



**William Maurice Hayes
(Apr 1944 – June 2018)**

Dear friends and society members,

Very sadly, our long-term former treasurer and secretary, Maurice Hayes, passed away last week. I am writing this with heavy thoughts interspersed with some great memories of our good friend.

Having received a strict Catholic upbringing and education, Maurice grew up with a great sense of humour and warmth, which were indispensable to overcome the trepidation instilled by the nuns and monks teaching him. He was friendly, amiable and always welcoming to new members. In fact, I would almost not have persevered in my endeavours to join the ToKen Society had it not been for Maurice's smile and encouraging tone. He would invariably warmly welcome newcomers, teach them and share his knowledge and collectibles generously. He loved studying nihonto, built an extensive library and mostly gave it away to members to further their knowledge.

Maurice loved life and lived it fully, engaging in pastimes ranging from fuchsia growing to gun-shooting, from culinary exploits in the kitchen to nihonto collecting. In fact, he owned and managed a catering business in his professional career, working at Chelsea football club and this is where his appreciation of good food as well as cooking skills were put to great use. Maurice started the tradition of treating our members to tasty cookies at our regular meetings, organising Christmas treats on the days of the AGM (with the requisite mulled wine and mince pies) or even Japanese-themed buffets occasionally.

Maurice took care of the Society's finances with a vigilant eye, managing the administrative affairs tirelessly over more than two decades. He has been involved with the Society for more than 30 years, and many members would fondly remember his witty jokes, positive attitude, playful energy and endless Chelsea football club tales. His persistence and zeal in dealing with members ensured our membership grew over the years and remained stable. I still remember the humorous reminders he would send to us, members fallen behind with their dues, showing samurai executioners in action as well as the funny collages he would put together when preparing the annual reports or collating beginner brochures to provide to new members.

Sensing his collecting days are over, Maurice more recently instructed a few friends to channel his collection to, where possible, ToKen Society members, especially those newly setting out on this exciting path and hobby.

Even in his sunset couple of years, he graciously wished to help newcomers, friends and fellow members share his joy and love of nihonto.

Maurice will be dearly missed. He passed away peacefully but left many who will remember him fondly and be grateful for the good times he shared with them. May he rest in peace.

M Spasov