

Code of the Order of HOLO-Ritter

The Holoknight brotherhood was founded by Dr. Hans Rottenkolber in 1988 to bring together as friends the top researchers in the field of holography and celebrates its twentieth anniversary. The charter of the order promotes cooperation, hospitality, and friendship among holoknights and their countries. Members are selected not only for their technical leadership but also for their reputation for hospitality, openness, and assistance to others.

A HOLO-Ritter is a member of a club with personal relationship between scientists who agree to hold the following rules:

Promote the optical sciences in every way

Hold friendship to each other and help each other in job and private relations

Select carefully the next member

It is the right of the last-elected HOLO-Ritter to choose the next one. However, he should do it very carefully because of his responsibility of an excellent scientific community.

The sign of membership is the sword given to him by the last-elected HOLO-Ritter.

A HOLO-Ritter agrees by accepting his induction into the order to a vow to advance the field of holography and optics and to assist all other HOLO-Ritters in both business and personal matters in every way within reason.

Each new HOLO-Ritter has the right to select the next one. However, he accepts to choose a new HOLO-Ritter within two years after he has become a HOLO-Ritter.

The new HOLO-Ritter candidate must be a widely recognized contributor to the advancement of the field of holography and related topics. He should be still active in the field.

The new HOLO-Ritter should choose the next HOLO-Ritter from a country other than his own unless he has the okay of a majority of other HOLO-Ritters to do different.

Members of the order may recommend candidates for his consideration in order to assist the new HOLO-Ritter in his choice of the next HOLO-Ritter.

No more than one new HOLO-Ritter should be inducted in any single year without a majority vote of all HOLO-Ritters.

The last-elected HOLO-Ritter has to provide the new HOLO-Ritter with a sword which has to be given to him during a knighting ceremony. The sword can be of any variety and should be of quality to dignify the order.

The parchment should include equivalent words of the laudation, given as an example in the enclosure, in the language of the presenter.

It is the responsibility of the selecting HOLO-Ritter to insure that the candidate understands and accepts the induction.

The identity of the new HOLO-Ritter should be kept secret until the knighting time.

If a HOLO-Ritter chooses the next HOLO-Ritter but does not find a suitable meeting at which he can perform the knighting himself, he can appoint any other HOLO-Ritter to perform the ceremony for him. He must still furnish the appointed knighting knight with a sword and a scroll of appropriate wording with which to perform the ceremony.

If the foregoing HOLO-Ritter fails to sponsor a new HOLO-Ritter in the designated time without justification, then it will be the responsibility of the senior most knight to convene a forum of active HOLO-Ritters whose majority will make the selection.

Enacted at

Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria December 9th 1988

Hans von Amerang, Founder and Honorary Member

Sample Parchment

In Bremen, Germany in September in the
year of our Lord

1997

The Knights of Holography
declare and proclaim the immense talents of

.....

and confer all rights, privileges, and honors
appertaining to the

Knights
of
Holography

and he will be called

.....

Officially conferred by the Knighting hand
and sword of

.....

Signed by at least four Holoknights

.....

Saga of the Sword-Trials, Tribulations, and History of the Swords

The Saga of the Sword of Mitsuo of Tokyo (Written in March, 2005)



In 1999, Professor Mitsuo Takeda became a Holoknight in the usual tradition during "Interferometry '99" in The Pultusk Castle near Warsaw. Three other holoknights conducted the service, Werner of Bremen, Jim of California, and Paul of Alsace. At the time, none of us realized that Mitsuo, whose name means "Lord of light", is a trained Samurai. Shortly after the ceremony he gave us a demonstration with his new Ninja sword, using his senior colleague at university, Ichirou Yamaguchi, as a subject and making us wonder if Ichirou (who some years later became Holoknight, Ichirou of Wako) would leave the castle in one or two pieces.

The saga of the Takeda sword began as Werner of Bremen prepared to take it from Bremen to Warsaw. Shortly after checking in at the nearby Hannover airport, Werner was called to the airport counter whereupon two very large airport security men escorted him to an interrogation room. One of the men asked him if the box he had checked in with contained a weapon. Werner, realizing that he should choose his words carefully asked for the definition of "weapon". When the guard informed him that a weapon would be something with which one could hurt someone, he realized that almost anything could be called a weapon under that definition. Then the guard explained that if it was an antique, there was no problem, but if it was a weapon, it could not go on the flight.

Werner reasoned that since the sword was not very sharp, it would most likely not hurt someone. Finally, he said the magic words that the sword was a collectible antique. Therefore, the sword passed its first hurdle. Warsaw was much easier and the sword passed customs without a hitch.

Mitsuo's real test as a Holoknight began a few days later when he prepared to leave Poland with the sword. He was immediately arrested in the Warsaw Airport for being in possession of a weapon, being the first holoknight to be arrested before leaving the country of origin.

With some fortune and some misfortune, other conference attendees at the Warsaw airport pitched in to help explain the situation. One of these was a Russian scientist, Dr. Vladimir Pisarev, though somewhat intoxicated after a few too many shots of vodka while waiting for the flight, tried hard to help convince airport officials to allow Mitsuo

to board with the sword. Although extremely suspicious about the party, comprising a strange Japanese with a Samurai sword and a drunk Russian with a bottle of vodka, eventually, others pitched in and convinced the airport police that this sword was a special collector sword and did not qualify as a weapon. The sword would be allowed to ride with the pilot for this leg of the flight.

This first episode was a rather minor portent of what was to come before arriving home in Tokyo. For various reasons, including a visit to the family of his postdoctoral scientist, Alexander Tavrov, Mitsuo's flight would take him through Russia and the Moscow Airport where he would have to pass through Russian customs.

Upon leaving the plane the pilot disappeared and the sword was handed directly to the control of Moscow Airport Police. Immediately after passing through customs Mitsuo was approached by two airport police who directed him to accompany them. Mitsuo describes these as very large men who never smiled. Because of his interest in Russian scientific literature Mitsuo could read some Russian and also was able to speak a few words, which later seemed to be more of a hindrance than help. The men guided him into a very small room in which four other very large men were waiting to interrogate him. None of them were smiling.

In his warmest possible voice and with his broadest smile Mitsuo greeted the men good morning in perfect Russian. No one smiled; no one greeted him back. No one said anything for what seemed a long time. Sitting on the table was the box containing the sword.

Mitsuo suddenly felt that the room had become extremely hot as he felt a bead of sweat on his forehead. Finally one of the men broke the silence with a stern question, "What is this?" pointing to the box containing the sword.

Now in the movies, a Samurai would quickly snatch the sword from its box and would, in one swift movement, kill all the men in the room and make an escape. In reality, Mitsuo could see that he was in more trouble than he could handle and he began wondering how a Japanese holographer would fare in Siberia.

At that point, two more big policemen arrived with Mitsuo's Russian associate, which gave Mitsuo a momentary feeling of relief

Mitsuo was left to sit alone in the room for what seemed like hours. Finally at some critical point his Russian postdoctoral scientist, Dr. Alexander Tavrov, was allowed to enter the room. He explained in full detail the story behind the sword and what a great honor it is to be a Holoknight. He created a brilliant story in real time of the absolute need to bring the sword back to Japan where he would relay it to the next Holoknight.

He was then allowed to take the sword into Moscow and was told that on the ultimate flight back to Tokyo, he should ask the captain to keep the sword in the cockpit.

Finally he could stop worrying about spending the remainder of his life in Siberia.

A year later, Mitsuo of Tokyo knighted Malgorzata of Warsaw in a ceremony in San Diego, California. She had been the chief organizer of Interferometry '99.

Today the Takeda Holo sword resides in the Temple of the Takeda family as a votive sword to the Goddess of Kannon. Mitsuo's mother, who wanted him to learn spiritually the ways of Bushido (Japanese Chivalry) and encouraged him to practice kendo (Japanese Fencing) in his boyhood days, was very happy to learn of his becoming a Holoknight with the sword. She had been faithful to Kannon through her 84 years of life, and she most likely associated the knighthood with Bushido. It was she who suggested that Mitsuo dedicate the sword to Kannon Temple.



Tag on the Holo sword with the name of the dedicator, according to tradition.

From the inscriptions on the old tombstones in the Takeda family graveyard the Takeda family line can be traced back to the Edo Period in 19th century. Although the Takedas have the same common Kanji Name and family crest of the same origin as the famous Samurai, Takeda Shingen, Mitsuo has no direct records that would tie his family into the line of Takeda Shingen. Additional information can be found at

<http://www.samurai-archives.com/kvs.html>

The Takeda family name derives from "Take", which means marshalism of Samurai "da" means rice fields that give harvest at the time of peace. Mitsuo, or "Lord of Light", was given him by a guardian of a Shinto shrine and destined him to do optics. It is very appropriate for his Holoknight status.