

“Chado” The Way of Tea

The custom of drinking tea was brought to Japan from China by a Rinzai-Zen priest called Eisai (1141~1215) in the 12th century. At that time, powdered green tea was drunk by Zen-monks as medicine to help them stay awake during their meditation. Later Murata-Jyukou (1423~1502) started “Chado” in the 15th century and in the middle of 16th century, Sen-no-Rikyu (1522~1591) established the principles of Chado that are practiced today.

The sense of his Chado is based on the words “Wabi-Sabi”. The meaning of Wabi is “simple beauty”, which does not include decorations and luxuries. Sabi means “old beauty hidden in abandoned things”. People are apt to adore something showy, but true beauty is found in unnoticeable places and things.

The simple and tranquil atmosphere of Chado provides spiritual training. Chado is connected with various fields of art, including calligraphy, flowers, ceramics, bamboo, woodwork, food and sweets.

The basic spirit of Chado is described in the words Harmony, Respect, Purity and Tranquility, in Japanese: “Wa-Kei-Sei-Jyaku”.

Sen-no-Rikyu thought that in a tea room people should respect each other without distinction. The study of Chado will help you to better understand and enjoy Japanese culture. There are various schools of Chado, but they all follow the same original principles .

There are some Chado teachers and more than 100 followers of Chado living in the Moriya area. They hold large tea ceremonies during various city events. This kind of large tea ceremony is called “Oyose Chakai”. Many people join in and enjoy the tea

ceremony, and of course you will also be welcome.

<Information about tea ceremonies in Moriya 2007>

Fureai Tea Ceremony : 1st April at Kitamoriya c.c.

¥1,000 (with lunch box)

Goushuu C.C. Festa : 20th May at Goushuu c.c. ¥200

Fureai Art Festival : in June at Chuuou c.c.

Ayame Festival : in June at Shikino Sato Park

Art Festival : in November at Chuuou c.c.