiji 32) and passed away in 1966 (Showa 41) at the age of 67. He was deeply involved in the preparatory establishment of the Army Nakano School from its inception, where he served as an instructor teaching the art of ninjutsu. Throughout his life, he transcribed and preserved ancient martial arts scrolls and historical documents handed down across various feudal domains throughout Japan. Subsequently, the general martial arts documents were donated to the Odawara City Library, while the ninjutsu-related documents were donated to Iga-Ueno City. Weapons and armor from Fujita Seiko's personal collection, including various shuriken, were also once exhibited in the main keep of Odawara Castle.

Saito Satoshi joined Fujita Seiko's discipleship in 1949 (Showa 24) at the age of 27. Until Fujita's death when Saito was 44, he intensively studied Fujita Seiko's ninjutsu, taijutsu (body techniques), distinctive ninja sword fighting methods, shurikenjutsu, concealed weapons, explosives, poisons, and hojojutsu (rope binding techniques). He actively participated alongside his master as an executive board member of the Nihon Kobudo Shinkokai (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Traditional Martial Arts).

Saito was born in Tokyo in 1922 (Taisho 11) and passed away in 2014 (Heisei 26) at the age of 92. In 1943 (Showa 18), he was drafted under the wartime student mobilization and served as an Army Second Lieutenant. After graduating from Keio University in 1947 (Showa 22), he entered the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, later retiring as the Secretary-General of Tokyo Metropolitan University, and served as a member of the Statistics Commission of the Prime Minister's Office. He held prestigious positions as the Executive Director of the Nihon Kobudo Kyokai (Japan Kobudo Association), President of the Nihon Kobudo Shinkokai, the 5th Soke of Negishi-ryu Shurikenjutsu, and the 15th Soke of the Yamamoto-ryu Iaijutsu handed down in the Kuwana Domain. Furthermore, as a Tourism Ambassador for

Tokyo, he demonstrated and explained the ninjutsu and traditional martial arts techniques transmitted by Fujita Seiko to foreign visitors.

Regarding Fujita's martial arts philosophies, Saito noted that the taijutsu of the ninja emphasizes 'flight as the ultimate victory' (sanjurokkei nigeru ga kachi)—a martial art focused primarily on mastering how to safely escape when surrounded by enemies. Fujita compiled the critical striking techniques (atemi-waza) from various traditional schools and named this comprehensive system Koka-ryu Kempo (Nanban Satou-ryu). In the field of shurikenjutsu, he was granted the menkyo kaiden (license of full mastership) in Shingetsu-ryu.

Even after Fujita Seiko's passing, during the Fujita Seiko Bunko Exhibition titled 'A Treasure Trove of Japanese Traditional Martial Arts Research' hosted by the Odawara City Library, Saito provided expert commentaries on the ninjutsu transmitted by Fujita. He also demonstrated Shingetsu-ryu Shurikenjutsu at a martial arts demonstration sponsored by the library at the Odawara Sports Kaikan.

Furthermore, the capturing techniques (hojobaku) of Ichiden-ryu include various intricate knotting methods, and the rope ladder techniques transmitted within Koka-ryu ninjutsu represent highly valuable military skills. Practitioners are charged with the absolute mission of capturing an adversary alive and escorting them back to camp. For this purpose, taijutsu and capturing techniques are compulsory. Even in times of peace, people can suddenly vanish and resurface alive in foreign lands; thus, these techniques remain immortal to this day. These martial arts are not ninjutsu themselves, but rather the practical auxiliary arts required to utilize ninjutsu effectively.

Having received direct instruction in the martial arts and ninjutsu transmitted by Fujita Seiko at the Saito Dojo, as well as being gifted various historical documents, weapons, and ninja tools, I now instruct my students and am fully dedicated to fostering the next generation of successors.

