

The only reason for the separation of the publishers of the two scientific journals with the partially shared name 'Archives of Budo'

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- ✍ A Study Design
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- 📊 C Statistical Analysis
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A story, in its own way, unremarkable (without abstract)

There was a brief period of delight at the sanctioning of the 'science of martial arts' sub-discipline in the global science space. I personally proposed the name of this new science during the second edition of the World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts (Rzeszow, September 17-19, 2010, Poland [1]). However, this was a consequence of the conclusions of a series of scientific conferences promoting the humanistic, educational, health and utilitarian values of exercises and hand-to-hand combat systems mainly with the participation of Polish experts [2-8]. This seemingly distant activity from politics, promoting health education in all its dimensions (somatic, mental and social) through hand-to-hand combat, was, paradoxically, linked

to the social transformation dynamics of the end of the previous century. The beginning was given by the resistance of non-violence *Solidarity* in Poland, soon with global effects.

But before the first edition of the World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts (Rzeszow, September 22-24, 2006, Poland [9]) took place, the international dimension of this promotion owed primarily to Waldemar Sikorski (1937-2022), appointed in 1967 as coach of the Olympic judo team of Poland. At the Munich 1972 Olympic Games, he and Antoni Zajkowski, silver medal winner in the 70 kg category, sparked much of the sporting success of the Polish judo athletes over the following years [10]. Less than a year after their first Olympic success, both Waldemar Sikorski and Antoni Zajkowski (then

an assistant in the Department of Combat Sports Warsaw Academy of Physical Education) presented the results of their research at a scientific and methodological conference: 'Combat sports and weightlifting' – Halin, 16-18 May 1973, Poland [11, 12]. Sikorski, already as the president of the Polish Judo Association, organised the 1st International Congress of Science and Methodology in Judo – Spała, November 9-11, 1987, Poland [2]. The guest of honour at the Congress was the legendary Dutch judo athlete Anton Gessing (then Chairman of IJF Education and Diffusion Commission).

In the meantime, Ewaryst Jaskólski (1932-2007), abstracting from the sports dimension, promotes judo precisely as a method of universal human education with emphasis on the health dimension, personal safety (safe fall and self-defence) and building correct interpersonal relationships [13]. Together with the Austrian judo expert Josef Herzog (1928-2016) [14], they laid the foundations for extensive international cooperation, the results of which are marked by dates that are also important from my personal perspective: between 1978 and 1981, Josef Herzog organises the Judo Sommer School (German: Judo-Sommerschule) in Hintermoos in the Austrian Alps with Polish judo and sports psychology experts [14]; in 1994 Josef Herzog was the honourable guest and keynote speaker at the International Scientific Conference 'Efficiency and Moral Aspects of Hand-To-Hand Combat in the Military', Wrocław, September

29, Poland [15]; in March 1995 'at the invitation of Josef Herzog, Roman M. Kalina conducted a special seminar for judo coaches on the use of elements of combat sports in the diagnosis and reduction of human aggressiveness at the University of Vienna' – this is how they comment on this event Rüegg et al. [16, p. 257]; in May 1995 I become president of the CISM Sport Committees Judo (International Military Sports Council – is an organization known as CISM: the abbreviation comes from French Conseil International du Sport Militaire) [16]; in 2005 the first volume of the *Archives of Budo*; in 2006 the 1st World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts was held in Rzeszow, Poland [9].

All three of these judo experts formed the core of the Editorial Board *Archives of Budo*. Sadly, Ewaryst Jaskólski died in 2007. By 2022, seven more members of the Editorial Boards *Archives of Budo* and branch journal *Archives of Budo Science of Martial Arts and Extreme Sports*, among them the Olympic champion in judo, of Ukrainian origin, Sergei Novikov (1949-2021) had also left us forever [17]. A total of five of the eight deceased members of the Editorial Boards of both magazines held judo black belts (Figure 1).

The birth of branch journal

Judo fulfils a symbolic role in several more dimensions from the perspective of the history and social mission of the *Archives of Budo*. In 2013, Peset at al. [18] published a review paper dedicated to judo issues in journals evaluated in Web

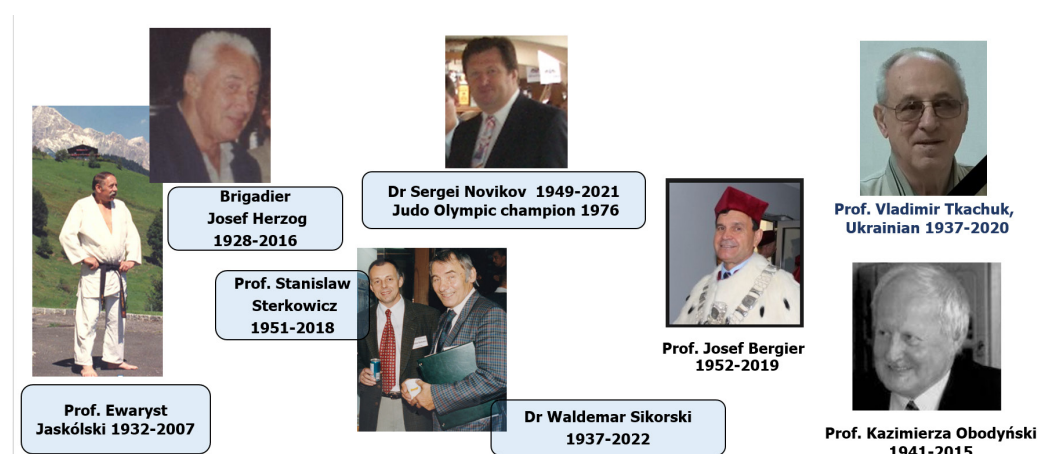


Figure 1. Deceased members of the Editorial Board *Archives of Budo* between 2007 and 2022.

of Science from 1909. The leader was the journal *Archives of Budo* though the first volume was only published at the end of 2005. The outcome of this review has brought to light two important phenomena. Firstly, at the time, the practice of judo had the most formidable intellectual background among activities associated with other hand-to-hand combat systems. Secondly, the magazine was taking on the role of a promoter of judo with the dominant issue of sports combat.

Under these circumstances, it was Editor Bartłomiej Barczyński who proposed the creation of the branch journal *Archives of Budo Science of Martial Arts and Extreme Sports*, citing two logical reasons. To, on the one hand, encourage researchers of phenomena related to extreme physical activity (assuming that any combat sport is this category of practice) to publish the results of their observations. It is clear that an inherent attribute of any extreme physical activity is the risk to health and even life [19]. Therefore, on the other hand, the *Archives of Budo* would publish works that make a positive connection between the practice of hand-to-hand combat exercises and systems and the strengthening of personal health and safety.

Evidence of this reasoning, but also of concerns about the expansion of a pathology that exploits the attraction of hand-to-hand combat for commercial purposes in a dehumanising manner, can be found in an excerpt from the rationale published in our joint first article in the *Archives of Budo Science of Martial Arts and Extreme Sports in 2013* [20]. 'In 2012, the *Archives of Budo* received a manuscript detailing impeccably prepared research results from individuals who train in MMA regularly. The authors received the following reply from the Editorial Board: «*The Archives of Budo is distancing itself from articles that in any way promote human activity determined as "Mixed martial arts" (MMA). Ethical and aesthetics are not the only deciding points. First of all, MMA is deprived of any educational values. In contrast, it is the promotion of modern-day Gladiators. Gladiator fights are not included in the definition of sport in the ancient understanding (i.e., the Olympic games, based on all types of noble fight) or in the contemporary understanding (the superior principle of respecting fair play). Hitting a lying opponent for the majority of the round has nothing to do with fair play, aesthetics or education*» [20, p. 7].

This is not where Editor Barczyński's laudable contribution to intellectual resistance to the promoters of bloody fights in the public space ends. He was among the close circle of first three initiators and then co-organisers of the 1st World Congress on Health and Martial Arts in Interdisciplinary Approach, 2015 Sep 17-19, Czestochowa, Poland. He also contributes to the editing of the **Czestochowa Declaration 2015: HMA against MMA** – «continuous improvement of health through martial arts as one of the most attractive form of physical activity for a human, accessible during entire life should constantly exist in public space, especially in electronic media, to balance permanent degradation of mental and social health by enhancing the promotion of mixed martial arts – contemporary, bloody gladiatorship, significant tool of education to aggression in a macro scale» [21, p. VII]. Specially symbolic is the fact that the legendary *Solidarity* leader Lech Wałęsa [21, p. V-VI] assumed honorary patronage of the Congress.

2015 is also a landmark year for another reason. The Congress is preceded by our two presentations at the 6th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics, 2015 Jul 26-30, Las Vegas, USA. We consider with Bartłomiej Barczyński the dilemma of classifying the 'science of martial arts' in the global science evaluation system [22]. I dedicated my own presentation to agonology still in conjunction with martial arts therapy [23]. The paradox was that we were already aware that further promotion of the science of martial arts was beginning to lose its meaning. We combined our hopes, naively, with the successful promotion of the Czestochowa Declaration 2015: HMA against MMA.

We made one more attempt in 2018. Together with the Gdansk University of Physical Education and Sports, Poland, Editorial Board of *Archives of Budo* organises 2nd HMA World Congress. The lack of response from the addressees of the Gdansk 2nd HMA World Congress 2018 Resolution [24] has finally convinced us that the global space is dominated by a message promoting bloody spectacles on a scale unimaginable by the organisers of the ancient gladiatorial games. Constantine the Great's edict banning gladiatorial games was only fulfilled after more than 350 years [25, 26]. Even such a distant prospect for the eradication of modern gladiatorism is rather utopian.

On the eve of the Congress, a ceremony was held to award the Gdansk University of Physical Education and Sports, honoris causa doctorate to Professor Ferid Murad, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine (1998). The Nobel Laureate trained fencing in his youth. After the laudation, he received a symbolic sabre of the legendary Polish hussars from the Editorial Board of *Archives of Budo*, co-organiser of the Congress (Figure 2, 3 and 4).

The marketing value of two words

These two key words are contained in the title of the journal *Archives of Budo Science of Martial Arts and Extreme Sports*. The name 'martial arts' by adding the short 'mixed' is an attractive camouflage for neo gladiatorial, which is unlikely to ever disappear from the public space [27]. It is not difficult to answer the question why the 'richest sports' do not have specialised journals evaluated



Figure 2. Professor Ferid Murad, Nobel Laureate in Medicine (1998) receives a symbolic sabre of the legendary Polish hussars from the hands of *Archives of Budo* Editor-in-Chief and Deputy Editor-in-Chief Bartłomiej Barczyński (first on the left) (in the background, professors, members of the Editorial Board of *Archives of Budo* – Rector of the Gdansk University of Physical Education and Sports Waldemar Moska and Vice Rector for Science and Foreign Cooperation Władysław Jagiełło).



Figure 3. Professor Ferid Murad, Nobel Laureate in Medicine (1998) with symbolic sabre of the legendary Polish hussars with Professor Roman Maciej Kalina Editor-in-Chief of the *Archives of Budo*.



Figure 4. Symbolic sabre of the legendary Polish hussars with inscription “Great Friend of the Archives of Budo”.

in the Web of Science. One of the most obvious answers is that no coach, individually or together with a team of scientific advisors, will share precise knowledge of the methods to achieve supreme athletic mastery. This is why the *Archives of Budo Science of Martial Arts and Extreme Sports* is such an attractive commodity, as promoters of legitimate bloody spectacles based on dehumanised hand-to-hand combat would have the support of the authority of science. Such support is not directly available to representatives of even the ‘richest sports’. Potential authors publishing in a journal that would be owned by the promoters of neo gladiatorialism would not have financial problems to cover research and publication costs. But would such a comfortable situation free them from moral dilemmas?

The answer is not simple. After all, the media and elites of global society have already accepted MMA as a sport.

Conclusions and acknowledgment

Editor Bartłomiej Barczyński has all the qualifications to prepare manuscripts for publication himself or to supervise such a procedure. Unfortunately, he lacks the experience and formal professional qualifications associated with the practice of any hand-to-hand combat system. All that remains is to trust reliable reviewers. The practice, which includes mentions of eminent experts of Editorial Boards of both journals cited here, is not kind.

My eleven-year mission as Editor-in-Chief of the *Archives of Budo Science of Martial Arts and Extreme Sports* as come to fruition. I take this opportunity to thank Editor Bartłomiej Barczyński for his support, which is difficult to overestimate, when inexorable fate reduced the Editorial Boards. Thank you to the members of the Editorial Board and all authors of manuscripts, especially those submitted during the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic. It was through this effort and determination that the editorial backlog was brought under control. I hope that the recent publication in the *Archives of Budo Science of Martial Arts and Extreme Sports* [28] in particular, which I have formally qualified for publication, will prompt the new Editor-in-Chief and the new Editorial Board, but also potential authors to reflect more deeply on resolving the dilemma of Quo Vadis?

Neither the health potential of exercise and hand-to-hand combat systems, nor the publications accumulated over 11 years in this journal, which have provided scientific evidence that this is true, need be squandered on purely marketing motives. The first author of the publication cited above, but with another co-author, discovered that from 1902 to March 2023, authors of 1,568 Web of Science-qualified publications in various discipline categories used the term ‘self-defence’ in the titles of these papers [29]. The authors of this discovery, in my opinion, rightly conclude that this is an important premise for the societal

expectation that science should identify invisible ways of overcoming phenomena with the highest degree of risk to health and life from the micro to the macro scale. Such a mission goes beyond the competences of the science of martial arts – an obvious mental shortcut, since there is no such

thing as science, but there are people to whom the competence associated with the name of a particular discipline of science can legitimately be attributed [30, 31]. The justification for such a conclusion is precisely the content of this scientific essay.

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