



## The Kano Society Bulletin



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### In This Edition

The main article in this issue of “*The Bulletin*” (produced by guest editor Llŷr Jones) is a tribute, by John Bowen, to the peerless Toshiro Daigo *Kodokan 10<sup>th</sup> dan* who died in October. Also included is a profile by Brian Watson on *judoka*, *judo* leader, teacher, and broadcaster John Newman; pieces on Trevor (T.P.) Leggett by Vivienne Kendrick and Brian Watson and short items by Brian Watson on Jigoro Kano as an educator and on *judo* philosophy.

### Publisher's Comments

The Kano Society along with the entire *judo* family mourns the passing of a great figure of *judo* – Toshiro Daigo *Kodokan 10<sup>th</sup> dan*. We offer our deepest condolences to Daigo-sensei's family and friends around the world, to the *Kodokan Judo* Institute and to the entire Japanese *judo* community. May he live on through the teachings of his students.

### Contributions

The backbone of the Kano Society's activities is this on-line publication. We welcome contributions in the form of articles or photographs etc. to “*The Bulletin*”.

Diana Birch

## In Memoriam: Toshiro Daigo *Kodokan 10<sup>th</sup> dan* (1925 – 2021)

John Bowen (with additional material by Llŷr Jones)



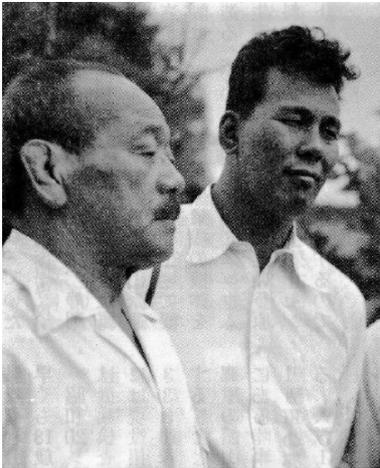
Known affectionately as “*Mr. Kodokan*”, Toshiro Daigo, who dedicated his life to *judo*, winning multiple championships and becoming the leading authority on *judo* technique and *kata*, died in a Tokyo hospital on 10 October 2021 aged 95. The cause of his death was aspiration pneumonia.

Daigo's competition peak was in the 1950s, when he won many titles, culminating in two All-Japan championships, in 1951 and 1954. He went on to practice and teach indefatigably, travelling to many countries. In the course of his long life, there were few days on which he did not don his *judogi*. After living through the hardships of the war, Japan enthusiastically embraced sport through television, and Daigo became a star who was avidly followed on the new medium.

Toshiro Daigo was born on 26 December 1925, in the city of Tateyama, Chiba Prefecture, about 100 kilometers from Tokyo. Although his name is always associated with *judo*, when he entered middle school in 1938, his first sports-related decision was to join the school's swimming club, which meant that he only did the amount of *judo* required in those days by the standard curriculum. But by the time the summer holiday started he had an ear infection that kept him out of the pool. That gave the members of the *judo* club a chance to persuade him to join them. The tall, strapping Daigo was seen as an excellent addition to their ranks. He worked hard and thrived on the mat, showing prodigious skill and talent. At the same time, he was also practicing *sumo* and winning local *sumo* competitions.

He entered the *Kodokan Judo* Institute, aged 15, in February 1940. In terms of ability, he was already at *shodan* (1<sup>st</sup> *dan* black belt) level, but because of his youth had to wait until the following January before he was formally awarded his 1<sup>st</sup> *dan*. He had a standout year in 1942, being promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> *dan* in February and 3<sup>rd</sup> *dan* in September. That was great progress, and he was just getting started. In the *Kodokan Kohaku Shiai* [Red and White Contest] held the following May, he defeated twelve opponents in a row, which moved him up to 4<sup>th</sup> *dan*, and in the *Kohaku Shiai* of October 1944 beat five 4<sup>th</sup> *dan* holders, to gain his 5<sup>th</sup> *dan* at the age of 19.

Around that time Daigo entered what was then the Tokyo University of Education (now the University of Tsukuba), where he had the good fortune to be mentored by the great Shuichi Nagaoka, who was the last man to be personally promoted to 10<sup>th</sup> *dan* by Jigoro Kano.



Shuichi Nagaoka and Toshiro Daigo

This was of course all taking place during a time of war, and in 1945 Daigo was duly conscripted and deployed to dig trenches, just one month before the war ended. He then returned to the university and resumed his studies, graduating in 1947.

In 1948, Daigo became a trainee at the *Kodokan* – another trainee was Yoshimi Osawa, now one of the two remaining *Kodokan* 10<sup>th</sup> *dan* holders. They already knew each other, having competed together, with each having one win over the other. Their association was to last over 70 years. Much of their work as trainees was to practice with a seemingly endless stream of college students, which helped to further toughen up both Daigo and Osawa.

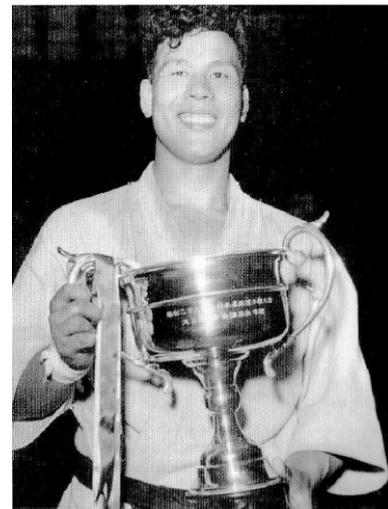
Toshiro Daigo was an imposing figure, 179 centimeters tall and weighing over 100 kilograms. In January 1949 he became the youngest ever 6<sup>th</sup> *dan*, at 24. Despite his size, he was very quick and agile and had a catlike gait, walking on the balls of his feet. (Gunji Koizumi walked the same way.) His favourite techniques were “reaps” – *ko-uchi-gari*, *osoto-gari* as well as *uchi-mata*, and *tai-otoshi*.

Daigo won several regional *judo* events, and in 1949 was able to enter the All-Japan Championship for the first time. He came third, behind the legendary Masahiko Kimura and Takahiko Ishikawa, who drew when there was no score after two contest extensions. In 1950, Daigo again came third.

In 1951, he won the title by defeating Yoshihiko Yoshimatsu, a truly formidable opponent. Daigo showed the high level of his skill and speed by winning decisively. He won again in 1954 and had been favoured to win in 1953 but couldn't take part due to a severe case of thumb tendonitis. Yoshimatsu won the title three times, and in the first World *Judo* Championship (Open category – no weight limits) in 1956 threw Anton Geesink with *uchi-mata* in about 45 seconds.



Toshiro Daigo defending an *uchi-mata* attack from Yoshihiko Yoshimatsu in the final of the 1951 All-Japan *Judo* Championship (Open category only)



Toshiro Daigo in 1951 with the All-Japan *Judo* Championship trophy

Daigo competed until 1958 and was an admired presence on the mat, widely praised as being one of the most skillful and able of the big men. In 1962 he became the *judo* instructor at the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, and

in 1968 started teaching at the National Police Academy. In 1986 he became Director of the Education and Instruction Department at the *Kodokan* – essentially the Institute’s Chief Instructor. Along the way, he managed the Japanese Olympic *Judo* Teams at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

He put a lot of time and energy into the teaching and promotion of *kata*, on which he was considered the leading authority. Under his direction, top *judo* instructors had criss-crossed the world in recent decades to learn, to judge and to teach *kata*.

Daigo’s mastery of the *judo* skills and principles found in *kata* can be illustrated by the account of how (as an 8<sup>th</sup> *dan*) he was demonstrating *Nage-no-kata* [Forms of Throws] at a *Kodokan Kagami Biraki* [New Year’s Rice-cake Cutting Ceremony] and was the victim of an error by his *Uke* (a 7<sup>th</sup> *dan*). The *Uke* attacked Daigo with a technique out of sequence – beginning the fourth set of techniques with a blow instead of correctly taking a grip for *tomoe-nage*.

Faced with this mistake Daigo reacted seamlessly and effectively. He simply stepped-in and threw with *ura-nage* as the correct, logical response to the attack – first to the right and then to left. Afterwards, he performed *tomoe-nage* (as the second set of techniques) and then proceeded to perform *sumi-gaeshi* the correct third throw in the set. Such was the intensity of his actions, and so well coordinated were his reflexes and reaction, that many spectators were totally unaware of what had happened.

The last 15 years of Daigo’s life were devoted to *Koshiki-no-kata* [Forms of Classics]. He looked to answer the question of why Jigoro Kano placed this *kata*, originating from *Kito-ryu Jujutsu*, into *Kodokan Judo*. Related to this work, a group of senior *judoka* called the *Kudenkai* [Oral Teaching Society] met regularly to practice and study the theory of *Koshiki-no-kata*, with the aim of preserving Daigo’s knowledge into the future. (Originally the *Kudenkai* was an informal activity, but since September 2020 it was managed by the *Kodokan*).

Daigo enjoyed these activities, and at the time of his death, was working on a definitive book on *Koshiki-no-kata* – on which he was undoubtedly the world’s foremost expert.



Toshiro Daigo teaching *Koshiki-no-kata* at the 2018 *Kodokan Summer Kata Course*

Daigo was the author of the 2005 book “*Kodokan Judo: Throwing Techniques*” a reference text on *judo*’s *nagewaza*. Additionally, he co-authored with Teizo Kawamura, the 2000 “*Kodokan New Japanese-English Dictionary of Judo*”.

The funeral service for Daigo took place on 13 October 2021 and was attended only by his relatives. On 20 November 2021 a “Thank You and Farewell Party” was held at the *Kodokan*. During this event Haruo Seike *Kodokan* 8<sup>th</sup> *dan* and Kenzo Koike *Kodokan* 6<sup>th</sup> *dan* demonstrated *Koshiki-no-kata* in front of his portrait.



Haruo Seike and Kenzo Koike demonstrating *Koshiki-no-kata* at the Farewell Party for Toshiro Daigo



*Tai* [Ready Posture] from *Koshiki-no-kata* with Toshiro Daigo as *Tori* and Yoshinori Takeuchi (1962 All Japan Champion) as *Uke*



Memorial Display at the Farewell Party for Toshiro Daigo

On a personal note, I did practice with Daigo, and it was memorable because I kept thinking, “I’m practicing with Daigo”! And, as the Chief Instructor at the *Kodokan*, he sometimes taught the *Kenshusei* [Special Research Students], which included Brian Watson and Eddie Cassidy, as well as me. I also remember watching Daigo in *randori* with Mark, a cheerful fellow from Hong Kong who was massively strong, physically. And both men were clearly enjoying the practice as they were laughing out loud.

One day around 1970, I was invited to dinner at a Japanese friend’s house, where I found one more guest – Daigo. As we ate, he talked about Charles Palmer, who was then president of the IJF. Daigo was clearly unhappy about what Charlie was doing, in terms of *judo* politics and the role and status of the *Kodokan*. When it came to *judo*, Daigo represented orthodoxy in the best sense of the term, including strict enforcement of the *Kodokan*’s ban on any professional wrestlers. Once, in the late 1970s, when Willem Ruska was in Japan to wrestle, he turned up on the main *dojo*. When Daigo heard that, he made a beeline for the *dojo* and in Japanese told Ruska to leave. Ruska pretended he didn’t understand, so Daigo sent for Ichiro Abe, now the other of the two remaining *Kodokan* 10<sup>th</sup> *dan* holders, who told Ruska in French to leave, and leave he did.

For many years Kisaburo Watanabe did not visit the *Kodokan* due to some disagreements over policy. However, when a small group of British *judoka* came to Japan, he took them to meet Daigo, and it was a happy reunion for Watanabe, who had great respect for Daigo. Is there anyone in the *judo* world who could have anything more than the utmost respect for such a man, who dedicated his life to *judo*?

The last time I spoke with Daigo was four years ago. He was at one side in the Main *Dojo*, warming up by doing *osoto-gari* moves by himself. When I walked over to pay my respects, he asked me about my brother. “Gone” I told him, and then he said, “Gleeson too, all gone”. He sounded wistful.



Toshiro Daigo (1925 – 2021)



“My life is judo. Without judo I wouldn’t exist, and I will continue it till the very end of my life”

Toshiro Daigo

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## John Newman (1935 – 1993) Brian Watson

John Edward Brian Newman, a *judo* 5<sup>th</sup> *dan*, was Team Manager of the first British Olympic *Judo* team at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, and an instructor alongside Kisaburo Watanabe (1936-2019), George Kerr and Raymond Ross at Trevor Pryce Leggett’s *Renshuden Judo Academy* where I trained in the early 1960s before I left for Japan.



The first GB Olympic *Judo* Team, Tokyo 1964, comprised (L to R) Brian Jacks, Syd Hoare, Tony Sweeney, Alan Petherbridge (Captain) and John Newman (Team Manager)

Newman, born in Kingsbury, Middlesex, on 13 December 1935, saw service in the Royal Marines from 1954 to 1956. He soon became known and respected for his exceptional prowess at *judo*. He was a member of the British national team that won the team title at the European *Judo* Championships held on 10 November 1957 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in addition, he won the 1<sup>st</sup> *dan* individual title. A year later, he won the 2<sup>nd</sup> *dan* individual European *Judo* Championship title on 11 November 1958 in Barcelona, Spain.



John Newman with Kisaburo Watanabe at the *Renshuden Judo Academy* in the early 1960s. Photographer – T.P. Leggett

Shortly thereafter he left for Japan to study the Japanese language and *judo* at Tenri University, where he also taught

English from 1958 to 1962. After returning to London, Newman was later employed at the BBC's Bush House as a Language Supervisor and Programme Organiser in 1969. He became Head of the BBC's Japanese Service in 1970 upon the retirement of his mentor T.P. Leggett (1914 – 2000). Newman was awarded an MBE in 1988.

John, a tall, genial man, widely esteemed as a teacher and broadcaster, had an immense energetic approach to his new appointment that in turn stimulated an increase in letters Japanese short-wave radio listeners were sending to the BBC. At one time, as many as 100,000 letters per year were heading from Japan to Bush House. This huge interest, more than any other BBC foreign language service, according to T.P. Leggett, helped contribute to a better understanding between the UK and Japan, especially so in the late 1970s when Japanese corporate investments in Britain were starting to surge.



John Newman with Prince Hiro, the current Emperor of Japan, when he was a student in the UK in 1985

In 1991, however, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced the closing of the BBC's overseas services to both Malaysia and Japan. Newman accepted with equanimity this unpleasant turn of events and retired from the BBC after 21 years' service. He then went to Tokyo to assume an English teaching post at the Nihon University School of Medicine. He was also appointed as a member of the editorial committee supervising the publication of the *Nippon Budokan's* monthly magazine "Budo", a position that I was later requested to take over from Newman after he, unfortunately, became ill in February 1993 and subsequently returned to London to undergo medical treatment. Following two unsuccessful liver transplant operations, he sadly died at the age of 57 on 18 May 1993. This came as a shock to

all who knew him. It was indeed a bitter blow and a great loss to the *judo* fraternity in particular, since many had hoped that he would in future assume a leading administrative role in the affairs of the British Judo Association.

(John Newman married Elizabeth Richards in 1964, they had two daughters; the marriage was dissolved in 1984. Newman's '*Bushido*' was published by Magna Books in 1989.)

#### Anecdote

John told me this many years ago. In the early 1970s, when the new digital watches were first marketed, it so happened that the BBC broadcasters at that time wished to know how many Japanese people were actually listening to their Japanese language short-wave radio broadcasts. Since there was no reliable method of ascertaining the exact number, John conjured up a prank in order to try to arrive at a rough estimate.

The Japanese broadcasts in those days always started with the booming chimes of Big Ben. On one occasion, however, John requested that no chimes should be broadcast, just silence, to be followed by John's announcement that because Big Ben had been digitalized, there would in future be no more chimes broadcast and that the silent clock tower had been renamed, Digital Ben. John wisely chose the date of 1 April to carry out his prank, so that he could later say, "April Fool".

The result was that many Japanese listeners were taken in by John's joke and sent off to the BBC letters of protest, most saying that they didn't like the silent Digital Ben and wanted to hear the chimes. I'm afraid I cannot recall just how many letters the BBC received, but I remember being surprised how high it was when John informed me of the actual number.

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## Personality Profile – Trevor Leggett – Judo Expert and Author Vivienne Kenrick

About the turn of the century, a *judo* expert named Yukio Tani went from Japan to London. There he made the rounds of the music halls, where at each appearance the manager offered 5 pounds to any boxer or wrestler who could stand up to the Japanese wrestler for 10 minutes. Reference to Yukio Tani and his acts is made in Sherlock Holmes' stories and in Shaw's "Major Barbara".

*"I learned from Yukio Tani at a little club in Victoria. He was an old man then. I took up judo because of ill health and got the mania".* Trevor Leggett today, at 57, epitomizes robust good health. As well as a physique, however, he is a brain. He has strong ideas of his own, and he speaks in vivid images. A controlled giant, he has reached the seventh *dan* in *judo*, uniquely the highest in the United Kingdom. Retired

now from *judo* committee work, and from the presidency of the *judo* club that he himself founded 11 years ago, Leggett is concentrating on writing. In this current Weatherhill book, he illumines the psychological side of *judo*.



Trevor Leggett

A Londoner, Leggett secured his degree in law at the early age of 18. *“It was easy in those days”* he said. *“I had a good memory. If you study law, you know what you don’t know”*. He did not use his degree, but in the ‘30s took himself to the Continent, teaching English and *judo*. On his way to Japan in 1938, he sailed in company with the late Hisaakira Kano and with Shigeo Horie, who on board taught him elementary Japanese language and Japanese chess. *“You have to be adventurous when you are young, or what have you to look back on?”* demanded Leggett. *“I didn’t want everything in life fixed, as if on railway lines to the grave”*.

In Japan, Leggett studied language and *judo* very hard. War-time meant his internment and eventual repatriation. From 1946 then until last year when he retired, he was head of the BBC Japanese Service.

*“I arranged programs, selected news and commentaries”,* explained Leggett. *“We received 400 letters a month from Japan. I made some visits to Japan, too, and appeared in Japanese programs. Then I found I was getting bored. When that happens, the thing to do is start something else. So, I began broadcasting myself in Japanese, six or seven years ago. To my great surprise, Japanese listeners liked hearing an Englishman’s views on Japan”*.

From the preparation of his scripts, and the reaction that reached him from Japan, Leggett learned that *“there are lots of things, basic attitudes that are different, that people don’t know. There are strong points in Japan that the Japanese people themselves are not aware of. A contribution to world culture is difficult to make, but Japan should make it. The*

*Japanese are people of character. I want to make comparisons, to introduce aspects of Japanese culture. I want to write now”*.

#### Note by Brian Watson

My former *judo* teacher in my *Budokwai* and *Renshuden* days, Trevor P. Leggett, made great contributions to the furtherance of Japan-UK cultural relations. This is evidenced in his comments in the above-mentioned interview that was conducted during one of his periodic visits to Japan made during the 1960s – 1980s and appeared in *The Japan Times* newspaper on Monday, 22 February 1971.

In 1984, Leggett (1914-2000) was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure by the government of Japan for his dedicated service in helping to introduce Japanese culture to Britain.

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## Trevor Leggett – Author Brian Watson

T.P. Leggett (1914 – 2000) wrote over 30 full-length books and numerous essays, many published in the Japanese magazine *“Budo”* on *judo*, *Zen Buddhism*, *yoga*, *shogi* (Japanese chess), etc. These are among his profoundly erudite works, all written with compelling insight. In 1987 he won the *Bukkyo Dendokai* Cultural Award for producing such illuminating books. One of the things that struck me most about Leggett, is that he would frequently illustrate the sometimes subtle connections between the arts and our daily lives. I never heard Leggett tell any of his students to *“Do”* anything. That wasn’t his style. He would listen to what you had to say, and before leaving he would often just drop a gentle hint. Weeks, months, or perhaps years later, the penny would drop, and only then would you begin to appreciate the wisdom of his advice.



Some of Trevor Leggett’s many writings  
from the author’s bookshelf

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## Jigoro Kano – Educator Brian Watson

Professor Kano (1860 – 1938), ever the academic, cared passionately for the advancement of education. He saw education as a process of constant self-improvement leading to public service as the natural consequence of edification. Even today, long after his passing, his impact as a mentor still resonates with many Japanese. His writings focused on 'life' are a source of knowledge and inspiration, whereby he urged students to nurture and develop their potential abilities to benefit themselves and society. He often used *judo* as a vehicle to promote ideas. The theme of much of his writing strongly suggests that *judo* and education are two sides of the same coin.

Unlike boxing, by which a competent trainer can teach a sturdy youth how to deliver a reasonably effective uppercut and other blows in a matter of hours, the basics of Kano's *judo* skills are more complex and take much longer to acquire. For example, when a beginner attempts, say, *harai-goshi*, he often has great difficulty; particularly so when momentarily supporting both himself and his opponent's weight while trying to maintain balance on one leg, he invariably stumbles and falls to the mat during his failed attempts. His instructor may walk over, show him the points of importance and say, "*Do fifty uchikomi [repetitions] both left and right at the end of each day's training session*".

If the student is keen, he'll follow this physically demanding advice. After one month, most likely he will have improved his sense of balance and timing somewhat but will be vulnerable to his opponent's counter-throws. After one year, he will occasionally throw his fellow training partners, and after two years may even win a championship, for this technique, and any others diligently practiced, will have become second nature to him – a part of his being, as it were. This experience should teach him not only the value of adhering to his instructor's advice but more importantly the value to be derived by perseverance and determination. Furthermore, these experiences may even help him accomplish non-*judo* challenges. Later, say, he wishes to become a proficient pianist. The first time he plays while hesitatingly reading sheet music, he strikes the wrong keys. Nevertheless, provided he follows daily the *uchikomi* method, after some weeks he can hit all the correct keys. Later still, he plays more difficult pieces without reference to sheet music, for like his *harai-goshi*, his command of the keyboard has become instinctive.

Kano believed that the practice of *judo* is a path towards cultivating a well-rounded moral character. He, therefore, encouraged students to practice outside the *dojo* lessons learned in it; and in so doing, become 'better' not only at *judo* but "better" at achieving in **life**.



Jigoro Kano (75) on 20 July 1936 en route to attend the Berlin Olympic Games

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## Judo Philosophy Brian Watson

### *Seiryoku Zenyo and Jita Kyoiei*

1. The best application of *Seiryoku Zenyo* lies in one's self-realization.
2. One's self-realization is attained through the help of others' self-realization.
3. Self-realization is the basis of human prosperity.

Kodokan Society (1922)

*"Because they find their own paths, those who practice judo and who follow the principle of 'seiryoku zenyo, jita kyoiei' (Maximum efficient use of one's energy and mutual prosperity for self and others) always have a calm spirit, enjoy life, and are enterprising"*

Jigoro Kano

### Application of Judo

*"By mastery of the fundamental wisdom of judo, and in applying it to many pursuits in life, all people will be able to live their lives in a judicious manner."*

*This is how one should undertake the study of judo that I founded."*

Jigoro Kano (1936)

The above-mentioned contains, in a concise form, Jigoro Kano's essential teachings regarding *judo* as it relates to one's life. This is his message for the guidance of the world-wide *judo* fraternity.

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## Points to Ponder

*"Judo is a valuable asset. The more one strives to improve, the more judo will collectively become an educational method of physical growth, mental growth, and moral growth at the same time"*

Jigoro Kano (1860-1938)

*"If man protects the environment, the environment will protect man"*

Brian N. Watson

*"The brain is master of the body"*

Brian N. Watson

*"Unlike the fool, the wise do not repeat their mistakes"*

Proverb

*"A warrior must be a man of both military skill and of letters – that lacking one, he will lack both"*

Imagawa Ryoshun (1325–1420)

*"As the sun sets, the shadows irretrievably lengthen. Only at dawn, in a blaze of glory are the shadows driven away"*

Brian N. Watson

*"Only in a truly interdependent world, can we hope to combat pandemics and climate change successfully"*

Brian N. Watson

*"Live life without wasting anything"*

Jigoro Kano (1860-1938)

*"Mistakes don't come just because you don't know certain things, but because you don't know everything that's required"*

Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804)

*"A teacher is a student who teaches in order to continue his study"*

Minoru Mochizuki (1907 – 2003)

*"The fog is so fine that you can't hold it in your hands, yet it can hide a mountain"*

In Japanese

*"Fukai kiri teme mo motenai kaku reru daizan"*

Old Japanese saying

*"The ancients were reserved in their speech, lest their actions might not come up to their words"*

Old Japanese saying

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## Judo Collections



The "Bowen Collection" at the University of Bath Library, contains the extensive *judo* archive amassed by *judoka* and scholar Richard Bowen during the course of individual research for his many books and publications.

Alongside the "Bowen Collection" is the personal book collection of Syd Hoare which includes many rare texts, some in the Japanese language, given to Syd by Trevor Leggett. As well as the books, there is a bound compendium of the educational articles and lectures written and delivered by Syd.

Also residing at Bath is the "Woodard (*Judo*) Collection" – a compilation of archival material relating to the history of women's *judo* assembled by Marion and Graham Woodard.

All of these collections represent a wonderful resource for present and future *judo* researchers. They are for reference use only (not available for loan) and can be viewed between 0900 and 1700 hrs.