

Filipino Martial Arts

Ciriaco y de la Cuesta Cañete

"Cacoy"

As his kin and friends call him.

Digest

**Special Edition
2006**



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Contents

From the Publishers Desk

Introduction to Doce Pares

Beginning and Origins of Doce Pares

Eskrima Skirmish

Ciriaco ‘Cacoy’ Cañete

Ciriaco Cañete's Eskrido Doce Pares Syllabus

Espada Y Daga

Training Staff

Good, Better, Best, Never Let It Rest

The Legend of Cacoy Canete

The Only Thing That is Consistent About Me, Is Change

Musings of an Acolyte

A Living Legend Ciriaco ‘Cacoy’ Canete

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The ideas and opinions expressed in this digest are those of the authors or instructors being interviewed and are not necessarily the views of the publisher or editor.

We solicit comments and/or suggestions. Articles are also welcome.

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From the Publishers Desk

Kumusta

Doce Pares has been around since 1932 and has influenced many Filipino martial arts styles and has brought many practitioners together, throughout the world. The Cañete family, especially Ciriaco 'Cacoy' Cañete, made the Doce Pares famous in the International scene during the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and is still going strong.

In this Special Edition the FMAdigest has been privileged, to be allowed to bring to light some history and very interesting facts about Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete.

We would like to thank Master Vince Palumbo, for helping the FMAdigest to get this Special Edition started. And also we would like to thank, Chuck Anthony Cañete the grandson of Grandmaster Cacoy for assisting the FMAdigest.

Grandmaster Bustillo, Master Babao, Master Andy Gibney, and Guro Sherril Johnson for sharing in this Special Edition with some facts and some of their memories of Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete.

What can be said about Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete? It is a true experience to be taught by this man. His unique style of teaching stands out.

So it is hoped that all will enjoy very much this Special Edition and for some it will bring back memories when they may have had the opportunity to experience Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete

Maraming Salamat Po



Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation Headquarters
Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation
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International Martial Arts and Boxing Academy
Babao Arnis Academy
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Introduction to Doce Pares



'Doce Pares' is an Eskrima/Arnis Martial Arts Club that was founded in Cebu City in January 12, 1932. Originally it was a breakaway group of students and instructors from the 'Labangon Fencing Club' of the 1920's, which was influenced heavily by the Saavedra and Cañete families. The original instructors of the Doce Pares taught their own particular families, islands or regions styles of Eskrima and their particular interpretation of their own styles. The Cañete family, especially Ciriaco 'Cacoy' Cañete, made the Doce Pares famous in the international scene during the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's. The term 'Doce Pares' is a Spanish term translated into English to mean 'Twelve Pairs'. This term the 'Twelve Pairs' has been given several meanings to it. One refers to the twelve basic strikes that are common to most Eskrima styles and schools and their twelve basic block and counters to these strikes. Another more romantic explanation is of the reference to the twelve pairs of 'Compadres', the bodyguards for the King Charlemagne and how the club should emulate the friendship of these warriors. The final explanation is that supposedly there were twelve original master members of the Club.

Doce Pares is the worlds leading organization for the promotion and development of the traditional Philippine martial art known as Eskrima - stick fighting. Magellan's sword-wielding conquistadors fell to Maharaja Lapu Lapu who used Eskrima to defeat the Spanish at the battle of Mactan. Doce Pares traces its history to Lapu Lapu and today is the home of the most renowned expert of this art, Ciriaco "Cacoy" Canete.

There are no Grandmasters alive from the original-founding members of the Doce Pares. However there are several senior instructors or Grandmasters of the second generation of Eskrimadors/Arnisadors still alive that teach their own interpretation or styles of Eskrima/Arnis within the club the Doce Pares.

Because the martial arts field is basically unregulated and depends greatly upon the integrity of instructors and practitioners to honestly represent their backgrounds and training, it is quite difficult for students to be assured of the quality of their teachers. This problem has become more severe as Eskrima and other martial arts have grown into popular and successful business enterprises. Unfortunately, along with the growth of the martial arts industry, there have been numerous examples of individuals taking advantage of the lack of regulation and organization to try to obtain commercial advantage by "self-promoting" themselves as Doce Pares "Masters" or even Doce Pares "Grandmasters". To bring some clarification and validation to the Eskrima ranking system, the Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation has developed a listing of all the Grandmasters and Masters it has officially recognized. The titles of Doce Pares Grandmaster and Master are highly regarded throughout the world and the individuals who have achieved these ranks through official recognition should be given great respect for their achievement. The Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation seeks to preserve the integrity and reputation of its official rankings through presentation of this accreditation list.

The qualifications for these respected and advanced titles are based on the judgments of past and previous Grandmasters and include the following: Demonstrated skills, for Masters, this includes total mastery of all existing Eskrima skills at the highest level of ability. For Grandmasters, it requires going beyond the total mastery of all known

Eskrima skills to evolve and contribute new skills, styles, techniques and advances to the art. Contributions to the art of Eskrima that promotes and advances its recognition as a unique MARTIAL ART throughout the world, Doce Pares does not consider purely commercial or business promotion as meeting this goal. The present and past Grandmasters and Masters have been recognized for the quality of the students whom they have produced to spread the art of Eskrima throughout the world and for their personal good-will ambassadorships achieved through world travels, seminars and so on.

Students should be wary of anyone claiming the title of Doce Pares Grandmaster or Master. In such cases, documentation of the title (signed, dated certification from Doce Pares Federation, Cebu City) should be requested. Final verification can be obtained directly from Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation by an e-mail inquiry. Verification of lower rankings should be traceable back to Doce Pares World Federation and/or an officially recognized Grand Master or Master or Doce Pares Certified training facility. To ensure they are "getting what they pay for" students should ask for validation of this Doce Pares "ancestry" record before undertaking study of Doce Pares Eskrima from a particular individual or school.

Beginning and Origins of Doce Pares

By Ciriaco 'Cacoy' Cañete

At about the start of the American regime, the Canete siblings began their training in Eskrima. Brothers Florentino and Eulogio Canete (later to become the principal organizer and president of Doce Pares) started their initial education from their father Gregorio, uncles Gavino Canete, Pedro Canete and uncle Juanso dela Cuesta (their mother's brother) trained with other well known masters among them, Tenyente Piano Aranas, Goriong Tagalog, Juanso Tikya, Andres Suares, Tito de Goma and Cesario Aliason. But the Canete's quest for more Eskrima knowledge brought them to meet the more famous eskrimadors at that time, Lorenzo Saavedra and his nephews Teodoro Saavedra and Federico Saavedra at San Nicolas district in Cebu City where the Canete family moved from their original residence in the town of San Fernando, some thirty kilometers south of the city.

In early 1920, the Canetes joined the Saavedras when the latter founded Labangon Fencing Club, the first ever Eskrima organization in the Philippines. (The group used the word "fencing" because of the influence of the Americans who referred the art as such, being similar to the European sport or art of fighting with the use of saber, foil or epee. The American influence would later become more apparent when Doce Pares used and adopted more English words to identify and describe techniques or forms.

On January 11, 1932, the Canetes and the Saavedras together with the other well-known masters founded the Doce Pares Club. The founding of the organization was originally conceptualized by only twelve people but during its inauguration on January 21 of the same year, the membership rose to twenty-four. The name Doce Pares was taken and adopted in reference to the famous twelve bodyguards of Emperor Charlemagne of France (A.D. 768-814). These twelve people all top swordsmen were recorded in history to have fought and killed hundreds of enemies in battles. Doce Pares which means "twelve pairs" in Spanish was also meant to honor the twelve masters who founded the

organization, and when the membership rose to twenty-four at the time of its inauguration, it indeed became more significantly fitting.

In the election of officers in that fateful day of January 11, Eulogio “Yoling” Canete was elected as President with Teodoro Saavedra as Vice President. Other officers were Fortunato Penalosa (Secretary), Marcelo Verano, Diogracias Nadela, Filemon Canete, Federico Saavedra, Strong Tupas, Rodolfo Quijano, Venancio Bacon, Florentino Canete, Juanito Lauron and Magdaleno Cabasan. Composing the advisory board were Lorenzo Saavedra, Lawyer Cecilio dela Victoria, Margarito Revillas and Dr. Anastacio Deiparine. (During the next 55 years, Eulogio was reelected 55 more times as President and served the position until his death on June 26, 1988 at the age of 87 years old).



Grandmaster Felimon Canete

A couple of years later, more prominent masters joined the group among them were Jesus Cui, Felipe Villaro, Claudio Kalinawan, Victorino Dilao, Rosalio Gonzales, Jose Garcia, Pastor Villagrancia, Pio Deiparine, Basilio Tumulak and Francisco Roncesvalle.

“Tatay Ensong” as Lorenzo was fondly called and Teodoro nicknamed “Doring” and Federico “Pedring” guided and helped the Canetes in their ardent desire to expand their understanding and knowledge by teaching them advanced techniques of Espada y Daga and close quarter style of fighting (corto). The close association and friendship of the Saavedras and the Canetes further strengthened even after the dissolution of the Labangon Fencing Club in 1931.

During the fiesta in the Southern town of Argao, Cebu in September 1933, an eskrima tournament without protective gear, was held featuring Master Teodoro Saavedra against Master Pablo Alicante of San Fernando, Cebu.

In spite of Alicante’s vaunted “anting-anting”, Teodoro somehow managed to outthink, out hit and outdo his opponent in two exciting rounds and he was awarded a cash prize from the promoter. Alicante got a swollen face.

During World War II, from 1941 to 1945 several of the Doce Pares officers and masters joined the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) and later the resistance forces, which fought underground the Japanese occupation army. Sometime in 1943, Teodoro Saavedra, its Vice President and chief instructor was captured and subsequently executed by the Japanese soldiers. Since the founding of Doce Pares up to the time of his death, he was the undisputed kingpin of Eskrima, who had won a big tournament in Argao, Cebu in September 1933. In 1944, Tatang Ensong Saavedra died of natural cause. He was well over 90 years old.

In 1945, Second Lt. Ciriaco “Cacoy” Canete, Combat Intelligence officer of the 86th Inf. Regiment, Cebu area (Guerilla Movement) was transferred to 38th Military Police Company, Philippine Army. He became Chief Instructor in Defense Tactics during the training of personnel of 38th and 39th MP Companies in Dumanjud, Cebu in 1945. After the training he was assigned as Military Police Detachment Commander in Balamban town and later in Tuburan, Cebu until he was discharged in 1947.

In 1947 the prominent Doce Pares eskrimadors regrouped and held several meetings regarding the resumption of program for the promotion of the Filipino martial art. The most active members were the Canete brothers headed by Eulogio as Club President and Filemon, Venancio Bacon, Jesus Cui, Rodolfo Quijano, Delfin Lopez, Maximo Canete (Cacoy's nephew), Eduardo Baculi and Vicente Carin who had trained in long range style in his hometown of Dalaguete during the Second World War, joined the group.

One year later, Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete started to develop the art of Eskrima in combination with Jujitsu, and later with Judo. Much later, Aikido principles were incorporated. He revolutionized the Filipino Martial Art in such amazing way that the unified system, incorporated some striking techniques, namely, slashes (linear, curving, semi-circular and circular), thrusts, hooks, butts, in combination with throws and takedowns with the use of the olisi. Fighting ranges were classified as Close, Medium and Long.

In 1949, another batch of Eskrimadors namely Jose Villasin, Timoteo Maranga, Teofilo Velez, Arnulfo Mongcal, Vic Cagadas, also became club members.

The annual Doce Pares election of officers near the San Nicolas Church in December 1951 was marred with bickering and maneuvers resulting in the triumph of Canete's protégés over Venancio Bacon's candidates.



Grandmaster Venancio "Anciong" Bacon

In 1952, Filemon Caburnay, Arsenio Caburnay, Ben Culanag, Luciano Cabanero, Santos Dinampo, Teofilo Dinampo, Ben Pahimutang, Primo Albano, Celso Mabalhin, Lawyer Juanito Cabaluna, Saturnino Arcilla, Nicolas Javelosa joined the Doce Pares Club.

In mid 1952, Grandmaster Venancio Bacon's group, composed of Jesus Cui, Delfin Lopez, Jose Villasin, Timoteo Maranga, Teofilo Velez, Eduardo Baculi seceded from Doce Pares and formed the Balintawak Self Defense Club. With Jose Causin as its first President. They then spread rumors they would someday challenge Doce Pares to an Eskrima fight.

In 1952, after the split of Doce Pares into two clubs, Doce Pares Club was controlled by Pres. Eulogio Canete and brothers, Filemon, Silvestre, Tirso, Rufino and Ciriaco (Cacoy), (Note: Eldest brother Florentino died in the late fifties and Andres, second to the youngest, died in 1949) Vicente Carin, Saturnino Arcilla, Primo Albano, Luciano Cabanero, Fortunato Ravina, Maximo Canete, Nicolas Javelosa. Balintawak Self-defense Club was under President Jose Causin, Chief Instructor Venancio Bacon, Master Delfin Lopez, Jesus Cui, Lawyer Jose Villasin, Eduardo Baculi, Teofilo Velez, Timoteo Maranga, Vic Cagadas and others.

In the Doce Pares new set-up, Grandmaster Momoy Canete became Chief Instructor in "Espada y Daga" or "Olisi ug Baraw" which he had mastered until his death in 1995. He never practiced single olisi Eskrima. On the other hand, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete was Chief Instructor in Single Olisi Eskrima, Eskrido and Pangamot.

To counteract the belligerence of the Balintawak group, Cacoy Cañete immediately organized the Cebu Mutual Security Association and became its president. The club was composed mostly of young eskrimadors who trained hard under the watchful eye of Cacoy Cañete. True enough, two years later, in May 1954, in the Freeman Daily, it appeared, “Balintawak Self-Defense Club challenges Doce Pares and CEMUSA to an Eskrima fight without any protective device anywhere anytime. Despite the objection of the elder brothers Eulogio and Filemon, Cacoy Cañete accepted the challenge within 24 hours. In the same Freeman Daily, it appeared, “Doce Pares and CEMUSA accepted the Balintawak Self-Defense Club’s challenge to an Eskrima fight without any protective device anywhere anytime”. Two days later, it was agreed the fight would be held at the quadrangle of the Cebu Institute of Technology along C. Padilla on the third Sunday of May. On the appointed date, Cacoy Cañete was ready to face topnotch Grandmaster Venancio Bacon or Delfin Lopez his right hand man. When Balintawak’s President Jose Causin came, he told the crowd the two fighters had decided not to come for the showdown. Doce Pares followers were Vicente Carin, Canete brothers, Eulogio, Filemon, Ciriaco, Tirso, Rufino, Silvestre, Maximo, Saturnino Arcilla, Primo Albano, Mado Canete, Luciano Cabanero, Epifanio Alicante, Lawyer Juanito Cabaluna.

In October 1956 during the celebration of the town fiesta of Talisay, Cebu Balintawak and Doce Pares groups were invited to do exhibition matches. On the stage, Lawyer Gandioso Villagonzalo of Balintawak announced their group came to the town purposely to fight Doce Pares. Moments later, on Cacoy’s instruction, Lawyer Juanito Cabaluna went up the stage and shouted Doce Pares gladly accepted the challenge. However, the Balintawak group had a sudden of heart. All of them disappeared in ten minutes unceremoniously.

On the afternoon of April 22, 1957, I was at the clinic of my Eskrima and Jujitsu student, Dr. Leovigildo Larroquel in Cebu City when Grandmaster V. Bacon’s toughest student Delfin Lopez barged in and began to talk to us about his exciting Eskrima encounters in Cebu. Not long after through Dr. L. Larroquel’s suggestion, Cacoy Canete and Delfin Lopez found themselves facing off, each armed with a rattan stick at a small room, adjacent to the clinic. Surprisingly Delfin Lopez suggested it was not for the duo to hit each other. Cacoy, being mistrustful, warned that any false moves coming from Delfin would be met with appropriate action. Past half hour, Delfin called off the not-too-fast sparring, commenting he found it very difficult to control Cacoy’s olisi.

On the next day, April 23, 1957, on the same venue, Delfin Lopez and Cacoy’s elder brother Filemon (Momoy) squared off. It was Momoy’s olisi and wooden dagger against Delfin Lopez single olisi. Still, Delfin Lopez suggested there was point hitting each other. The moderate pace of the sparring session was more of exploratory in nature than anything else. No one was hurt.

September 1958 – In Lagtang, Talisay, some 11 kilometers south of Cebu City, eskrimador Otillo Larawan invited the Doce Pares and Balintawak eskrimadors to lunch. With Cacoy were elder brothers Eulogio and Filemon, Vicente Carin, Nicolas Javelosa, Saturnino Arcilla, Primo Albano, Tito Usuraga, Fernando Candawan, Pedro Enrile, Mado Canete, Luciano Cabanero.

Meanwhile, host Otillo Larawan informed Cacoy that Anciong Bacon and Delfin Lopez’s came to the place probably for a showdown with Doce Pares. Without hesitation,

Cacoy Canete confronted the duo as witnessed by his elder brother Eulogio and Momoy and over a multitude of people. Cacoy said, “Anciong, Delfin, if you are here for a showdown with Doce Pares, I tell you both, we never refuse a challenge hurled against us.” To everybody’s surprise, the duo turned to Cacoy’s elder brother Eulogio and Momoy, telling them they did not come to Talisay to create some trouble. Nevertheless, Eulogio and Momoy emphatically told the duo that Cacoy was a peace-loving man, but he was one who would never back out from a fight when challenged. After the confrontation, there was silence.

Among the big crowd in the area were some Doce Pares warriors, namely Momoy Canete, Eulogio Canete, Saturnino Arcilla, Primo Albano, Fernando Candawan, Tito Usuraga, Vicente Carin, Nicolas Javelosa, Luciano Cabanero, Epifanio Alicante, Pedro Enrile, Filemon Caburnay, Juan Abella and many others. On the Balintawak side, Anciong Bacon and Delfin Lopez were accompanied by Lawyer Jose Villasin, Teofilo Velez, Timoteo Maranga, Bobby Taboada and many others.

Sometime in October 1961, Balintawak and Doce Pares officers made a deal in which Cacoy Canete and Balintawak’s Anciong Bacon would be featured in a showdown in Eskrima during the celebration of the town fiesta Nov. 25, 1961 in Carcar, some 41 kilometers south of Cebu City. Realizing how tough and bloody the fight would be, Cacoy religiously trained hard with his topflight students every day for over a month.

Before 7 o’clock in the evening, November 25, 1961, at the cockpit (venue of the fight), Cacoy and brothers Eulogio, Filemon, Silvestre, Tirso and Rufino arrived. Balintawak’s Grandmaster Jesus Cui showed up and announced Grandmaster Anciong Bacon definitely was coming for the fight. From 9 p.m. until 12 mid-night, Doce Pare’s fighters gave exhibition numbers to entertain the enthusiastic crowd. Past midnight, everyone left the cockpit. Before leaving, Cacoy revealed he was bringing a half-inch diameter one-meter long rope. The plan was to fight Anciong in which the rope would be used to tie their belts so one could run. Disappointingly, Anciong Bacon did not show up for the fight.

In the 1970’s, several meetings held by officers of the Cebu Eskrima Association, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete was always persistent in his favorite proposal for all Eskrima clubs not only in Cebu but other provinces as well to agree on holding regional and national Eskrima tournaments. Contestants, however, had to wear protective devices. When Cacoy Canete’s brainchild was finally approved, the first tourney was set for December 1978. However, the date was reset to March 24, 1979, to give the contestants ample time for training.

In 1975, the National Arnis Association of the Philippines (NARAPHIL) was organized by a group headed by Romeo Mascardo of Bacoar, Cavite, who had as its President, General Fabian Ver, Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines during the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos. Doce Pares and the Cebu Eskrima Association just like most of the Arnis clubs in Metro Manila affiliated with NARAPHIL. Not long after, a decision was reached to hold formal organized tournaments as proposed by Ciriaco “Cacoy” Canete who averred that the best and fastest way of promoting Arnis is “to make its sparring matches into a popular sporting event”, just like some other form of martial arts. Hence, a committee composed of top instructors and masters was formed, tasked to formulate and draft the governing tournament rules. When the group failed to come up with the draft within the specified time, Diony himself volunteered to do the job

and, within a couple of weeks, he submitted the proposed rules which were subsequently accepted and approved “en toto” by Doce Pares, Cebu Eskrima Association and NARAPHIL. This is exactly the same rules that are enforced in tournaments sanctioned by the World Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation (WEKAF), which also adopted them during the First World Arnis Championships held on August 11-13, 1989.

To complement the tournament rules, Diony Canete also designed and devised the various protective gears such as the headgear, body protective jacket, hand gloves and arm pads. The formulation of the tournament rules and the creation of the protective gears finally made possible the staging of the historic First National Arnis Championships on March 24, 1979 at the Cebu Coliseum in Cebu City. This was immediately followed by the First National Arnis Invitational Tournament on August 19 of the same year held at the Philippine Normal College Gym in Ermita, Manila. These two tournaments were dominated by Doce Pares whose players led by Grandmaster Ciriaco “Cacoy” Canete captured all the titles at stake except one where the judges committed an error in scoring a disarming in favor of the other player when it should have been the other way around. Tournament officials while acknowledging the mistake did not reverse the decision inasmuch as the same had already been announced and the other player’s hand was raised in victory. In subsequent tournaments including the national championships in March 1985, Doce Pares consistently showed its class by sweeping all gold medals at stake.

On April 24, 1981, an Eskrima delegation, representing National Arnis Association of the Philippines and Doce Pares were composed of the following: Brig. General Wilfredo Estrada (Head of the delegation), Romeo Mascardo, David Odilao, Ciriaco “Cacoy” Canete, Lawyer Amorito Canete, Bonifacio Uy and Arnulfo Cuesta and a half dozen more. Lawyer Dionisio Canete opted to remain in Cebu.

The Doce Pares group led by Cacoy Canete conducted demonstrations and seminars in some cities in California, namely, Los Angeles, San Jose, Milpitas, San Francisco, Sacramento, Vallejo, Santa Rosa and in some cities in New Jersey and New York.

Their hosts in demos and seminars were Dr. Frank Scalercio (Santa Rosa, CA), Fred Bandalan (San Jose, CA), Dan Inosanto and Richard Bustillo (Los Angeles, CA), Al Concepcion (Sacramento, CA), Dr. Armand Tabotabo and George Glaraga (New Jersey). Cacoy Canete returned to the Philippines after six months later. His disciples left the U.S. three months earlier.

Eskrima skirmish between Grandmaster Cacoy Canete and Master Esing Atillo

The July 1, 1983 issue of the Freeman Daily headlined, that Esing Atillo challenged Cacoy Canete to an Eskrima fight without any protective device to be staged anywhere anytime. Three days later, the same Freeman Daily carried the news, that Cacoy Canete accepted Atillo’s challenge to an Eskrima fight.

From July 1, 1983 up to September 15, 1983, Crispulo Atillo had several TV and radio station appearances boastfully announcing he could easily trounce Cacoy Canete since he was only 45 years old, while Cacoy was 64 years old. Esing Atillo then announced that the Eskrima fight would be staged at the Philippine Constabulary Recreation Hall on Jones Avenue on September 17, 1983. Meanwhile, Cacoy Canete

asked Major Antonio Medija in his office to secure from Gen. Alfredo Olano a permit for the duo to perform an Eskrima exhibition fight at the PC Recreation Hall on September 17, 1983, without admission fee. Gen. Alfredo Olano stamped his approval.

September 16, Esing Atillo presented to Cacoy for approval a list of prohibited acts to be enforced during the fight. Prohibited acts, among others, were as follows: arm locking, punching, striking with hands, kicking, grappling, judo throw and use of jujitsu techniques.

Before the 3 p.m. fight, Radioman Ramonito del Rosario asked Cacoy Canete how long the fight would last. With complete confidence, Cacoy responded the fight would last in less than ten seconds.

On the middle of the stage, facing hundreds of spectators were the protagonists squaring off, with referee lawyer Luciano Babiera in the middle. Suddenly, Cacoy delivered a series of lightning strikes to Atillo's head. Suffering from near blackout, Atillo dived to grasp Cacoy's right leg, exerting efforts to shove Cacoy down. But, Cacoy countered by executing a left arm headlock as he controlled Atillo's left arm with his right arm and at the same time, maintaining his balance. Then referee Babiera shouted, "Break, Break". The referee ruled that each fighter committed a foul. He then ordered the duo to continue the fight. But Atillo hastily walked down the stage, ignoring the referee's order to resume the fight. For this reason, referee Luciano Babiera without hesitation, raised Cacoy's right hand and declared him as the winner. Those who witnessed the whole event were the following: Canete brothers: Eulogio, Filemon, Silvestre, Tirso and Rufino, lawyer Gabriel Canete, Major Tony Medija, David Odilao, Cacoy's children: Alex, Dennis, Edgar, Saturnino Arcilla, Primo Albano, Vicente Carin, Luciano Cabanero, Felix Expinosa, and Maximo Canete, Rolando Silao and Sol Kalinga. In a radio broadcast some five hours later, Atillo was heard demanding a rematch. Cacoy who happened to listen to the broadcast readily accepted the offer for a rematch.

On September 21, 1983, at the big Cebu Coliseum, which could accommodate 10,000 people, after some preliminary bouts, the main event was to be staged. Past seven in the evening, Cacoy was called to appear at the arena and be ready for the fight. Few minutes later, Esing Atillo, limping and aided by someone, came to the arena. Dr. Eduardo Tojong was called to come forward to examine both protagonists. He found 45 year old C. Atillo suffering from high blood pressure and was declared physically unfit. On the other hand, Cacoy Canete was found healthy for the Eskrima fight.

In June 1988, Doce Pares President Eulogio Canete passed away. During the organization's annual election of officers in December of the same year, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete was unanimously elected as the next President. Since 1988 up to present, Cacoy has been always elected president of Doce Pares. In view of the proliferation of Eskrima clubs using the name Doce Pares all over the world, Cacoy and his disciples had decided to rename their society as Doce Pares Federation. But in late 2001, they had it renamed again as Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation.

World Ancient Martial Arts Festival

On August 6-8, 1988, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete had the honor of being the only Filipino Martial Art master invited to participate in the World's Ancient Martial Arts Festival held in Adelaide, Australia. The masters and grandmasters in Jujitsu, Judo,

Aikido, Karate, Kung fu, Kendo, Taekwondo, Sambo, altogether came from China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Thailand, and other Asian countries. Grandmaster Cacoy Canete had to perform Eskrima and Eskrido in representing the Philippines. The Martial Arts Association in Adelaide, Australia shouldered all his travel and accommodation expenses. Everyone was allowed to perform his skill in the art for twenty minutes each day for three days.

Cacoy Doce Pares World Tournament

On March 2001, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete with the coordination with GM Richard Bustillo spearheaded the holding of the 1st Cacoy Doce Pares Federation World Tournament. It was very successful affair.

In late 2001 the Cacoy Doce Pares was renamed Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation.

Grandmaster Cacoy Canete, in coordination with GM Richard Bustillo, Masters Anthony Kleeman, Narrie Babao, Florencio Cautiverio, Ron Lew, Wally Estropia, Guy Kinanahan, Francisco, Sherril Johnson, Ted Sotelo, Vince Palumbo, Chief Instructor Mark Parra and others brought about a great success of the Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships in Los Angels, California on June 11, 2005.

Ciriaco 'Cacoy' Cañete

He is today the best known of the Canete brothers (Filemon, Eulogio, Tirso, Ciriaco, Rufino and Silvestre), prime movers in the preservation and promotion of the indigenous Filipino martial art of stick fighting (eskrima-arnis).



The Cañete Brothers

Ciriaco Cañete, or 'Cacoy' as he is known by his Filipino nickname, was born in August 1919 in San Fernando approximately 30 kilometers south of Cebu City, on Cebu Island, in the Visayas region of the Philippines into a family for whom Eskrima was already a tradition. He was the youngest of twelve children. At the early age of seven he was initiated into Eskrima, learning from his brother Filemon or "Momoy" who had in turn learned Eskrima from his father Gregorio and uncles Gavino, Pedro (from his fathers family) and Juancho (from his mothers family). In the 1920's his brothers were already involved in teaching stick fighting. Interest in Filipino martial arts led to the formation by Visayan martial arts

practitioners of the Doce Pares Association in Cebu. In 1939, Cacoy's elder brother, Eulogio "Yoling" Canete became president of Doce Pares, the oldest and longest standing martial arts organization in the Philippines and a driving force behind the popularization of Filipino martial arts. Yoling was president of Doce Pares until his death in 1988.

Because of his open mindedness and desire for knowledge, he has trained in many different styles of Martial Arts. Some of the styles he has learnt include Ju Jitsu, Boxing, Kodokan Judo, free style wrestling, Shorin Karate and Aikido. With his acknowledged spectrum of skills through his lifetime of training, he has gained a deep insight and a broad understanding, with mastery of the concepts of self-defense and combat. The culmination of years of learning fused into the style that he teaches which is called 'Eskrido'. This style combines the refined essential elements of every martial art he has learned through his life.



Cacoy served with the USAFFE in the war years and stayed in the army service until 1947. He studied at the University of Southern Philippines and taught martial arts in various Cebu schools. In 1979 he was champion in both the First Open Arnis Tournament in Cebu City and the First National Invitational Arnis Tournament in Manila, both events sponsored by the National Arnis Association of the Philippines (Naraphil). Another Canete, Dionisio (Cacoy's nephew) served as president of both Naraphil and the World Kali-Eskrima Arnis Federation (Wekaf), an organization founded much later in the history of Doce Pares (1987). The remarkable Cacoy Canete has been active in organizing tournaments, exhibitions and training programs in eskrima-arnis in the Philippines and foreign countries.

The legendary Ciriaco "Cacoy" Canete of Cebu Philippines is a prominent, internationally known martial artist who travels the globe to share, teach and demonstrate his martial art skills to others. Currently the Grandmaster promotes his art for self-defense, sport and personal well being. "Cacoy" Canete is the last surviving member and the only 12th degree black belt and the highest-ranking member of the fame Doce Pares Eskrima Club. He started Eskrima at age 7 under the oldest of eight, brother "Momoy". Now 85 years old, Grandmaster Canete's list of achievements is extensive. Here are some of the highlights:

- Founding member of the fame Doce Pares Eskrima Club in 1932
- Amateur Boxer, Cebu City 1937-1939
- US Armed Force Guerilla 1942
- Retired Lieutenant, Military Police, Philippine Army 1947
- Teacher, St. Francis Academy, Balamban, Cebu 1948
- Bachelor of Science Ed., University of Southern Philippines, Cebu 1950
- Teacher, University of Visayas 1951
- Wrestler, Philippine National Wrestling Association 1957
- Teacher, University of San Carlos 1962-1968
- President, Labor Union, Pepsi Cola Company, Cebu 1963-1973
- University of Visayas, 1964-1991

- Black Belts: Shorin Ryu Karate 1964, Kodokan Judo 1957, Aikido 1972
- Retired Captain, Reserve Armed Forces of the Philippines 1970
- Cebu City Colleges (now University of Cebu) 1971 – 1984
- President Champion Trophy, 1st National Arnis Masters Open 3/24/79
- Champion, 1st National Arnis Invitational, 8/19/79
- Cebu Sports Hall of Fame Inductee, Philippines 1997
- Sports Commissioner of Eskrima, Cebu City – Current
- Commissioner on Sports Cebu City, 1998 – 2002
- Teacher: University of San Carlos 1962 – 1968
- University of the Visayas 1964 – 1991
- Cebu City Colleges (now University of Cebu) 1971 – 1984
- 2003 USMA International Hall of Fame Inductees
- 2004 US Martial Arts Association Hall of Fame ("Philippine Martial Arts Legend").
- 2005 Mayor Tomas Osmeña's Special Awardee, Cebu City, Philippines

Ciriaco Cañete's Eskrido Doce Pares syllabus

Single, double stick, and stick/dagger single person patterns or katas. Ammara/ Pinki Pinki double stick training routines (drills sometimes called Sinawali in the northern regions of the Philippines) break falls and throws, stick and dagger defense, locks and throws. Semi free sparring in close, medium and long range with single stick and stick and dagger. Disarms are one of Cacoy's main emphasis.



Pangamot Throw



Eskrido Throw

Cacoy's Twelve Basic strikes:

- #1 top of head
- #2 right temple
- #3 left temple
- #4 right ribs
- #5 left ribs
- #6 right waist
- #7 left waist
- #8 right knee
- #9 left knee
- #10 right cheek thrust
- #11 left cheek thrust
- #12 stomach thrust



Espada Y Daga

The present popularity of Espada y Daga could well be credited to two prominent masters, Felimon Canete and Jesus Cui. Considered as class by themselves, they were mainly responsible in passing on the new generation the traditional style that even up to the present still retains its substance. Their highly selective policy of choosing students and very meticulous way of teaching while it produced real good talents, they were in trickle as compared to the number of followers with the three styles of Corto as well as those who specialized in Mano-mano and Knife Fighting. This is precisely one reason that today there are not too many people who can really be considered skilled enough and competent to teach Espada y Daga.

Espada y Daga and Larga Mano were the first types of Eskrima that my father together with his two brothers, Felimon and Florentino learned from their original teachers. Though the techniques were basic and very limited, it was good enough to arouse their interest to seek further knowledge and understanding about the Filipino martial arts. More commonly called “punto y daga” or “olisi y Baraw”, most of the movements taught by the old masters were more of dance-like sequences with so much body and foot movements accentuated by low and deep stances. It was not uncommon that outsiders and on-lookers mistook them to be performing the “sinulog” as the movements highly resembled this traditional ritual dance of the Cebuanos.

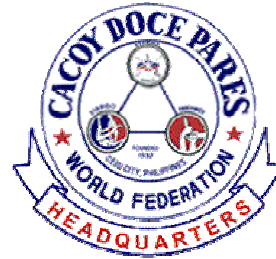
“Sinulog” is a dance ritual performed by devotees and worshippers in honor of the Holy Child Jesus, the partron saint of Cebu City, which is deemed the Philippines “link between its pagan past and its Christian present”. The image was brought by Ferdinand Magellan when he arrived in Cebu on April 7, 1521 and he gave it as gift to Hara Amihna, wife of the reigning Rajah Humabon shortly before the two were baptized as Christians and were given the names, Queen Juana and King Carlos. At present, the Sinulog dance festival, a mardi gras like affair is being held in January each year in Cebu City highlighting the feast of the Holy Child Jesus which usually draws hundreds of thousands of spectators, tourists and pilgrims alike to watch people dance on the street for one whole day. The dance was patterned after the movement of “sulog” (waves) of the old Pahina River in Cebu City, consisting of two steps forward and one step backward.

These original Eskrima foot works are still very much in practice today, and are largely found in the “Sayaw” (Forms).

Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete Training Program

81-A C. Padilla Street Cebu City, Philippines 6000 I
Tel # (032) 261-1352 or (032) 261-5387

Training by Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete is available to groups of three or more, typically advanced, students and must be pre-scheduled (to ensure that GM Cacoy is in Cebu).



Besides personal instruction by GM Cacoy Cañete, individual and group training is provided by Philippine Doce Pares BLACKBELTER Eskrimadors trained by GM Cacoy Cañete himself.

Training specializes in Eskrima, Eskrido (the trademark Doce Pares combination of Eskrima and Judo) and Pangamot according to the individual instructional wishes of students. The quality of training and system of instruction follows the modern Doce Pares style developed and maintained by Grand Master Cacoy Cañete. Instructors are all professionals and Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete has trained each personally.

Facilities and Schedule

Doce Pares Headquarters in Cebu City is equipped with an open training gym, protection equipment, training weapons etc. and these are all available for unlimited use by students.

Training is conducted at the following times:

Special Classes: Every Monday – Saturday
2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon (Students can also choose morning classes only or afternoon classes only). Also you can make your own schedule (Contact them first and tell them the schedule you would like).



Regular Members:

- Adult Classes: Monday – Wednesday – Friday (7pm – 9pm).
- Below 16 years of age: Saturday (3pm – 4:30pm).



Group picture of some members of the Cebu club

Training Staff**Master Dennis Cañete**

- 2nd Vice President, Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation.
- School Director, Cacoy Doce Pares Headquarters.
- Team Coach, Philippine Stickfighting Team, Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships, 2005.
- Brownbelt, Kodokan Judo.
- 8th Grade Blackbelt, Eskrima-Eskrido System.
- 7th Grade Blackbelt, Pangamot, Barehanded Defense System.

Danny Serundo

- Senior Instructor, Cacoy Doce Pares Headquarters
- Member, Philippine Stickfighting Team, Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships, 2005
- Member, Training Staff, Brgy. Police Self-Defense Seminar, 2000
- 4th Grade Blackbelt, Eskrima-Eskrido System

Alfred Abarquez Jr.



- Senior Instructor, Cacoy Doce Pares Headquarters
- Member, Training Staff, Dept of Interior and Local Government-Self Defense Seminar 1998-2000.
- Trainer, Philippine Stickfighting Team, Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships, 2005. LA, CA.
- 3 times Champion, Invitational Arnis Tournament, '92, '93 and '94.
- Member, Team Philippines, WEKAF 1996 Arnis Tournament, LA, CA, USA.
- 6th Grade Blackbelt, Eskrima-Eskrido System.
- 3rd Grade Blackbelt, Pangamot, Barehanded Defense System.

John Mac



- Team, Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships, 2005.
- 3 times Champion, Invitational Arnis Tournament, '93, '94 and '96.
- Champion, WEKAF 1996 Arnis Tournament, LA, CA, USA.
- 6th Grade Blackbelt, Eskrima-Eskrido System.
- 3rd Grade Blackbelt, Pangamot, Barehanded Defense System.

Crisante Benjamin Deller



- Senior Instructor, Cacoy Doce Pares Headquarters
- Member, Training Staff, Brgy. Police Self-Defense Training, 1995
- Member of Philippine Stick Fighting Team, Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships, 2005
- Member of Philippine Team, WEKAF 1996 Arnis Tournament, LA, CA, USA.
- 2 Times Champion, Invitational Arnis Tournament, '94 and '96
- 3rd Grade Blackbelt Eskrima-Eskrido System

Levi Mejorado

-Senior Instructor, Cacoy Doce Pares Headquarters



-Member, Training Staff, Dept of Interior and Local Government-Self Defense Seminar 2003.

-Member, Training Staff, Summer Martial Arts Training Program 2000-2004.

-Member, Philippine Stickfighting Team, Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships, 2005.

-Champion, WEKAF 1998 Arnis Tournament, Cebu City, Philippines.

-4th Grade Blackbelt, Eskrima-Eskrido System.

Chuck Anthony Cañete

-Belongs to the 3rd Generation of Grandmaster Cacoy's Lineage. He started learning Eskrima at the early age of 9 from his late father Master Edgar Cañete. Today, he is personally trained by his grandfather Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete and was recently awarded the 5th Grade Black belt in Eskrima-Eskrido System.

-Senior Instructor, Cacoy Doce Pares Headquarters.

-Member, Training Staff, Summer Martial Arts Training Program 1995-2005.

-Vice Team Captain, Philippine Stickfighting Team, Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships, 2005.

-Champion, Invitational Arnis Tournament, 1994.



Chuck Anthony Cañete during the Pangamot session together with our Junior instructors Archie Lavandero and Chris Badal.

"Good, Better, Best, Never Let It Rest Until Your Good Is Better, And Your Better Is Best"

By Spice Williams-Crosby



That is Master Vince Palumbo's motto. "Not bad, Eh!", as the Aussie himself would say! Born on the 4th of November in 1965, Master Vince grew up in the city of Adelaide in South Australia on a journey that eventually led him to being my Arjukanpo Master.

I know that when I took my very first step into the Martial Arts world, I began with Shorin Ryu and Tae Kwon Do. They were both good for my action acting and stunt work, but I was really looking for something that could bring out the warrior in me and be a must for the street. I wanted a fighting style that would challenge me in a way I've never been challenged before. I finally found Arjukanpo, a self-defense that combines mixed martial arts, tailor-made for the complete warrior! For me, Arjukanpo incorporates a wide range of Karate's best styles including Arnis, Aiki-Jujutsu, Judo, Hawaiian Kenpo, Ukidokan Karate, Kempo Shotokan, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Boxing, Kickboxing, and Filipino Fighting Art of Eskrima. AR- arnis (Filipino stick and knife fighting), JU- combat Judo and Jujitsu, KA- combat Karate, N-Nei Gung (Internal development), PO- meaning valuable teachings so that a child may develop properly into an adult (Chinese language).

The only school in the United States that taught this amazingly effective art was the House of Champions in Van Nuys, CA. So, I signed up and bought my gi. I soon learned that my Shihan Mark Parra, studied under Arjukanpo Master Vince Palumbo. I saw photos and drawings of Master Vince, but didn't get the chance to meet him until he came to America to compete in Grand Master Cacoy Canete's 2005 World Eskrima Tournament. He won World Champion status that year in both the middleweight and open weight divisions, crushing the competition in every Filipino full-contact stick-fighting event. What a thrill it was to finally meet the Sensei behind my style and a true honor to come to know this man!

When Master Vince Palumbo came to America, he was destined to become one of the first Martial Arts Masters from his native Australia to break into the American martial arts network and community. He began his training at age 8, starting out in boxing and gymnastics, and by age 10, he made up his mind to learn Judo and Jujitsu. By the time he was 15 years old, he started training in freestyle combat Karate, and achieved the rank of Black Belt by his 18th birthday.

At 21, Master Vince began fighting in the ring, and since his first full-contact fight, he has won multiple titles in many different combat sport disciplines! Just to name a few:

- South Australian Full Contact Karate Champion
- South Australian, Australian and World Full Contact Stickfighting Champion
- South Australian Submission Grappling Champion
- South Australian and Australian Shootboxing Champion

- South Australian, South Pacific and World Boxing Champion
- Australian Full-Contact Kung Fu Champion
- Australian Tough man Title

Having over 200 full-contact fights in the ring Master Vince's list of martial arts achievements are quite notable too. He was inducted into the Blitz Martial Arts Magazine Hall of Fame awards in 2003, and went on to win the award as "Best Freestyle Martial Arts Instructor in Australia." He was also named the "Best Amateur Boxer in South Australia" in 1994, 1998, 1999 and 2000, and now he is the current IKBBF Professional Super-Middleweight World Boxing Champion, and is the Chief Instructor at the International Combative Martial Arts Academy, which is located in South Australia.

Being a long time senior student of Grandmaster Cacoy Canete, 12th Dan of the Philippines, Master Vince has also reached the following levels in many other martial art styles:

- 8th Dan Cacoy Doce Pares Eskrima
- 8th Dan Arjukanpo Karate
- 7th Dan Filipino Pangamot Jujitsu
- 6th Dan Korean Karate
- 5th Dan Combat Jujitsu

It appears on the outside that Master Vince has NO time for anything else in his life but training, training, and more training. But if you ever sit down and really have a good chat with this awesome warrior of 40, you quickly learn that he has a heart of gold and a real love for his students. Certainly, he has learned to deal with the physical pain that comes with being battered all the time, but his key to dealing with emotional pain is to spend as much time as he can with his beautiful wife, daughter, and of course their dog Bella! Master Vince is a sucker for all animals, big and small. He loves a variety of music, dining out in wonderful restaurants, and seeing movies at the cinema. He's also cultivated an acting career and has appeared in two martial arts movies already! So there is much more to his tough-guy appearance than meets the eye.

In 1987, Master Vince believed it was time to open his own dojo. The International Combative Martial Arts Academy has become highly revered by many, and is now well known in the city of Adelaide, South Australia. It was a huge responsibility to open a school, but like all things Master Vince attempts to do, he goes at it 150%. It's called "Feel the fear and do it anyway" belief.

Not too many things scare Master Vince, however he has admitted the uneasiness of not knowing the outcome of obstacles that life has a habit of throwing at him. And certainly, at one time, life did throw a doozy at him when he was very small child and nearly drowned. He can still remember his out of body experience and the message he received to always do the best he can in whatever he has chosen to do with his life.

Probably the most influential teacher in Master Vince's life would be Grandmaster Cacoy Canete of the Philippines. Twenty years ago, while already a 3rd Dan in karate, Master Vince met Grandmaster Cacoy Canete in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory of Australia. Grandmaster was doing a Doce Pares Eskrima seminar there, and straight away, the two of them hit it off in a really big way. In fact, GM Cacoy,

who has a huge heart to begin with, invited Master Vince to train with him in Cebu City on the island of Cebu in the Philippines.

He went there along with Master Anthony Kleeman, and the two of them trained with the Grandmaster and all his students at the Doce Pares Headquarters for a period of two weeks, twice a day.

In the Philippines, there is no such thing as insurance or public liability in the martial arts gyms. The training is very hard, hot, and always full contact! (lots of bumps, bruises, and cuts!) So, Master Vince's very first experience in Eskrima was quite a wake-up call for him, and as he told me, "I honestly believe that all of the Filipino students were just standing around the two white guys so they could beat the living crap out of them!"

Every session had sparring with no armor, and it was a very humbling experience to find out how painful it can be when you're whacked with a rattan cane at three to five strikes per second!

Master Vince had never experienced that kind of pain and humiliation, and he remembers going back to his hotel room and questioning his sanity for going to Cebu in the first place. As Master Vince recalls, "After the first week of sparring, I got absolutely hammered by everyone. My skull had so many bumps on it, it hurt to even rest my head on a pillow. I thought to myself I'm going to die here!"

Grandmaster Cacoy watched every one of Master Vince's sparring sessions, and every time Master Vince got whacked on the head and fell to the ground, Grandmaster Cacoy would laugh hysterically. Feeling humiliated, Master Vince mustered up enough courage to finally confront the Grandmaster and said to him respectfully, "You must really be enjoying all this! I'm glad you're amused that I'm getting the absolute crap beaten out of me. But you know what? At least I don't give up, no matter how stupid I must look." Then, to his amazement, Grandmaster said, "I am not laughing at you, but rather at what you will be doing to these guys next week, and how surprised they are going to be with the final outcome of your sparring development!"

In the second week of training, Master Vince blitzed everyone that he sparred with, and he was absolutely overwhelmed with the rapid improvement he made in such a short time. So he went to Grandmaster Cacoy and asked him how he knew that he would be able to beat all the students before leaving. Grandmaster replied, "When I was learning the art as a young man, my brothers and the older eskrimadors would really beat up on me and punish me with their sticks, but I never gave up or complained about the treatment that was being dealt to me at the time. You reminded me of myself when I was learning, and how I got educated about pain from the stick. You never stayed down on the ground, and you always got up to fight back!" Grandmaster knew that sooner or later



Master Vince would find the way to fight back, because of necessity and self-preservation!

Grandmaster Cacoy went on to explain, "When you work out the correct way in which to spar with a stick, after a while no one can hit you because you develop your own way to spar. Excruciating pain is the best instructor one can have -- pain forces us to find our way around it because it hurts too much physically, mentally and emotionally!" Master Vince always expresses how he cherishes the beautiful relationship that he has with the legendary Grandmaster Cacoy Canete, and how very grateful he is for all of the knowledge that he has passed on to him over the years. "I will be forever grateful to this very special man."

Master Vince's birthday was on November 4th, and if you do the math, he recently turned 40 without a hitch. To celebrate, he went to Sydney for the weekend to show a first-time crowd what full contact stickfighting was really about! The event was held in a little city called Wollongong, about an hour out of Sydney, and it usually provides a full night of conventional boxing. But this time, the promoter knew what Master Vince could give the crowd and invited him to do his stuff! Fighters from another Eskrima club in Sydney were teamed up with Master Vince and his group. There were over a 1,000 spectators that screamed at the excitement as his two students, Ms. Andrea Wheatley and Mr. Michael Harris, fought like real champs! Master Vince was teamed up with the New South Wales Champion and the crowd went wild as he beat him hands down.

Of course, this made him very happy, but when you ask Master Vince what really makes him the happiest, he'll look you straight in the eye and express with great love in his heart, "I just wish everyone could treat each other nice, regardless of skin color, religion or creed.





International Combative Martial Arts Academy

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Website



The Legend of Cacoy Canete

By Narrie Babao

It was during the Fifties in the Philippines, when I first heard the name Cacoy Canete. Those who mentioned his name with such awe and reverence were mostly men. At the time, I was just a young boy, and I was with my mother visiting her hometown, Dalaguete, Cebu. We were then residents of Davao City, where I was born.

During the month of February, we usually go to Dalaguete for the town fiesta. Sometimes, we would go at the beginning of January, so we could also attend the feast of the Santo Nino, the patron saint of Cebu City. From Davao, we would board a mid-sized ship for Cebu City. Then we would catch a bus for the dusty ride south to Dalaguete. It was during these bus rides, when I would hear the men talk about fighting, about Cacoy Canete's name, and about the Doce Pares organization.

In Cebu and in the nearby islands, the town of Dalaguete was synonymous with Balaraw (Visayan word for dagger). It had been a tradition, that the town fiesta was not complete if nobody was stabbed to death. The natives of Dalaguete even believed that their patron saint, San Guillermo, condones this human sacrifice.

Called bono', the killing need not be done by fierce men, who were skilled in knife fighting. Killing someone by stabbing from behind is also called bono'. It was also a fact, that a bono' did not occur just out of pure hatred for the other guy. Alcohol, usually in the form of a coconut wine, called tuba, was heavily involved.

The most common stabbing victims were strangers, who just happened to be in the wrong place, at the wrong time. The local term for this random killing is called 'paregla'.

Whenever my father, the late Buenaventura Babao, would go with us for the Dalaguete fiesta, I was always amazed by his unperturbed attitude whenever there were local drunks around. Although married to a Dalaguetnon, my father was considered a stranger, since he was from Batangas, where he learned Arnis de Mano. I also knew that his un-tucked polo shirt covers a closed balisong knife and a holstered snub-nosed .38 caliber revolver.

Another factor that contributed to my father's coolness while in Dalaguete was the fact that he could muster reinforcements if he needed to. The Chief of Police in Carcar was a distant relative. The town of Carcar is halfway between Cebu City and Dalaguete. That police chief also had a brother with the Cebu City Police, Captain Cipriano Babao. So if worse comes to worst, my father knew whom to call.

At the time there were only a few good knife and stick fighters in Dalaguete. The name that usually stood out was Vicente "Inting" Carin from Cawayan village in Dalaguete. Carin was a police officer in Cebu City, and had killed a number of men. Naturally, the topic among the men was that - who was the better fighter, Cacoy Canete or Inting Carin.

In 1963, I was eighteen years old, when my father started teaching me his Batangas style of Arnis. By then we have moved to Naga City, where I met my wife Zena. I also enrolled in karate, and was later promoted to black belt by Master Jimmy Galez of Manila.



Grandmaster Cacoy with
Master Babao and his wife Zena

When I returned to visit Dalaguete in 1967, the Parish priest, Fr. Cervantez, asked me to teach karate to his altar boys. During daytime, the altar boys would assist him in the church duties, while at night I would be teaching them karate.

On my way back to Naga City, I have passed by a martial arts school with a sign, which says "Doce Pares Eskrima". The school was closed, and I was already scheduled to leave. Once again I associated the name Cacoy Canete with the Doce Pares.

In 1968 I enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and have been involved with the various martial arts activities in California. It was not until 1981, when I finally met in person the legendary Cacoy Canete. It was Al Conception of Sacramento, who first mentioned that Grandmaster Canete was coming to the United States to introduce Doce Pares Eskrima.

One day, I received a call from my kumpadre, Dan Inosanto, that Grandmaster Canete will be holding a seminar at the old Filipino Kali Academy in Torrance. The seminar opened my eyes to the swiftness of Grandmaster Canete's Eskrima, as compared to the other arts that I have learned. It was also a new learning experience regarding close fighting. Since that time, I treated Grandmaster Canete like my own father, who passed away seven years earlier.

In 1984, I met the other Canete brothers during my visit to the C. Padilla St. headquarters in Cebu City. One day I studied the use of the latigó (whip) from Grandmaster Momoy Canete. The 30-foot latigó was made out of abaca hemp. Manong Momoy later told a gathered crowd that so far, only Richard Bustillo and me were able to properly control the techniques of his latigó during the first day of training.

At night, Grandmaster Cacoy and I would usually go to a restaurant, and between the eating, we would talk about Eskrima and the never-ending exchange of jokes. None of his books had been published yet, and I had the privilege to hear first hand, how he

defeated his opponents. One time we forgot it was past midnight, and the restaurant staff was afraid to ask us to leave.

Grandmaster Cacoy Canete was years ahead of Bruce Lee, with regards to updating his fighting techniques. What technique may work yesterday, he may consider as obsolete today. This is the reason why his followers worldwide, always anticipate the latest changes he had to offer. He would always joke about it as the latest model.

There were some words of wisdom that he imparted to me one on one. Through the recent years, I have my eyes and ears open if he would present the same teaching during his seminars. What I have secretly learned from him, I still found it to be very practical. He may regard it as obsolete, but I will not divulge it to anyone else.

It was also during my visit in 1984, when I met Master Inting Carin, who actually became a kumpadre of Grandmaster Canete. He conceded to me that he was no match against Cacoy Canete.

One morning, we rented a car, and the three of us went for a sentimental trip to Dalaguete. That was when I found out about the story of another Dalaguete Eskrima master, who once challenged Grandmaster Cacoy. But when the moment came, the Dalaguete master backed out, and instead asked Grandmaster Cacoy to join him in drinking tuba. However, Grandmaster Cacoy never liked drinking alcoholic beverages.

Grandmaster Cacoy's nephew, Atty. Diony Canete, heard about my visit, he invited us one evening to a nightclub by the bay. Except for Grandmaster Cacoy, all were drinking. There was a pianist as an entertainer. Later on it became a sing along event, which was the prelude to karaoke. Every one was expected to sing, while being accompanied by the pianist. I have to pass, when my turn came. I did not know how to sing. Seated next to me was Grandmaster Cacoy. When he was asked to sing, he got up without hesitation. He announced to the group, "If I'm not afraid to fight, I'm not afraid to sing."

What Grandmaster Canete said was a lifelong lesson for me. What is there to be afraid about anything? Years later, my wife Zena encouraged me to learn how to sing, and how to defeat the fear of the crowd.



A young Narrie Babao and Cacoy Canete



San Diego Eskrido Group

About the author:

Narrie Babao is an 8th grade Master of Grandmaster Cacoy's Eskrido. He retired as a Chief Master-at-Arms in the U.S. Navy, and currently works as a Police Service Officer with the San Diego Police Department.



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“The Only Thing That is Consistent About Me, Is Change”

Quoted to me, Sherril Johnson, by the Legendary Grandmaster Cacoy Canete

By Sherril Johnson



Christopher J. Petrilli - Sherril Johnson
Grandmaster Canete

“Wow!” that is what I had said, after my first meeting of the Legendary Grandmaster Cacoy Canete in 1993. I have to ask you, if you have ever met Grandmaster Cacoy Canete, can you think of the first word you used to describe the man and his stick skills? It was Wow, wasn't it? Sure, you then had something like the following statements after that first word; “he's amazing!” “Did you get that?” “He's

really not that old, is he?” “Did he really just toss that big guy?”

“**Wow!**” is still the first word out of my mouth in the year 2006. After all the years of training under him, since our first meeting, he still seeks to make him (his art) an experience that you won’t ever forget.

Awe is what I felt the first time I touched hands with Grandmaster Cacoy Canete. And the many others that have had the chance to touch hands with him, they will all agree with me. It is awesome.

Awe is what I felt, when he has thrown me into the air. It is as though, I’m a small piece of tissue that he has crumpled up and then tossed out for the ground to catch. When he locks me, it’s like he has become the mightiest of python snakes and has constricted me into making only two choices: submitting to the pain or the breaking of one of my bones. When the flurry of his stick strikes is unleashed on me, it is as though a machine gun is being unloaded. When he blocks my strikes, it is as though I’m striking at a semi-truck going sixty-mph. When he demonstrates his disarms it is as though he is doing a magic trick or like he is a hypnotist and willed you to let go of the stick. And then, there are his checking hands. They have the strength of a gorilla, the gentle touch of a feather floating around, your hands, and all with the speed of a flash of lighting. But during it all, he has the greatest of smiles. A smile that only can be taken as it is his expression in his overwhelming delight, in that he is sharing the art with you. When you are all confused about how you got Thrown, Locked, Struck, Blocked, Disarmed and Checked, you will hear his little charming giggle that brings your right back to reality and the realization “WOW, that was Awesome” and a plea inside your head “I hope he’ll do that again.”

For those that haven’t met HIM, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete, you need to find him and experience him and his Art. For those of you who have been around the FMA for a while, you know that a great Master can be, one day, only found in just some book or archived video, from an unseen event. Don’t let an opportunity pass you by, find him... for your training, for your experience, and your growth in the arts.

So, who am I? I’m a Student of Grandmaster Cacoy under the direct direction, of one of his USA Master, Master Christopher J. Petrilli. I started my training under Master Petrilli in 1991. I first learned of him and his teacher through a student of his, Jeff Bennett. Jeff would use me as his practice dummy after learning Master Petrilli’s techniques from the night before. I at that time, I was studying the art of Kajukenbo Chuan Fa Wun Hop Kuen Do.

The art of stick fighting had been a dream of mine, since the age of three. I had seen a documentary of the Zulu tribes men fighting. I was glued to the Television screen; with every blow I knew that someday I to, would be a Zulu



tribesmen. My mother tried to explain to me that I couldn't be a tribesman. I thought that it was because the color of my skin. So, I found a marker a colored my entire body brown. My family was in shock, and tried desperately to remove the markers color from my body. I then was told that I couldn't be a Zulu tribesman because I was a woman, not a man. From that day forth I have tried everything I didn't see girls doing. Martial arts had been one of those things that I didn't see women in. The pictures in all the martial arts books that I had found had no girls. Also, no great fighting women, in action movies and then there was the sport of football. Really, all the things my brother, my dad and grandfather liked to watch on TV is what set me into action.

My first exposure to Martial arts came from Bruce Tegner's book "Judo Do." I had practiced every move in that book, every day on my bed. Doing leg sweeps, hip and shoulder throws on my over sized stuffed animal, an orange, purple and white stuffed Turtle. His name was Super Turtle, with a superman "S" drawn by me, onto his chest. I was four years old then.

I was seven years old; I had found a flyer with a silhouette of a man throwing another man over his shoulder. I had shown it to my Mom and the very next day, she took me to the gym and had signed me up. She has always been supportive of anything since that marker day. She even took me to Uwajimaya's to buy my first brand new piece of clothing, a Gi. I have never forgotten the smell of that new Gi.

I trained with Mr. Uchita for two years, and then trained in a Judo Dojo in downtown Seattle. Then onto Kung Fu, with the toughest of instructors, for a kid, that I have met. Then onto karate with Mr. Miser, a Vietnam vet, that had the warrior spirit like my Grandfather. When I was eighteen years old, I had found the Kajukenbo System. This is where I had encountered my first face to face, since the marker day, of someone doing stick fighting. I practiced Redondo; the sinawali drill called heaven and earth and 12 basic block and strikes that had been shown to me, by Sifu Austria. I had trained the concepts every day and thought it was the best thing ever.

Kajukenbo is where I had met Jeff Bennett, an Army Ranger, he didn't mind giving and taken hits with a women...well, maybe it was just me that didn't mind. And from him I had met Christopher J. Petrilli, an Army Ranger as well. Through Chris I had met Grandmaster Cacoy Canete. So you can put it all together form the passion I had since the age of three to finding Stick fighting in my neck of the woods. I'm hooked. I did met with Burton Richardson and he has trained with the Zulu tribe. We had discussed the movements of the Zulu fighters and I still want to go to Africa and train with them, someday. I have a long way to go in the art of Cacoy Doce Pares and it is my first stick fighting art, that has let me be what I am, A Stick Fighter!

Thank you to all my training partners, many that don't even know that I believe them to be one. I will name the following people with maybe a little "google searching" you to can find them and train with the best. These guys will train with a female training partner, just like a real training partner. Women around the world of martial arts you know what I'm saying here. So, Thank you to all these men, that have done just that and made me into the Stick Fighter that I am today, and to what I will become.



Grandmaster Cacoy Canete – Seminar in Mexico

A special Thank you to:

Grandmaster Cacoy Canete for all the warrior spirit, **Christopher J. Petrilli** for believing that a women can be the best training partner, even though many people think different.

Tom Weissmuller “we had fought in a war together, in a past life.”

And to my throwing partner, **Robert Stitler** with out your trust and time I wouldn't be where I'm today.

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Musings of an Acolyte

By Andy Gibney



Andy Gibney and
Grandmaster Cacoy Canete

Without doubt the comparison to Yoda will be made by others, and with no hint of insult, I cannot think of a finer compliment than to compare Grandmaster Cacoy Canete to the legendary teacher of 'Star Wars' fame. With Grandmaster Cacoy in his later years he sometimes appears to be on the edge of what is going on. Do not be deceived, under his cloak of age and wisdom beats the heart of an all-time warrior. Aware, astute and very able. I have had the great privilege of training with many of the world's masters; I don't think any of them would begrudge my compliment that Grandmaster Cacoy is the best I've ever seen.

Many tributes will relate to Grandmaster Cacoy's skill in never losing a challenge match, or his reputation as Doce Pares premier fighter. Others will allude to his ability to spread his native arts. I shall take a different approach. I will share my stories and try to convey the spirit of the man, someone, who in martial arts circles deserves the title 'legend'.

In 1982 the BBC ran a documentary series 'The Way of the Warrior'. As we all know Grandmaster Cacoy was featured in one of the episodes, although curiously he was almost bypassed in the book of the same name. I remember seeing that show and I'd only been training for eighteen months or so. You find it difficult to comprehend that one day this man on the TV will be your teacher. I saw him for real ten years later, at the WEKAF World Championships in Manila and Cebu City. He did a demo and was treated with great deference. A cocky international competitor, I didn't understand why.

It was to be another six years before I saw the light. Through Richard Bustillo I was put in contact with Grandmaster Cacoy and we fashioned a deal to bring him to Europe for the first time. So, in 1998, at the age of 78 Grandmaster Cacoy touched down at Heathrow Airport. Our journey together had begun.

Our first challenge was my accent. My 'English' accent was completely foreign to Manong and I had to speak more slowly to begin with so that he could understand me. Fortunately having spent a lot of time around Filipino's I didn't experience the same challenge. As we began our journey I had my first taste of what was to come. Manong Cacoy was telling jokes and funny stories during the whole of the 2-hour



BlackBelts 98

journey. He also has this insane way of making you laugh no matter how funny the story is. When you look at him he points his index finger at you and starts laughing. You can't help but join in.

I got my first taste of one-to-one training with him a couple of days later. Cacoy doesn't so much teach you as helps you to experience his art. That means knowing what it feels like! After an hour or so of weapons training I asked casually if he had an empty hand side to his art. With great vigor he replied 'yes'. After five minutes, and it really wasn't any longer than that, I asked if we could go back to the weapons. The reason was that I thought he'd broken one of my fingers! It turned out that he hadn't, but I learnt that you don't doubt this man's art.

At the first seminar we had 70 or so people show up. With support from Danny Guba, a 9th Dan Doce Pares Master who is resident in the UK, Manong Cacoy managed to get his message across in a sports center that had terrible acoustics. On the Sunday morning Cacoy gave us a master class in close-quarter sparring and poor Danny was on the receiving end. Those 15 minutes alone would have been worth bringing Manong to the UK, but there was so much more.

It was during this trip that I first took Grandmaster Cacoy to London. His goal was to see Buckingham Palace. From where I live that's 2 hours away so off we went. Once he'd seen it he said 'Mission accomplished' and was ready to go home. I'm afraid I didn't let him go. I knew there was more he'd want to see in London so despite the fact that he was 78 I dragged him round London taking him to Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus and the Houses of Parliament. He slept well on the way home!

Over the years it has been my honour, and pleasure, to take him to the Tower of London, Warwick Castle, Althorp House (where Princess Diana is buried), and Stratford-upon-Avon where for 5 terrifying minutes I lost him – and other places of local historical interest. What is so inspiring about Grandmaster Cacoy is his mind – at an advanced age he is fully alert and inquisitive. He is always asking questions about Great Britain so that he can understand more.

In 1999 I hosted the 1st Doce Pares European Conference. With Grandmaster Cacoy as the headliner, there was also Grandmaster Richard Bustillo, Master Danny Guba and myself teaching. It remains one of my favorite events. With over 100 students attending it was a great weekend of martial arts and education. On the Saturday evening I organized a Chinese banquet and at Danny Guba's insistence - karaoke. I hate karaoke, but Danny kept saying that Grandmaster Cacoy loves to sing. Indeed he does. But in England he sat in his chair all evening watching his students, including me, murder different songs.

This was also the year that we first went to Berlin. After having Danny as support for two events it was daunting for me to be Grandmaster Cacoy's sole demonstration partner. On the plus side I got even more time to work with him one-on-one. Every time



WarwickCastle99

we faced up to spar (okay I know I just got beat up) I could understand a little more of what he was doing, then he'd do something totally unexpected and I'd feel like a beginner again.

We went to Berlin again in 2000 where we had the novelty of being left to our own devices at the end of the seminar. Our host had a very high pressured job and had to get back to work at the end of the seminar. Whilst we were ferried back to our hotel I had to rely on my basic German to get us fed that night then get to the airport the following morning. At the time I thought it was a very strange way of hosting a seminar, but we managed alright.



It was in June 2000 that I traveled to the US to train with Manong. I met him at Richard Bustillo's IMB Academy where Grandmaster was giving a seminar and launching his biography 'The Fastest Olisi Fighter' by Jun Canizares. It is to my eternal gratitude that I was asked to contribute a quote to the cover and I became immortalized on the rear cover of this tome. I also received a copy of the book before Cacoy did when his nephew gave

me a copy before the official launch.

The following week I traveled to San Jose to see the great man. I spent three days there having dinner with him, talking and training. Although it is always a privilege to have him visit me it was extra special to see him in his home environment.

By now Doce Pares was growing in the UK and into Belgium, and Europe, and in 2001 we had a greater variety of students attending the Grandmaster's seminar. It was also during 2001 that I took a British team to the 1st Cacoy's Doce Pares World Championships. I'm happy to say that Great Britain took the lion's share of the medals and we emerged World Champions - although I was the coach I would still give Grandmaster Cacoy part of the credit for teaching me so much about Eskrima. During this trip he graded me to my present grade of 6th Grade Black Belt. It remains one of my highest honors.

In 2002 the Grandmaster made his last trip, to date, to the UK. This was to be the trip that went spent the most time together. After his customary UK successful seminar we then traveled to Poland at the invitation of Jan Nycek. Our first day in Poland was in Warsaw and we featured on Polish TV where I learnt to fly Cacoy-style! We then went on a mammoth drive across Poland, first to Czetsochowa (Chess-ta-kova), the spiritual capital of Poland – this was of interest to Grandmaster Cacoy because of his belief in God and practice of the Catholic religion. Next we drove to Krakow where we did a radio interview then back to Czetsochowa before finally heading onto our final destination of Wroclaw (Vrots-lov).

The seminar was a great success and Jan Nycek and his team did a superb job, especially Dominick Sierpieko who did all the translating for us. The amusement came



when they booked Cacoy and me into a twin room. We spent 6 days together and you can learn a lot about each other in that time. The main thing I learnt was how content he is. Despite great tragedy in his later years, the loss of first his wife (Herminia) and then his son (Edgar), it seems that it is his martial arts that keeps him active and fresh. It has been additional privilege to have, become associated with my family. He has met most of the family members and has his own room at my girlfriend's mother's house. Whenever I see her she asks me about Cacoy.

He always tells me you must keep up to date with your training methods and with the exploration of your martial arts. The comparison with the mythical 'Yoda' is a fair one. As a man of advancing years the Grandmaster's legs aren't as agile as they once were, but as soon as he steps on a mat or you put a stick in his hand the years peel away and you are left with the most incredible man I've ever met in the martial arts. At times hilariously funny, at others you can see why he never lost in 100 fights, at others a great storyteller, at still others incisive; Grandmaster Cacoy Canete is a modern day Miyamoto Musashi. He is the Marlon Brando of martial arts; he is, quite simply, unique.



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A Living Legend Ciriaco 'Cacoy' Canete

By Richard S. Bustillo



Doce Pares Eskrima has always been the martial arts treasure of Cebu, Philippines, but one cannot appreciate it until understanding the Great Grandmaster Ciriaco 'Cacoy' Canete who is truly a living legend. Grandmaster 'Cacoy' is the last surviving member of the original Doce Pares Club. Born on August 9, 1909, the 86 year old Grandmaster Cacoy still teaches Eskrido, an art form he developed which involves throwing, overcoming, and discarding, or disposing of, an opponent with or without an Eskrima olisi (stick). His goal in martial arts is to offer confidence to those with low self-esteem, courage to the intimidated, and nurture a sense of responsibility among citizens.

Eskrima, Arnis, or Kali was not invented by any one person or persons. It is the result of a few thousand years of

Filipinos' experience in, and development of protecting one's self, valuables and country. The legendary 'Cacoy' Canete of Cebu, Philippines, is the only 12th degree black belt and the highest-ranking member of the famed Doce Pares Eskrima Club. He started learning Eskrima at the age of 7 under the eldest of his eight brothers, Momoy Canete. I have seen many of his certificates of accomplishment in his Doce Pares Club and at his home, and there are far too many to list them all. I have chosen just a few of his more prominent achievements that have not been mentioned previously:

- A member at age 14 of the famed Doce Pares Eskrima Club since 1932
- Defensive Tactics Instructor - 38th & 39th Battalions 1954
- Wrestler, Philippine National Wrestling Association, 1957
- Sensei, Kodokan Judo, University of San Carlos, Cebu City PI 1962-68
- Instructor, Defensive Tactics, College of Criminology, Cebu City PI 1964-1991
- Black Belts: Shorin Karate, 1964; Kodokan, 1957; Aikido, 1972
- Guro, Eskrima, Cebu Central College (Presently University of Cebu)
- Captain, Reserve Armed Forces of the Philippines, 1970
- Presidential Champion Trophy, 1st National Arnis Masters Open, March 24, 1979
- Champion, 1st National Arnis Invitational, August 19, 1979
- Teacher, High School, University of the Visayas
- Certified Charter member, United States Martial Arts Association Grandmaster's Council 2005

Hall of Fame Recipient:

- Cebu City Sports Hall of Fame, Cebu City, Philippines, June 1997
- Filipino Martial Arts Hall of Fame - El Paso Texas, July 2000
- Blackbelt Hall of Fame (Weapons Instructor of the year) December 2000
- USMA International Hall of Fame (Most Distinguished Grandmaster of the year) July 2003
- USMA International Hall of Fame (Martial Arts of the Philippines Legend) July 2004
- World Martial Arts Masters Association Hall of Fame, June 2005
- World Martial Arts Hall of Fame, Ohio, July 2005

Author:

- Basic Doce Pares Eskrima – 1988
- Pangamot (Barehanded Defense System) 2002
- Eskrido (Eskrima, Jujitsu & Judo Integrated) 2004
- Forthcoming: Revised Cacoy Doce Pares Basic Eskrima
- Biography "Fastest Olisi Fighter" by Jun Cañizares
- Featured in the "Way of the Warrior" by BBC, London, 1982

Achievements:

- Initiated the 1st Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships with Grandmaster Richard Bustillo, LA. USA 2000.

- 2nd Cacoy Doce Pares World Eskrima Championships with Sifu Mark Parra, LA. USA 2005.
- Conducted seminars in Eskrima, Eskrido and Pangamot in Cebu, Manila, Military establishments in 1976-1980, and also in the US, Canada, Mexico, England, Germany, Poland and Australia.
- Conducted the Philippines' First ever, International Mixed Martial Arts Seminar, together with O'Sensei Phil Porter (Founder and President of the US Martial Arts Association) and Grandmaster Richard Bustillo (President and Chief Instructor of the International Martial Arts and Boxing Academy, LA, CA) in Cebu City, Philippines, February 10 - 12, 2006.



Grandmaster Cacoy Canete continues to develop his fighting skills of Doce Pares and Eskrido. Cacoy has a love not only for Eskrima, but excelled in other martial arts such as Judo, Boxing, Karate, and Wrestling. He attracts readers and students internationally who love to attend his seminars because his enthusiasm for all martial arts is so infectious. If you are fortunate

enough to have the opportunity to attend his seminar or class, you know you are getting the finest instruction from a gentleman who truly loves Eskrima and all martial arts. He joked about outlasting his friends because he still practices Eskrima while they have stopped training, Cacoy has said many times, "When you stop training, you stop living." These are words to live by. Great Grandmaster Ciriaco Cacoy Canete is a national treasure who continues to live and perpetuate what I think is one of the best combative martial arts the world over.

Cacoy's experiences in the martial arts have taught him to be a realist. He understands that human nature can be sublime as well as base. In trying to promote the martial arts he loves, he has been challenged numerous times in the past. Great Grandmaster Cacoy is a religious man who never initiated a challenge, but, to protect his reputation and family's good name, never refused a challenge either. He was always victorious. Although some have tried to tarnish Cacoy's reputation, they have not been able ruin his legacy.

In 1980, the Filipino Kali Academy, owned by Dan Inosanto and Richard Bustillo, sponsored the first Martial Arts Seminar camp at the University of Irvine in Irvine, California. On the list of participants was the name of Ciriaco 'Cacoy' Canete. At that time, Cacoy was unknown. He was just a name on the list of pre-enrolled participants. However, he was a no-show at the camp and the recorded list was filed and forgotten.

In 1981, I finally met Ciriaco Cacoy Canete during his tour of the U.S.A. exhibiting Filipino Martial arts with the Doce Pares Team of Cebu, Philippines. Cacoy was the leader of this awesome team whose members include his

nephew Dionisio Canete, Open-weight Eskrima Champion Boniface "Loyloy " Uy, and Middle-weight Eskrima Champion Arnulfo "Dong" Cuesta. The team then visited us at our Filipino Kali Academy in Los Angeles. Ever since their visit to the Kali Academy, our student/instructor relationships have grown into friendships of the deepest respect. In knowing Grandmaster "Cacoy," you will sense the sincere beliefs of a soldier and a religious man, a widow and a father of seven, and the dedicated martial artist and true champion that he is.

In 1984, the Filipino Kali Academy relocated and changed its name to the present IMB Academy. During the relocation, I discovered things from the archives that I have not seen for years. One shocking discovery was finding "Cacoy's" name on the 1980 seminar camp participants. I often wonder how different the seminar would have been if "Cacoy" had shown up!



Grandmaster Cacoy and his top rank Doce Pares instructors at the IMB Academy. Ron Lew, Jun Cautivero, Richard Bustillo, Anthoney Kleeman, Ted Sotelo, Wally Estropia, Guy Kinanahan

Today, Grandmaster Cacoy is the president of the International Cacoy Doce Pares Federation, the second Doce Pares president after his older brother, the late, Eulogio's Canete presidency since 1932. His love of martial arts has never wavered and his experiences in it are recognized internationally. Thus, he was inducted into the prestigious Black Belt Hall of Fame, the Filipino Martial Arts Hall of Fame, and the U.S. Martial Arts Hall of Fame. Cacoy is also a recipient of Cebu, Philippines Sports Hall of Fame award. He was bestowed the Presidential Award in 1979 for winning the open division at the first Arnis/Eskrima/ Kali Championship in the Philippines.

Conducting seminars and teaching Doce Pares Eskrima isn't about making money. It is about paying respect to the ancient Filipino masters for their incredible gift to the world. It doesn't necessarily pay the bills, but it makes us feel proud and fortunate to be able to pass on our knowledge to the younger generations. One of the biggest contributors and teachers of Doce Pares Eskrima to the world is Grandmaster Cacoy Canete. He continues to develop his martial arts and fighting skills to earn his place as a martial arts hero and celebrity. Grandmaster Cacoy is a hero because he is distinguished by his achievements. He is also a martial arts celebrity because of his image and trademark. The hero created himself; the media creates the celebrity. The hero a big man, the celebrity a big name. Grandmaster Cacoy Canete achieved both statuses as a hero and celebrity.

Cacoy Canete is a prominent, internationally known martial artist who travels around the globe to share, teach, and demonstrate his martial arts skills to others. Currently, the Grandmaster promotes his art for self-defense, sport, and personal

well-being. I am honored and blessed to be his student. I know you will be too if you ever have the privilege to study with the man I respect so much, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete.



IBM Academy Doce Pares Federation Los Angeles, CA.



Contact the Grandmaster Richard Bustillo at: (310) 787-8793 or email **imb@imbacademy.com** and visit the IMB Academy Website at **www.imbacademy.com**.

The Philippines First-Ever International Mixed Martial Arts Seminar

By Gloria R. Cañete



The first ever Mixed Martial Arts Seminar held in Cebu City, Philippines last February 10, 11 and 12, 2006 at the JY Square Discovery Mall Activity Center - Lahug, was a Huge success!

Thanks to the strong support given by all the members of Filipino Eskrima Grandmaster Ciriaco "Cacoy" Cañete who provided the much-needed workforce, which led to the success of the event.

One of the organizers, Cacoy's grandson, Mr. Chuck Anthony Cañete said that despite the fact that the preparation time for such big event was only for a few months, still the outcome was surprisingly beyond their expectations. The young Cañete, himself a trusted instructor of the Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation, is the son of Cacoy's late son, Master Edgar Cañete.

Weeks before the scheduled date, amidst the apprehensions, ruffled nerves and confusion, everything just started to fall into place, thus, the holding of this much - awaited and much - publicized seminar started on-schedule and went on smoothly until the last day. Even though the weather was not so cooperative during the entire duration of the seminar still the heavy downpours didn't dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of those who came in droves, doubly excited about the prospect of learning the ropes of those popular systems of self - defense directly from the martial arts gurus themselves.

Personnel from the Cebu City Police Office (CCPO), some members of the print and broadcast media (TV and radio), local and foreign martial arts practitioners, enthusiasts, neophytes and even Master Eskrimadors from the U.S. and Australia with their respective students in tow, participated in the seminar which totaled more than 60.



Grandmaster Richard Bustillo - Grandmaster Ciriaco "Cacoy"
Cañete - O'Sensei Phil Porter

Morning and afternoon sessions were scheduled in 3 day where great martial arts experts such as: Grandmaster Richard Bustillo, Director of the International Martial Arts and Boxing (IMB) Academy, based in California U.S.A.; O'Sensei Phil Porter, Founder of the U.S. Martial Arts Association and recognized as the Father of American Judo; to get with the initiator of

the event, Grandmaster Ciriaco "Cacoy" Cañete, President of the Cacoy Doce Pares Federation based in Cebu City, converge and shared their talents and skills.

Bustillo, a former partner of the late martial arts icon Bruce Lee, remarkably shared his expertise in Jeet Kune Do, the action star's system of self-defense.

Porter as agile as ever as he handled the Judo sessions while Cebu's very own Cacoy, showed his famous forms in Eskrima, Pangamot and Eskrido, which he personally developed and founded.

Cacoy, a 7 time recipient of Hall of Fame awards, in the Philippines and abroad, initiated the holding of the seminar, which was financially supported but the Cebu City government under the able leadership of its Mayor, Tomas Osmeña, who personally awarded the Certificate to the participants during the closing program of said seminar.

Aside from Osmeña, City Councilor Raul "Yayoy" Alcoceba, the city council's Vice-chairman on Games, Amusements, and Professional Sports Committee; Businessman Joseph Yu, owner of the JY Square Discovery Mall (venue of the seminar which was used for free.); Mc Donald's-Lahug and other friends of Cacoy, also gave their moral and financial support, which really helped make the event a resounding success.

Doce Pares Master Vince Palumbo, proprietor and Chief Instructor of his own school, the International Combative Martial Arts Academy in Adelaide, Australia, which teaches the Cacoy Doce Pares System of Eskrima and Self-defense, led the Australian delegation.

Several Doce Pares Masters from the US also came and participated in the 3-day seminar. They are: Masters Florencio Cautiverio Jr, Master Wally Estropia, Master Guy Kinanahan and Master Anthony Kleeman, who came with some of their students all the way from America.

On the 3rd day of the seminar, several participants were already asking about the schedule of the next Mixed Martial Arts seminar because, according to them, they wanted

to learn more of the techniques of the different self-defense disciplines included in the seminar.

Many of them are hoping that this would be a yearly activity in Cebu City.

When is the next Mixed Martial Arts Seminar? Well, both Porter and Bustillo have signified their willingness to become part again of the next seminar. In fact, before they left Cebu City, we were already starting to plan for the next seminar.



Seated L-R: O'Sensei Porter, Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete, Grandmaster Richard Bustillo and Guru Chuck Cañete. Standing behind them are some of the Filipino Cacoy Doce Pares Black belts. L-R: Melchor dela Sala, Master John Mac, Dante Arcilla and Master Alfred Abarquez Jr.

Seminars of Grandmaster Ciriaco ‘Cacoy’ Cañete



Eskrima-Eskrido-Pangamot seminar in Los Angeles, California



Eskrima-Eskrido seminar hosted by Mr. David Amicucci (extreme right)
Fairfield, California.



Seminar in Seattle, Puyallup



Pacific Alliance Martial Arts
California.



Seminar hosted by Master Craig Hayward
Sydney, Australia



Eskrima-Eskrido seminar hosted by Guru Edgard Cordova
Tucson, Arizona



Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation

Newly – Elected Officers for 2006

President: Ciriaco “Cacoy” Cañete

1st Vice President: Atty. Amorito Cañete

2nd Vice President: Dennis Cañete

Secretary: Atty. Bienvenido Jaban

Treasurer: Dr. Herodutus Acebedo

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17. Jose Go
18. Melchor Tormis
19. Dante Arcilla
20. Crisante Delleria
21. Chuck Anthony Cañete
22. Melchor Dela Sala

Doce Pares Grandmasters and Masters

Grandmasters:

Ciriaco "Cacoy" Canete- USA and Philippines

(Current President, Cacoy Doce Pares World Federation)

Richard Bustillo - USA - International Martial Arts & Boxing - **Website**

Dr. Charlie Patalinghug – USA

Saturnino Arcilla – Philippines

Primo Albano - Philippines

Nonito Limchua - Philippines

Masters-Philippines

Amorito Canete

Dennis Canete

Sol Kalinga

Bernadette Canete-Tormis

Max Tian

Emilio Lapurga

Alfred Abarquez Jr.

John Mac

Glenn Tanud

Masters - United States of America

Ron Lew - San Jose, California - **Website**

Ronnie Tapece - Puyallup, Washington

Ken Pannell - Dayton, Ohio

Anthony Kleeman - Van Nuys, California - **Website**

Sherril Johnson - Seattle, Washington - **Website**

Chris Petrilli - Puyallup, Washington - **Website**

Wally Estropia - San Jose, California

Florencio Cautiverio Jr. - San Jose, California

Carlos Patalinghug Jr. - Baltimore, Maryland

Manuel Francisco Jr. - San Jose, California

Hope Brown - Puyallup, Washington

Ted Sotelo - San Jose, California

Catherine C. Knight - Matawan, New Jersey

Rev. Rupert Bisquera - San Jose, California

Narrie Babao - San Diego

Don Edwards - Livingstone, New Jersey

Cliff Deary - Dayton, Ohio

Tom Meadows - USA

Bruce Shinagawa - Los Angeles

Guy Kinanahan - Sacramento

David Amicucci - Fairfield

Masters-Australia

Vince Palumbo – Adelaide - **Website**

Marti Gardiner - Alice Springs

Rob Davis - Adelaide

Craig Hayward - Sydney

John Ternizis - Alice Springs

Jim Gibbon - Adelaide

Kevin Seskis - Adelaide

Maris Lukasevics - Adelaide

Chris Nasilowski - Adelaide

Masters-Europe

Andy Gibney - United Kingdom

Uwe Schwarz – Germany - **Website**

Jan Nycek – Poland



L-R: Head Instructor John Mac, Grandmaster Cacoy Cañete, Cacoy Doce Pares Official, Engr. Ben Gonzales and Senior Instructor Levi Mejorado.



Students pose for a souvenir photo

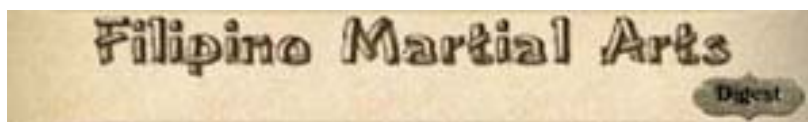




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