

Glossary

A

- aiki** [合気] unified energy
aikido [合気道] way of aiki; a modern martial art derived from jujutsu
aikijutsu [合気術] techniques of aiki
aite [相手] opponent
Asayama Ichiden-ryu [浅山一伝流] classical comprehensive martial of the goshi
ashigaru [足軽] foot soldiers; the lowest level of bushi
atarashii naginata [新なぎなた] lit., new naginata; modern martial art of naginata
atemi [当身] strike
atemiwaza [当身技] techniques of striking

B

- bakufu** [幕府] military government of Japan
battojutsu [抜刀術] techniques of sword-drawing; sword-drawing art
bo [棒] staff
bojutsu [棒術] techniques of the staff; staff art
bokuto [木刀] wooden sword
budo [武道] martial ways
bugei [武芸] martial arts
bujutsu [武術] martial arts, martial techniques
bushi [武士] Japanese warrior
bushido [武士道] way of the bushi, or Japanese warrior

C

- Chokugen-ryu onaginatajutsu** [直元流大長刀術] classical tradition that specializes in the use of a very large naginata

D

- Dai Nippon Butokukai** [大日本武徳会] Greater Japan Martial Virtues Society
dan [段] lit. step; indicates a degree of black belt
densho [伝書] transmission documents of a classical ryu
deshi [弟子] disciple, student
dojo [道場] lit. way place; a place where martial arts are practiced
doshin [同心] Tokugawa period law enforcement official

F

- fudoshin** [不動心] imperturbable or immovable spirit
fukuro shinai [袋撓] training sword made of bamboo encased in leather
furibo [振棒] heavy training club used in Jikishinkage-ryu to develop proper technique and stamina
furisode [振袖] long-sleeved kimono worn by young unmarried women
furui [古い] old

G

- gokui** [極意] hidden or secret; in Yagyū Shinkage-ryu, one of the okugi techniques
go no sen [後の先] responsive initiative; also machi no sen
goshi [郷士] farmer warriors; bushi who held and worked land
gunbaisha [軍配者] practitioner of battlefield divination

H

- habiki** [刃引] metal-bladed sword; can be sharp or rebated
hachidan [八段] 8th degree black belt

hachimaki [鉢巻] headband
hachiwari [鉢割] helmet-splitter
hakama [袴] pleated divided skirt or culottes
hakuda [白打] unarmed close-combat techniques
hamon [破門] formal expulsion from a ryu
hanbo [半棒] short staff
hanbojutsu [半棒術] techniques of the short staff
hanshi [範士] master-level instructor
heiho [兵法] martial principles or military strategy
hikitate geiko [引立稽古] training to improve someone's technical skill or level
hinawaju [火繩銃] matchlock musket
hojo [捕繩] binding and securing
hojojutsu [捕繩術] binding techniques, using a tying cord to restrain prisoners
Hokushin Itto-ryu kenjutsu
 [北辰一刀流劍術] classical sword tradition
hyoho [兵法] see heiho

I

iaido [居合道] way of sword-drawing; a modern martial art
iaijutsu [居合術] techniques of sword-drawing; sword-drawing art
inkajo [印可状] lit. rank of the seal; authority to pass on the tradition
Itto Shoden Muto-ryu kenjutsu
 [一刀正伝無刀流劍術] classical sword tradition

J

jigeiko [地稽古] free practice or sparring in kendo, atarashii naginata, jukendo
jita kyoei [自他共栄] mutual benefit and welfare
jo [杖] stick, usually about four feet in length

jojutsu [杖術] techniques of the stick; stick art
judo [柔道] way of flexibility; modern martial art
judogi [柔道着] jacket and trousers worn while doing judo
jujutsu [柔術] techniques of flexibility; grappling art
jukendo [銃劍道] way of the bayonet; modern martial art
jukenjutsu [銃劍術] techniques of the bayonet; bayonet art
jutte [十手] single-tined truncheon

K

kabutowari [兜割] helmet-splitter
kaeshiwaza [返技] techniques to reverse or escape techniques being applied to oneself
kamae [構] engagement posture
kami [神] Shinto diety or dieties
kappo [活法] resuscitation methods or techniques
karatedo [空手道] way of the empty hand; modern martial art
Kashima Shinden Jikishinkage-ryu
 [鹿島神伝直心影流] classical sword tradition
kata [形] prearranged movement pattern
katana [刀] Japanese sword, worn cutting edge up
katchu bujutsu [甲冑武術] martial techniques done while wearing armor
katsu [活] resuscitation techniques
katsujinken [活人劍] life-giving sword
kazunuki [数抜き] drawing and cutting 3,000, 10,000, or 30,000 times; special practice of Tatsumi-ryu
keiko shokon [稽古照今] reflect on the old to understand the new
kempo [拳法] fist method; unarmed sparring methods or systems
ken [懸] attack; fall upon
ken [劍] sword

kendo [剣道] way of the sword; modern martial art of Japanese fencing
kenjutsu [剣術] techniques of the sword; swordsmanship
keppan [血判] blood seal made with vow upon entering a ryu
kesagiri [袈裟切] diagonal cut
ki [気] vital energy
kiai [気合] focused shouts
kiaijutsu [気合術] techniques of kiai; methods of exerting one's will on others
kirigami menjo [切紙免状] classical license on a simple piece of folded Japanese paper
kishomon [起請文] vow on entering a classical tradition
kobo itchi [攻防一致] attack and defense as a continuum of response in combat
kobudo [古武道] classical martial ways
kobujutsu [古武術] classical martial arts
kodachi [小太刀] short sword
kogusoku [小具足] grappling, usually in armor
kohai [後輩] junior
kokoro [心] spirit, heart, or mind; also *shin*
koku [石] traditional Japanese weight measure; used to specify income
kokyu [呼吸] breath, breathing
koppo [骨法] unarmed grappling
koryu [古流] classical or old tradition
koryu budo [古流武道] classical martial ways
koryu bujutsu [古流武術] classical martial arts
koshi no mawari [腰の廻] grappling, usually in light armor
kowami [剛身] unarmed grappling
kuda yari [管槍] spear with a sleeve
kuden [口伝] oral teachings
kuji [九字] nine signs; mudra used in esoteric Buddhism
kumite [組手] freestyle sparring in karatedo
kumiuchi [組打] grappling

Kurama-ryu kenjutsu [鞍馬流剣術] classical sword tradition
kuzushi [崩] balance-breaking
kyuba no michi [弓馬の道] way of mounted archery, lit. bow and horse; old name for the warrior arts
kyudo [弓道] way of the bow; modern martial art of Japanese archery
kyusho [急所] vital point

M

majutsu [魔術] techniques of invisibility
makimono [巻物] scroll
Maniwa Nen-ryu [馬庭念流] classical sword tradition
manrikigusari [万力鎖] lit. ten thousand power chain; weighted chain
Marishiten [摩利支天] Buddhist warrior goddess
meijin [名人] sage; master; expert
menkyo [免許] license
menkyo kaiden [免許皆伝] license of complete transmission
mikkyo [密教] rituals of esoteric Buddhism
mokuroku [目録] lit. catalog of techniques; transmission scroll or license
monomi [物見] scouting techniques of the Tatsumi-ryu
Morishige-ryu hojutsu [森重流砲術] classical matchlock musketry tradition
mudansha [無段者] lit. non-graded, or below black belt level
muga [無我] egolessness or selflessness
mukei bunkazai [無形文化財] intangible cultural assets
munen muso [無念無想] non-ideational thought; lit. no desires, no thoughts
musha shugyo [武者修行] itinerant training in martial arts
mushin [無心] freedom from discriminative thinking
muso [夢想] dream-vision
muso shinden [夢想神伝] transmission of the dream-vision of the deity

N

- nagamaki** [長巻] Japanese glaive with a particularly large or heavy blade
nagareru [流れる] to flow
naginata [薙刀] Japanese glaive
naginatajutsu [薙刀術] techniques of the glaive; glaive art
nanadan [七段] rank of 7th degree black belt; also *shichidan*
Nihon Kobudo Kyokai
[日本古武道協会] Japanese Classical Martial Arts Association
Nihon Kobudo Shinkokai
[日本古武道振興会] Society for the Promotion of the Japanese Classical Martial Arts
ninja [忍者] mercenary specialists in espionage
nitto [二刀] two swords

O

- obi** [帯] belt or sash
odachi [大太刀] long sword
okuden [奥伝] inner or hidden transmissions of a ryu
okugi [奥義] secret teachings or principles; also *ogi*
omote [表] front, obvious, overt; opposite of *ura*
ongyoho [隠行法] invisibility
Ono-ha Itto-ryu kenjutsu
[小野派一刀流剣術] classical sword tradition
otome-ryu [御留流] official, sometimes secret, martial tradition of a clan or domain
Owari Kan-ryu sojutsu [尾張貫流槍術] classical tradition of spearmanship of the Owari domain

R

- randori** [乱取] freestyle or sparring in judo

- randori-ho** [乱取法] methods of freestyle practice or sparring in judo
ronin [浪人] lit., wave man; warrior unattached to a domain
ryu [流] formalized martial tradition or school; used almost synonymously with *ryugi*, *ryuha*
ryugi [流儀] formalized martial tradition or school; used almost synonymously with *ryu*, *ryuha*
ryuha [流派] formalized martial tradition or school; used almost synonymously with *ryu*, *ryugi*
ryuha daihyo [流派代表] representative of the tradition

S

- samurai** [侍] Japanese warrior; see *bushi*
sansenjin [三戦神] three war kami; Fudo Myoo, Aizen Myoo, and Marishiten
saya [鞘] Japanese sword scabbard
seiryoku zenyo [精力善用] maximum efficient use of energy
seiza [正座] formal seated position
sempai [先輩] senior
sen no sen [先の先] taking the initiative; also *tai no tai*
sensei [先生] lit. one who was born before; teacher
sensen no sen [先々の先] pre-active, preemptive initiative; *kakari no sen*
shiai [試合] match, competition
shihan [師範] senior instructor
shihanke [師範家] master teacher
Shindo Munen-ryu kenjutsu
[神道無念流剣術] classical sword tradition
Shingyoto-ryu kenjutsu [心形刀流剣術] classical sword tradition
Shinkage-ryu heiho [新陰流兵法] classical sword tradition
shinken [真剣] true or real sword; live blade

Shinmuso Hayashizaki-ryu battojutsu
[神夢想林崎流抜刀術] classical
tradition of sword-drawing

Shin no Shinto-ryu jujutsu
[真之神道流柔術] classical jujutsu
tradition

shinobi [忍び] used to refer to agents of
espionage

shitsuke [躰] breeding or training

shizentai [自然体] natural body posture

shubaku [手搏] term for jujutsu

shudan sentoho [集団戦闘法]
Tatsumi-ryu group-fighting tactics or
methods

shugyo [修行] ascetic training

shuriken [手裏剣] throwing darts

shurikenjutsu [手裏剣術] techniques
of throwing darts; throwing-blade art

siddhi [Sanskrit] supernatural powers of
a Buddhist deity

sogo bujutsu [総合武術] integrated,
composite martial arts/systems

sojutsu [槍術] techniques of the spear;
spearsmanship

soke [宗家] headmaster

suhada bujutsu [素肌武術] martial
techniques done in street clothes

suki [隙] opening

sumai no sechie [相撲の節会] ritual
performances of sumo; Japanese
traditional wrestling

T

tachi [太刀] Japanese sword; can be a
general term or can refer to swords
worn cutting edge down

tai [待] static or quiescent waiting

Takenouchi-ryu [竹内流] classical
comprehensive martial tradition

tameshiai [試合] mutual testing;
competing against one's own self

tankendo [短剣道] way of the short
sword; modern adjunct art to jukendo

tanto [短刀] knife; dagger; dirk

tantra [Sanskrit] Buddhist ritual text
focused on the cult of a deity

Tatsumi-ryu [立身流] classical
comprehensive martial tradition

teki [敵] enemy

Tendo-ryu naginatajutsu
[天道流薙刀術] classical school of
naginata

tengu [天狗] long-nosed goblin; often
associated with martial prowess

Tenjin Shinyo-ryu jujutsu
[天神真楊流柔術] classical jujutsu
tradition

Tenshin Shoden Katori Shinto-ryu
[天真正伝香取神道流] classical
comprehensive martial tradition

tessen [鉄扇] iron fan

tessenjutsu [鉄扇術] iron fan
techniques; truncheon art using an iron
fan

Toda-ha Buko-ryu naginatajutsu
[戸田派武甲流薙刀術] classical
naginata tradition

tode [捕手] term for unarmed grappling
and arrest techniques; jujutsu

tojutsu [刀術] techniques of the sword;
swordsmanship

tokonoma [床の間] decorative alcove

tori [取] lit., taker; the one who
executes technique

torimi [取身] term for the one who
takes or executes technique in Tenjin
Shinyo-ryu

torite [取手] term for jujutsu and arrest
techniques

U

uke [受] lit., receiver; the one on whom
techniques are executed

ukemi [受身] lit., receiving; receiving
techniques in kata; the one who receives
a technique in Tenjin Shinyo-ryu

ura [裏] reverse, or back; opposite of
omote

uwagi [上着] jacket worn for martial
arts training

W

wakizashi [脇差] short sword

Y

Yagyū Shingan-ryū taijutsu

[柳生心眼流体術] classical martial tradition centered on grappling

Yagyū Shinkage-ryū hyōhō

[柳生新陰流兵法] classical sword tradition

yari [槍] spear

yawara [柔] term for jujutsu

yawaragi [柔技] term for jujutsu

yoriki [与力] Tokugawa period law enforcement official

yoroi kumiuchi [鎧組打] battlefield grappling in armor

yoroidoshi [鎧通し] dagger-like thrusting blade for use against armor

Yoshin-ryū jujutsu [楊心流柔術] classical jujutsu tradition

Yoshin-ryū naginatajutsu

[楊心流薙刀術] classical tradition of naginata

yudansha [有段者] those holding black belt rank

yugamae [弓構] posture for shooting a bow

yumi [弓] bow; also refers to Japanese archery

Z

zanshin [残心] vigilance upon completion of technique

zubon [ズボン] trousers