

Awards and Honors for Okinawan Karate Masters

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On November 7, 2023, the Okinawa Karatedo Kobudo Distinguished Service Award's seventh awards ceremony was held in Naha. Five senior karate and kobudo masters were presented with this prestigious honor: Asato Nobuhide (10th dan Hanshi, Uechi-ryu), Kakazu Yoshimazu (10th dan Hanshi, Shorin-ryu), Shimabukuro Haruyoshi (8th dan Kyoshi, Uechi-ryu), Shinjo Kiyohide (10th dan Hanshi, Uechi-ryu), and Taira Sadayuki (8th dan Kyoshi, Goju-ryu).¹ This brings to 23 the number of martial arts masters who have been so honored since the first awards in 1993. These awards are given out every five years to senior teachers and practitioners who have made distinguished contributions to the preservation of traditional Okinawan martial arts.

The Okinawa Karatedo Kobudo Distinguished Service Award is sponsored by the Ryukyu Shimpo, Okinawa's chief newspaper. These awards should not be confused with several other honors periodically bestowed on senior Okinawan martial artists. This brief article explains.

At the top

The Ryukyu Shimpo awards are the lowest level of an honors system that extends all the way up to UNESCO's international list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. That list was established in 2008 when the 2003 convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage took effect. As of 2010 the program consisted of two categories: The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, consisting of cultural "practices and expressions [that] help demonstrate the diversity of this heritage and raise awareness about its importance," and the shorter List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, composed of those cultural elements that concerned communities and countries consider to require urgent measures to keep them alive.² As of 2019, some 549 cultural heritage items from 129 countries were on the list.³ Of these, 21 items are listed for Japan, only one—Kumiodori Dance—is from the Ryukyus.⁴

Efforts are underway, however, to have several other elements of Ryukyuan culture recognized by UNESCO. In July 2019, a committee was formed in Naha to pursue the listing of traditional Okinawan karate as a UNESCO intangible cultural asset. The committee consists of Dr. Sunagawa Masaki of Nambu Hospital and five representatives from the major styles of

¹ See [Okinawa Karatedo Kobudo Achievement Award, presentation ceremony held at Karate Kaikan to honor the achievements of five people – Ryukyu Shimpo Digital \(postsen.com\)](https://www.postsen.com/okinawa-karatedo-kobudo-achievement-award-presentation-ceremony-held-at-karate-kaikan-to-honor-the-achievements-of-five-people-ryukyu-shimpo-digital/)

² UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Lists, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UNESCO_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_Lists

³ UNESCO, Intangible Cultural Heritage at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists#2019>

⁴ Ibid., <https://ich.unesco.org/en/state/japan-JP> and <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/kumiodori-traditional-okinawan-musical-theatre-00405>. Five additional elements are in various stages of the nomination process. No Japanese items are listed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

Okinawan karate, Higaonna Morio (Goju-ryu), chairman; Shimabukuro Zempo (Shorin-ryu), director; Higa Minoru (Shorin-ryu); Nakahodo Tsutomu (Uechi-ryu); and Kuramoto Masakazu (Goju-ryu). Higaonna and Nakahodo are among the 20 karate masters already named as prefectural intangible cultural asset holders for Okinawa.⁵ In October 2019, a committee also was formed to pursue the acceptance of Okinawan cuisine and Awamori alcohol to the UNESCO list.⁶



Ryukyu Shimpo, July 11, 2019

National level

The highest level “treasures,” above any list, are the three foundational treasures of the Japanese Imperial system: the Three Sacred Treasures (*Sanshu no Jingi/Mikusa no Kamudakara*, 三種の神器). These are the Imperial Regalia of Japan, consisting of the sword of Kusanagi no Tsurugi (草薙剣), the mirror of Yata no Kagami (八咫鏡), and the Jewel Yasakani no Magatama (八尺瓊勾玉). They represent the three primary virtues: valor (the sword), wisdom (the mirror), and benevolence (the jewel), and are said to have been handed down from ancient times.⁷

⁵ *Ryukyu Shimpo*, July 11, 2019.

⁶ *Ryukyu Shimpo*, October 6, 2019.

⁷ Imperial Regalia of Japan, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Regalia_of_Japan and Mainichi Daily, “News Navigator: What are the Three Sacred Treasures of Japan?,” March 31, 2018, at <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180331/p2a/00m/0na/007000c>.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Regalia_of_Japan

Japan maintains its own national lists of valuable cultural properties (*bunkazai*, 文化財) under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (1950), administered by the government's Agency for Cultural Affairs.⁸ One list consists of **tangible** properties such as structures and works of art or craft). These are defined as objects of "high artistic or historic value" or archaeological materials (or other historic material) of "high scholarly value." Tangible cultural properties are given one of two gradings: Important Cultural Property and National Treasure. The minister of education designates important cultural properties as National Treasures if they are of "particularly high value from the standpoint of world culture or outstanding treasures for the Japanese people."⁹

A second list is composed of **intangible** properties, including performing arts and craft techniques of high historical or artistic value such as drama, music, and craft techniques. The term refers exclusively to human skills possessed by individuals or groups which are indispensable to produce Cultural Properties.

Such properties, both tangible and intangible are protected by "designation system" (指定制度) which imposes restrictions on the alteration, repair, and export of such designated objects. Designation can occur at a national (国指定文化財), prefectural (都道府県指定文化財), or municipal (市町村指定文化財) level. Besides the designation system there also exists a "registration system" (登録制度), which guarantees a lower level of protection and support¹⁰. The Agency for Cultural Affairs lists 241 national-level Cultural Properties in Okinawa Prefecture, including nine Important Intangible Cultural Folk Properties and 18 "Intangible folk cultural assets for which measures such as record creation should be taken." Included on the lists are such

⁹ "National Treasure (Japan) at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Treasure_\(Japan\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Treasure_(Japan)) and Matthew Larking, "What Makes a National Treasure," *Japan Times*, October 31, 2017 at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2017/10/31/arts/makes-national-treasure/>.

¹⁰ Agency for Cultural Affairs, "Cultural Properties" at https://www.bunka.go.jp/english/policy/cultural_properties/index.html and "Cultural Property (Japan)" at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Property_\(Japan\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Property_(Japan)).

items as the Okinawa Tug-of-War, various festivals and dances, and customs on some of the outlying islands, as well as many ruins, scenic views, and old buildings.

At the top of the hierarchy are elements or individuals designated **National Treasures** (*kokuhō*, 国宝), either tangible or intangible. A National Treasure must show outstanding workmanship, a high value for world cultural history, or exceptional value for scholarship. Approximately 20% of the National Treasures are structures such as castles, Buddhist temples, Shinto shrines, or residences. The other 80% are paintings; scrolls; Buddhist sutras; works of calligraphy; sculptures of wood, bronze, lacquer or stone; crafts such as pottery and lacquerware carvings; metalworks; swords; textiles; and archaeological and historical artifacts.¹¹

Individuals certified under Japan's Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (*Bunkazai Hogohō*, 文化財保護法) as Preservers of Important Intangible Cultural Properties (*Jūyō Mukei Bunkazai Hojisha*, 重要無形文化財保持者) are sometimes referred popularly as **Intangible Living National Treasure** (*Ningen Kokuhō*, 人間国宝). There are three categories of such certification: Individual Certification (*Kakko Nintei*, 各個認定) for individuals who "have attained high mastery" of an art or craft; Collective Certification (*Sōgō Nintei*, 総合認定) for groups of two or more who as a group working in common have attained high mastery of an art or craft; and Preservation Group Certification (*Hoji Dantai Nintei*, 保持団体認定) for large groups who have mastered an art or craft in which individual character is not emphasized. Only the first group is called a Living National Treasure.¹²

To date Living National Treasures have been certified for 16 categories of Intangible Cultural Properties:

- Performing Arts: Gagaku (Imperial Court music and dance), Noh drama, Bunraku (puppet theater), Kabuki, traditional Japanese music (*hōgaku*, 邦楽), traditional forms of Japanese dance, traditional Japanese forms of drama, and Kumi Odori (組踊), a form of traditional narrative Ryukyuan dance.¹³
- Japanese Crafts: Ceramics, Textiles, Lacquerware, Metalworking, Doll Making, Woodworking, Papermaking, Bamboo weaving, and Miscellaneous Crafts.

To date, only three Kumi Odori practitioners have been named National Living Treasures: Miyagi Nōhō (宮城能鳳 born 1938), Shiroma Tokutarō (城間徳太郎, born 1933), and Nishie Kishun (西江喜春, born 1940). The latter two are both *sanshin* (三線) players.¹⁴

¹¹ "National Treasures (Japan)" at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Treasure_\(Japan\)/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Treasure_(Japan))

¹² "National Treasures (Japan)" at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Treasure_\(Japan\)/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Treasure_(Japan)).

¹³ *Kumi odori* means "combination dance" or "ensemble dance." See UNESCO, "Kumiodori, traditional Okinawan musical theatre" at <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/kumiodori-traditional-okinawan-musical-theatre-00405>

¹⁴ List of Living National Treasures of Japan at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Living_National_Treasures_of_Japan_\(performing_arts\)#Kumi_Odori](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Living_National_Treasures_of_Japan_(performing_arts)#Kumi_Odori).



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9e/Japanisches_Kulturinstitut_B%C3%BChenk%C3%BCnste.jpg

Within Japanese Crafts, only *Bingata* (紅型, literally “red style”), a traditional form of dyed textile making¹⁵ has been listed as a national treasure, and only one clothmaker has been named: Tamanaha Yūkō (玉那覇有公, born 1936, designated 1996).¹⁶



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bingata>

Other Okinawan cultural elements designated as of “national importance” include Ryukyuan Classical Music (*Ryūkyū koten ongaku*, 琉球古典音楽) with two “asset holders”: Shimabukuro Masao (島袋正雄), Terukina Chōichi (照喜名朝一), and Ryukyuan Dance (*Ryūkyū buyō*, 琉球舞踊), for which the Ryūkyū Dance Preservation Society (琉球舞踊保存会) is the “asset

¹⁵ *Bingata* is an Okinawan traditional resist dyed cloth, made using stencils and other methods. It is generally brightly colored and features various patterns, usually depicting natural subjects such as fish, water, and flowers. Bingata is worn during traditional Ryukyuan arts performances and historical reenactments. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bingata>. See also Sumiko Sarashima, “Intangible Cultural Heritage in Japan: Bingata a traditional dyed textile from Okinawa.” Doctoral thesis (Ph.D), UCL (University College London), 2013 at <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/1388906/>.

¹⁶ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Living_National_Treasures_of_Japan_\(crafts\)#Textiles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Living_National_Treasures_of_Japan_(crafts)#Textiles).

holder.”¹⁷ Under Craft technique, six types of textile work are protected, including *Bingata* and two types of *Bashofu* (芭蕉布) or banana leaf textile.¹⁸



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kij%C5%8Dka-bash%C5%8Dfu> https://web.archive.org/web/20110927103259/http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/summit/some/some_3_a/index2.htm

Order of the Sacred Treasure

At least five Okinawan martial artists have been awarded the highly prestigious national Order of the Sacred Treasure (*Zuihō-shō*, 瑞宝章), established on 4 January 1888 by Emperor Meiji as the Order of Meiji. Originally awarded in eight classes (from 8th to 1st, in ascending order of importance), since 2003 it has been awarded in six classes, the lowest two medals being abolished that year. The most widely conferred Japanese order, it is awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in research fields, business industries, healthcare, social work, state/local government fields or the improvement of life for handicapped/impaired persons.¹⁹ Originally a male-only decoration, the order has been made available to women since 1919; it is

¹⁷ “List of Intangible Cultural Properties of Japan (Okinawa)” at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Intangible_Cultural_Properties_of_Japan_\(Okinawa\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Intangible_Cultural_Properties_of_Japan_(Okinawa))

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ See “Order of the Sacred Treasure” at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Sacred_Treasure.

awarded for both civil and military merit, though of a lesser degree than that required for the conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun.

- In 1968, Chibana Choshin was awarded the 4th class for his contributions to preservation of Okinawan karate.²⁰



- In 1974, Kina Shosei (1882-1981) was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 6th class, by the Emperor of Japan. This was apparently for his role in saving his village during the battle of Okinawa.²¹

²⁰ On Chibana, see Christopher M. Clarke, *Okinawan Karate: A History of Styles and Masters*. Huntingtown, MD: Clarke's Canyon Press, 2012, pages 176-197. For his award, see "Order of the Sacred Treasure" at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Sacred_Treasure. Chibana is the only one of the three listed among the awardees at that website, and he is listed as receiving the 5th Class.

²¹ On Kina, see Christopher M. Clarke, *Okinawan Kobudo: A History of Weaponry Styles and Masters*. Huntingtown, MD: Clarke's Canyon Press, 2013, pages 225-229. I have been unable to determine exactly which order Kina was awarded. Most sources simply call it an Order of Merit, 6th class. It may have been the Order of the Sacred Treasure or the Order of the Rising Sun, or perhaps even some other award.



- In 1986, Yagi Meitoku (Goju-ryu) was also awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 4th class for his contributions to preservation of Okinawan karate.²² He is also said to have

²² <https://www.meibukanyagidojo.com/honbu>. Paul Babledelis, "The Sensei Who Received Chojun Miyagi's Belt" in *Black Belt Magazine*, December 1992, pages 40-44 simply says the "Fourth Order of Merit." It is interesting to note that among those awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Third Class have been *kenshi* Gordon Warner, *judoka* and author Trevor Leggett, actor Toshiro Mifune, and publisher Charles E. Tuttle. Fifth Class has been awarded to Keiko Fukuda, the only woman ever to receive a 10th *dan* in *judo*, Shotokan teacher Nishiyama Hidetaka, and Canadian *judo* coach Masao Takahashi. Martial artists receiving the Order of the Rising Sun include *judoka* and US Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (3rd Class), Kano Jigoro (3rd Class), *judoka* Mifune Kyuzo (3rd Class), Canadian *judoka* George Kerr (4th Class),

received the first Medal of Merit from the *Ryukyu Shimpō* (1997)²³, and in 2000, the Medal of Merit from the Municipal Administration of Naha City.²⁴



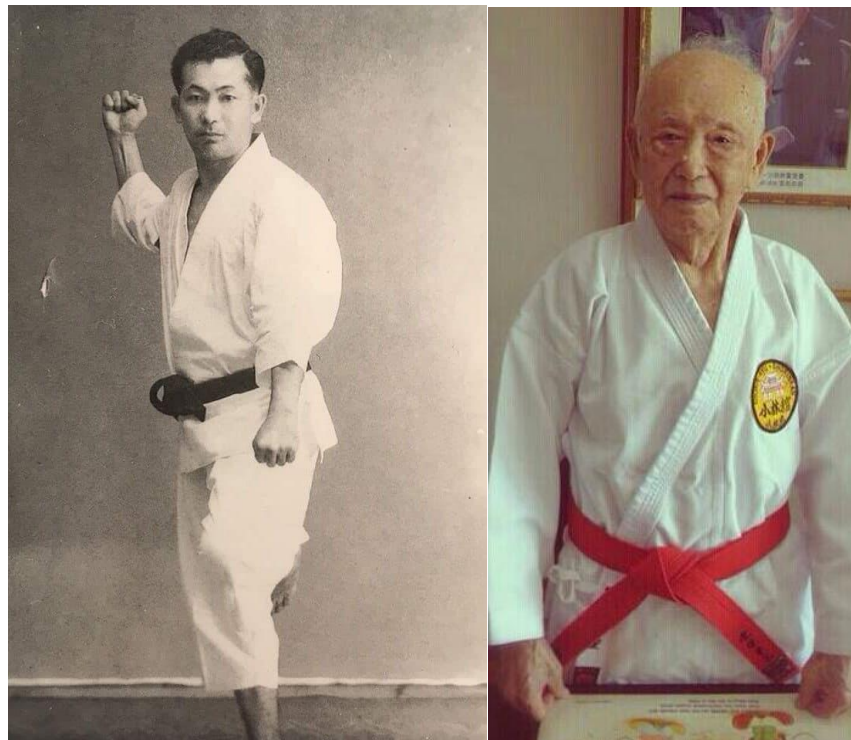
- Nagamine Shoshin, founder of Matsubayashi-ryu and former policeman on Okinawa was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class, but the date is uncertain.

²³ <https://www.meibukanyagidojo.com/honbu>. I have been unable to locate any other information about this medal.

²⁴ *Ibid.* This is also the only mention I have found of this medal. I suspect that if Yagi Meitoku was awarded this medal, other prestigious martial artists were also.



- Nakazato Shugoro, a senior student of Chibana Choshin and 10th *dan* in Shorin-ryu karate was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, 5th Class in 2007.



Okinawa Prefectural level

Okinawa, like all Japanese prefectures and municipalities, is entitled under the law to designate its own tangible and intangible cultural assets.²⁵ As of 2015, Okinawa had designated 11 important cultural properties at the prefectural level and seven at the municipal level.²⁶ In the performing arts are included two types of dance, five types of music, and one form of opera. In the craft category are *bingata*, several other textile techniques, and Ryukyuan lacquerware. *Karate* and *Kobudo* form a separate category. Among municipal categories are two of martial arts interest: the arts of *Timbe* (shield and short spear) and *Kamanti* (sickle and staff) (ティンペーとカマンティ) in the southern city of Nanjo performed on the 17th day of 7th month and 15th day of 8th month of the old lunar calendar, and the *bo* (staff) tradition of the same city.

On May 19, 2020 the latest awards of the status of “Prefectural Intangible Cultural Asset” was presented to six Okinawan martial arts masters. This represented the fourth time this award has been presented on the island (1997, 2000, 2013, 2020).²⁷ It is one of the most prestigious awards given out to martial arts personalities for a lifetime of service to their art and to the community. But it is only one in a hierarchy of awards issued by the Japanese government for such expertise in unique, historical, rare, or dying arts. These awards contain substantial overlap with the Ryukyu Shimpō awards (discussed below) but are not identical.

1997 – First awards

Nagamine Shoshin (長嶺 将真, Matsubayashi-ryu)
Higa Yuchoku (比嘉 佑直, Shorin-ryu)
Yagi Meitoku (八木 明德, Goju-ryu)
Itokazu Seiki (糸数 盛喜, Uechi-ryu)

2000 – Second awards

Iha Koshin (伊波康進, Goju-ryu)
Tomoyose Ryuko (友寄隆宏, Uechi-ryu)
Nakazato Shugoro, (仲里 周五郎, Shorin-ryu)
Nakazato Joen, (仲里常延, Shorinji-ryu)
Miyahira Katsuya (宮平 勝哉, Shorin-ryu)
Wakugawa Kosei (湧川幸盛, Gojo-ryu)

²⁵ Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, “Cultural Assets Section Handbook,” (in Japanese) at <https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/edu/bunkazai/edu/jimukyoku/bunkazai/gyoseh25.html> and “List of Cultural Products,” (in Japanese) at <https://www.pref.okinawa.lg.jp/edu/bunkazai/edu/jimukyoku/bunkazai/documents/h26011.pdf>.

²⁶ “List of Intangible Cultural Properties of Japan (Okinawa)” at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Intangible_Cultural_Properties_of_Japan_\(Okinawa\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Intangible_Cultural_Properties_of_Japan_(Okinawa))

²⁷ See Christopher M. Clarke, “Martial Arts Living National Treasures,” May 21, 2020 at <http://www.beisho.org/OkinawanCulturalAssets2020version.pdf>

2013 – Third awards

Ishikawa Seitoku (石川精徳, Shorin-ryu)
Uehara Takenobu (上原武信, Uechi-ryu)
Hichiya Yoshio (比知屋義夫, Goju-ryu)
Nakamoto Masahiro (仲本政博, Kobudo)
Higaonna Morio (東恩納盛男, Goju-ryu)

2020 – Fourth awards

Takahara Shintoku (高良信徳, Uechi-ryu)
Iha Seikichi (伊波清吉, Shorin-ryu)
Nakahodo Tsutomu (仲程力, Uechi-ryu)
Iha Kotaro (伊波光太郎, Kobudo)
Maeshiro Morinobu (真栄城守信, Shorin-ryu)
Kikugawa Masanari (喜久川政成, Goju-ryu)

On the same day as the 2020 *karate* and *kobudo* awards, 15 other Okinawans were awarded the status of intangible cultural asset holder in the performance category, nine in the art of *Ryukyu Kageki* (沖縄歌劇) and six in the art of *Tansui-ryu* Traditional Okinawan Music (沖縄伝統音楽湛水流). *Kageki* is a form of theatrical dialogue dramas in which Naha dialect is used and which is accompanied mainly by *sanshin* and *taiko*, or drum.²⁸

Tansui-ryu (lit. flood water style) Okinawan music, was founded by Tansui *Uekata* Kenchu (幸地親方賢忠, 1623-1683) in the 17th century and is considered the oldest still-active form of Okinawan music. The style consists of seven *uta sanshin* (voice and *sanshin*) songs. Tansui was the Minister of Dance to King Sho Tei (1669-1709). Tansui rescued and revived traditional music from something performed only by courtesans and elevated it to a style of high artistic merit.²⁹

²⁸ “Okinawa-Shibai,” Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, at https://www.accu.or.jp/ich/en/arts/A_JPN9.html. See also, Yasushi Nagata and Ravi Chaturvedi, eds., *Modernization of Asian Theaters: Process and Tradition*. Springer: 2019, pages 217-227.

²⁹ The Samurai Archives, Samurai Wiki, “Tansui-ryu” at <https://wiki.samurai-archives.com/index.php?title=Tansui-ryu>, “Ryukyu Classical Music, the founder of the Tansui-ryu , Tansui *Uekata*, 1623-1683,” (in Japanese) at <http://art.jcc-okinawa.net/rekishi/tansuiuekata/> and “Ryushikan” posting at <http://www.martialtalk.com/threads/some-okinawan-history.6017/>.



<http://art.jcc-okinawa.net/rekishi/tansuiuekata/img/tansuiuekata.jpg>

Local Awards and Honors

In addition to the Intangible Cultural Asset holder awards, Ryukyuan martial artists have been honored by numerous private and public awards over the years. Since 1993, the *Okinawa Shimpo* newspaper, celebrating its 100th year, began awarding special awards for services to preserving Okinawan culture, including *karate* and *kobudo*. These are presented every five years. There has been some overlap with the Intangible Asset awards, but not 100%.³⁰

1993 - First Ryukyu Shimpo Awards

Nagamine Shoshin (長嶺 将真, Matsubayashi-ryu)

Higa Yuchoku (比嘉 佑直, Shorin-ryu)

Yagi Meitoku (八木 明德, Goju-ryu)

1998- Second Ryukyu Shimpo Awards

Takamine Choboku (高嶺 朝睦, Goju-ryu)

Miyahira Katsuya (宮平 勝哉, Shorin-ryu)

Nakazato Shugoro (仲里 周五郎, Shorin-ryu)

Akamine Eisuke (赤嶺 栄亮, Ryukyu Kobudo)

Uehara Seikichi (上原 清吉, Motobu Udundi)

2003- 3rd Ryukyu Shimpo Awards

Nakamura Yoshio (仲村 良雄, Shorin-ryu)

Ishikawa Seitoku (石川 精徳, Shorin-ryu)

³⁰ The 1993-2013 lists are from “Becka’s Journey to Japan,” October 20, 2018 at <http://beckasjourneytoJapan.blogspot.com/2018/>. The 2013 list is also at *Ryukyu Shimpo*, October 24, 2013.

Nakahodo Tsutomu (仲程 力, Uechi-ryu)
Nakamoto Masahiro (仲本政博, Ryukyu Kobudo)
Iha Kotaro (伊波光太郎, Ryukyu Kobudo)

2008- 4th Ryukyu Shimpō Awards

Shima Isao (島 勇夫, Matsubayashi-ryu)
Shimabukuro Zenpo (島袋 善保, Shorin-ryu)
Tokashiki Iken (渡嘉敷唯賢, Goju-ryu)
Uehara Takenobu (上原 武信, Uechi-ryu)
Hichiya Yoshio (比知屋義夫, Goju-ryu)

2013- 5th Ryukyu Shimpō Awards

Kyuna Choko (喜友名朝孝, Shorin-ryu)
Higa Minoru (比嘉 稔, Shorin-ryu)
Miyagi Takeshi (宮城 驍, Shorin-ryu)
Teruya Koei (照屋 幸榮, Goju-ryu)
Chinen Masatsune (知念 正幸, Goju-ryu)
Yonamine Kosuke (与那嶺幸助, Uechi-ryu)
Ahagon Naonobu (阿波根直信, Shorin-ryu, Kobudo)



<http://beckasjourneytojapan.blogspot.com> from *Ryukyu Shimpō*

2018- 6th Ryukyu Shimpō Awards

Taira Yoshitaka (平良 慶孝, Matsubayashi-ryu)
Yagi Meitatsu (八木明達, Goju-ryu)
Kuba Yoshio (久場良男, Goju-ryu)
Sakugawa Masanobu (佐久川 政信, Shorinji-ryu)
Ikemiyagi Masaaki (池宮城政明, Goju-ryu)



<http://beckasjourneytojapan.blogspot.com> from *Ryukyu Shimpō*

2023- 7th Ryukyu Shimpō Awards

Asato Nobuhide (安里信秀氏, 10th dan Hanshi, Uechi-ryu),
 Kakazu Yoshimazu (賀数嘉昌氏, 10th dan Hanshi, Shorin-ryu),
 Shimabukuro Haruyoshi (島袋春吉氏, 8th dan Kyoshi, Uechi-ryu),
 Shinjo Kiyohide (新城清秀氏, 10th dan Hanshi, Uechi-ryu),
 Taira Sadayuki (平良貞行氏, 8th dan Kyoshi, Goju-ryu)

