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Dr. Evan S. Baltazzi, President

825 Greengate Oval, Sagamore Hills, OH 44067-2311

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The Editor
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P. O. Box 1060
Claremont, CA 91711-1060

Madam:

I read with interest the article on the Yoseikan, p.36 of issue # 46, June/July 1996, and I believe that it leaves out a few facts which should be brought to the attention of your readers. When only a handful of people had even heard the name "Aikido" in the U.S., I pioneered its introduction **and was the highest ranking exponent of this art in the Midwest (see enclosure). During the Ginza festival in Chicago I was asked to demonstrate it, because it was not well known even among the Japanese community.** For a time I was the Yoseikan representative in the U.S. In the course of my many trips to Japan as an engineering consultant to the Toshiba Corporation, I visited the Honbu and was offered by Kisshomaru Ueshiba to represent it in Cleveland, offer which I declined.

The impression that Aikido split only after Ueshiba's death in 1969 is incorrect, the split occurred well before. Specifically, with strong backing by the military (Yoseikan under Minoru Mochizuki-- Admiral Takasta and General Takeda), financial groups (Yoshinkan under Gozo Shioda-- Shoshiro Kudo), or institutions of higher learning (Waseda University under Kenji Tomiki), some of Ueshiba's students were teaching their own brand of Aikido even in the late forties.

Tomiki's book was published in 1956. Mochizuki was awarding Aikido ranks in France and Switzerland (for which he was later reprimanded by the Honbu) and published in 1955 a book in french under the title "**Ma Méthode d'Aikido**" (**MY Method of Aikido (sic.)**, with a preface by M. Kurihara, Judo 9th dan. Gozo Shioda inaugurated the Yoshinkan Aikido in 1954. His book "Dynamic Aikido" was published in english in 1968. All this happened well before Ueshiba's death. The three major schools mentioned above present significant departures from the Honbu style. Not to mention Koichi Tohei's Kido, Tohei, Morihei Ueshiba's protégé, was "eased" out of the Honbu after the latter's death.

Today there are a number of Aikido styles and the term has become as generic as Jujitsu.

It is interesting to note a book by Saiko Fujita published by the Japanese Center for Research on Ancestral Martial Arts Techniques under the title "Secret Vital Points of the Human Body", which claims to be a complete study of the physical and physiological aspects of the many vital points used for atemi-waza. In it there is mention of no less than twenty-seven ryus (schools) under a variety of names, starting with the #1 Seishin (Pure Heart) school and ending with the #27 Shorinji (Temple of the Small Forest), the Kodokan being #17. Some of these schools favor hitting and kicking to such degree that one cannot tell them apart from karate (early Judo incorporated atemi te-waza and atemi ashi-waza). Blows are almost totally absent from the Honbu style, yet the Yoshinkan and particularly the Yoseikan styles make extensive use of them.

Politics, discriminatory practices, hype, and poor didactic organization of the material taught (in spite claims of "research") are the problems plaguing Aikido, as well as other martial arts, in all its various "styles" today. None offers a truly unified approach to combative knowledge.

Yours truly,

Evan S. Baltazzi

Evan S. Baltazzi, D. Sc. (Paris), D. Phil. (Oxon.)