

REVIEWS

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Chronicle of science around fighting arts 2021

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Abstract

Background. Specialised associations and the activity of individuals are co-creating the present fighting arts, the factography of which becomes a contribution to the recent history of this phenomenon. It is therefore probably worth describing these events, explaining or evaluating them.

Problem. The cognitive aim of this research is to describe and analyse the martial arts and combat sports environment of the people and scientific institutions who are active in this area. The research centres on the city of Rzeszow, Poland and Central Europe, as well as the wider international scale. Scientific and methodological events and new literature on the subject have been reviewed.

Method. The main qualitative method used here is a survey of multiple case studies, which are descriptive, interpretive, and evaluative. Data were collected between October 2020 and October 2021. In many cases, the co-authors were participants / direct observers of the events. Publications and other materials were evaluated using a content analysis method.

Results and conclusions. Several events, as well as publications, which are interesting from the point of view of the thematic profile of our journal, have been indicated and evaluated in short reviews. The situation of the martial arts and combat sports community and its researchers is monitored on an ongoing basis using descriptive and/or photographic documentation.

Introduction

From the Polish perspective, 2021 is the 400th anniversary of the victorious defence of the Khotyn fortress against the Turkish army. This was achieved by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth forces, including the Hussar banners and the Cossack army. A year earlier, in the battle of Cecora, the great Polish *hetman* Stanislaw Zolkiewski (*Żółkiewski*) of the Lubicz coat of arms (1547–1620) was killed. He was the same person who had previously defeated the Russians and Swedes near Kluszyn in 1611 [more: Polak 2020], despite their more than 10-fold advantage, and then took over Moscow. He made the dethroned Russian Szujski family tsars pay homage to

the Polish king. So this year is also the 390th anniversary of this glorious event for the Polish army. Polish hussars and cavalry were unmatched at that time, and the **hussar sabre** was perhaps the best weapon of its type in the world [Zablocki 2000, 2001; Sawicki 2011, 2020b].

The European Association for Sociology of Sport (EASS) was founded in 2001 in **Vienna**. This is thus the 20th anniversary of the organization. The founding and, at the same time, honorary members include Prof. Zbigniew Krawczyk (Poland), Prof. Otmar Weiss (Austria) and Dr Georg Anders (Germany), and distinguished activists – including among others, Professors Jerzy Kosiewicz and Andrzej Pawlucky from Poland. Prof. Kazimierz Obodynski organised the Second EASS

Conference in Rzeszow and Lancut (*Łańcut*), in 2004. Wojciech J. Cynarski was an active member between 2002 and 2018, and for two terms he was a member of the Board of EASS (2014-2018) [cf. Obodynski 2009; Cynarski, Raimondo 2010; Obodynski, Cynarski 2011]. At the Prague (2017) and Bordeaux (2018) EASS conferences Special Sessions of IMACSSS (about social aspects of fighting arts) were held. The strong ideological standpoint of the EASS was one of the reasons why some people withdrew their membership. The ideologization of social sciences should be treated in terms of the institutional pathology of science. Fortunately, not all scientific institutions have succumbed to it.

But what important events have happened in the field of martial arts and combat sports, and research into fighting arts between autumn 2020 and autumn 2021? Due to the pandemic, the summer Olympic Games were postponed by a year. In Tokyo, karate made its debut among the Olympic disciplines, along with such martial arts as boxing, fencing, *judo*, *taekwondo* and wrestling. The state of emergency caused by the pandemic led to the Games being held without an audience in the stands. In such conditions, men and women *karate* players competed in the *kata* and individual *kumite* competitions. The Japanese confirmed their domination in *judo*, and the Cubans in boxing.

Obituaries

We are gradually recovering from a pandemic that has taken its grim toll. Having been infected with the coronavirus (COVID-19), Rev. **Jan Niemiec** (14.03.1958-27.10.2020), PhD in history, Catholic auxiliary bishop of Kamensk diocese in Kamensk Podolski, Ukraine, resident of Strzyzow, has passed away. He collaborated scientifically with Prof. Jan Draus and W. J. Cynarski. He wrote, inter alia, a monograph of the Jesuit school in Chyrow [Niemiec 1998]. This Polish priest was decorated with: the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Cross of Freedom and Solidarity, and the Medal of the Centenary of Regained Independence.

Similarly, due to the pandemic, **Henri Courtine** (1931-20.02.2021), an outstanding French judoka, holder of the 10 dan degree awarded by one of the French organizations, has died. As has **Wojciech Zablocki** (December 6, 1930 – December 5, 2020), professor of architecture, outstanding fencer and sabre fighter, GM of the Zablocki School – an Old Polish fencing style. He was the first authority in Poland to receive the highest grade of 10 dan from the Fencing Commission and the IPA Dan Committee. He was probably the first Pole who wrote about iaido. In order to promote the Old Polish style of sabre fencing, he challenged the milieu of Asian martial arts affiliated with the Polish Martial Arts Federation. Wojciech J. Cynarski, representing Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu

kenjutsu, confronted him on behalf of the federation. A demonstration duel against sharp steel weapon took place in Warsaw in November 1992. Wojciech Zablocki then fought with a hussar sabre. This fencer was also a member of the European Nobility Club, in which he was awarded the Knight's Order of Homo Creator Nobilis (no. 2). For many years he cooperated with W. J. Cynarski and IPA, of which he was an honorary member. As an athlete, architect and weapons expert, he was the author of a series of books and articles. He also wrote and reviewed articles for our „Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology”. Thank you very much! [More: Cynarski 2002, 2021: 191].

Among other people who have passed away, though not because of the coronavirus, was a co-worker in our Editorial Office Prof. Dr *hab.* **Matthias von Saldern** (21.11.1953-28.09.2020; photo 1), a specialist in pedagogy and karateka (7 dan). He was the editor of a series of books on *Bushido*, *budo* and *karate-do*. In the series „Spirit – Technique – Body” he mainly emphasised the axiology and educational values of these Japanese martial arts [Sieber, Pawelec 2016]. **Jan Kallenbach** (1943-14.04.2021), a Dutch karateka, 7th dan Kyokushin karate, a teacher of *Taikiken* and *Yiquan kung-fu*, an important figure in the history of martial arts in Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries, has also died [Cynarski 2021: 82].



Photo 1. Plenary speech by Prof. M. von Saldern at the University of Rzeszów, Rzeszow 2006 [Cynarski 2012: 265].

The last of the deceased reported to us in 2021, was Teaching Master **Risuke Otake** (*Ōtake Risuke Minamoto no Takeyuki*, 10 March 1926 – 7 June 2021), a Japanese martial artist. He was a long time *shihan* of *Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu* – school of *bujutsu*, known also as *kobujutsu*, *kenjutsu* and *kobudo*. He was the author of a number of books [e.g. Otake 2016], and teacher of e.g. Donn F. Draeger. Today his son, Nabutoshi Otake, is the leader of his *dojo* in Narita.

Awards and Medals

Dr Mohamad Nizam Mohamed Shapie (9 dan in Malaysian *silat*) was awarded the **Medal for Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts** with the title Professor-Expert from the European Martial Arts Committee (EMAC). However, it has not yet been presented to him due to the pandemic. It was impossible in Putrajaya during the 9th IMACSSS Conference and Congress of Martial Arts. The same situation applied to the Medals of Honour and Merit of IMACSSS which were to be granted on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of IMACSSS. The following activists were rewarded: W. J. Cynarski, A. Figueiredo, T. Green, C. Gutierrez-Garcia, F. Nakiri, S. Raimondo, Z. Reguli, and A. Vences de Brito. It was impossible to present these medals in October 2020, and the 10th IMACSSS Conference in Chongqing, China, was organised online. Thus, the awards ceremony is likely to take place in Rzeszow next year.

A great distinction for the rector of the University of Rzeszow, Prof. Sylwester Czopek, was his election as chairman of the Committee of Pre- and Protohistorical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. In turn, Dr Krzysztof Warchol, a member of the IPA board, received the Minister of Education Award for outstanding achievements in the field of education (Warsaw, October 2020). Dr *hab.* Maciej Luczak and Dr *hab.* Zbigniew Borysiuk received the title of professor of physical culture sciences (Full Professor). It is the highest academic title in Poland. Prof. Luczak is a historian of physical culture and a member of the IPA Fencing Commission. Prof. Borysiuk is the vice president of IPA for science. Another IPA member – police major Tomasz Maczuga – defended his doctorate in physical culture sciences, obtaining this academic degree for his work: *The impact of coordination exercises on the level of special fitness of policemen* (Academy of Physical Education in Krakow, January 2021). This year, Piotr Pietrzak from the *Yoshin* Academy section in Rzeszow obtained his degree in physiotherapy. Many other people are working on their degrees.

Another board member of the Association – GM Stanislaw Cynarski, 9 dan – received the Medal of Honour „Warrior of the Noble Path / the Path of Truth” (no. 4). It was awarded to him by the IPA. Dr Zbigniew Sawicki received the Knightly Order „Homo Creator Nobilis”, awarded to him by the European Nobility Club. This took place during the IPA 28th General Assembly Commemoration Symposium – „Martial Arts and Combat Sports in Scientific Research” (Rzeszow, March 27, 2021; photos 2-3).

In May Dr Z. Sawicki (the founder of *Signum Polonicum*) received the Centenary of Independence Medal awarded to him by the President of Poland in Katowice. Our sincere congratulations. For the first time, the reviewers of our Journal were honoured. In the 2020 edition, the honorary diploma of the Outstanding Reviewer Award went to Howard Z. Zeng (USA), Leonid Podrigalo

(Ukraine), and Antonio Vences de Brito (Portugal). The IPA Dan Committee, Committee of Scientific Research, Shibu Kobudo, and Editorial Board include international members.



Photo 2. Medal of Honour „Warrior of the Noble Path / Path of Truth” and certificate for 5 dan *ido* for *shihan* Stanisława Cynarski, *hanshi*. Institute Hall of Physical Culture Studies.



Photo 3. The Order of Knighthood „Homo Creator Nobilis” for Dr Z. Sawicki. Rzeszow 2021.

The IPA works closely with several institutions in other countries. One of them is the German Chief Association of Martial Arts Instructors – DDBV (*Deutscher Dan-Traeger und Budo-Lehrer Verband e.V.*). It awarded the highest honours to deserving activists: the *Ehrennadel mit Halbkrantz* to Wolfgang Krotz and Thomas Wolfer; for 25 years membership, Volker Keul and Ditt-

mar Klaus received the *Ehrennadel in Gold* (Germany) [cf. Blumentritt 2019]. At the same time the School of GM Lothar Sieber (and DDBV) promoted some members to higher master degrees in kick-boxing (Winfried Laube for 9 dan, Heiko Hofmann for 6 dan, Christian Brandt for 1 dan); *jujutsu-karate Yoshin-ryu* (i.a. Thomas Gerold 8 dan, Wolfgang Krotz 6 dan, Siegfried Sedlmeier 6 dan, Christian Brandt 5 dan); and *Zendo karate Tai-te-tao* (Gerhard Jung 8 dan, Bodo Blumentritt 6 dan, Christian Brandt 6 dan) [DDBV Protocol, 2020].

The World Takeda-ryu Maroto-ha Federation (WTMF) awarded a number of higher master degrees and *menkyo* licences. These included: Nardo Carnicer, France, 4 dan *iaido*; Christian Barnavol, France, 8 dan *aiki-jujutsu*; Rene Pachurka, *shoden kyohan menkyo* in *sobujutsu*, and two other French instructors – Renoud Seguin and Arnaud Vangheluwe – the *okuden shihan* high licence [Aiki Goshindo Kaishi, 2021]. In IMAF (International Martial Arts Federation) the German leader of the organisation – *shihan* Hans-Dieter Rauscher – has obtained recently 8 dan in *kobudo* and *kyoshi*

The IPA has been active despite the handicaps connected with the pandemic. In March 2021 *Shihan* W.J. Cynarski received the 7th dan *kobudo*, with the certificate signed by *Hanshi* Harald Weitmann. Few Europeans have achieved similar or higher grades so far, apart from the masters who founded the Kobudo schools themselves and awarded themselves the highest grades. Stanislaw Cynarski obtained 5th dan *ido*, which is a higher category of martial arts mastery and evidence of training versatility. Further methodological and scientific studies are being implemented. New female members joined the IPA: Dr Malgorzata Skrzeta (physical culture sciences, fencing instructor), Dr Anna Wysokinska-Zajchowska (humanities – philosophy) and her foundation Kokoroe from Rzeszow and Ms Iwona Wiktorska (self-defence instructor) from Warsaw. Several IPA members have published research papers with IPA affiliation.

Chronicle and Conferences

On 5 October, 2020 the **Studio (Laboratory) of Martial Arts** at the University of Rzeszów started its work. Thanks to the Rector UR, Prof. Sylwester Czopek, it is a vehicle for research collaboration between UR, the Institute of Physical Culture Studies, IPA and the Yoshin Academy. Participants in practical studies include, among others Prof. W. J. Cynarski, Prof. Leszek Wozniak (Technical University in Rzeszow), Prof. Wojciech Czarny (for international coordination and research), and a number of other specialists. Importantly, psychophysical practices native to East Asia are related to the issues of **health** as it is broadly understood. This applies to both yoga-related martial arts and the observance of universal moral canons of a warrior of the Way [cf. Cynarski 2017; Di

Placido 2020; Cynarski, Yu 2021]. The systemic approach to health takes into account its moral and spiritual components. An important issue is the fact that new scientific knowledge is gained as a result of the research being undertaken. Thus, a person of the martial arts has to keep learning throughout their life. For example, it turns out that the previously-recommended supplementation of 1 g per day of vitamin C in the Method IPA 2009 (*bujutsu ido*) may cause kidney stones [Szewczyk, Parol 2019: 86].

A series of conference trips that could have been planned for autumn 2020 and 2021 did not take place. Individual scientific events were postponed or conducted online. The President of IMACSSS was unable to come into direct contact with Malaysian culture by visiting Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya. The pandemic prevented direct participation in this kind of martial arts event, when, due to the 10th anniversary of the IMACSSS and its 9th Conference, Putrajaya became the world capital of martial arts, and in particular, for research in the area of fighting arts for a few days. The *silat* sports tournament and the Gala accompanying the conference were accompanied by the presentation of the *Malaysian Seni silat* by GM Aminuddin Anuar 10 dan. Among the participants, there were a number of other high-ranking masters, such as the main organizer himself – Mohamad N. M. Shapie (9 dan).

The same was true for the Korean conference in **Busan** in November 6th, 2020. It was the **2nd International Taekwondo Conference at Youngsan University and iACT 2020 Conference**, „Taekwondo’s Past, Present, and Future Directions”. Prof. W. J. Cynarski was a keynote speaker with his lecture „Versatility and creativity: Cases of martial arts masters”, whose content went beyond Taekwondo WT and ITF. The leader of IMACSSS and IPA had also planned to visit the Museum of *Teakwondo Kukkiwon* Seoul, and above all, to meet people involved in martial arts research, mainly *taekwondo / taekwon-do*, and do it outside IMACSSS (for the time being). For this event there was only online participation for foreigners with direct participation only for those working locally. Visits to places important to the history of *taekwondo* have only been postponed.

The organisers and active participants in this interesting conference were Dr Udo Moenig, Dr Ronald Dziwenka, Dr John A. Johnson, and obviously, the authorities of Youngsan University. Among other participants were well-known specialist researchers, such as Allan Back and S. D. Capener (USA), Sanko Lewis (South Africa), Martin Minarik (Germany), Peter Ha, Gwang Ok, and Hyeongseok Song (Korea). As Dr Johnson pointed out in his acknowledgement speech: „The general consensus afterwards was that this year’s conference had the best researchers in the field giving the best presentations in the histories of International Taekwondo Conference at Youngsan University or the International Academic Conference for Taekwondo (iACT)” (November 8, 2020).

The two conferences are compared as shown in Table 1. The format was similar –mixed for the first time: partly with face-to-face participation, and partly online.

Tab. 1. Comparative characteristics of the selected conferences

Ordinal number	Distinction	Conference 1	Conference 2
1	Thematic profile	Fighting arts	<i>Taekwondo</i> & other fighting arts
2	Place / institution	Hotel	University
3	Form	Hybrid	Hybrid
4	Number of participants	Over 100	About 30
5	Number of papers	50 (3 days)	About 20 (1 day)
6	Scientific level	Relatively high	Relatively high

[Source: author's own research]

The thematic profile was also similar and the outcome of both these conferences was Abstract Books. However, the Busan conference was more focused on *taekwondo*. The event in Putrajaya, on the other hand, was larger, composed of Malaysian Silat competitions and the Martial Arts Gala. This brief comparative analysis uses the categories proposed in a similar study [see: Cynarski, Swider 2017]. It is worth mentioning that the event in Putrajaya was sponsored by a larger scientific society than the IMACSSS, which has been active since 2010. The conference in Busan was sponsored by the iACT, bringing together mainly *taekwondo* researchers from Canada, USA and Korea. It is a success for the organisers of both conferences that they maintained the high standard of the conferences of previous years [cf. Johnson 2018, 2019; Gutierrez-Garcia, Swider, Pawelec 2019].

Prof. Juliusz Piwowarski, member of the Board of IPA, organised the LIV CICA – **XV Security Forum** Krakow & the 15th Anniversary of WSBPI „Apeiron” conference (Krakow, 7–8 October 2020). This conference connected with the jubilee of the university was held with international participants. J. Piwowarski, rector of WSBPI „Apeiron”, has also recently published a book on security sciences. This is the second, completed edition of this important scientific monograph which is at the same time a textbook. It is devoted especially to the issue of the „security environment”. In its 260 pages we find references to various humanistic disciplines, but also to the Humanistic Theory of Martial Arts [see: Piwowarski 2020]. It is worth emulating the dynamism of this scientific activity by the rector of this school, despite the fact that we must now act in an objectively difficult pandemic situation.

On September 12, IPA elected authorities for the 2020-2024 term [Pawelec 2020]. The next General Assembly and **IPA 28th General Assembly Commemoration Symposium** (mentioned earlier) took place on

27 March, 2021. The President of the Organisational Committee and of the Scientific Committee was Prof. Cynarski. This Symposium took place under a sanitary regime, in the presence of a small group of high-ranking specialists with the agreement of the Rector of the University of Rzeszów.

Wroclaw, Poland (9-11.04.2021) – **3rd Wroclaw Chinese Martial Arts Congress**. 20 works qualified as oral presentations. Members of the Scientific Committee were: Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski, Prof. Thomas A. Green, and Dr Stefania Skowron-Markowska, the organiser of this Congress together with the Sinolog Scientific Circle. On the first day, members of the Scientific Committee had presentations. Interestingly, one panel was devoted to Polish fencing traditions.

Our American colleagues organised a round table session entitled „**Sport, Leisure, Life-and-Death: Towards an Anthropology of Martial Arts**”, with an open invitation for our IPA & IMACSSS members. It was on May 17, 2021 (Baltimore, USA).

Lille, France (27-28.05.2021) – The **15th JORRESCAM** (*Journées de Réflexions et de Recherches sur les sports de combat et les arts martiaux* – Days of Reflection and Research on Combat Sports and Martial Arts) continued the ideas and objectives of earlier events, the first of which was held in 1991. This year's theme was „Risks and Safety in Combat Sports and Martial Arts”. This year it was an online conference. The President of IMACSSS and IPA was a member of the Scientific Committee for this interesting event.

Chlapowo, Poland (1-8.08.2021) – **29th Summer Camp Idokan Polska** (IPA). Practical workshops about methodological and technical-tactical issues (*Idokan jujutsu*, *karate* and *kobudo*) were carried out by *shihan* W.J. Cynarski (*karate* and *jujutsu*) [photo 4] and *shihan* Stanislaw Cynarski (*kobudo* and *kenjutsu*) [photo 5]. The two of them practised *Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu kobujutsu* for another week as part of the Polish *Shibu Kobudo kenjutsu* workshop in Jastarnia on the Baltic Sea.



Photo 4. *Idokan karate and jujutsu*, Chlapowo 2021 [courtesy of E. Cynarska].



Photo 5. *Kenjutsu* practice. A fragment of *Haka-no tachi* [courtesy of S. Cynarski].

Tokyo, Japan (6-12.09.2021) – **54th Annual Conference of the Japanese Academy of Budo.** The Academy's headquarters are located inside the Nippon Budokan.

Tarnow, Poland (25.09.2021) – *gogyo-no tachi* – the higher school of Old Japanese fencing *kenjutsu* – was the topic of the seminar, in which *sensei* R. Salapski and S. Cynarski (students of Yukihiko Sugino) as well as W. J. Cynarski (student of Yoshio Sugino) participated.

Chongqing, China (14-17.10.2021) – **10th IMACSSS International Conference.** „Martial Arts, Combat Sports, and Mutual Learning of Civilizations in the Post-epidemic Era”. It was an on-line / off-line conference, organised by the College of Physical Education, Southwest University and Prof. Guodong Zhang. Over one hundred people attended and 64 abstracts were accepted; keynote speakers were Prof. W. J. Cynarski (*Facial hair and hairdo in selected warrior cultures and in today's mass culture*) and Prof. Guobin Dai (*Time images: Wushu's insight and embodiment of the essence of life*). There was also an IMACSSS meeting with an invitation to the next conference in Rzeszów.

New books and other publications

How many books have been published devoted to those Polish martial arts practised today? After the works of J. Starzewski [1932], W. Zablocki [2001] and R. Marsden [2015], and after four earlier books by him, Z. Sawicki has published a new book. It is devoted to the Old Polish tradition of *palcaty* (fencing sticks), which are a fencing exercise [Sawicki 2020a]. It is also his best book – a serious historical, scientific, and well-documented monograph. The author has dedicated it to Prof. W. J. Cynarski for supporting the international promotion of Polish martial arts. The latter, in turn, wrote a foreword to this book (pp. 5-6). It is an interesting synthesis of the state of knowledge taking into consideration many sources and existing studies. *Nota bene*, in scientific studies the issue of Polish traditional martial arts has not so far been

very widely analysed [cf. Cynarski 2008; Sawicki 2011, 2020b; Cynarski, Szajna 2012; Borysiuk *et al.* 2013].

The chivalric tradition of Christian Europe continues to fascinate and inspire. The relevant values stemming from this tradition have co-created the canon of the Idokan organisation (IPA) and those circles restoring chivalric traditions [cf. Cynarski 2017; Delag 2019]. The ethos of European, Christian chivalry is relatively rarely promoted by modern European cinema. The film adaptation of the novel by the Dutch writer Tonke Dragt is all the more valuable. „A letter to the king” is a Dutch costume adventure film directed by Pieter Verhoeff [2008]. This film depicts chivalric virtues, and the Catholic Church and churchmen are shown in accordance with historical reality rather than as caricatures, as is quite often the case.

The study of these indigenous European traditions is not well developed. As Demesy [2015] wrote, HEMA (Historical European Martial Arts) was undergoing a process of institutionalisation through the establishment of national federations. Sports federations and regulations have now been established, and sports fights are conducted under them, though the study of this cultural phenomenon is essentially limited to a few historical and sociological works [cf. Walczak 2011; Cynarski, Chala 2015; Demesy 2015]. It seems that the European Union and national governments are not particularly interested in promoting this wonderful cultural heritage.

Ancient times continue to inspire the creators of literature and of historical, adventure or fantasy cinema. A relatively new film about Hercules [Ratner 2014] refers to the beautiful myth. The noble hero was played by Dwayne Johnson. Ingrid Bolso Berdal played the role of Atalanta, a Scythian princess, archer and amazon. Is it a coincidence that the Scythian girl is played by an actress of Slavic beauty, a blonde? We do not know if the filmmakers were aware of the results of archaeogenetic research or the publications from the „Ido Movement for Culture” (they were published later than this film), or whether they showed an accurate creative intuition.

The new book by Juliusz Piwowski, (referred to above) contains a reference to the values of the noble way of the warrior. One of the internal threats, taken into account in the description of the security environment, is the crisis of traditional values. The strength of the **security culture** comes from „... ethical culture. It allows, as a material of the first stream of security culture, to avoid risks which are brought in by the crisis of values” [Piwowski 2020: 66]. He goes on to write that as a consequence of the failure to understand the meaning of life, threats to (social, national) security appear – „... the invasion of fashion for inherently mundane consumerism results in the ideas which constitute the meaning of life starting to be treated superficially, even contemptuously by humans, or – what is worse – they do not function at all in the consciousness of some indi-

viduals". [Piwowarski 2020: 79]. The universal path of self-perfection (The Way) can be a kind of lifeboat. It is also a way to lower aggressiveness and raise people's level of self-control [Czuba, Blazejewski 2020].

And how does the somewhat 'classic' martial arts cinema function? We have recently marked the 80th anniversary of the birth of Bruce Lee (1940-1973), who revolutionised martial arts cinema and influenced the shape of today's understanding of martial arts. What is more, he left two important books – *Chinese Gong Fu* (published in 1963) and *Tao of Jeet Kune Do* (1975). In 1989, a film entitled „Kickboxer” was produced, starring a young Jean-Claude Van Damme [DiSalle, Worth 1989]. Years later, in what appeared to be a follow-up, Van Damme appeared in the film „Kickboxer: Vengeance”, where he played a master teacher. [cf. Garbaczewski 1993]. It is a bit like the film version of *Trilogy* written by Henryk Sienkiewicz and directed by Jerzy Hoffman, where the Polish actor Daniel Olbrychski plays Asia Tuhajbejovich in one part and his father, Khan Tuhaj Beja, in another. However, „Kickboxer: Vengeance” is not a sequel, but a different version of the story shown in 1989. In the latter version the brother trains to take revenge for his brother in a direct fight with the cruel Tong Po [Stockwell 2016]. The plot is mainly set in Thailand. Thai barefoot fighting techniques and the now popular MMA, and elements of krabi krabong are shown. Larnell Stovall was the fight choreographer. *Manga* also finds its place in film. In the film *Battle Angel Alita* (science fiction), the female android protagonist fights brilliantly, especially with her excellent high kicking techniques. The vision of the future here, however, is rather bleak [cf. Rodriguez 2019].

Polish cinematography has achieved quite a lot in sports cinema [Wierski 2014]. In Konrad Maximilian's new film [2019], the title fighter is an MMA fighter. A confluence of strange circumstances leads him to fight for the world title in professional boxing, in which he has to endure 12 rounds. So it is more of a „boxing” or fighting arts genre film than martial arts. It may not be an extraordinary piece of work, but it is good enough.

Prof. Wil Munsters [2021] in his new book outlines an interesting synthesising approach to cultural tourism. However, the typology proposed in it lacks reference to a tourist's active participation in a given cultural practice, as is the case with **martial arts tourism**. There are sometimes two attractions adjacent to each other in one tourist destination, for example Emei martial arts practising and Emei Mountain tourism –both types of activity [cf. Wang 2021].

And are there echoes of the first monograph devoted to this kind of tourism? That book, *Tourism of Martial Arts: Social-Cultural Perspective* [Cynarski 2020] presents a picture of this specific phenomenon. After two earlier reviews in scientific periodicals mentioned in the review article published on these pages [Blach *et al.* 2021], there are two more reviews. Dr Krzysztof Kubala,

former General Secretary of IMACSSS, provided a review in the popular science monthly journal of the University of Rzeszow. He has written that Prof. Cynarski is the creator of a new interdisciplinary concept of martial arts tourism, which enriches scientific knowledge especially in the field of cultural tourism [Kubala 2020]. While on the pages of the European Journal of Tourism Research, Dr Christopher S. Dutt pointed out that the author of this book indicates directly the subjectivity of the selection of individual examples.

„... The author does not make any false attempt to convince the reader that his collection is by any means all encompassing, and is quite open to his potential subjectivity, making for a more sound and appropriate read.

Starting with a historical description of martial arts practice and research, Cynarski then -proceeds to provide insights on the geographic spread of martial arts tourism, the types of participants, different types of martial art, martial arts trips as case studies, and the role of martial arts in sport and science tourism. The descriptions are vivid, clear, and very interesting to those who study or practice martial arts” [Dutt 2021: 2].

An interesting Special Issue on this subject has also been published. It is the Special Issue of the „Sustainability” journal on the „Socio-Cultural Perspective for Martial Arts Tourism and Motor Recreation Research”. In particular, a team of authors including A. Figueiredo, W. Blach, Z. Bujak, R. J. Maroteaux, and W. J. Cynarski, who are also European masters of 7-10 dan, have written an interesting article [Figueiredo *et al.* 2020]. It was created according to their own experiences and the experiences of other Grand Masters of high degrees (8-10 dan). The work: *Martial arts tourism of the "Europe—Far East" direction, in the opinion of Grand Masters* shows that martial arts tourism can be useful in professional activity both in martial arts and combat sports.

However, this thematic edition was only partially successful. The publisher rejected (contrary to the opinion of the guest editor) several very good papers as not fitting into the adopted for the publishing, ideological or marketing policy (?). Out of a larger number of submitted papers, only 8 articles were published. As a result, there is no thematic e-book based on the submitted papers.

Under the auspices of UNESCO, as part of one of its programmes, a book, a kind of album entitled *Traditional Martial Arts as Intangible Cultural Heritage* was published in the *Living Heritage Series*. It contains nicely illustrated essays devoted to selected varieties of traditional martial arts. In particular, there is a description of folk wrestling in Central Asia [Vorontsov, Korobeynikov 2020], the little-known but still cultivated Old Polish fencing [Sawicki 2020b] and the phenomenon of „vernacular martial arts”, which is expertly presented from an anthropological-cultural perspective by Thomas A. Green [2020]. Some traditional martial arts, like Indian

kalaripayat, are an attraction for tourists visiting Kerala. However, this would usually be passive participation, spectating, rather than the tourists themselves practising the art.

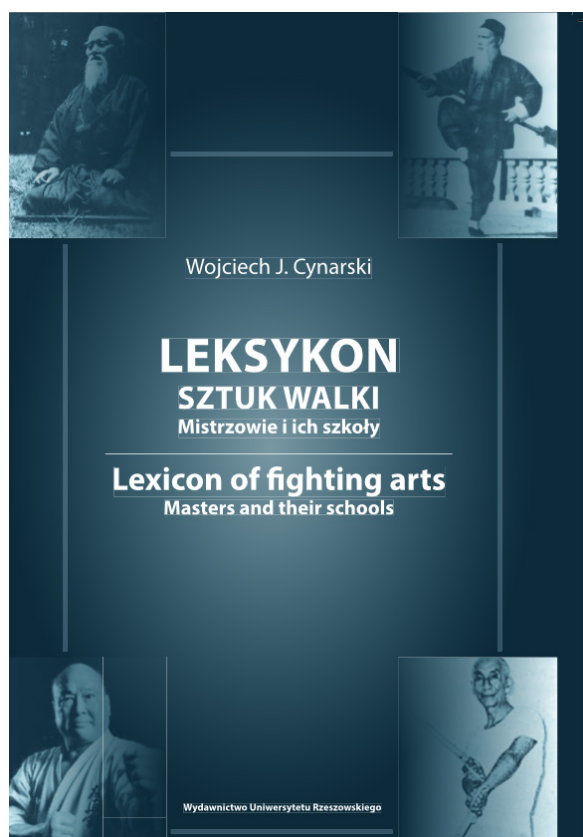


Photo 6. Cover of the new book – *Lexicon of Fighting Arts*, Rzeszow 2021.

This newly published, bilingual lexicon (pictured below) introduces martial arts masters-teachers and schools [Cynarski 2021]. It is an outline of the history of martial arts and its main protagonists, not only the well-known ones. The cover is decorated with images of selected prominent masters (Masutatsu Oyama, Morihei Ueshiba, Wang Zi Ping, and Yip Man, also representing *budo* and *wushu*) [photo 6], as if they were guardians of the cultural heritage of martial arts. The reviewer was Prof. Keith R. Kernspecht, who himself is a Grand Master of high rank and an expert with many years of practice in various varieties of martial arts (see: Appendix no. 1). The publisher of this book is Rzeszow University Press and it constitutes volume 31 in the publishing series „Lykeion Library” [see: www.imacsss.com]. The content covers 208 pages, and numerous photographs illustrate selected entries. At the same time it is a factual account of the issues of recent history, the process of **institutionalisation**, and indirectly of **martial arts tourism**. Other authors similarly also present numerous pictures from various travelling meetings of martial arts experts in their books [cf. Sikorski 2009; Kernspecht 2014: 334-357]. The lexicon gained the recognition of the Grand Masters, cooperating with the Editorial Board of

the „Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology”.

As happens every year, a book was published in a cooperation between the Warsaw Academy of Physical Education and the Salesian Sports Organization of the Republic of Poland, which series was created by Prof. Zbigniew Dziubinski. Its content views the social sciences of physical culture or the humanities of this form of culture. This time it is a collection of 30 papers on the topic: *Physical Culture and Institutionalization* [Dziubinski, Jasny 2020], the outcome of the 28th Symposium attended by 44 people (Warsaw, 12.12.2020). Two chapters are devoted to the topic of fighting arts. In the study *Institutionalization in modern martial arts* (pp. 340-349) W. J. Cynarski explains that, for example, „modern kobudo” (apparently modern „old martial ways” is an oxymoron) makes sense and is practised in reality. L. Muniowski, on in the second explains the consequences of professional contracts in the most important MMA organisation using Erving Goffman’s category of „total institution” (pp. 152-160). In contrast, the bulk of the content of this book is concerned with competitive sport and Olympism.

The practice of fighting arts is still taking advantage of the achievements of sports science. The biomechanics developed in sports science is being applied to a new method of teaching safe falls and injury prevention called *Teacher Ball Ukemi* [Kubacki, Bolociuch, Rauk-Kubacka 2020; cf. Erdmann, Zieniawa 2011]. An outstanding trainer of this style Dr Zbigniew Bujak, 8 dan, has been responsible for shaping physical fitness, especially the special fitness needed in *taekwon-do* (ITF version) His book contains the results of his own research towards developing a master model and optimising training in this Korean martial art [Bujak 2019]. The research communities of individual fighting arts are merging and interesting monographs are being produced. For example, there is a comprehensive study (364 pp.) on *taekwondo* – its practice, research, spiritual side – edited by J. Johnson [Kim, Back 2020]. In turn researchers of wrestling have prepared the *UWW Omnibook of Wrestling Sport Science and Medicine* with 20 chapters. The Editors are David Curby and Babak Shadgan.

The training of police officers or officers from other uniformed services is not often the subject of research, or if they are, the results are not made public. Therefore, all the more valuable, and at the same time interesting, is the study devoted to teaching police officers technical skills in self-defence, published in the „Physical Activity Review” [Maczuga, Cynarski 2021]. The first author – Dr Tomasz Maczuga – is an expert and trainer in the field of hand-to-hand combat, intervention techniques, the use of telescopic batons, etc., with many years of practical experience. This article describes an innovative training method.

Other important events

At this time of pandemic threat, masters such as Prof. Keith Kernspecht (internal *WingTsun* have been teaching remotely). Prof. Cynarski has, from time to time out of necessity, had to teach remotely, even such a practical subject as self-defence. Many scientific meetings were held online. The AIESEP organisation organised a coffee with colleagues' meeting on 19 January 2021 via Zoom on the topic: „PE teacher education trends in East Asia”. Speakers from Korea, Japan and Taiwan were invited. Were there any references to local martial arts traditions? Unfortunately, there was nothing of this sort.

An interesting international anti-pandemic initiative was: „Break For A Breakthrough” – a test to break standard boards to help to mentally strengthen martial arts people stranded at home by lockdown. The Canadian taekwondo master Kevin Olsen was the originator and organiser of this, on Zoom.

The president of IMACSSS & IPA was invited to participate in the following events: the 21st Annual International Conference on Sports: Economic, Management, Marketing & Social Aspects, May 10-11, 2021, Athens, Greece; the „International Conference on Novel Physiotherapies, Physical Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine” in **Singapore City**, Singapore on June 07-08, 2021; the „WCE-2021”, also in **Singapore**. He was invited to give a speech at the “4th Annual World Congress of Education 2021”, which should have taken place in Singapore June 16-18, 2021. The World Congress of Education 2021 (WCE-2021) was intended to provide a professional platform for educators from all over the world to share and exchange their ideas, experiences, innovations, methods and successful stories in the work of education. The committee invited world-known educators, presidents of well-known universities and licensed agencies etc. The three-day conference comprises a wide-range of topics including National Education Leadership, Disruptive Edu-Tech, Preschool Education, Primary Education, Higher Education, Vocational Education, Quality Education, Medical and Health Education, International Education, Foreign Language Education, Education Investment, and others. Other events included: the virtual TOURMAN 2021 International Scientific Conference „Restarting tourism, travel and hospitality: The day after” organised by the International Hellenic University (on Zoom), 21-23 May, 2020 in **Greece**. The organiser was Dr Christou Evangelos. The next conference took place from 2-4 September 2021 at La Sorbonne, **Paris** –the International Conference on „Movement and Cognition”. Kinesiological-psychological and neurological analyses seem to also be an interesting direction for research in the area of martial arts & combat sports. And the 11th World Congress on Drug Addiction and Rehabilitation Therapy was held from October 20-21, 2021, also in **Paris, France**. The main theme of the conference

was „Exploring latest Innovations in Drug Addiction and Rehabilitation”.

Prof. Cynarski was also invited to the Conference Committee of the „Orthopedics and Rheumatology World Forum”, December 02-04, 2021 in **Frankfurt, Germany**. The theme for this meeting was „New Revolutions and Enrichments of Orthopedics and Rheumatology”. The other invitations were to **Tokyo** and the 3rd International Conference on Innovative Studies of Contemporary Sciences (February 19-21, 2021 in Tokyo, but online); the International Diamond Open Access Journals Conference, April 13-15, 2021, in cooperation with Elsevier, **online**. And to the 2nd International Health Care Summit scheduled to be held in **London, UK** from 23-24 August, 2021. The conference focus on the theme “Leading the Better Way to Better Health Care”. President Cynarski was also invited as an Honourable Speaker as he was for the „Global Conference on Public Health 2021” (September 16-18, 2021, **Brussels, Belgium**). And, as a member of CORPUS, he was invited to the 12th International Symposium of CORPUS: Humankind and Fat – Attraction, Repulsion, Health and Politics; **Timisoara (Romania)**, October 27-29, 2021. CORPUS is the International Group for the Cultural Study of the Body, and the host organiser was the Centre for Applied Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Victor Babes in Timisoara.

Summary

The activity of the fighting arts, in scientific study and in practice although hindered by the pandemic, is being successfully implemented. In Rzeszów the synergy effect has been strengthened by the activity of IPA, IMACSSS, Yoshin Academy and Rzeszów University. The review of events and publications gives a picture of the situation around the fighting arts with accent on scientific research, conference meetings and more interesting (for various reasons) publications. There may already have been an overabundance of on-line activities forced by necessity. So it is to be hoped that we can soon return to pre-pandemic normality. And in October 2022 the next IMACSSS Congress is to be held in Rzeszow.

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Appendix no. 1.

From the publishing review written by Prof. *emeritus*,
Dr *habil.* Keith R. Kernspecht,
President of EWTO, Hockenheim (Germany)

On the Lexicon by Prof. Cynarski

The LEXICON by Prof. Dr *habil.* Wojciech J. Cynarski presents a current comprehensive collection of **FIGHTING ARTS & MASTERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS**.

Prof. Dr. Cynarski's detailed research offers access to rich information about honorable highly ranked masters from various styles, who promote and develop Martial Arts beyond the borders of their own schools and organizations. The connoisseur and the novice alike in the field of Martial Arts can profit greatly from the lexicon in various ways:

It creates (for example) the basis for national and international networking, exchange of tradition/knowledge and provides quality-standards for professional, well-educated teachers and their students.

Prof. Cynarski also pays tribute to his colleagues by summing up the current results of their *status quo* in the word of science AND martial arts. His work presents personal stats about schools & teachers – including historical facts about their origin in combination with scientific excerpts, short summaries about training in general and teaching schedules plus training methods.

Resulting from this research the user of the lexicon gets an indirect impression about the status quo of the "who is who" and describes the well-earned right of being legitimate member of (their) the Martial-Arts-Family-Tree (heir) and being and becoming member of professional scientific circles.

Consequently, it would be very worth printing and publishing a hard cover version of the lexicon and present it to the community as a proof of the manifold legacy of the achievements in martial arts to spread and multiply the noble idea of collaboration and networking, to unite and inform masters / teachers from different styles and families.

Kronika nauki około *fighting arts* 2021

Słowa kluczowe: sztuki walki, studia sztuk walki, Droga, tradycje rycerskie, turystyka sztuk walki, nowe książki, wydarzenia

Abstrakt

Tło. Wspecjalizowane stowarzyszenia oraz aktywność / działalność jednostek współtworzą teraźniejszość *fighting arts*, której faktografia staje się przyczynkiem do najnowszej historii tego fenomenu. Zapewne warto więc opisywać zdarzenia, wyjaśniać je lub oceniać.

Problem. Celem poznawczym badania jest tu opis i analiza środowiska sztuk walki i sportów walki ludzi i instytucji naukowych, którzy działają w tym obszarze. Badanie dotyczy miasta Rzeszowa, Polski i Europy Środkowej, oraz szerszej skali międzynarodowej. Dokonano przeglądu wydarzeń naukowych i metodyczno-szkoleniowych oraz nowej literatury przedmiotu.

Metoda. Główną zastosowaną tutaj metodą jakościową jest badanie wielu studiów przypadku, zarówno opisowe, interpretacyjne, jak i oceniające. Dane gromadzono między październikiem 2020 r., a październikiem 2021. W wielu przypadkach współautorzy byli uczestnikami / bezpośrednimi obserwatorami wydarzeń. Publikacje i inne materiały były oceniane przy użyciu metody analizy treści.

Wyniki i wnioski. W krótkich recenzjach wskazano i oceniono szereg wydarzeń, a także szereg publikacji, interesujących z punktu widzenia profilu tematycznego naszego czasopisma. Sytuacja środowiska sztuk walki i sportów walki, i badaczy tychże jest na bieżąco monitorowana za pomocą dokumentacji opisowej i/lub fotograficznej.