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Contents

- *Kobudo Kenkyukai* – an Epoch in the *Kodokan Judo History*, by Pavel Antonsson
- The Art of Laying Hands, by Hiroshi Katanishi
- The Five Principles of *Judo*, by Jigoro Kano
- The Objectives of the Exercise of *Kata* and *Randori* in the *Dojo*, by Jigoro Kano
- Mike Callan – Professor of *Judo* Education, by Llyr Jones
- Mick Leigh Receives Personalised, *Kodokan*-branded, *Aka Obi*, by Llyr Jones
- “*The Path*” – Dr Colin Draycott’s Autobiography, by Llyr Jones
- Points to Ponder
- *Judo* Collections at the University of Bath

In This Edition

The headline article in this issue of “*The Bulletin*” is an article by, first-time contributor, Dr Pavel Antonsson on the *Kobudo Kenkyukai*. Other articles to note include one on gripping by Hiroshi Katanishi, a review of “*The Path*”, the autobiography of the peerless Dr Colin Draycott, and two very short pieces detailing the thoughts of Jigoro Kano-shihan.

Editor’s Comments

I am delighted to present this latest, wide-ranging, issue of “*The Bulletin*” in which I hope you find something of interest. The Kano Society would also like to place on record their congratulations to Dr Mike Callan on his recent promotion to Professor of *Judo* Education at the University of Hatfield – the first such academic appointment in the United Kingdom.

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*”.

Dr Llyr Jones

Kobudo Kenkyukai – an Epoch in the *Kodokan Judo History* Pavel Antonsson



One of the few photographs that exist on the *Kobudo Kenkyukai* [Picture – by permission of the *Kano Ryu* International School]

Introduction

In April 1926, Jigoro Kano-shihan founds an institute, a department, within The *Kodokan* to preserve the classical Japanese martial arts, called *Kobudo Kenkyukai* [1, 2, 3]. It is likely that this institution was originally founded under a different name and that over the years there were also different names for the same entity and purpose, such as *Bojutsu Bu* (*Bojutsu* Department) and *Bujutsu Bu* (*Bujutsu* Department).

In March 1926, Kano-shihan announces the founding of an institute for the preservation and training of *Bujutsu* in the *Kodokan* journal “*Sakko*” [4]. However, in the book, “*Dai Nihon Judo Shi*” (*History of Kodokan Judo of Greater Japan*), written in 1939, the following is stated [5]:

“April 1928. A separate department was created for this training, which was named *Bojutsu-bu* (*Bōjutsu* Department).”

In several publications, it appears that some of the great famous Budo masters, received their introduction and initial training within *Kobudo Kenkyukai* [1, 2, 3]

Historical Background

There were several other important factors, which contributed to the founding of *Kobudo Kenkyukai*. After the Meiji Restoration in 1868, several of the classical *Koryu Bujutsu* schools began to die out, schools that all had centuries-old traditions and history were disappearing. With the abolition of the Samurai Empire, the classical weapon techniques did not gain much importance in Japanese society. After the Meiji Restoration, there was a rapid and radical modernisation of Japan.

In addition, during the Taisho period (1912–1926), Japan experienced a troubled time with several unfortunate events. There were repeated riots (sometimes with planned assassinations and assassination attempts), the outbreak of the First World War (1914) and the Great Kanto Earthquake (1923) [6].

The Purpose of Kobudo Kenkyukai

The primary task of the newly established institute would be to:

- Preserving *Koryu* Bujutsu, the classical older schools;
- Studying and training in *Koryu Bujutsu*;
- Promote and spread *Koryu Bujutsu* and include it in *Kodokan Judo*.

Kano-shihan also gave another important reason. When discussing and valuing a country's prosperity and well-being, one often focuses on "*bun*", the civil virtue or civil spirit of the society. What is often forgotten is how important it is to have a contribution of "*bu*", i.e., a fighting spirit or warrior spirit, for a society to function [1].

The main objective of the founding of the *Kobudo Kenkyukai* was to develop *Bujutsu*, with the following objectives:

- Contribute to an increased knowledge of *Bujutsu*, as a Japanese martial art;
- Conduct comparative studies with Western weapon arts;
- Conduct both the training and the execution of the above.

Kano-shihan invited masters from various *koryu* schools as guest teachers. He fought hard for weapons training with *Naginata* ("the battle scythe", a sword blade mounted on a pole arm), *Bo* (the long staff, ~180 cm), *Yari* (the spear), *Katana* (the Japanese sword) and *Aikijujutsu* to be integrated into the training at *Kodokan*. Kano-shihan thus also became an important and key player in the transition between classic *Koryu Bujutsu* and modern *Gendai Budo* [1, 6].

The Organisation of Training

From the beginning, *Kobudo Kenkyukai* consisted of 30 *judo* teachers, specially selected by Kano-shihan.

He invited master teachers from above all *Katori Shinto-ryu*, *Daito-ryu Aiki-jujutsu* and *Shinto Muso-ryu*, who instructed in *kenjutsu*, *naginata-jutsu*, *sojutsu*, *bojutsu/jojutsu* and *aiki-jujutsu* [1, 2, 3].

In 1927, the *Kodokan* started up *bojutsu* training together with Narimichi Tamai-sensei, Ishizo Shiina-sensei, Tanekichi Ito-sensei and Sozaemon Kuboki-sensei from *Katori Shinto Ryu* [1, 8] and *Kodokan Bojutsu* is created, as a branch of *Kodokan Judo* [1, 10].

The reason why Kano-shihan really wanted the importance of *Bo-jutsu* to be emphasised was as follows [8]:

- *Bojutsu* is the weapon art best suited for a practical use in modern times when the law prohibits the wearing of a sword;
- There was a risk that *bojutsu*, as an art, could disappear and die out;

- It is easy to find a substitute for a *bo* staff (a tree branch or a cane) in daily life.

Four years later, *jo* training is also started with Shimizu-sensei from *Shindo Muso-ryu Jojutsu* [1, 3, 8, 10].

Some of the Most Significant Judo Teachers in Kobudo Kenkyukai

There were several highly graded *Kodokan* teachers, who received both their introduction and training in *bujutsu* through the institute, and several of the *Kodokan*'s great teachers got a significant role in *Kobudo Kenkyukai*. However, three giants in the history of *budo* and *judo*, came to have a greater importance than others, namely:

- Minoru Mochizuki – who later founded *Yoseikan Budo* (originally *Yoseikan-ryu Gyokushin Jujutsu*) [3];
- Yoshio Sugino – who later founded *Katori Shinto Ryu Sugino-ha* [2, 3], and
- Kenji Tomiki – who later founded *Shudokan Aikido* and played a major role in creating *Kodokan*'s modern self-defence exercise, *Kodokan Goshin-jutsu* [9].



Minoru Mochizuki
(1907-2003)



Yoshio Sugino
(1904-1998)



Kenji Tomiki
(1900-1979)

The Demise of Kobudo Kenkyukai

Jigoro Kano died on 4 May 1938, and regrettably, the *Kobudo Kenkyukai* closed a year later. In the Spring of 1939, the last *bojutsu* performance was held [1]. One can only speculate about the reasons for the closure.

During the late 1930s and 1940s, not many *judoka* were attracted to weapons training and self-defence aspects. People started and continued to practice *judo*, in the first instance, because of *randori* and competitive *judo*. It was this part of *judo* that greatly increased in popularity. After Kano's death, many traditional ideas were abandoned and the *Kodokan* concentrated almost exclusively on *judo* as a sport. So, the main reason for the closure still must be assumed to be the death of the *Shihan*. There was no longer anyone who cherished the traditional *bujutsu* training.

It is also possible that the then political climate in Japan influenced the abandonment of traditional weapons training.

The question is whether the activities of *Kobudo Kenkyukai* have influenced further development of *Kodokan Judo*? Are there traces of this in the *kata*, which was created later?

There is no direct evidence for this, although the *Kodokan* teachers involved (all with a solid *budo* background) may have been influenced by the ideas and influences of classical *bujutsu* [2, 3, 11].

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About the Author

Pavel Antonsson, born in 1967, began his *budo* training in 1980 and has been active as an instructor since 1984. He runs the *Dokan Dojo* in Gothenburg, Sweden, on a part-time basis.

Pavel Antonsson is, today, graded to *Okuden Shihan 7th dan Kyoshi Nihon Jujutsu*, *3rd dan Kodokan Judo*, *5th dan Renshi Karate-do* and *4th dan Master Jidokwan Taekwondo*. He also holds black-belt ranks and licenses in classical *budo* and different sword schools.

He has written two books in Swedish "*Dokan Ryu Ju Jutsu & Budo Densho*" and "*Dokan Ryu Ju Jutsu for Beginners – Techniques to Yellow Belt*".

By profession Antonsson is a Doctor of Medicine and works as a senior consultant orthopaedic surgeon in paediatric orthopaedics with a special interest in deformity surgery and limb reconstruction.

The Art of Laying Hands Hiroshi Katanishi



Kumikata - Satoshi Ishii vs Kenji Suzuki

It seems to me that the notion of *kumikata*, which is understood in Japanese as "way of establishing contact", is different from the European interpretation. In Japanese, *kumikata* means "grab" to express what you can do, whereas for a European it's more of a way to prevent the other from grabbing hold of you. For European *judoka*, *kumikata* is tactical, for Japanese *judoka* it's technical.

The basic idea of *kumikata* in Japan is to put both hands on your partner. It is with both hands that breaking balance can be achieved, lift and pull, forcing weight transfers, generating rotation. We Japanese have an expression that says: "*Four hands on – that's judo*".

In Europe, people often think of needing a specific grip for a specific attack. In Japan *kumikata* is an essential mode that gives versatility.

This is the foundation from which you can start doing everything and in all directions; it is the first element of complex work that makes *judoka* peculiar.

Basically, Japanese *judo* is not complicated – there is a strong emphasis on the basics, and then you let the *judoka* take care of themselves.

We said that the basic meaning of *kumikata* is to clasp each other's bodies. When we cannot see in the dark, we move forward with our hands in front. If we want to hear who is in front of us, we must touch with our hands, like a blind person

or an artist, to feel the hidden things. Through *kumikata* we can sense the other person's speed, direction, rhythm. *Judo* teaches us, therefore, one valuable thing – to use one's hands to feel others. It's an exchange, almost a language. For the body to move perfectly, the *kumikata* must be stable but flexible. Stiff shoulders prevent good movement.

Yasuichi Matsumoto, a professor at Tenri University, winner of the 1948 All-Japan *Judo* Championships, at one time Japan's youngest 8th *dan* holder, and manager of the Japanese national team at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games¹, always said, referring to the work of arms and hands – “You need to know how to hold an egg between your arms and your armpit. You need to know how to hold a bird in your hand”. Matsumoto-sensei, wanted to refer to how to close your fingers, locking the little finger and the next two fingers, without closing the entire fist.



Yasuichi Matsumoto (1918-1996)

Of course, traditional *kumikata* is a basic form, which can be modified slightly depending on one's physique, one's opponent and/or one's favourite techniques. However, the modifications should not be done with impunity.

Source

Extract from an interview granted to *The Spirit of Judo Magazine*, #13, March-April 2008.

About the Author

Hiroshi Katanishi 8th *dan*, a graduate of Tenri University in Japan, is a world-renowned *judoka* and *judo* educator. Since arriving in Europe, he has accumulated vast experience in

developing both *judo* players and coaches. Specifically, during his time in Europe, he has coached the French National *Judo* Team and has been Technical Advisor for the Swiss National Team. As well as being a regular teacher at the renowned Italian camp 'Tre Torre', Katanishi-sensei is also one of the busiest European *Judo* Union (EJU) experts delivering workshops on improving technical excellence.



Hiroshi Katanishi 8th *dan*

[Picture credit – Judo-Club Reinach, Aargau]

The Five Principles of *Judo* Jigoro Kano



1. Carefully observe oneself and one's situation, carefully observe others, and carefully observe one's environment.
2. Seize the initiative in whatever you undertake.
3. Consider fully, act decisively.
4. Know when to stop.
5. Keep to the middle.

¹ Yasuichi Matsumoto served as the manager of the Japanese national *judo* team for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, and together with coach Koji Sone, led the team to gold medals in three of the

four weight classes, excluding the open class (which was famously won by Anton Geesink of the Netherlands).

The Objectives of the Exercise of *Kata* and *Randori* in the Dojo

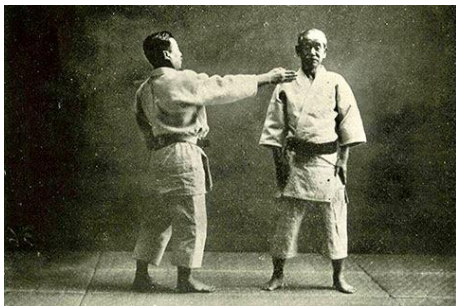
Jigoro Kano

There are many types of *kata* and, depending on the objective, the *kata* that must be practiced differ in purpose.



Kime-no-Kata

When the focus is on combat, a *kata* like *Kime-no-kata* is important and precious, both as physical education and *bu-jutsu*, but when the purpose is specifically to form aesthetic emotions, *Koshiki-no-kata* or *Ju-no-kata* is necessary. If we focus particularly on physical education and want to develop defences or techniques for this, then we must choose different *kata*.



Ju-no-Kata

Today, there are not that many different types of *kata*, but since the number of *kata* can increase infinitely, it would undoubtedly be good if in the future there will be many new *kata* created to meet specific objectives.

Source

Published in *Judo*, 1930.

Mike Callan – Professor of *Judo* Education

Llyr Jones



Professor Mike Callan

The Kano Society wishes to formally congratulate *Bulletin* contributor and internationally respected *judo* academic, Mike Callan PhD, on his promotion to “Professor of *Judo* Education” at the University of Hertfordshire where he leads the *i-dojo* international *judo* research unit.

Professor Callan is a member of the International *Judo* Federation’s (IJF) Scientific Committee, the President of the International Association of *Judo* Researchers, Education Director of the Commonwealth *Judo* Association and a newly appointed Scientific Commissioner for the European *Judo* Union (EJU). He is the author of over 30 books and articles, has lectured in over 20 countries and was the founder of the Richard Bowen (*Judo*) Collection at the University of Bath.

A world leader in international *judo* coach education, Professor Callan has supported the professional development of around 200 coaches working with national level athletes from over 20 nations. As a coach practitioner, athletes he has worked with have medalled at Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth level. Founder of the consultancy firm Judospace, he has advised a wide range of federations and organisations including the Government of Japan.

Previously, Professor Callan was Sport Collaborator with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Organising Committee and the International Federation Services Group Leader for *Judo* for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Formerly he has been a Board Member of the British Bob-Skeleton Association, and of the British *Judo* Association. Professor Callan competed in the World University *Judo* Championships, and presently holds the *judo* grade of 7th dan.

Holder of an International Olympic Committee Diploma, and a life member of the British and Maltese *judo* national governing bodies, he was awarded the IJF Special Achievement

Award for global contribution to *judo* education and research, and the Commonwealth *Judo* Association Presidents Special Recognition Award for his significant contribution to the development of *judo* across the Commonwealth.

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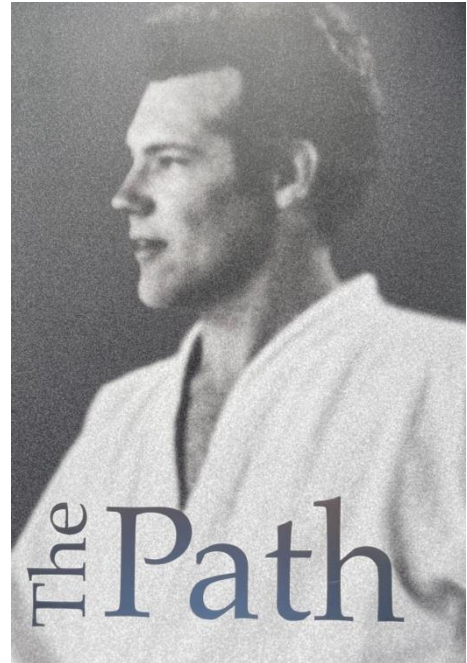
Mick Leigh Receives Personalised, Kodokan-branded, Aka Obi Llyr Jones



Mick Leigh IJF 9th dan
[Picture credit – Stephanie Leigh]

Following his promotion earlier in the year to 9th dan by the International *Judo* Federation (IJF), Mick Leigh was presented, on 24 August 2023, with his new Kodokan-branded *aka obi* [red belt] embroidered with his name in *katakana* (Japanese syllabary) – ミクーリー (Mikku Rī). The belt had been ordered by the British *Judo* Association from the “spiritual home” of *judo*, The Kodokan in Tokyo.

“The Path” – Dr Colin Draycott’s Autobiography Llyr Jones



“The Path” – by Dr Colin Draycott

The Kano Society is privileged to highly recommend the autobiography of Dr Colin Charles Draycott, International Judo Federation (IJF) 9th dan. Published by the IJF, and entitled “The Path”, or in full “The Path – My Journey Over Professor Kano’s Path for the past 67 Years”, Colin’s book delivers a wide-ranging and personal perspective on *judo* in its broadest context.

The book provides an overview of Dr Draycott’s modest beginnings in a loving family in Leicestershire, through to his significant academic and business achievements in civil engineering, and then on to his current position as a Senior Vice-President of the British *Judo* Association (BJA). It details Colin’s journey in *judo* from first stepping on to the mat as a teenager and the personal sacrifices that made him a formidable competitor in his day – including his progression through the grades, being a champion with the Amateur *Judo* Association (AJA), and a finalist in the trials to select the Great Britain team for the 1964 Olympic Games. Other chapters therein describe the role of the London *Budokwai* in the development of British *judo*, the establishing of Olympic *judo*, the emergence and growth of women’s *judo*, and *judo* in the eighties. Considerable attention is given to the founding of the Kendal *Judo* Centre of Excellence and the contribution to this venture made by Tony MacConnell, as well as the transformative impact “Kendal” made on the lives of many young *judoka*. In true selfless fashion, Colin devotes significant chapters within the book to the contribution made by others to *judo*.

As well as being the financial saviour of the BJA, Colin has been a generous philanthropist who has financially supported the *judo* careers of several of the UK's most well-known competitors – profiles of which are provided. Throughout the book Colin's sincerity, modesty, respect for others, and personal drive for success shine through. Also evident are his tremendous leadership qualities in being able to inspire, encourage and help others – be they a part of his *judo*, or part of his business, life.

"*The Path*" is written in an open, engaging and totally honest style. It is a most enjoyable read and is as close to having a personal conversation with this great gentleman of *judo* that you can get.

"*The Path*" can be obtained (while stocks last) from: https://fienta.com/colin-charles-draycott-the-path?fbclid=IwAR1z5O9cV6rGogoBFYstlMeE_dHln-wLJg0Uwq6r8NXgdXzpUPIMz7eZHA0w

Points to Ponder

"Life's experiences are both negative and positive, after the former the more willing we are to accept the latter."
Brian Watson

"Think lightly of yourself and deeply of the world."
Miyamoto Musashi (1584-1645)

"Success is getting what you want - happiness is wanting what you get."
W.P. Kinsella (1935-2016), Canadian Novelist

"Life is but a candle flame flickering in the wind."
Japanese Proverb

"Every hardship endured strengthens one's fortitude."
Brian Watson

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 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.

