

Itosu Ankō:
Savior of a Cultural Heritage

糸洲安恒
文化財の救世主

By Joe Swift
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Bujutsu Translations



Itosu Ankō, The Father of Modern Karate
近代空手の父 糸洲安恒先生

Acknowledgements and Notes

First and foremost, I must thank the late Kinjo Hiroshi *Sensei* for his patience in helping me understand the greatness of Itosu Ankō's legacy. The lesson that all modern *Karate* practitioners must learn is that without Itosu Ankō, the likelihood is quite high that we simply would not be doing what we do today.

Thanks must also go to the following people, whose martial arts instruction and personal inspiration were so helpful in the preparation of this presentation: Mr. Murakami Katsumi of Japan; Mr. Patrick McCarthy in Australia; and Mr. Arakaki Kiyoshi of Salt Lake City, UT, USA. Thanks also to Tokyo-based *Mushinkan* members Peter Apps, Dan Nichols, Robert Daust and Jonathan MacCaskill; as well as overseas *Mushinkan* members Scott Vogt in Guam and Peregrine Dace in South Africa, for their last minute editorial suggestions. Thanks also to the able and willing staff of the Okinawa Prefectural Library for assisting in obtaining some obscure documents. The calligraphy on the title page was expertly brushed by Hokama Tetsuhiro, and the illustrations that appear on the covers of each edition were drawn by Ms. Arai (Morita) Yuri, a friend of the author.

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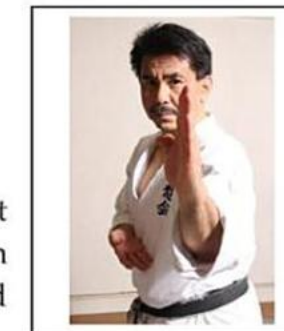
Of course, I would be remiss if I did not thank my two direct teachers: Steve Wren (*Isshin-ryu*) and Uematsu Yoshiyuki (*Naha-te*) for their instruction as well as their enthusiastic encouragement to look beyond what they had to offer, in order to understand *Karate* as a whole. I am forever indebted to these two Great Men.

Last, but definitely not least, I must thank my lovely wife Yuko, without whose love and support (and tolerance of my geeky ways!), this work would simply not have been possible.



Kinjō Hiroshi (right) and Itosu Angō (left) at the Monument to Itosu Ankō, in its original location at Mawashi Furushima. Photo provided by Kinjō Sensei during a visit to his home upon the formal introduction of Patrick McCarthy. Itosu Angō was the adopted grandson of Itosu Ankō.

Arakaki Kiyoshi
Okinawa Karate-do Musokai
Chairman and Chief Instructor



Joe Swift is one of the most distinguished martial arts practitioners in modern *Karate*. Those in the *Karate* world are no strangers to his accomplishments.

This is not only because of his training and instruction, which is marvelous from a technical aspect, or his admirably clear historical approach to *Karate* in his literary works, but also because of having a superior awareness of a *Karate* that embodies both Eastern and Western culture and values. One can sense his deep love for *Karate* and every task undertaken via these things. I think he is literally a wonderful personification of a bridge between Eastern and Western culture by making use of his native English and perfect Japanese abilities, which both challenges and encourages the rest of us.

This work is based on Swift *Sensei's* own historical perspective, and is, once again, a fine work that only he could produce. I truly believe he will continue to press onward to further discoveries in the *Karate* world, and serve as a formidable cultural bridge of East and West.