



## The Kano Society Bulletin



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### In This Edition

The headline article in this edition of the *Bulletin* is written by Russ Ebert, and considers Kyoichi Miyatake, a *jujutsuka* and 9<sup>th</sup> *dan judoka* who remains largely unknown in the West. Also featured is an article noting the promotion of former World Champion Loretta Doyle to the rank of IJF 9<sup>th</sup> *dan*, making her the first British female *judoka* to receive this esteemed grade. Congratulations Loretta on this wonderful achievement. Additionally, this *Bulletin* includes reflections on *judo* teaching, written in the 1940s, by one-time *Kodokan* President Jiro Nango, as well as more profiles of prominent British *judoka* written by Stephanie Leigh.

### Editor's Comments

The Kano Society regrets to announce the passing of 7<sup>th</sup> *dan judoka* and international referee Graham Turner on March 9, 2025, at the age of 87. As always, we thank John Bowen for proof-reading this edition of the *Bulletin*. Any mistakes are entirely my own.

### Contributions

The core of the Kano Society's activities is this online publication. We encourage contributions, including articles, photographs, and more, for The Bulletin.

### New Contact e-mail

The new e-mail for contacting the Kano Society is: [Kanosociety@cyberbirch.com](mailto:Kanosociety@cyberbirch.com)

## Kyoichi Miyatake, *Kodokan 9<sup>th</sup> dan* Russ Ebert



Kyoichi Miyatake (1882 - 1972)

Kyoichi Miyatake was born on 6 October 1882 in Nabetani, Iino Village, Ayauta County, Kagawa Prefecture (now Utazu Town). He was the eldest son of Namijiro Miyatake and his wife Yasu. Kyoichi's father was a disciple of the second *Muso-ryu Shin-jujutsu* master, Nakajo Katsujiro Sumiyasu and was one of the "Four Kings of *Muso-ryu*" along with Genjiro Senda, Kiichi Ayano, and Rikichi Fukui.

Having studied *Muso-ryu* 無双,無相,無雙 "*Shin Jujutsu*" 新柔術 from his youth, he naturally sought out *judo* training while traveling throughout Japan. He trained at the *Dai Nippon Butokukai* [Greater Japan Martial Virtue Society] in Kyoto and later at the *Kodokan* in Tokyo. Upon returning to Kagawa Prefecture, he competed in the All-Japan *Judo* Championships and then began teaching *judo* to students, police officers, and the general public, helping to grow a thriving community of *judo* enthusiasts. His significant contribution to the spread of *Kodokan Judo* and its development in his region is directly tied to his efforts, eventually becoming the first president of the Kagawa Prefectural *Judo* Federation.

Kyoichi began training in *jujutsu* at the Nabetani dojo run by his father at the age of 13. He was large for his era, 168 cm tall and weighing around 70 kg, and because of that there is a story of him lifting a 100 kg weight stone without changing his expression. At 16, he went to Takamatsu and furthered his training under the *Muso-ryu* master, Matsui Sanzo then going on to the dojo of Sadatsugu Yoshida and Kazugoro Yamamoto in Tadotsu. Miyatake had no real intention becoming anything more than a student at first, but in 1903 he received the *Mokuroku Menkyo Kaiden* in support of his training. As he travelled he was not able to train in his own

school, so he became a student in *judo* at the *Dai Nippon Butokukai* in Kyoto under such teachers as Hajime Isogai, Shuichi Nagaoka, and Kaichiro Samura. Around this time, there's a story about him and Hajime Isogai often staying up all night to practice *uchikomi* on a large pine tree in the Yoshida-yama area, a once secluded and remote mountainside in Kyoto.

After December of 1910, things began to move fast for him in *judo*. After he ranked as first *dan* he went to Tokyo and directly joined the training at the *Kodokan* based on the recommendation of Shuichi Nagaoka. In December 1911, he achieved second *dan*, and then in 1912 he was given *Seirensyo* [outstanding achievement] by the *Dai Nippon Butoku Kai* and a third *dan* from the *Kodokan*. At this time, a third *dan* from the *Kodokan* was rare and meant that he was trusted to serve as a *judo* teacher. During the three years he was living in Tokyo, he participated in the *Kodokan's Kohaku-shiai* [Red and White Tournament], *Tsukinami-shiai* [monthly contest], and the *Dai Nippon Butoku Kai Butoku Festival*, as well as numerous local matches and sparring festivals. Later he was quoted as saying that he “does not have many memories of matches”, but that “no matter who my opponent was, I never felt like I was going to lose”, and “I was able to enter matches with a relatively calm attitude”. Interpreting what he said, it meant that he was not worried about competition, did not feel the pressure to win or lose, and thought of sparring and competition as a part of his learning process, one that the *Kodokan* emphasised along with regular training. This is different than many training attitudes around the world today.

Miyatake returned to his hometown of Inomura and served as the head teacher of the Kagawa Prefecture branch of the *Butokukai*, as an instructor of *judo* at the Kagawa Prefectural Police Department, Takamatsu Middle School (now Kagawa Prefectural Takamatsu High School), Kagawa Prefectural Normal School, Takamatsu Commercial School (now Kagawa University), Prefectural Technical School (now Takamatsu Prefectural Technical High School), and Takamatsu First Middle School (now Takamatsu First High School). He continued this busy teaching career for about 30 years until 1944, produced many students, and introduced the world to *Kodokan Judo* with his students. *Judoka* such as Toshikichi Shima, Shinichi Murai (both eventually *Kodokan* 8<sup>th</sup> *dan* holders) and Kanji Yoshimoto, who won the All-Japan Championship in 1932, are the famous “Three Birds of Miyatake School”, but there were also other distinguished figures such as Shunichi Kashiwabara, Shizuka Chosokabe, Susumu Miyoshi, Masanao Ikoma, and Masayoshi Iwasaki. At Takamatsu Middle School the students loved Miyatake, who had a sullen, quiet expression and a paternal love for them, inspiring them to call him “Father”. Miyatake also worked hard to build the Kagawa *Butokuden*.

In April 1914, the Kagawa Prefecture *Judo Dan Association* [*Yudanshakai*] was established with a grand opening ceremony attended by *Kodokan* President Jigoro Kano-shihan and Hideichi Nagaoka. This *Yudanshakai* became the Kagawa Prefecture *Judo Federation* after the war, and Miyatake served as its first president. That same year, he also opened the Shudokan *dojo* in Hyogo-cho, Takamatsu

city, as a place for youth development. In addition to this in 1921, when the *Kodokan* hosted a demonstration of *kata* by various *judo* schools, Miyatake performed as a representative of the *Muso-ryu* school, earning him fame as a fundamental pillar in *judo*. In January 1924, he received fifth *dan* from the *Kodokan*, and then in July, he received the *kyoshi* title from the *Dai Nippon Butoku Kai*. He also proposed the formation of a *judo* federation of the four Shikoku prefectures, which he worked hard to realise in September 1932. After that, he held annual inter-prefectural matches, leaving the chairmanship to promote *judo* worldwide.

In November 1928, he was selected as the designated *judoka* to commemorate the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Showa, and in November of 1932 participated in the professional senior adult division of the third All-Japan *Judo Championships*, where he lost in a draw after a fierce battle with Fukui's great master Umeyoshi Morioka. In May 1945, he was given the title of *judo hanshi* from the *Dai Nippon Butoku Kai*, and in May 1958, he received his 9<sup>th</sup> *dan* from the *Kodokan*.

Miyatake taught in Kagawa Prefecture for nearly 70 years until his death at the age of 89 on 3 March 1972. Among his achievements, Takamatsu Junior High School won the national championship three times and Takamatsu Youth Association won the national championship. As Miyatake reminisced, “All the *judoka* in Kagawa Prefecture are, so to speak, my beloved students”. Throughout the Taisho and Showa eras, there was not a single *judo* student in Kagawa Prefecture that was not personally influenced by Miyatake. For this reason, in 1965 he was awarded the Minister of Education's Commendation for Physical Education, and given the Imperial Sacred Treasure award, Fourth Class, which was not usually awarded to a living person. He said that he was “honoured and deeply moved by these awards”.

Along with his strict attitude toward *judo*, Miyatake also enjoyed gardening and tea ceremony [*sado/chado*] as hobbies. Privately, he and his wife Hisako had six sons who all trained, making them a *judo* legacy. The eldest son, Teruyoshi, reached second *dan* in *judo* and graduated from the former Takamatsu Middle School and Kagawa Prefectural Normal School before teaching at an elementary school in Danshimura (now Takamatsu City). His second son, Shuichi, worked for the Kagawa Prefectural Police and achieved a sixth *dan* in *judo*. His third son, Yasuo, graduated from Takamatsu Commercial School and was active in the political and business world, serving as president and chairman of Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance (now Sompo Japan Insurance), and later served as a council member of the *Kodokan* and a director of the All-Japan *Judo Federation*. The fourth son, Norio, went on to the *Dai Nippon Butoku Kai* university and graduated at the top of his class, only to be killed in action on the Burma front. The fifth son, Hiroshi, worked at the Osaka Mint Bureau while devoting himself to *kendo* training, and the sixth son, Kenji, served as a junior airman during the Second World War and became a police officer after the war, achieving a fifth *dan* in *judo*.

In the 1966 publication of *Sanuki Judo History*, Miyatake shared his joy at the completion of the Kagawa Prefectural Budokan and stating his views on modern *judo*:

*All martial arts, not just judo, must begin and end with courtesy, but judo today has become so-called "sportified" and is disordered. A judo hall is a place for the way, that is, a place for spiritual training. In the old days, not even a single word was said, and all that could be heard was the fierce fighting spirit, which was filled with seriousness.*

Miyatake himself said that when he travelled around the country to various *dojo* for training, he could sense the strength or weakness of the *dojo* just by stepping inside. He continued that when he entered a *dojo*, he would always sit upright and bow before entering, even if there was no one else there.

He also criticised Anton Geesink for announcing his retirement and withdrawing from the open weight class immediately after winning the heavyweight division at the fourth World Championships in 1965, saying, "It is unthinkable that a match would be decided and then he would withdraw or retire" and at the same time, he pointed out that losing to Geesink showed that there was a flaw somewhere in Japanese *judo*. "I (Miyatake) don't understand why Japanese people are so small that they can't beat a giant like Geesink", he lamented. "If you are small, you should have the ability to defeat a bigger opponent". He also emphasised *newaza* as well as *nagewaza* in *judo* and constantly believed both should incorporate and include techniques that were once overlooked.



Muso-ryu – Tori Miyatake 7<sup>th</sup> dan, Uke Kakutani.

### Promotion History

Kyoichi Miyatake's *Kodokan* promotion history is shown in the table below.

Grade	Date of Promotion	Age
1 dan	16 December 1910	28
2 dan	15 December 1911	29
3 dan	17 November 1912	30
4 dan	25 May 1919	36
5 dan	13 January 1924	41
6 dan	25 January 1931	48
7 dan	22 December 1937	55
8 dan	4 May 1945	62
9 dan	5 May 1958	75

Kyoichi Miyatake Promotion History  
(Grade, Date, Age)

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## Loretta Doyle Promoted to 9<sup>th</sup> dan by the International Judo Federation



Loretta Doyle IJF 9<sup>th</sup> dan

Loretta Doyle has been promoted to the grade of 9<sup>th</sup> dan by the International Judo Federation (IJF). She is the first female British judoka to reach this level.

Loretta was presented with her IJF Certificate of Rank Recognition, on 02 February 2025 – the second and final day of the 2025 Paris Grand Slam. The presentation was made by the President of the IJF, Marius Vizer, in a ceremony held at the Accor Arena Bercy. Some of her thoughts on this special promotion follow next.

*“I feel absolutely amazing, completely starstruck. It is surreal to be here, surrounded by so many incredible people. I can’t believe that everyone is just as emotional as I am, sharing this unforgettable moment together. The joy in the room is overwhelming and it’s something I will never forget.”*

*“Something that I am truly passionate about is my grade. It always has been, ever since I first started judo. I wanted that first red belt, yellow belt, orange belt, green belt...you name it. They were always really important to me because they gave me a sense of self-worth. That’s what it was. It’s like when you take exams at school. I was never really one of the top students, so I wasn’t getting A+ grades. But in judo, I was earning my grades, and for me, that built confidence as a youngster. It gave me a sense of achievement, knowing that I was accomplishing something. That helped me as I was growing up.”*

*“I think that’s what judo has always done for me in my life. I have always had self-doubt, but judo has created something in me that makes me feel worthy, valued and appreciated. For me, this is another milestone event in my life. I am getting older, I am not getting any younger, but with age comes maturity. We start thinking about things differently, just like red wine. Red wine only gets better as it ages.”*

*“Grades in judo also symbolise knowledge, experience and dedication. It’s about depth, what you put into a sport is eventually given back to you if you truly commit to it and keep going. Those values and the pathway of learning are always present. I have always been a firm believer that every day is a school day and in judo, you are always learning.”*

Loretta earned a bronze medal at the inaugural Women’s World Championships in 1980 and claimed the title of World Champion in 1982. She is a two-time European Champion, winning in 1983 and 1992, and also earned three silver and two bronze European medals. Representing Scotland, Loretta took home a gold medal at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, held in Auckland.



Loretta Doyle – Highlighted Achievements

Having lived in Scotland for over 20 years, Loretta has held numerous prestigious roles within the judo community, both as a coach and as an elected Director of the British Judo Association (BJA). She has also been a member of the IJF Coaching and Education Commission. Today, Loretta’s voice is well-known to many, as she commentates for the IJF and European Judo Union (EJU) Live Stream Teams.

Loretta has also been a strong supporter of the educational value of kata in judo. Some of her thoughts on this fundamental aspect of judo are as follows:

*“As a youngster, I was truly blessed, that’s all I can say. I was lucky to have incredible teachers. I call them teachers because coaches are, in essence, teachers. They laid the foundation upon which I continue to grow today. For me, kata was introduced at just 11 years old. Every week, my judo teachers, John and Shirley Ward, who were both kata examiners and also competed as a husband-and-wife duo, deeply appreciated kata. They recognised its benefits for young athletes.”*

*At the time, I didn’t always appreciate it, because at that age, you don’t. You don’t see the benefits of learning techniques on both the left and right sides without realising their significance. Yet, I had practiced all the techniques. Kata was part of my learning process and journey until I was about 15 or 16 years old. It was only as a senior that I had a light-bulb moment and finally understood why all that kata practice from a young age was so beneficial.*

It was an incredible realisation, and I finally appreciated it. Not having a foundation in kata as a judo athlete is like a tennis player going out to play a match with a cricket bat instead of a tennis racket.



Loretta Doyle IJF 9<sup>th</sup> dan – Informal Photo

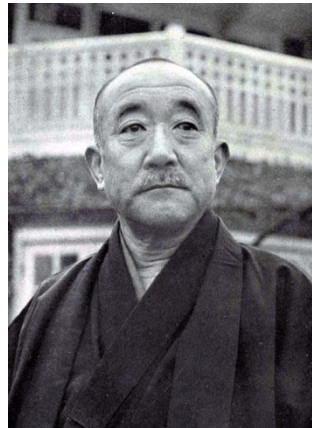
Finally, it must be highlighted that Loretta founded “The Loretta Doyle Judo Foundation”, a charity aimed at welcoming individuals into the judo community who might otherwise face exclusion, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent participation.

### Further Information

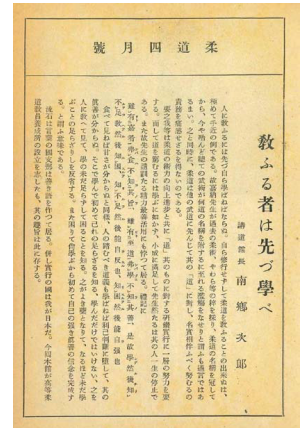
1. Crowley, J. (2025). Loretta Cusack-Doyle (GBR) Awarded 9th Dan by IJF President. Available online from IJF website URL: <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/loretta-cusack-doyle-gbr-awarded-9th-dan-by-ijf-president>
2. Szogedi, S. (2025). Loretta Doyle: A True Pioneer in the World of Judo, and now a 9th dan!. Available online from EJU website URL: <https://www.eju.net/loretta-doyle-a-true-pioneer-in-the-world-of-judo-and-now-a-9th-dan>
3. Anon. (2025). Loretta Doyle Awarded Historic 9th Dan. Available online from BJA website URL: <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/loretta-doyle-awarded-historic-9th-dan/>
4. Leigh, Stephanie. Celebrating British Judo Personalities – Part II. *Kano Society Bulletin*. Issue No. 60. April 2024.

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## Those Who Teach Must First Learn Jiro Nango



Jiro Nango



Original Kodokan Script

Jiro Nango, nephew of Jigoro Kano, was a Rear Admiral in the Imperial Japanese Navy, serving in both the Russo-Japanese War and World War I. He became the President of the Kodokan in December 1938 and held the position until 1946, when he was succeeded by Risei Kano, one of the three sons of the shihan, shortly after the conclusion of World War II.

The passage that follows featured in the introduction to the April 1940 issue of the Kodokan’s monthly magazine, *Judo*.

*“Before you can teach others, you must first learn yourself. A very good example of this is that you cannot teach judo without practicing it yourself. Ever since the late Kano-shihan selected the best parts of jujutsu (historically known as yawara) and gave it the name judo, almost all Japanese martial arts have now come to bear the name “do”. This is no exaggeration, and at the same time judo is outpacing other martial arts in its pursuit of recognition, and synonymous with the widely used term ‘do’. I cannot help but feel keenly aware of my responsibilities.*

*In the meantime, judo must realise its responsibility in guiding the pursuit of a path or ‘way of life’ before other martial arts can claim this distinction. As we advance in our judo practice, we must dedicate more effort to independently studying and practicing its principles and teachings.*

*The only way to fully grasp the ‘way’ is through continuous learning. Being content with minor achievements and acting as if you have mastered everything halts your personal growth. It is also misguided to teach absolute competence, as emphasised by the late Kano-shihan.”*

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## Celebrating British Judo Personalities – Part IV

### Stephanie Leigh

#### Chelsie Giles



Chelsie Giles

Chelsie Giles (born 25 January 1997) started judo at Coventry Judo Club when she was eight, after watching her brother taking part. She made her international debut in 2017 and has joined the elite “Triple Threat” group of only 11 British judoka who have won medals in senior European and World Championships and Olympic Games. In addition to Olympic bronze in Tokyo in 2021, World silver in 2022 and European bronze in 2023, Chelsie’s European gold in 2022 made her GBR’s first senior European Champion in 16 years. She has also won four Grand Prix medals (including one gold), 11 Grand Slam medals (including two golds), World Masters silver and European Games bronze.

Coventry is very proud of Chelsie, and she has been awarded the city’s Good Citizen Award, with the part of citation reading:

*“Chelsie is an excellent ambassador for her home city and her success is helping to inspire other young athletes – from judo and other sports – as she has shown what can be achieved through hard work and dedication. Chelsie has helped to raise the city’s profile as a sporting city and as a judo city as Coventry prepares to host the sport as part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Chelsie carries herself in a manner which defies her age. She is a true inspiration and role model for all.”*

Chelsie will be leading Team Coventry’s judo athletes at the 2025 International Children’s Games (ICG) in Tallinn, Estonia. Taking place in August, this marks the first time that Team Coventry will be represented in judo at the Olympic accredited event. Chelsie may be young, but she has made British judo history and there is a lot more to come.

#### Alan Jones MBE



Alan Jones

Alan Jones started judo in Lancashire in 1966 and has devoted the subsequent 60 years to coaching and competing – he must surely be one of Great Britain’s most popular and instantly recognisable judo characters? Alan was appointed Welsh Judo National Coach in 1993, a position he held for ten years. He also founded the Welsh Wrestling Association.

With his wife Sue, Alan runs the AJ Judo & Wrestling Club in Welshpool, mid-Wales. He has coached to a high level, with his students going on to competitions such as the Commonwealth Games, junior/cadet European and World Championships, and Paralympics. As a veteran/masters competitor, Alan has been successful at every level – taking medals at British Championships and British Opens, through to Commonwealth gold, World bronze and European silver. He has organised numerous veterans training camps at home and abroad, over a number of years. Alan is known for his dedication, his eternal competitive spirit, and for his ability to motivate others.

He was the British Judo Association (BJA) Masters Player of the Year in 2019, awarded MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to judo and wrestling in the Queen’s 90th birthday honours list and received his International Judo Federation (IJF) 8<sup>th</sup> dan in 2024.

## Elizabeth Viney MBE



Liz Viney MBE

Elizabeth (Liz) Viney founded Winchester judo club in 1956. She was Hampshire's first female dan grade and one of the leading lights in British women's judo, supporting clubs, particularly across the Southern Area, and running fantastic courses and summer schools. Liz served on the Area committee, including a term as Chairman. She was the first British women's team manager and an Honorary National Coach.

Former European Champion Christine Gallie (née Child) describes her thus: "We began our efforts in women's international judo competition mainly due to Liz. Liz was in charge – of the squad, the team, the training..... and when we went abroad she was our team manager and our judo 'mother'. Any problems and you went through Liz. Quietly spoken, Liz was in charge."

Liz was also a practitioner of beautiful *Ju-no-kata*, winning medals in the British Championships. She also used to write wonderful letters to clubs and individuals. Liz still lives in Hampshire and is well respected as a former antiques dealer. She also served on the Hampshire Playing Fields Association. Liz was awarded MBE for her services to judo and has been a 4<sup>th</sup> dan since 1988.



At the BJA's 19 June 1976 AGM in London

L-R: Marie Fourt (Women's Senior Squad Manager), Marietta McGrellis (NIJF), Vic Terry (BJA PRO) and Liz Viney (Honorary National Coach)

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## Points to Ponder

*"Judo teaches us that true strength lies not in overpowering others, but in uplifting them. Through friendship and love for the art, we grow together – on and off the mat."*

Standerton Judo  
South Africa

*"People come to judo to learn how to throw, but the first thing they have to learn is how to fall. In the world, no one can be trusted to lead a successful life till he knows how to meet failure and recover."*

Gunji Koizumi (1885-1965)  
Judo Master

*"Fortune gathers limitless as the ocean."*

Isamu Takeshita (1870-1949)  
Admiral, Diplomat, Budoka

*"Never boast in victory, never despair in defeat."*

Proverb

*"Learning kata is similar to learning grammar to write, and practicing randori is similar to practicing writing itself. So, in other words, writing an essay, you need to know grammar. Likewise, to practice randori well, you need to know the kata. Furthermore, just because an individual has mastered grammar, that does not mean that he will produce good literature. On the other hand, if an individual has only a limited knowledge of grammar, he will not be at all able to write correctly. This principle also applies to jujutsu; if we don't study kata, we can learn defence and attack methods, but we will not achieve mastery."*

Jigoro Kano

*"Once you have scaled your first mountain, other peaks will be easier."*

Brian Watson

*"A true judoka lifts others up, both on and off the mat."*

Standerton Judo  
South Africa

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## Renjuku Academy

The Kano Society is pleased to endorse the *Judo* Black Belt Association's (JBBA) "Renjuku Academy" programme as an exceptional offering in *judo* education. The Academy provides a distinctive experience through its immersive home-study curriculum in *judo* and leadership education. The distinct modules on the 12-month study programme emphasise five vital areas of *judo*:



1. Biomechanics of *Judo*;
2. *Judo* as Physical Education;
3. *Kata*;
4. *Judo* History and Philosophy;
5. *Judo* Terminology.



The demanding programme concludes with the submission of a formal dissertation on any aspect of *judo*.

<http://www.judoblackbelt.com>

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## Judo Collections



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

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.

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