

The Estes Kaidensho Certificate

The Untold Story

By Bob McKean

Part I

The Certificate

Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki was the founder of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. During the 1930s and 1940s Professor Okazaki taught his system to hundreds of students. All though Professor Okazaki is credited with breaking away from some of the old Japanese martial art traditions, such as teaching westerners, he also maintained many of the old ways. Professor Okazaki issued the traditional certificate of mastery, or kaidensho, to some of his senior disciples. This diploma was handwritten in Japanese kanji and contained the name of the student and Professor Okazaki. The diploma was stamped with Professor Okazaki's personal inked seals or chops. This diploma certified that the named person was a master of Danzan Ryu and had learned the entire system.

It is believed that Professor Okazaki awarded kaidensho certificates to a small number of his senior black belt students in 1938. I do not believe a 1938 kaidensho certificate has been publicly shown.

In 1948, Professor Okazaki held a special black belt class. It is said that Professor Okazaki taught Shinin No Maki, Shinyo No Maki, Shingin No Maki and Kiai No Maki at this class. This class was attended by a large number of Professor Okazaki's black belts. It is not known for such how many people were awarded a kaidensho certificate after the completion of this special black belt class. I have seen copies of kaidensho certificates that were awarded after this class to Professor Carl Beaver, Professor Steve Byzek and Professor Wally Jay. There may be other certificates out there that have not been publicly shown.

Professor Bud Estes was a student of Professor Okazaki from approximately 1935 to 1939. He was presented with a Mokuroku (instructor's scroll) in 1939, just before he left to return to the mainland. I have a copy of a sandan certificate awarded to Professor Bud Estes dated in 1943. It is believed that this certificate is the only other rank certificate awarded to him by Professor Okazaki.

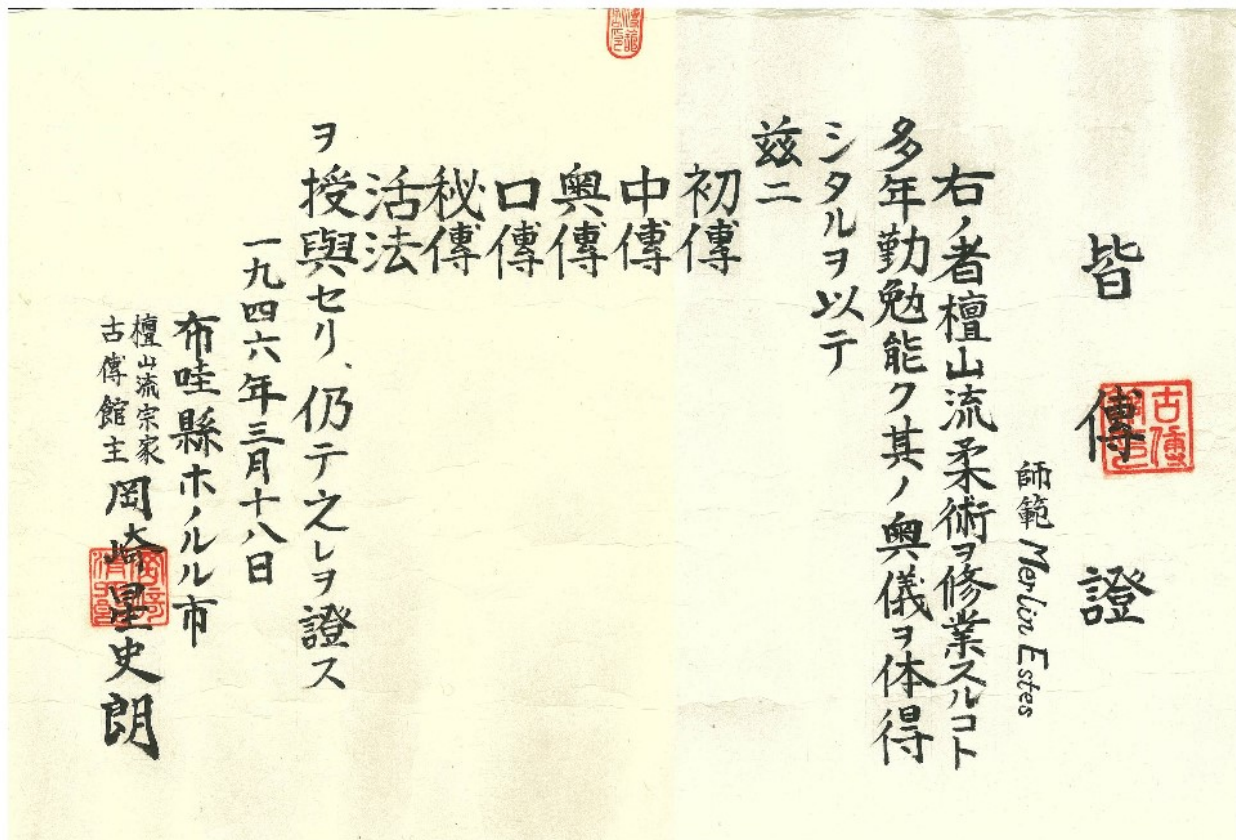
In the late 1980s a fraudulent kaidensho certificate surfaced. In 2010, Professor Tom Ball admitted that he was involved in the planning and making of a fraudulent kaidensho certificate that bears the name of his own sensei, Professor Bud Estes. The fraudulent kaidensho certificates was ink stamped with Professor Okazaki's original seals (chops). The fraudulent kaidensho certificate was dated 1946, predating the known 1948 certificates awarded by Professor Okazaki.

A lot of designing, planning and preparation went into making the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate. The making of this certificate was not an “error in judgment” but a very involved, time consuming and expensive process.

In the late 1980s little was actually know about Professor Okazaki’s kaidensho certificates. Very few, if any, had been publicly shown at that time. At that time you did not log onto the Internet and Goggle “kaidensho”.

The maker of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate had to have had a sample certificate in order to start his project. He had to find someone who could write Japanese kanji and to place it into a format that closely resembled one of Professor Okazaki’s kaidensho certificates. In the late 1980s you did not just go to the Yellow pages in a phone book and look up a person who writes kanji and who is willing to make a fraudulent document. A very special type of paper was used to print the kaidensho certificate. This is not the type of paper you go down to your local business supply store and purchase. This is a rare and expensive paper not commonly found in the United States during the late 1980s. The forged certificate was deliberately aged to make it appear, and pass, as an old document. All of this took a lot of time and effort to accomplish. This was more than just an “error in judgment”, it was premeditated.

A copy of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate



Here are some of the discrepancies that tend to indicate Professor Okazaki never wrote, signed or sealed the Estes *kaidensho* certificate. There are other minor indications which can be looked at as well.

- In the genuine *mokuroku* and *kaidensho* the name of the recipient is written vertically but with the letters themselves written horizontal in capital letters, such as you see on the Beaver, Byzek, and Jay *kaidensho*. On the Estes' *mokuroku* his name is written vertically all in capital letters with each letter written horizontally as:

M
E
R
L
I
N
E
S
T
E
S

However on the fraudulent *kaidensho* the name "Merlin Estes" is written vertically but the individual letters written in a horizontal line with both capital and lower case letters and in a different font that is seen on other *kaidensho* certificates.

- shugyo 修行 vs shugyo 修業

This shu-gyo 修行 is on line 4 (reading from right to left) of the Beaver, Byzek, and Jay *kaidensho* certificates. The 10th and 11th characters down from the top are shu-gyo 修行 meaning austere training. This shu-gyo 修行 is used by Professor Okazaki on his *mokuroku* scrolls as well.

This shu-gyo 修業 meaning "pursuit of knowledge" is used on line 4 of the fraudulent certificate but it is not used on any of the known Okazaki *mokuroku* scrolls or *kaidensho* certificates.

- The Okazaki *kaidensho* lists: shoden (初傳) beginning transmissions; chuden (中傳) intermediate transmissions; okuden (奥傳) secret transmissions; kuden (口傳) oral transmissions; kappo ju ichi shu 活法 十一種 eleven kinds of resuscitations.

However, the fraudulent certificate adds "hidden (秘傳) secret transmissions but omits kappo ju ichi shu 活法 十一種 eleven kinds of resuscitations.

- Second vertical line from the left is:

檀 dan - sandalwood
 山 zan - mountain
 流 ryu - system
 宗 so - origin
 家 ke - house

This line says that Okazaki is Soke of the entire Danzan Ryu system.

The Soke 宗家 is the (headmaster or the originator of the entire system).

Professor Okazaki never used this word Soke in his scrolls or certificates. He used the word soritsusha 創立者 meaning founder.

Copy of the kaidensho certificate presented to Carl Beaver
 by Professor Okazaki in 1948


The chops used on the Beaver certificate do not appear to be the same size as the ones used on the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate.

皆傳證
 師範
 CARL BEAVER

右者檀山流柔術ヲ修行スルコト多年
 勤勉能ク其ノ奥義ヲ体得シタルヲ以テ茲ニ
 初傳
 中傳
 奥傳
 口傳
 活法
 土種

ヲ授與セリ仍テ之ヲ證ス
 一九四八年二月二十二日
 布哇縣ホノルル市

檀山流創立者
 古傳館主
 岡崎星史朗



Part II

Okazaki's Chops

Professor Henry Okazaki had a set of personal seals, "chops", which he placed on official Danzan Ryu documents. These chops can be seen on the Mokuroku (instructor's scroll – catalog of arts) and the Kaidensho (certificate of mastery) that Professor Okazaki presented to some of his disciples.

Professor Okazaki's son, Hachiro Okazaki, took possession of his father's chops after his death in 1951. In 1978, Professor Gene Edwards initiated the independent Okazaki Biographical Research Team (OBRT) with the approval from Professor Bud Estes. The team consisted of Professor Gene Edwards, Lora Edwards, Tom and Kristine King. It was during a series of meetings with Hachiro Okazaki that he gave OBRT the chops that had belonged to his father, Professor Henry Okazaki. Professor Gene Edwards has maintained the custody of these chops which are being kept in a safe location and preserved as part of the history of Professor Henry Okazaki and Danzan Ryu Jujitsu.

In the early 1990s, Professor Gene Edwards resigned from the Board of Professors (BOP) of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation (AJJF) because he was moving to Montana and would be unable to actively participate on the Board. Later on, Professor Edwards founded the Christian Jujitsu Association and is currently the Senior Professor of that organization.

During my investigation into the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate I had several occasions to interview Professor Edwards. He provided me with first hand information about Professor Ball's involvement with the fraudulent Estes kaidensho. Professor Edwards provided me with several signed letters detailing the events surrounding the fraudulent kaidensho. Some of his statements are included in this article.

On June 29, 2010, I filed a formal ethics complaint against Professor Ball with the Board of Professor of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation for his involvement with the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate. As a result of my formal complaint a meeting was held in at the Yreka, CA on August 8, 2010 in an attempt to try and resolve the issues of my complaint.

Those who attended this meeting included Professor Tom Ball, Professor Jane Carr, Professor Larry Nolte, Professor Bob Hodgkin and myself. The details of this meeting will be covered in another article.

This article will present the questions I asked Professor Ball about the Okazaki chops and the involvement of others in the making of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate.

At the beginning of the meeting I placed a copy of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate on the table for everyone present to see. I asked Professor Ball a series of pre arranged questions concerning the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate. Professor

Gene Edwards (GE) responds to the answers given by Professor Ball. Professor Edwards's responses are included in a signed letter sent to me dated February 5, 2011.

McKean: Did you make the Estes *kaidensho* certificate?

Prof. Ball: I had it made.

McKean: Where did you get a copy of a *kaidensho* certificate to be used as a sample?

Prof. Ball: Gene Edwards. We also consulted with TJ (Prof. Tom Jenkins). He knew what to write and how to put it together.

Prof. GE: NOT TRUE! I had never heard of a *kaidensho* at that time. The first one I saw was the phony mock up that Prof. Ball produced, and he had to explain to me what it was. I don't know who he is referring to in "We". I was not part of the "We" and definitely did not consult with TJ (Prof. Tom Jenkins) on this.

McKean: Who placed the stamps on the Estes *kaidensho* certificate?

Prof. Ball: Gene Edwards. He has the original Okazaki stamps and he has not given them back as of yet. I'm working on getting them back.

Prof. GE: NOT TRUE! Since I had never seen a *kaidensho* or even knew what it was I had no idea where to place the stamps. Prof. Ball took the chops, and the ink pads, and placed each stamp on the document where he wanted.

It was at this time I kept reminding him that he must NEVER attempt to pass this document off as the real thing. I told him repeatedly that he should label it as a mock up or replica. I trusted him to do so.

As far as the chops are concerned these were given to the OBRT over our objections by Hachi (Hachiro Okazaki). He never asked or even hinted he wanted them returned in all the times I spoke with him. Prof. Ball has no clue under which the chops and other items were given to the OBRT.

When he said he is "working on getting them back", NOT TRUE! Never once has Prof. Ball contacted me in any manner regarding the chops. If he is working on "getting them back" he must have plans for doing so that do not include my knowledge or cooperation.

McKean: When and where were the stamps used?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall. TJ (Prof. Tom Jenkins) may have been present when it was stamped.

Prof. GE: NOT TRUE! There were only three of us there at the table when he (Prof. Ball) took the chops and stamped the document. Tom (Prof. Ball), Lora, and myself. Immediately after he (Prof. Ball) stamped the document I secured the chops and he (Prof. Ball) took the kaidensho.

We were behind the Nibukikan (dojo in Chico, CA.) The stamping occurred in plain sight at one of the picnic tables next to the hamburger stand.

McKean: What did you do with the Estes *kaidensho* certificate once it was completed?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall having possession after it was stamped.

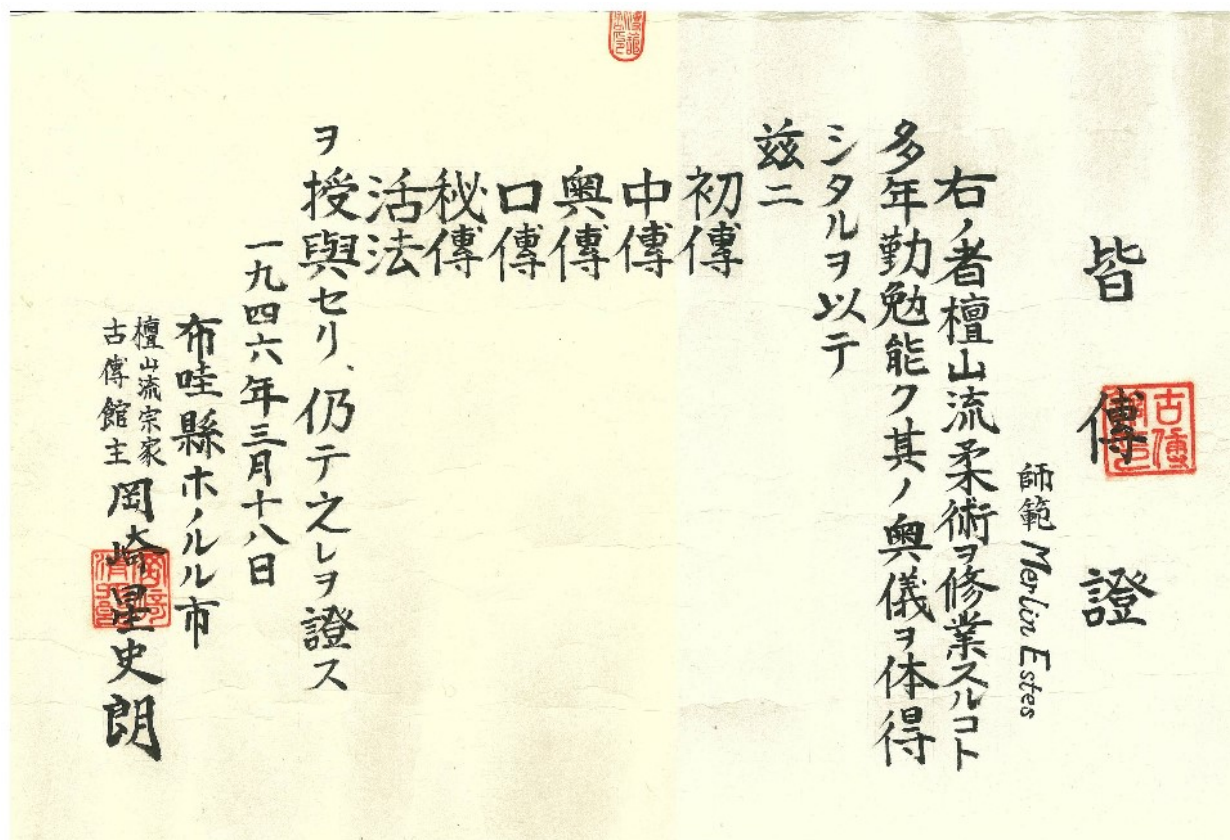
Prof. GE: Immediately after he (Prof. Ball) stamped the document I secured the chops and he (Prof. Ball) took the kaidensho.

At the end of his signed letter, Professor Gene Edwards said:

The abuse of the chops and of the Proclamation (referring to the Soke Proclamation of 1991) makes me ashamed that I was ever a member of the AJJF. My intentions were good in both cases. The chops were lent to a friend to make a mock up or replica of a kaidensho. The proclamation was a good will effort on the part of Hachi to attempt to promote his dad's DZR. It was hoped that all DZR organizations would unite in Ohana, with the AJJF opening its arms and doors wide bringing all Profs. into the AJJF BOP while still allowing separate organizations to express their uniqueness. Instead selfish, power hungry individuals have thwarted this effort. It is a sad day for Danzan Ryu.

The Fraudulent Estes Kaidensho Certificate

3 different chops can be seen on this certificate



Part III

The Ball Interview

On June 29, 2010, I filed a formal ethics complaint against Professor Ball with the Board of Professor of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation for his involvement with the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate. The complaint was filed in accordance with the AJJF policy for conflict resolution. A formal meeting was held in a conference room at the Holiday Inn Express in Yreka, CA. The purpose of the meeting was to try and resolve the issues of my complaint. This meeting took place on August 8, 2010 and was in compliance with the AJJF policies and procedures for conflict resolution.

Those who attended this BOD sanctioned meeting included Professor Tom Ball, Professor Jane Carr, Professor Larry Nolte, Professor Bob Hodgkin and myself. Professor Bob Hodgkin was one of the AJJF Directors of Internal Relations. Professor Hodgkin moderated the meeting in a very organized and professional manner.

Professor Hodgkin asked if he could tape record the meeting for his records and the tape would remain part of his records only. I told everyone in attendance that I had brought two tape recorders and a box of tapes with me. I offered to give one tape

recorder to Professor Ball and I would use the other recorder. That way, after the meeting, we both would have our own copies of the information discussed at the meeting. Professor Ball refused to have the meeting tape recorded. I went “on the record” as wanting everyone to have a copy of the meeting tape but if Professor Ball did not want to then I would proceed with the meeting without a tape recorder.

At the beginning of the meeting I placed a copy of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate on the table for everyone present to see. I asked Professor Ball a series of pre arranged questions concerning the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate. Some of the questions and answers will be presented in this article. Questions and answers concerning the “Soke” Proclamation will be presented in another article.

I went to the meeting with a prearranged list of questions to ask Professor Ball. I wrote down his responses to my questions on my question sheet as they were given to me. Right after the meeting I went outside and sat in my truck for more than thirty minutes and wrote down additional notes. From there I went directly home and wrote all my notes out in detail while the information was still fresh in my mind.

At the beginning of the meeting Professor Ball said he would answer my questions. I gave Professor Hodgkin a copy of the questions I had planned to ask Professor Ball.

Important Reference:

The Estes Kaidensho Certificate, Part I, The Certificate.

A lot of designing, planning and preparation went into making the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate. The making of this certificate was not an “error in judgment” but a very involved, time consuming and expensive process.

In the late 1980s little was actually know about Professor Okazaki’s kaidensho certificates. Very few, if any, had been publicly shown at that time. At that time you did not log onto the Internet and Goggle “kaidensho”.

The maker of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate had to have had a sample certificate in order to start his project. He had to find someone who could write Japanese kanji and to place it into a format that closely resembled one of Professor Okazaki’s kaidensho certificates. In the late 1980s you did not just go to the Yellow pages in a phone book and look up a person who writes kanji and who is willing to make a fraudulent document. A very special type of paper was used to print the kaidensho certificate. This is not the type of paper you go down to your local business supply store and purchase. This is a rare and expensive paper not commonly found in the United States during the late 1980s. The forged certificate was deliberately aged to make it appear, and pass, as an old document. All of this took a lot of time and effort to accomplish. This was more than just an “error in judgment”, it was premeditated.

Questions asked of Professor Ball during the meeting:

McKean: Did you make the Estes *kaidensho* certificate?

Prof. Ball: I had it made.

McKean: Where did you get the idea to make this certificate?

Prof. Ball: After Kufferath had presented his *kaidensho* certificate.

McKean: When did you have the certificate made (year)?

Prof. Ball: I have no idea.

McKean: Why did you have it made?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall.

McKean: Who made the certificate?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall.

Comment: In a letter to the AJJF Ethics Panel on February 7, 2010, Professor Ball states, "The calligraphy was done in Japan by someone unknown to me, as I have since long forgotten, on paper supplied by them."

McKean: Where did you find this person?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall.

McKean: Who recommended this person to you?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall.

McKean: Did you meet the maker of the false certificate face-to-face?

Prof. Ball: I can't remember. I did not meet the person.

McKean: Has the maker made any other martial art certificates?

Prof. Ball: I do not know.

McKean: How much did it cost to have the certificate made and who paid for it?

Prof. Ball: I don't know.

Comment: In a taped interview with Professor Gene Edwards on March 11, 2010, he stated, "Tom (Ball) paid for everything out of his own pocket."

McKean: Where did you get a copy of a *kaidensho* certificate to be used as a sample?

Prof. Ball: Gene Edwards. We also consulted with TJ (Professor Tom Jenkins). He knew what to write and how to put it together.

Comment: See the response to this question by Professor Gene Edwards in [The Estes Kaidensho Certificate, Part II, Okazaki's Chops.](#)

McKean: Why is the Estes *kaidensho* certificate not an exact copy of the others that were issued by Professor Okazaki?

Prof. Ball: I don't know.

McKean: Why did you date the Estes *kaidensho* certificate 1946 and not 1948?

Prof. Ball: Just guessing, Estes left before 1948.

McKean: Why did you use the title of *soke* for Professor Okazaki on the Estes *kaidensho* certificate when he never used that title on his other *kaidensho* certificates?

Prof. Ball: I have no idea.

McKean: Who placed the stamps on the Estes *kaidensho* certificate?

Prof. Ball: Gene Edwards. He has the original Okazaki stamps and he has not given them back as of yet. I'm working on getting them back.

Comment: See the response to this question by Professor Gene Edwards in [The Estes Kaidensho Certificate, Part II, Okazaki's Chops.](#)

McKean: When and where were the stamps used?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall. TJ may have been present when it was stamped.

Comment: See the response to this question by Professor Gene Edwards in [The Estes Kaidensho Certificate, Part II, Okazaki's Chops.](#)

McKean: Did someone make an attempt to make the Estes *kaidensho* certificate look old?

Prof. Ball: I don't know. I think it was given to TJ (Professor Tom Jenkins) to make it look old.

McKean: What did you do with the Estes *kaidensho* certificate once it was completed?

Prof. Ball: I don't recall having possession after it was stamped.

Comment: See the response to this question by Professor Gene Edwards in [The Estes Kaidensho Certificate, Part II, Okazaki's Chops.](#)

McKean: Did you present the Estes *kaidensho* certificate at the 1990 Ohana? If so how did you present it?

Prof. Ball: Not that I recall.

Comment: In a letter to the AJJF Ethics Panel on February 7, 2010, Professor Ball states, "Bob McKean alleges that I displayed the document at Ohana'90. I can neither confirm or deny this as I do not recall, nor do I recall any comments or discussion that may have occurred."

Comment: In a taped interview with Professor Gene Edwards on March 11, 2010, he stated, "At an AJJF BOP meeting Tom (Ball) announced that he had presented it at the Southern California meeting and that it was a forgery. Tom (Ball) said the leaders met and each told about themselves and their organizations. He waited until all had talked then presented Bud's kaidensho. He was proud of himself. He said he had really 'pulled a fast

one' on them all. The BOP was furious. They felt it totally inappropriate and were very critical of Toms (Ball) actions.”

Professor Ball can't remember if he showed the fraudulent Estes certificate to anyone at the 1990 Ohana. Professor Gene Edwards goes on the record saying that Professor Ball told the BOP he did show the certificate during a 1990 BOP meeting. Did Professor Ball show the fraudulent Estes certificate at the 1990 Ohana or did he lie to the BOP during their a 1990 meeting?

McKean: Who from the AJJF was present during this meeting?

Prof. Ball I don't know.

McKean: As an AJJF professor and member of the BOP, were you a representative of the AJJF at the 1990 Ohana?

Prof. Ball: Probably.

Comment: Professor Ball was a hachidan and the #2 Professor in the AJJF in 1990. Professor Lamar Fisher did not attend the first Ohana in 1990. Professor Ball would have been the senior AJJF Professor attending this historical event.

McKean: Who on the BOP did you show the Estes *kaidensho* certificate to?

Prof. Ball: Edwards (Prof. Gene Edwards), Fisher (Prof. Lamar Fisher), John (Prof. John Congistre), Rory (Prof. Rory Rebmann) and Carr (Prof. Jane Carr).

Comment: Professor Tom Jenkins has gone on the record as saying he was not at any BOP meeting where the fraudulent Estes *kaidensho* certificate was discussed and was not informed by the BOP about the certificate. The first time he saw the fraudulent Estes *kaidensho* certificate was at the September 2009 BOP meeting in Davis, CA.

McKean: Did your involvement with the Estes *kaidensho* certificate ever come up in a formal BOP meeting?

Prof. Ball: Yes, I got my ass chewed. How it (the fraudulent certificate) got to the meeting I don't recall.

McKean: Who was at this meeting?

Prof Ball: Edwards (Prof. Gene Edwards), Fisher (Prof. Lamar Fisher), John (Prof. John Congistre), Rory (Prof. Rory Rebmann), Carr (Prof. Jane Carr)

Comment: Professor Tom Jenkins has gone on the record as to not being at any meeting where the fraudulent Estes *kaidensho* certificate was shown or where Professor Ball got his “ass chewed” for making it. There are other members of the BOP who were not present for this “meeting” and who did not know about the fraudulent Estes *kaidensho* certificate.

McKean: What, if any, intervention did the BOP impose on you for your involvement with the Estes *kaidensho* certificate?

Prof. Ball: They (BOP) were upset. We all got a tongue lashing.

McKean: Is that all that happened?

Prof. Ball: Yes

McKean: Why was that?

Prof. Ball: It wasn't such a big deal to them.

Comment: “NO BIG DEAL TO THEM”? Professor Ball forged an official DZR document that bears the name of his sensei, Professor Bud Estes and the founder of DZR, Professor Henry Okazaki.

There are no records or minutes of any “official” BOP meeting taken place in Chico, CA in 1990 where the fraudulent Estes *kaidensho* certificate was mentioned. The BOP was known to have “side meeting” and this appears to have been one of them. It appears that the fraudulent Estes *kaidensho* certificate and Professor Ball's involvement was swept under the BOP's rug.

McKean: Why did Professor Fisher take possession of the Estes *kaidensho* certificate and keep it for almost 20 years?

Prof. Ball: Why he chose to keep it – I have no clue.

Comment: Professor Fisher kept the fraudulent Estes *kaidensho* certificate for almost 20 years. The original fraudulent certificate surfaced after his death in 2009. Why wasn't the certificate destroyed by Professor Fisher or the BOP in 1990?

McKean: How would have the Estes *kaidensho* certificate benefited you or the AJJF.

Prof. Ball It would have given Professor Estes more credibility. It was misguided loyalty to my sensei.

Comment: Why did Professor Bud Estes need more credibility? Was it to be used to show that Professor Estes received a kaidensho certificate before the other disciples of Professor Okazaki who were actively teaching DZR in 1990? Was it going to be used as a political power maneuver to lever control of the merging Ohana organization?

Professor Tom Ball submitted a letter to the AJJF Ethics panel on February 7, 2011. In his letter he states:

“One of the steps in the resolution of conflict is to meet personally to attempt resolution. Bob (McKean) and I did so meet in August of 2010. As it turns out, it was an interrogation, with him asking a series of questions of me, which I answered openly and truthfully to the best of my recollection. I feel there was no real attempt at resolution.”

Professor Ball accused me of conducting an “interrogation” and there was “no real attempt at resolution.” Take a look at what he had to say on August 8, 2010 about our meeting. It appears that Professor Ball can’t recall what he wrote in his e-mail, seven months before he wrote an “official” letter to the AJJF Ethics Panel?

Sunday's meeting
From: Tom & Jan Ball <tnjball@sisqtel.net>
To: Bob McKean <cop2rn@aol.com>
Cc: Larry Nolte <MJALarry@charter.net>; Robert Hodgkin <rhodgkin@novell.com>; Jane Carr <profcarr@charter.net>; Tom Claudia Hill <briahill79@gmail.com>
Subject: Sunday's meeting
Date: Sun, Aug 8, 2010 2:29 pm

Bob:

I wish to thank you for your frank and candid comments. I would also add that you made, as expected, a professional and well thought out presentation.

You can be sure I will follow through on the agreements reached, and will keep you in the loop regarding same.

I look forward to when we can do the same with some of the issues we have discussed in the past. I anticipate your overtures to pursue this.

Jane and Larry: Thank you for taking part in today’s proceedings. Voicing your thoughts and concerns helped to resolve the issues at hand.

Robert: Your professional approach to the meeting assisted in bringing a swift and fair resolution.

*Sincerely,
Tom Ball*

Part IV

An Unbroken Tradition

The second edition of the *Danzan Ryu Jujitsu An Unbroken Tradition* was published January, 1991. This book was authored by Sensei Mary Boland of Midwest Judo & Jujitsu. In the beginning of the book the author writes,

“I appreciate the efforts of those who contributed to the preparation of this revised edition, especially Professors Tom Ball and Gene Edwards.”

A biography of Professor Bud Estes is listed on pages 51 - 54. Page 53, paragraph 2, line 4 says,

“In 1946, Master Okazaki awarded him a kaidensho (teachings license).”

So where did the information about Professor Bud Estes being awarded a kaidensho certificate in 1946 come from? Professor Gene Edwards has said it did not come from him. Did it come from Professor Ball?

- In 1991, who else would have had information about Professor Bud Estes ever being awarded a kaidensho certificate by Professor Okazaki?
- In 1991, who else would have had information about the Estes kaidensho certificate being awarded in 1946?
 - Remember the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate was written in Japanese kanji. Even if the certificate was shown in 1990 - 1991 to members of the AJJF and the Danzan Ryu community, how many people would have actually read the kanji and have known what the date was?

The AJJF Ethics Panel wrote an executive summary of their investigation. The summary is dated March 1, 2010, two days before the AJJF BOP meeting at the AJJF National Convention. More information about the executive summary and the investigation conducted by the Ethics Panel will be addressed in another article.

I believe the three members of the AJJF Ethics Panel tried to do a fair and honest assessment of my ethics complaint against Professor Tom Ball. The Ethics Panel went ahead and made its conclusions without the benefit of all the available facts. I was not

afforded the opportunity to present all of my investigation at a face-to-face ethics hearing. There was an immediate need by some of the members of the BOP to conclude my investigation and to reinstate Professor Ball before the March 2011 AJJF National Convention. More information about the rush to conclude my ethics complaint will be addressed in another article.

These are a few comments of the AJJF Ethics Panel as to who may have been shown the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate.

“We feel that Sensei McKean acted in accordance with his conscience in bringing his initial ethics complaint to the attention of the BOP. It would appear however that he relied too heavily on hearsay evidence in constructing his case and acted precipitously in going ‘public’ with his case.”

“...we find Professor Ball did not violate Article 3.1.c, of the AJJF Code of Conduct, in regards to the general public. Nor can we establish definitively that he violated this article with respect to any specific audience to whom it was presented (i.e. the assorted Professors and Yudansha exposed to the document at the one or two showings mentioned above.)”

“A violation of Article 4.4 requires us to consider whether he presented this document to the public. We find that he did not. Therefore, it seems unlikely that he has undermined public confidence by specific public behavior. The only public affected is the AJJF membership, and a small portion of that.”

- The biography of Professor Bud Estes printed in the January 1991 *Danzan Ryu An Unbroken Tradition* is not hearsay. It is evidence. This publication has been distributed to hundreds of AJJF members and members of the DZR community since 1991. Is this publication considered going “public”? Aren’t the AJJF members who have read this publication part of the “public”?
- Does the fact that the fraudulent information printed in an official AJJF publication count as exposure to the general public?

“Professor Tom Ball did not present the “Estes Kaidensho” at the 1990 Ohana.”

“We can find no evidence that anyone attending the 1990 Ohana ever saw the “Estes Kaidensho”.

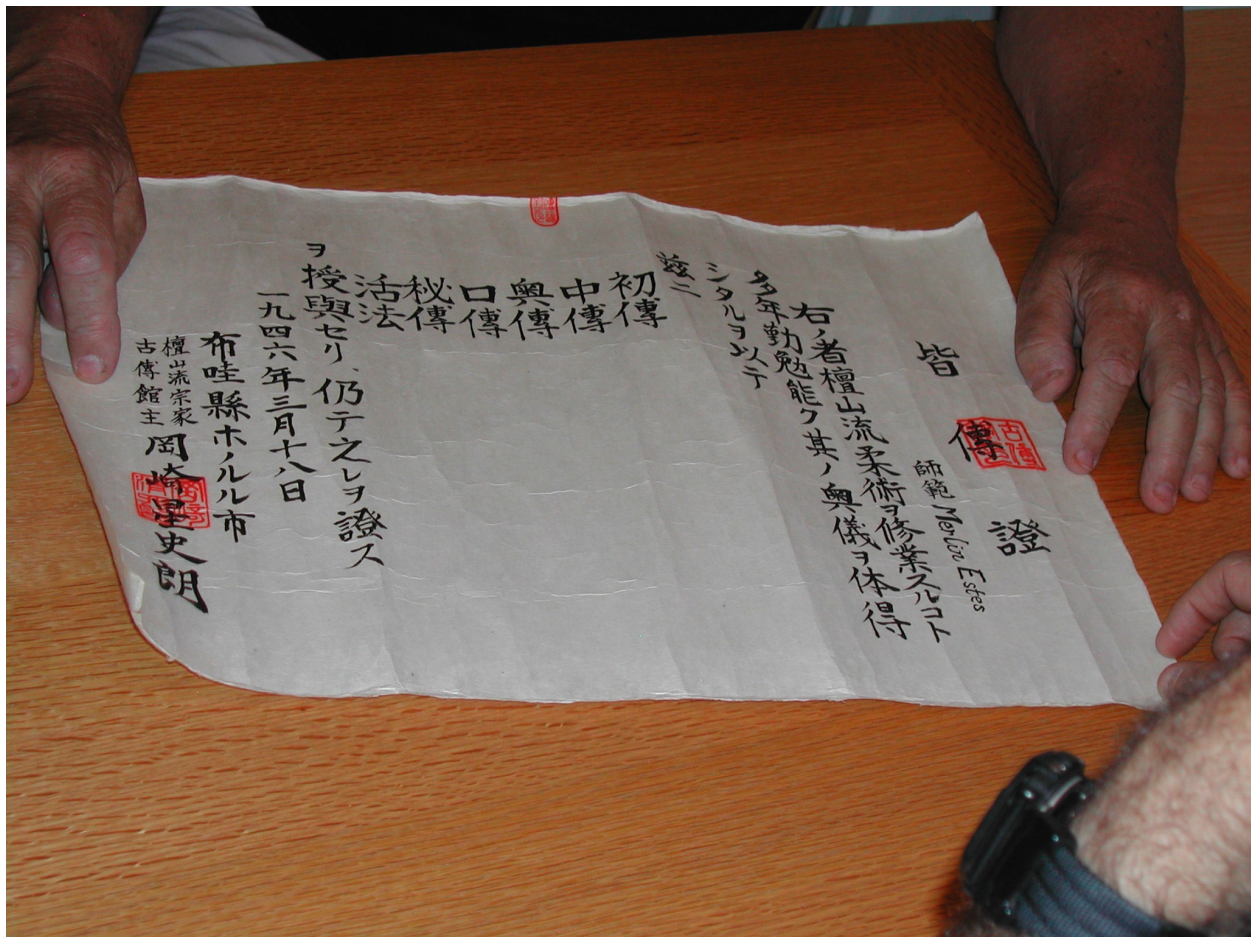
- The AJJF Ethics Panel has no basis for their conclusion. Professor Gene Edwards has presented a signed letter stating that Professor Ball told members of the BOP that he had shown it at the 1990 Ohana and had “really pulled a fast one”. It is not “hearsay evidence” when a person signs a document stating that they were physically present and has first hand knowledge of these events.

- At best, the AJJF Ethics Panel may be able to state that their findings about who was presented the Estes kaidensho at the 1990 Ohana as “inconclusive”. How can a panel say that Professor Ball did not present the Estes kaidensho at the 1990 Ohana when at least 7 of the senior Professors who were at the 1990 Ohana have since died?

There seems to be a conflict between the findings of the AJJF Ethics Panel and the statements from first hand witnesses and the evidence I have uncovered.

I will leave it to the readers to determine the validity of my evidence.

A 2010 photo of the original fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate



Part V

Broken Agreement

In Part III of my article about *The Estes Kaidensho Certificate The Untold Story* I presented some of the questions and answers that were brought up during an official BOP sanctioned meeting that took place on August 8, 2010 in Yreka, CA. This meeting was held in an attempt to try and resolve my formal ethics complaint against Professor Tom Ball. Those in attendance included Professor Tom Ball, Professor Jane Carr, Professor Larry Nolte, Professor Bob Hodgkin and myself.

Note: Professor Ball refused to allow the meeting to be recorded.

This portion of the meeting covers questions and answers about the agreements that were made by those in attendance. These agreements were broken almost immediately after the August 8, 2010 meeting.

Note: The questions and answers pertaining to the altered "Soke" Proclamation will appear in another article.

Prof. Ball: What are you going to do with your investigation?

McKean: It depends on what you are going to do.

Prof. Ball: What do you want me to do?

McKean: I do not want this to be an embarrassment to you and the BOP. This needs to be put to rest once and for all. People need to take "official" responsibility for their actions. You and BOP need to do what is right.

- You need to bring your involvement with the fraudulent Estes kaidensho to the entire BOP. You need to come clean and apologize for your involvement.
- This needs to be recorded in the official minutes of the BOP meeting. You should be able to do this at the September (2010) BOP meeting. An "official" record needs to be made so future BOP members will know what has transpired in the event any of these certificates ever surface again – 10 to 20 years from now.
- You also need to apologize to the black belts of the AJJF and to the heads of all the other DZR organizations. This needs to be in writing from you.

Prof. Ball: I agree with that. I can do that (taking notes on a yellow notepad).

McKean: This is not a “demand” on my part. This is a BOP matter.

Prof. Ball: We can talk about all of this at the next BOP meeting. I will put it on the agenda (writing on a yellow notepad).

McKean: All I want is for all of this to go away for the good of the ryu and the AJJF but it must be done openly and correctly.

Prof. Ball: Are you going to send this out to everyone like you have done with other issues you did not agree with?

McKean: Only if I have to in order to inform the DZR community. All I want is the truth and accountability. You have to come completely clean on all of this.

Prof. Ball: Obviously you have copies of these certificates. Who else has them and are you going to collect them? How do we keep these documents from surfacing again and again?

McKean: This is why it is important for the BOP to keep complete and accurate minutes and records. Not keeping good records is not a good business practice.

Prof. Carr: I agree. We have been making changes to correct this. A lot of things have changed over the past 20 years. I would like to think we are better at it now.

McKean: I will collect my copies of the certificates after this matter has been addressed and dealt with by the BOP (after its September 2010 meeting).

McKean: Remember Professor Fisher allowed me to make a copy of the Estes kaidensho certificate in 2008. I have no idea if anyone else was allowed to make copies. We may never know for sure. This certificate may surface in the future. This is why it needs to be dealt with correctly this time and to properly document it.

Prof. Carr: I totally agree.

McKean: A copy of the certificate needs to be retained in the minutes of the BOP meeting. Those certificates should also be punched to identify them. Any new certificate that surfaces can be compared to the ones on file with the BOP.

Prof. Carr: I agree.

Prof. Ball: Sounds good to me.

McKean: I reserve the right to keep a copy of each certificate for my records. I will punch a hole in them and place them with my investigative report and other documents. I will place them in a sealed envelope and place it in a locked safe. I will leave instructions for someone to dispose of it after my death. My records will not be used unless this entire matter is not properly handled by you or if there is no record kept by the BOP concerning these certificates.

Prof. Ball: I'm okay with that.

Prof. Carr: Me too.

McKean: Tom Ball listened while I spoke. He did not respond to my comments after I had finished.

I am disappointed in you. You have let me and a lot of other people down. When I first uncovered information that you may have been the person who made the Estes kaidensho certificate I did not believe it.

This was not personal. If Larry Nolte had made the certificate I would have gone after him as well. It just happens to be you. I was hoping that my investigation would have vindicated you but everything point towards you as the maker.

For the life of me I cannot understand why you would have made such a certificate. You dishonored Professor Estes, your sensei. I would never do anything like that to my sensei. If I did and I got caught I would fall on my sword. There is no excuse for what you did.

I can never trust you again. I'm not sure what else you have done but this leads me to believe that there may be more. We can talk about this some other time.

You, sir, have violated the trust we had in you as an AJJF professor. You have brought dishonor to your rank and title. You have let a lot of people down. There is no excuse for what you have done.

I reserve the right to continue with my ethics complaint. After the BOP has reviewed the information from this meeting and you have:

1. Apologized to the BOP for your actions.
2. Written an accurate article for the Kiai Echo on the "Soke" Proclamation".
3. Written a letter of apology to the AJJF black belts and all of the DZR organization heads for your involvement with the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate.

I will seriously consider dropping my complaint and put all of this to rest.

Prof.

Hodgkin: I would ask that what we have discussed here in this meeting be kept confidential.

Prof. Carr: I agree.

McKean: I agree not to talk with anyone new about these matters until such time the entire BOP has had time to review this information.

Prof. Ball: I also agree to this.

Comment: Professor Ball did not keep his word. He also did not abide by the AJJF Confidentiality Policy that was signed by all of the AJJF Professors at the September 2010 BOP in Davis, CA. More on this will be presented in another article.

This is a copy of an e-mail I received on September 12, 2010 from the AJJF Directors of Internal Affairs. I have inserted comments about this e-mail.

Subject: AJJF BOP Action taken on the Kaidensho and "Soke" Proclamation

Date: Sun, Sep 12, 2010 4:18 pm

Hi Bob,

When we had our meeting on August 8th between you and Professor Ball, he agreed to bring up and discuss the falsified Kaidensho and the "Soke" Proclamation at the September BOP meeting. Here is the outcome from that meeting.

1. Discussed history of the Kaidensho with the entire BOP. This was done. The BOP decided to take additional action and require that Professor Ball send out an email stating the history of the Kaidensho, HIS involvement with it and that it was an error in

judgment on his part. This email will be sent out to the heads of the other DZR organizations, the AJJF senior instructors, the AJJF school heads, and BOP.

Comment:

- The BOP required Professor Ball to send out an e-mail. This did not happen. Did Professor Ball disobey the directions given to him by the BOP? If so then why? Why didn't the BOP takes steps to make Professor Ball comply with their directions?
- "It was an error in judgment on his part." My article clearly points out Professor Ball's involvement in making the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate was a lot more than just an error in judgment.

2. Discussed history of "Soke" Proclamation with the entire BOP and to invalidate copies with Professor Fisher's Soke hanko. This was done. The BOP decided to take additional action and a Kiai Echo article is being written to discuss the history of both the original Proclamation and the one Professor Fisher stamped, invalidating the latter. The article will also discuss the intent behind the creation of the document and that it does not give the AJJF "Sokeship" of the Ryu.

Comment:

- It was a good thing for the BOP to invalidate copies of the "Soke" Proclamation that contained Professor Fisher's 3rd Soke of DZR chop.
- The BOP did write an article about the "Soke" Proclamation that appeared in the fall 2010 issue of the Kiai Echo. More about the "Soke" Proclamation will be covered in another article.

3. Destroy all copies of the Kaidensho and the "Soke" Proclamations with Professor Fisher's stamps that have been collected to date. This was done with all the Professors present. However, we couldn't destroy the original Kaidensho, since you still have it. Please return that so that we can complete our task.

Comment:

- During the August 8, 2010 meeting I specifically stated that I was going to keep one copy of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate for my investigative files and that one was to be marked and kept in the permanent BOP minutes and files. Was a copy retained for the official BOP records?
- I was being asked to destroy my copy of the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate before Professor Ball followed up with his agreement with me. He had also not followed through with the directions given to him the BOP. I'm sure the readers can see why it would not have been a good idea for me to send in my copy without Professor Ball first meeting up to his agreements.

4. Destroy the "Soke" hanko of Professor Fisher. This was done. An "X" had been scratched into the bottom of the hanko by Professor Ball to deface it, and this was passed around for each Professor to look at. In addition, Professor Fisher's personal hanko will be destroyed, it is in the possession of the Fisher family and Professor Lane will go over to the house and put an "X" through the bottom of it.

Comment:

- I brought up the question about the "3rd Soke of DZR" chop that Professor Fisher used on the "Soke" Proclamation.
- Professor Ball said he was in possession of that chop. I can't help but wonder if it would have ever been destroyed if I had not brought up the subject? Is there a "4th Soke of DZR" chop out there somewhere?

More about the "3rd Soke of DZR chop" will be presented in other articles.

5. During our August 8th meeting you indicated that if Professor Ball took these steps you would consider the matter closed. Professor Ball did everything that he said he would and more. We are requesting a letter from you stating that you consider this matter closed and that you withdraw your complaint against Professor Ball. We consider the matter closed and are expecting your letter and the original Kaidensho. I am finalizing the packet with all relevant material for our archives, and will include your letter.

Comment:

- I did say that if Professor Ball took these steps that I would consider the matter closed.
- I am being asked to send a letter stating that I consider the matter closed and to withdraw my complaint against Professor Ball BEFORE Professor Ball actually meets the requirements of our agreement. It is a good thing that I did not write this letter.

Professor Ball DID NOT comply with the conditions of our agreement and he did not comply with the directions of the BOP. Why is that? Is he able to do whatever he wants without accountability to the BOP or anyone else?
--

In a letter dated February 7, 2011 to the AJJF Ethics Panel, Professor Ball wrote.

"Subsequently, he stated that I was evasive and deceitful. This is not true. He (Bob McKean) also states that I had not met his conditions for resolution. I do not recall any such conditions being stated, although we did speak of a letter of apology, a letter explaining the origin and incorrect stamping of the

'Proclamation' and a report to the BOP concerning the origin of the Estes kaidensho, but not as a condition for resolution."

More of the questions and answers from the August 8, 2010 meeting.

Prof. Ball: Who has the original (*referring to the fraudulent kaidensho certificate*)? Do you have it? I think TJ (Professor Tom Jenkins) has it.

Prof. Hodgkin: TJ has it. He showed it to me at the Bob Krull Memorial. I told you that at camp because I was asking you questions about it and if it had anything to do with the proclamation.

Prof. Ball: Where did TJ get it from? I think he got it out of Lamar's safety box.

Prof. Nolte: I think Johnny (Congistre) and Geoff (Lane) were the ones who got Lamar's papers out of his safety deposit box.

Prof. Carr: I think you are right.

Prof. Ball: I don't know. I have not seen it (*referring to the fraudulent Estes kaidensho*).

Prof. Nolte: Yes you did. You saw it at the BOP meeting in Davis (September 2009). John had a paper bag full of Lamar's certificates and Estes' certificates. Johnny and TJ were looking at a certificate and you walked by and stopped to look at it. It was just before a meeting. I heard you say, "I did not know that was still around. I made that. It needs to be destroyed."

Prof. Ball: I don't recall that.

Comment: It was only 11 months from the September 2009 BOP meeting where Professor Ball saw the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate to our August 2010 meeting.

Does it appear that Professor Ball might have a "recall" problem"? He seems to say "I do not recall" a lot.

In his letter March 13, 2011 letter of apology to the "Yudansha and members of the DZR Community", Professor Ball wrote:

"During the meeting I agreed to: write a letter of apology to the Yudansha of the AJJF and leaders of the other DZR organizations,"

Comment:

- The letter was sent to six members of the DZR community. Five of these were not heads of DZR organizations.
- Besides the AJJF, there are nine DZR organizations. Do you think a leading Professor in the AJJF would have known that? Maybe it is because the AJJF is not an active participant in the DZR Ohana.

“... write a letter explaining the ‘Official Proclamation’ from Hachiro Okazaki, and make a report to the BOP regarding my involvement with the Estes kaidensho”.

Comment:

- I don’t recall seeing a letter from Professor Ball explaining the “Official Proclamation.”

“A letter regarding the ‘Proclamation’ was crafted by members of the BOP, and I gave a full report to the Board regarding the Kaidensho in September of 2010.”

Comment:

- What “full report” did Professor Ball give to the BOP regarding the Kaidensho?
 - Did he come completely clean on everything or did he still not “recall”?
 - What is actually in this report or is it one of those BOP “secrets”?
 - Does a report actually exist?
- Why did the BOP “craft” the letter and not Professor Ball?
 - We all know how the letter about the “Soke” Proclamation turned out.

“This issue had no affect within the AJJF for the last 20 years.”

Comment:

- It appears that Professor didn’t “recall” the information given for the biography of Professor Bud Estes for the 1991 edition of Danzan Ryu an Unbroken Tradition.
 - How many hundreds of AJJF members and members of the DZR community own or have read this book?
- If the BOP had properly handled the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate in 1990 we would not be dealing with it now.

“And after considering it, I did not write a letter to the Yudansha, as I felt that it would raise more questions than answers.”

Comment:

- Why did Professor Ball make this decision? Did the BOP agree with him? It took nearly seven months for Professor Ball to send out what he considered to be an apology.
- Why was Professor Ball concerned that it would raise more questions than answers? Was it because he did not want to be held accountable for his involvement with the fraudulent Estes kaidensho certificate?

The BOP was in a rush to close my complaint by the beginning of the 2011 AJJF National Convention. They did not hear or see all of the information concerning my investigation. There was an urgent need by a few Professors to close out my complaint and to reinstate Professor Ball just in time for the 2011 convention.

It was decided that no ethics hearing was to take place and the BOP reinstated Professor Ball to the board but not as the Senior Professor. Was this really punishment or was it to give the appearance to the membership that the BOP did something about Professor Ball's involvement with the fraudulent kaidensho?

Professor Tom Ball was reinstated as the AJJF Senior Professor at the March 17, 2011 AJJF National Convention in Sacramento, CA. The apology letter to the AJJF Black Belts and the Danzan Ryu community was never written.

According to several members of the BOP, “we have moved on and this issue has been settled”.

The greatest act of forgery and fraud ever committed against Professor Henry S. Okazaki, and the Danzan Ryu community, was swept under the rug and buried by the AJJF Board of Professors.