

Judo: A Cultural History of Martial Art – Public Lecture

# Out of the East: The Early Introduction of Judo to the UK

Dr Mike Callan

Associate Professor

Department of Psychology, Sport and Geography

International Judo Research Unit

University of Hertfordshire

# Abstract

- Judo, developed in Japan in 1882 by Jigoro Kano from a synthesis of forms of unarmed martial arts, soon spread internationally. It made its way to the UK, and was popularised in the music halls, receiving a boost due to an interest in 'Things Japanese' following the Russo-Japanese war.
- This talk explores the introduction of judo to the UK around the early part of the twentieth century. Drawing on archival material from the Bowen Collection at the University of Bath, it focusses on the chronology of the characters and context that led to the adoption of the 'gentle way'.

# Things Japanese

- Basil Hall Chamberlain (1850 – 1935)
- Professor of Japanese at Tokyo Imperial University
- Lived in Japan 1873 – 1911
- 1890, 'Things Japanese'



What is termed *Jūjutsu* is a separate art, and ranks higher in aristocratic esteem than the ordinary wrestling (*Sumō*) practised by the fat wrestlers.

It's principles, like those of so many Japanese arts, were formerly handed down as an esoteric secret from teacher to teacher; But the leading idea has always been clear enough - not to match strength with strength but to win by yielding to strength, in other words by pliancy.

Things Japanese - 'Wrestling' (1904. 5<sup>th</sup> edition p.513)

# Out of the East

*Lafcadio Hearn*

- Lafcadio Hearn (1850–1904), went to Japan in 1890 to teach English
- Friend of Basil Hall Chamberlain
- 1891, Hearn obtained a teaching position at the Fifth High Middle School in Kumamoto, where he spent the next three years
- The headmaster was Jigorō Kanō
- 1895 the book 'Out of the East' with a chapter 'Jiu-jutsu'





I remember that I was not a little astonished when one of the greatest teachers of jiu-jutsu\* told me that he found it extremely difficult to teach a certain very strong pupil, whom I had innocently imagined to be the best in the class.

On asking why, I was answered: “Because he relies upon his enormous muscular strength and uses it.”

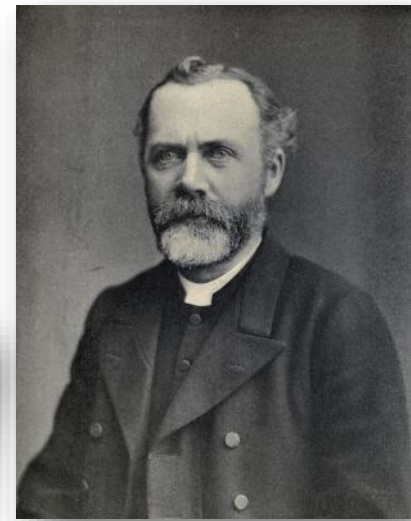
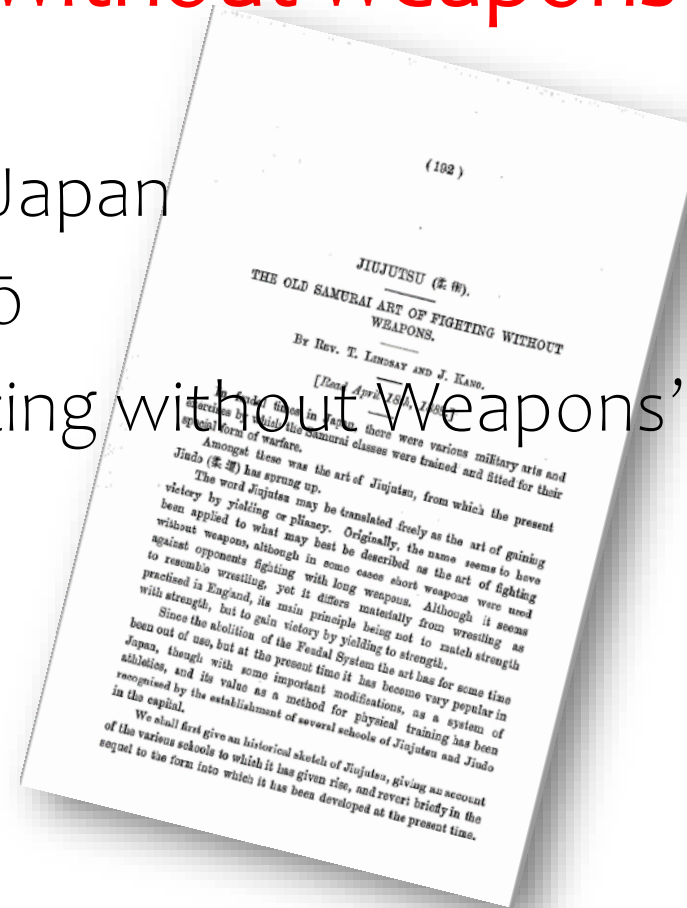
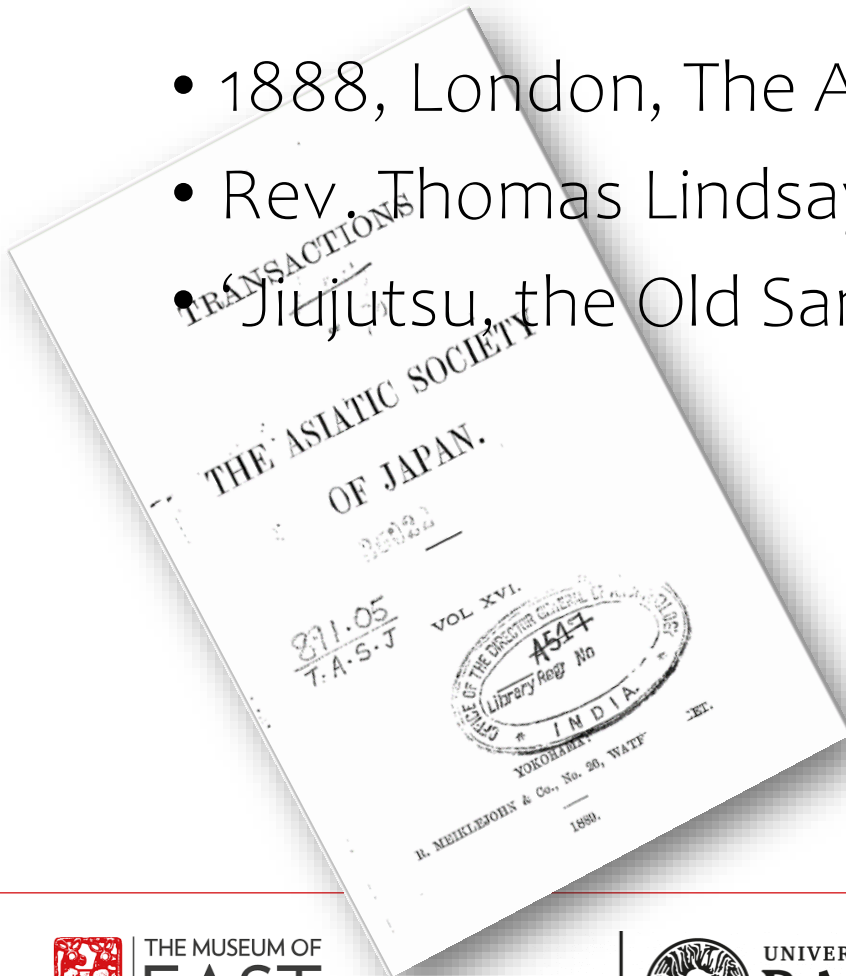
The very name ‘jiu-jutsu’ means *to conquer by yielding*.

\*Kano Jigoro

Out of the East. p139

# The old samurai art of fighting without weapons

- 1888, London, The Asiatic Society of Japan
- Rev. Thomas Lindsay and Jigorō Kanō
- 'Jiu-jutsu, the Old Samurai Art of Fighting without Weapons'



# Jujitsu: The Ancient Art of Self Defence by Sleight of Body

- 1892, London, inaugural meeting of the Japan Society
- Tetsujirō Shidachi (1867–1946), prominent Japanese banker and judoka
- ‘Jujitsu: The Ancient Art of Self Defence by Sleight of Body’

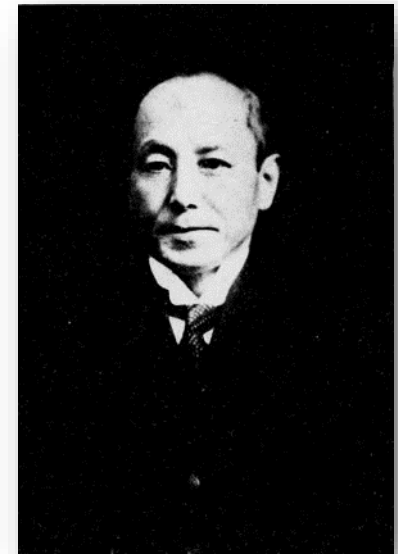




# Jujitsu: The Ancient Art of Self Defence by Sleight of Body

- The Birmingham Daily Post, April 22, 1892

M.P., will preside.  
The inaugural meeting of the first session of the Japan Society will be held on the evening of to-morrow week, in the hall of the Society of Arts, when the Japanese Minister to England (Viscount Kawasé), who is the president, will take the chair and deliver an inaugural address. Mr. T. Shidachi, secretary to the Bank of Japan, Tokio, will then read a paper upon "Ju-jitsu," which was the ancient Japanese art of self-defence by sleight of body; and this he will illustrate by practical demonstrations, in which he will be assisted by Mr. Daigoro Goh, one of the honorary secretaries. To add to the attractions of this inaugural evening, objects of interest from Japan will be exhibited.  
I learn that at the anniversary meeting of the



# Jujitsu and Judo: The Japanese Art of Self Defence from the British Athletic Point of View

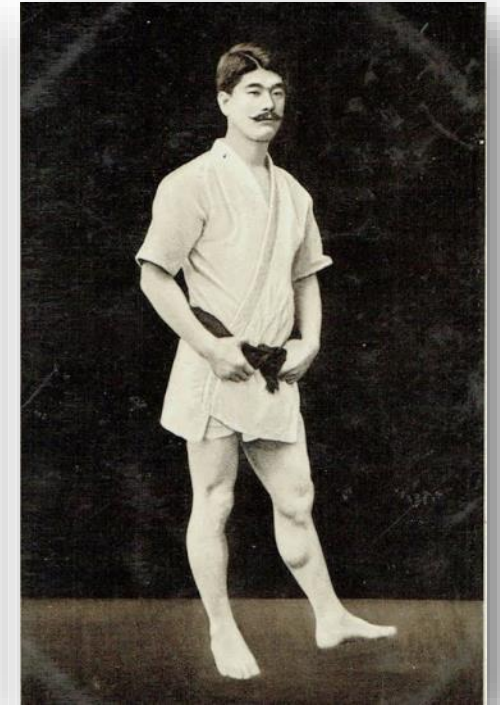
- 1901, London, The Japan Society
- Edward William Barton-Wright (1860–1951)
- Had worked in Japan
- Lecture, Jujitsu and Judo: The Japanese Art of Self Defence from the British Athletic Point of View
- Adapted ‘the Japanese method’ for the British man in a suit, carrying a walking stick
- Created ‘Bartitsu’ as in ‘Barton’s Jiu-jitsu.’ in 1899



# Edward William Barton-Wright (1860–1951)



- Barton-Wright invited Yukio Tani and Sadakazu Uyenishi to the UK
- Teach at the Bartitsu school
- Perform in the music halls.





# SANDOW'S MAGAZINE

OF

PHYSICAL CULTURE

AND

BRITISH SPORT.

VOL. VIII.

JANUARY TO JUNE, 1902.

LONDON:

HARRISON & SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

1902.



Illustrated by R. NOEL POCKOCK.

"WHAT is Bartitsu?" asked the Person-who-draws-the-pictures, as we walked down Regent Street.

"Bartitsu and Jujitsu," I began, with a refined Japanese accent.

"Caught a chill?" enquired the person.

"No; why?"

"Thought you were sneezing," said he. "Go on."

But truth to tell I could not go far; for it was with the intention of learning, so please the Fates and Mr. Barton-Wright, that I attended the Tournament which was recently promoted by the latter, and held at the St. James's Hall on December 11th last, with a view to placing before the public a scientific exposition of his much-discussed system of self-defence—Bartitsu.

It cannot be said that the conduct of the Tournament was a matter for congratulation to those concerned in its organisation. And, to anticipate for the moment, though a good evening's sport was eventually obtained, we did not learn much about Bartitsu. The hall is large and was fairly well filled, particularly as regards the unreserved seats, where a lusty and expectant throng filled every available corner.

Everything comes to him who waits. The audience did that. Further, they indulged in occasional cat-calls, frequent references to the statement on the programme that the tournament would begin at 9 p.m. punctually, and instructive comments upon the personality of first comers among the spectators. Also, they whistled.

"The first item of the programme, ladies and gentlemen, will be the third." This was the announcement eventually made from the platform by Mr. Barton-Wright, whom we had never suspected previously of Irish tendencies. Elucidated, the remark meant that the third event on the printed programme—a display and bout between Instructor Pierre



fighting with walking-sticks.

Vigny, world's champion, and Mr. Noel, both of the Bartitsu School of Arms, illustrating the Bartitsu methods of self-defence with a walking-stick—would be taken first.

Enter, then, M. Vigny, tall, well set up, and muscular, walking-stick in hand, to give a preliminary demonstration of the various cuts and parries used in walking-stick play. It is difficult to describe his entertaining performance. The Person-who-draws-the-pictures opined it was an Irish jig (with shillalah). The man behind me was firm in the belief that it was a demonstration of a new method of signalling, and that the demonstrator had been sent on to the stage to "make the best terms he could with the Boers." The gentleman in front of me came to the conclusion it was a life-like imitation of Sousa conducting his band. At any rate, it was quite nice and pretty to watch.

The bout between M. Vigny and his pupil, Mr. Noel, was more instructive. A display of veritable fencing pyrotechnics, it served admirably to illustrate the variety and rapidity of execution which marks the game. On the same principles, broadly speaking, as single-stick play, there is this important difference: both hands can be used to grasp the stick (like a quarter staff) for a parry, while the weapon, in

offence, can be shifted from hand to hand with lightning speed. Rapidity and variety of motion are the two main features of the play; and it is evident that in practised hands—practised to an almost fanciful extent—a walking-stick may be made a very pretty and useful implement of both offence and defence.

Next on the programme came a display of Bartitsu wrestling methods, by Mr. Barton-Wright's two Japanese exponents of the art, Uyenishi and Tani. The latter have been performing in public so recently in London that many readers of SANDOW'S MAGAZINE will be familiar with their peculiar style, which should be regarded, be it noted, not so much as a form of sport, as a means of self-defence. Very picturesque figures the Japs made as they walked on to the stage, their slight but well-knit frames robed in loose and baggy native costume, Uyenishi with a "vaccination mark" between his shoulders, as a



Japs wrestling; one lies on his back and kicks.

neighbour of mine in the audience saw fit to describe the peculiar red Japanese symbol embroidered on his tunic.

The performance commenced with an exhibition of the various falls practised under Bartitsu rules, which, briefly, allow you to dispose of your opponent in the most summary and convenient manner. The display was ingenious, certainly, but in the absence



Down again. Japanese wrestling.



# Variety Theatres (The Era, October 20, 1900)

To a select audience of newspaper men at the Alhambra on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Barton Wright explained the meaning of the terms "Jujitsu" and "Judo"—two kinds of Japanese wrestling. Jujitsu, literally translated, means fighting to the last. In this style of wrestling, ground wrestling with the legs (and not with the arms as in Judo) is considered a very important factor.

Mr Wright recognised that the leg is a very important factor and however strong no chance if he attempted to use his arms as against legs. Nearly all the throws are made with the

Throttling, also, forms an important factor in this style. There are a great many different ways of doing this; but a trained exponent, through practice, makes his throat so strong that it is quite impossible to throttle him, and he is, therefore, quite safe against garrotting. A great many of the throws are done by allowing your adversary to throw you, and then to throw him whilst you are in the act of falling.

**OWING to an accident having occurred to the principal performer of the Japanese art of "Jujitsu," this wrestling entertainment will not be presented at the Alhambra on Monday next, as announced.**

THE other school of Japanese wrestling with clothes on is called "Judo." In this style all the throws are done in a standing position, and ground wrestling is not indulged in—it being considered that a clean hard throw upon the pavement ought to be sufficient to place an adversary hors de combat. The two Japs, who were introduced by Mr Barton Wright, are wonderful

short are extremely celebrated Jiyataro Iwama of Japan. They are very smartness, and their performance on the stage is an attempt to strangle the strength of his throat. The audience made the attempt to strangle his throat, but the

Jap threw them all off easily and without in any way being harmed. The exhibition had to be curtailed in consequence of an accident to one of the Japs, and for a similar reason an illustration of self-defence in a "rough-and-tumble" by a couple of Englishmen, one of whom is an expert in the use of a walking-stick, had also to be omitted. One of the Japs—an eight-stone man—succeeded easily in throwing a fourteen-stone member of the press, who stood merely on his defence.



THE MUSEUM OF  
**EAST**  
ASIAN ART

The Library



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**



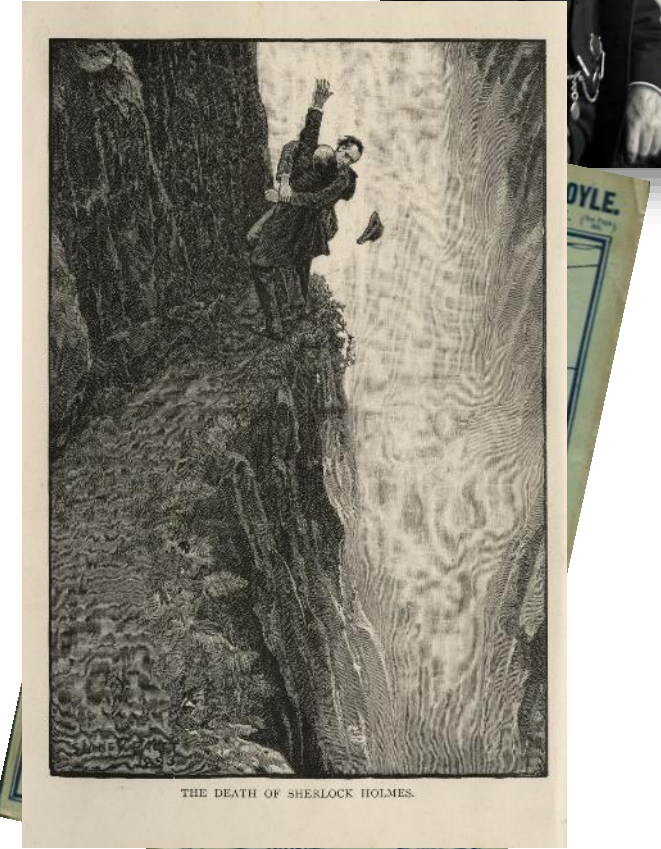
University of  
Hertfordshire **UH**

International Judo  
Research Unit  
*i-dōjō*



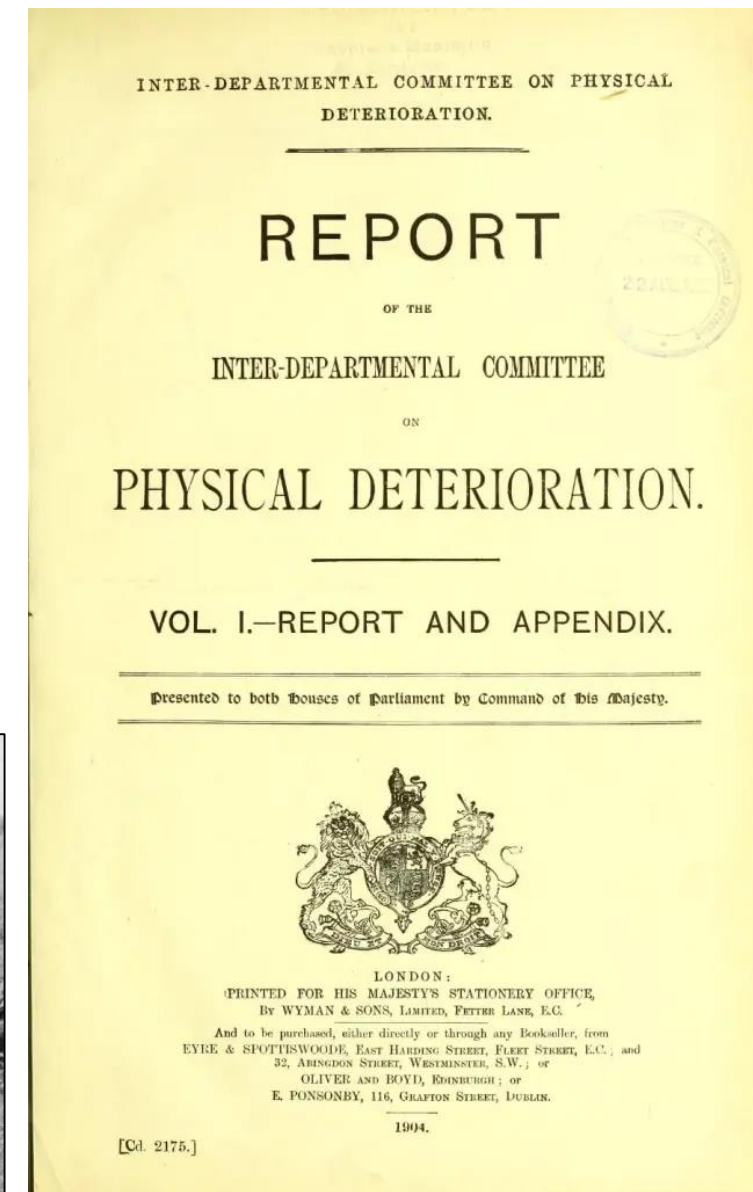
# The Adventure of the Empty House

- Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930). Author of Sherlock Holmes
- 1903 Conan Doyle revived Holmes in 'The Adventure of the Empty House'
- Holmes explained his victory over Professor Moriarty in their struggle at Reichenbach Falls
- "baritsu, or the Japanese system of wrestling, which has more than once been very useful to me".



# Fitzroy Report 1904

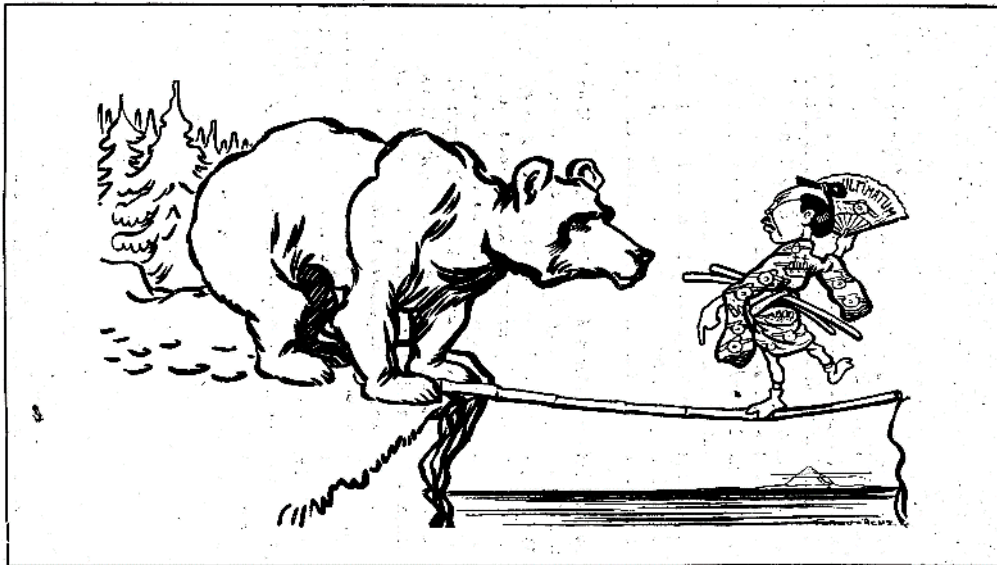
- 1902 Following the end of the second Boer War
- The British government appointed an Inter-Departmental Committee to investigate why so many would-be recruits had been in poor physical condition.





# The Russo-Japanese War (1904–5)

- Jiu-jitsu a buzzword throughout the British Empire
- Led to the Jiu-jitsu Boom in Britain



Vakmerő váltakozás.






# Kara Ashikaga School of Jiu-jitsu

AUGUST 31st, 1905. SANDOW'S MAGAZINE.

## VICTORIOUS JAPAN.



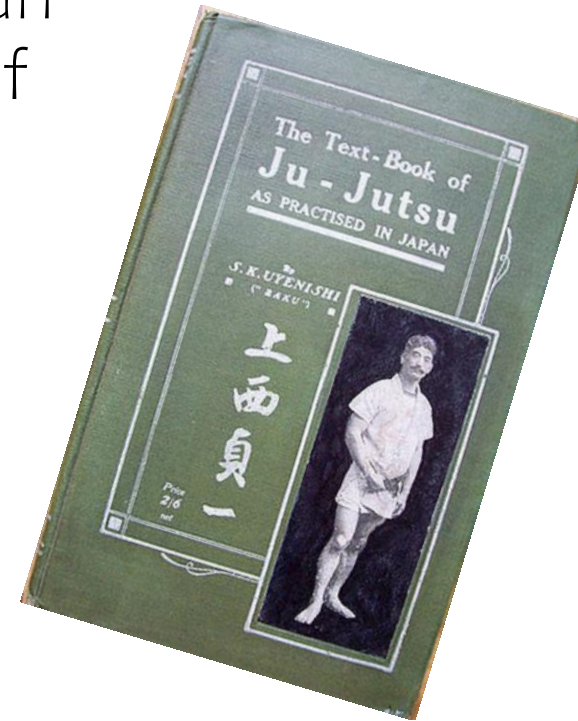
JIU JITSU is the most wonderful system in the world of all-round physical culture and self-defence. It has made the Japanese, though small of stature the Greatest Athletes in the world, and made them the superiors of Western people in health, endurance, vitality, and cheerfulness of temperament. JIU-JITSU was for hundreds of years the closely-guarded secret of the powerful samurai, hereditary fighters of Japan. Strategy and skill are its basis. A mysterious art of self-defence by which the well-trained Jiu-Jitsian, man or woman, is able to meet and defeat at all points the fistic expert much larger and stronger than themselves. The weaker man, if skilled in JIU-JITSU, is able to vanquish his stronger, but unversed opponent. TAUGHT BY POST with perfect success. Mr. Kara Ashikaga, of Tokio, has arranged a correspondence course, which completely and successfully teaches this marvellous system by post. It develops health, strength, and endurance. It positively cures constipation, dyspepsia, indigestion, corpulency, loss of vitality, and improves the mental capacity. In order to show how marvellous this system is, we will send explanatory booklet, full particulars, and

**ONE LESSON FREE,**  
which teaches one of the numerous Japanese methods of defeating a dangerous assailant,

**THE ASHIKAGA SCHOOL OF JIU-JITSU,** 10, Electric Buildings,  
Maryland Street, Liverpool.

# Kara Ashikaga School of Jiu-jitsu

- Gunji Koizumi initially visited the UK in 1906
- In 1906 Koizumi was briefly engaged as an instructor at the 'Kara Ashikaga School of Jiu-jitsu' in Liverpool
- He met Uyenishi Sadakazu (Raku) and Ohno Akitaro (Daibutsu), who were performing in the music halls





# Piccadilly School of Ju-jutsu

- Uyenishi introduced Koizumi to William Garrud
- Koizumi moved to London to teach at the Piccadilly School of Ju-jutsu in Golden Square
- There Koizumi taught alongside Uyenishi, Ohno, Mitsuyo Maeda and Yukio Tani.
- Ohno and Maeda introduced Koizumi to Kōdōkan judo



# Piccadilly School of Ju-jutsu


**THE PICCADILLY SCHOOL OF JU-JU-TSU.**  
 THE WONDERFUL JAPANESE ART OF SELF-DEFENCE & PHYSICAL TRAINING.  
**31, GOLDEN SQUARE,  
 PICCADILLY CIRCUS, W.**  
*(Through Glasshouse St. and Sherwood St. from Piccadilly, and through Beak St. and Upper John St. from Regent St.)*  
**BOXING, FENCING, WRESTLING, CLUBS. GYMNASTICS also taught.**  
**JU-JU-TSU METHODS, against BOXERS, WRESTLERS, LA SAVATE, ETC.**  
 Chief Instructors—Prof. S. K. Uyenishi (Raku) and Prof. W. H. Garrud (Proprietor).  
 Lady Superintendent—Enith Garrud.

**Some reasons why you should learn JU-JU-TSU.**  
**BECAUSE:**

- 1—Ju-ju-tsu is the highest grade of strategy. It is a means for defeating the strong by science, skill and cunning.
- 2—The strongest men of to-day can be more easily "put to sleep" than was Samson of old—even by a little woman, if she has some knowledge of this "Gentle Art" of the wonderful Japanese.
- 3—Ju-ju-tsu is a safer and more effective means of self-protection than a pistol, club or knife, and will defeat anyone using either against you.
- 4—It is a perfect defence against the use of fists and all the ordinary forms of wrestling.
- 5—It will make you healthier in every particular, and will increase the mental and physical capacity.

**Prof. GARRUD'S book on "COMBINED SELF-DEFENCE AND ATTACK,"**  
 Comprising numerous Tricks in Ju-ju-tsu, Boxing, Wrestling, La Savate, Sticks, etc. Also Ju-ju-tsu versus Boxing, Wrestling, etc. Will be sent to any Address for Seven Penny Stamps Post Free, or can be had for Sixpence on application at my School.  
*A complete type-written and illustrated Course of Instructions comprising all the most valuable Tricks and methods in Ju-ju-tsu, Boxing, Wrestling, Sticks, etc., and showing how these can be combined, has been composed by Prof. Garrud. Price on Application, enclosing Penny Stamp.*  
 Complete PROSPECTUS OF TERMS, Etc., on personal application to the School, or on receipt of Penny Stamp.

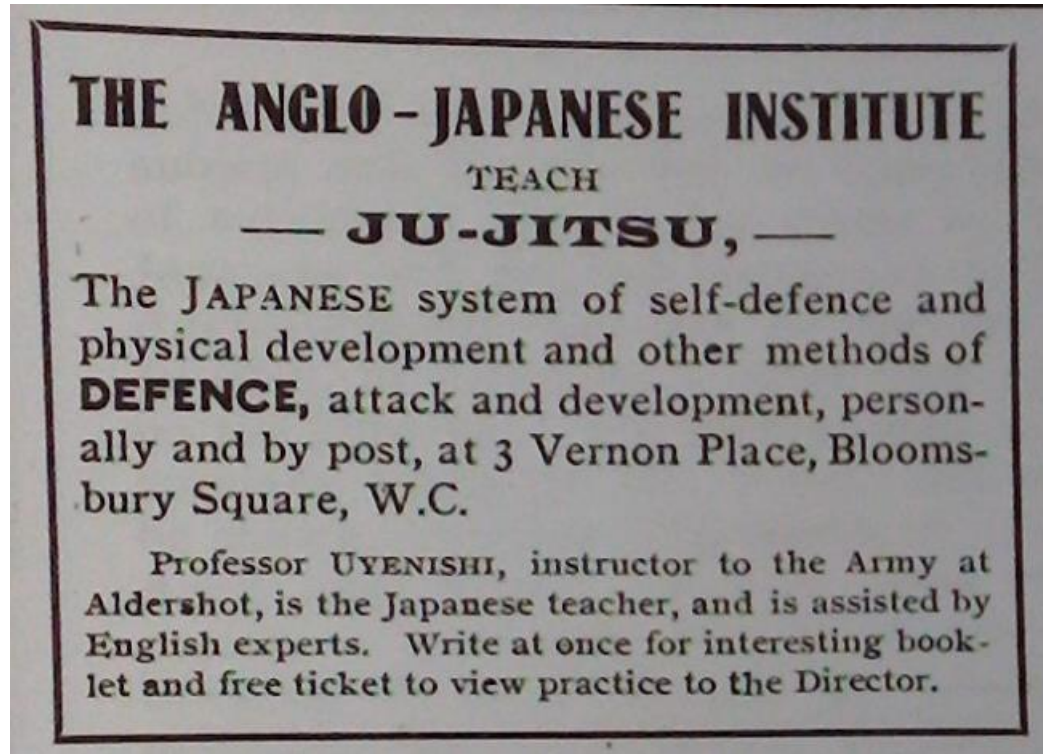
*Open Daily in the Year round.*  
*"It is the only school in the world where the student can learn the art of self-defence, and the art of attacking, and the art of the most powerful and most effective of all weapons, the human body."*






# The Anglo-Japanese Institute

# Japanese School of Ju-jitsu



- Sandow's Magazine, August 31, 1905



INSTRUCTORS OF THE JAPANESE SCHOOL OF JU-JITSU.  
MR. COLLINGRIDGE. MR. HIRANO. MISS ROBERTS. MR. McDONNELL. MR. HOBDAV.  
MR. KANAYA. MR. EIDA.

# Kata taught personally and by post



**KATA**

OR  
JAPANESE SELF-DEFENCE.  
Taught PERSONALLY  
and by POST.

—  
No Fancy Fee.  
A Manly Exercise.  
A Valuable  
Accomplishment.  
Easily Learnt.  
—

Send postcard for full  
particulars to "KATA,"  
528 WEST GREEN RD.,  
London, N.

How to deal with Hooligans and  
Street Roughs.

*Mention "Sandow."*



# Cambridge University

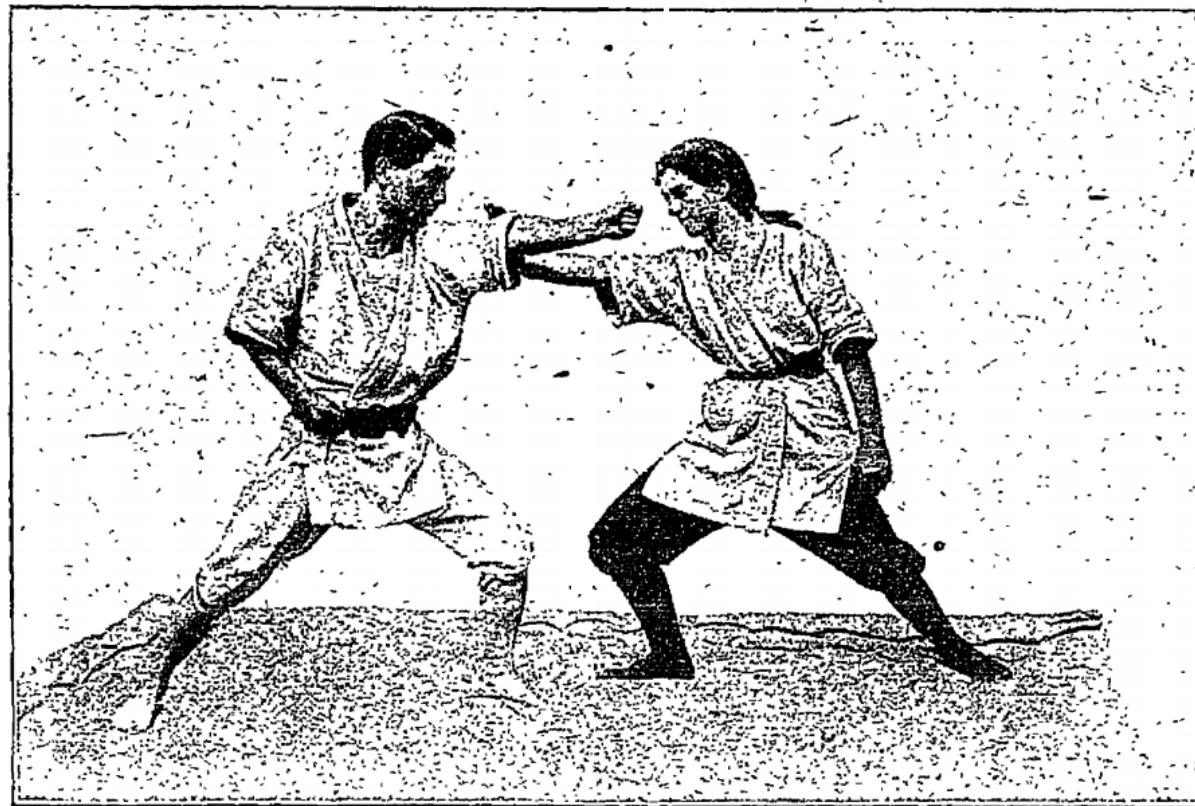
December 30, 1905.

THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER.

Mr. C. W. Walker-Tisdale on "Points about Churning," Mr. R. E. Turnbull on "Our Milk Supply," and Mr. W. W. Glenny on "The Garden Farm: Its Possibilities and Probabilities." The price remains at the moderate one of 6d., post free 8d. Messrs. Vinton and Co., Ltd., 9, New Bridge Street, London, E.C., are the publishers.

## Ju-Jitsu.

Newnham, St. Margaret's Hall, and Girton are going to introduce Ju-Jitsu, says a writer in the *Sunday Times*. This is a matter of congratulation, as, besides being very fascinating, this (to us) novel accomplishment has several useful advantages. It teaches great quickness of brain, eye, and muscle in conjunction, a training which can only be beneficial, and how delightful the feeling of assurance of any girl who knows she can, in whatever unforeseen circumstance, protect herself as ably as (it used to be supposed) the stoutest prize-fighter. Unlike most athletics for girls, Ju-Jitsu does not overdevelop the muscles, or in any way spoil the graceful symmetry of figure which is woman's best inheritance. Physical strength is not necessary, quickness and knack are the elements required for success. Both these accomplishments can be professionally taught to anyone; but, of course, the person who thinks and moves quickly learns her lesson easier.

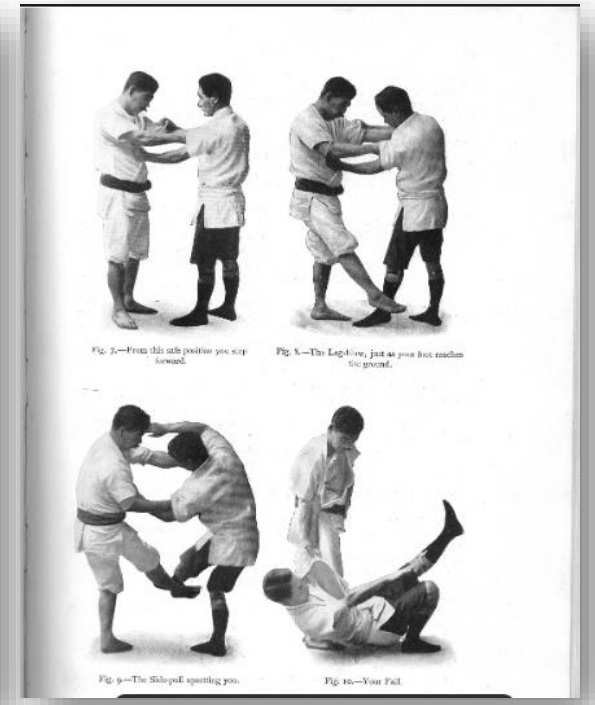


Photo, London.



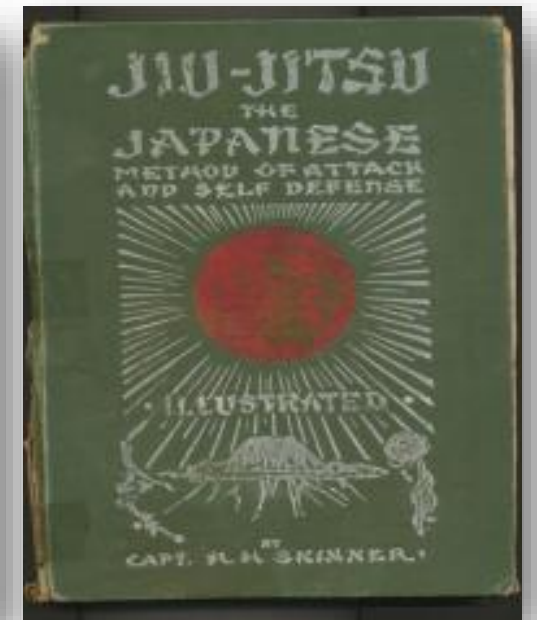
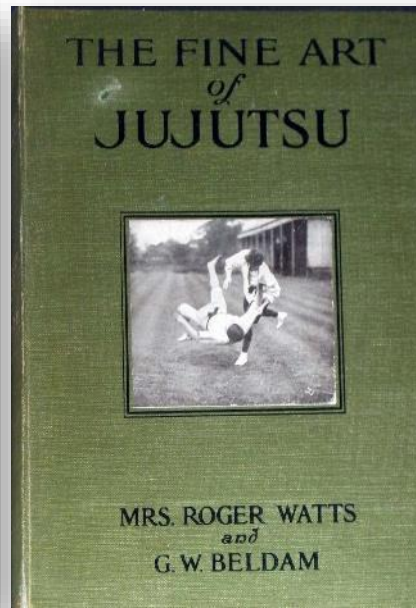
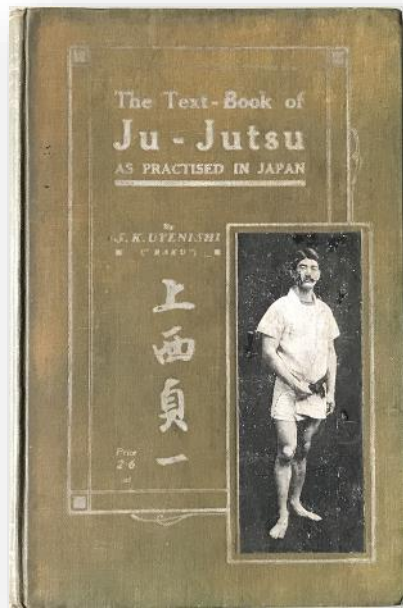
# Several books published

- Tani and Miyake (1906)
- The game of ju-jitsu for the use of schools and colleges



# Several books published

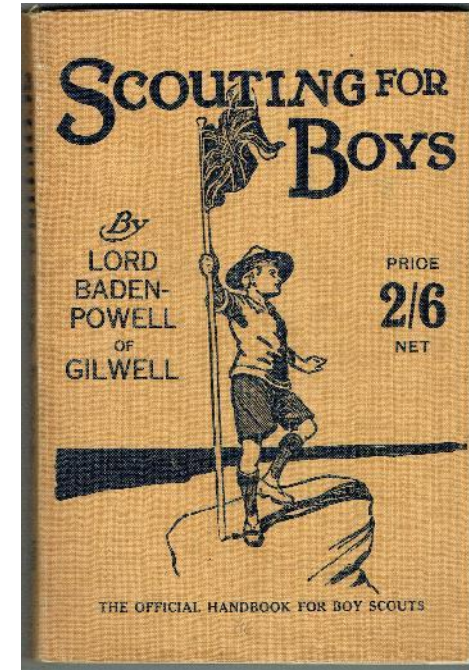
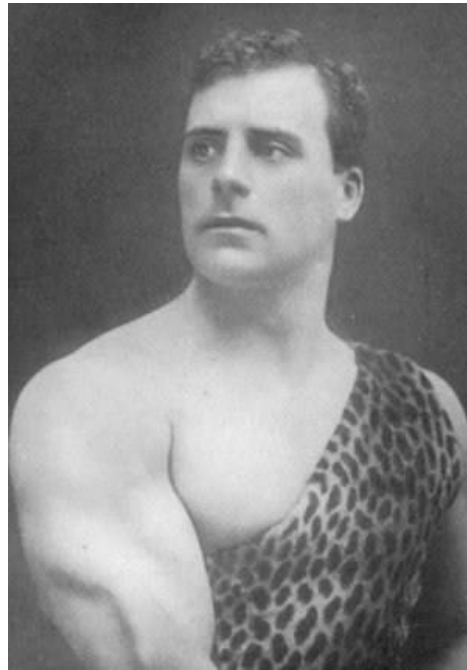
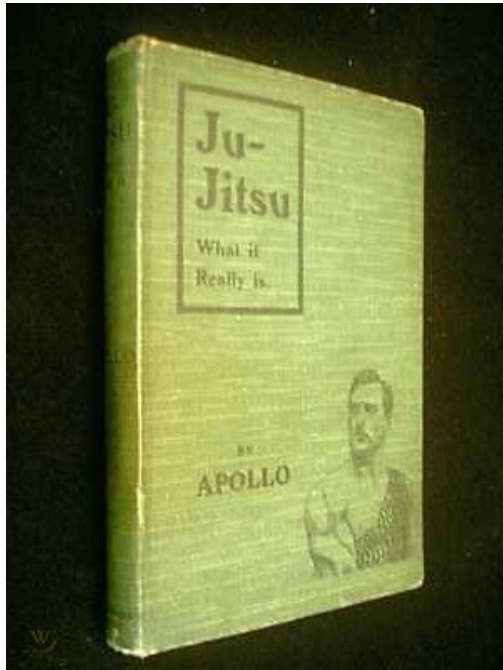
- Uyenishi (1906) The text-book of ju-jutsu as practised in Japan
- Watts (1906) The fine art of jujutsu
- Skinner (1904) Jiu-jitsu the Japanese method of attack and self defense





# Books published

- Apollo (William Bankier) (1905) Ju-jitsu what it really is
- Baden-Powell (1908) Scouting for boys



“By Ju-Jitsu, the muscles and body are developed in a natural way in the open air as a rule. It requires no apparatus, and once the muscles have been formed by it they do not disappear again when you cease the practices as is the case in ordinary gymnastics.

Admiral Kamimura, the great Admiral of our friends the Japanese, strongly recommends all young men and lads to practise Ju-Jitsu, as it not only makes them strong, but also quick in the mind.”

Scouting for boys (1908) Lord Baden Powell

# Koizumi Gunji

Koizumi had previously visited the UK in 1906 – 1907

Returned from America in 1910

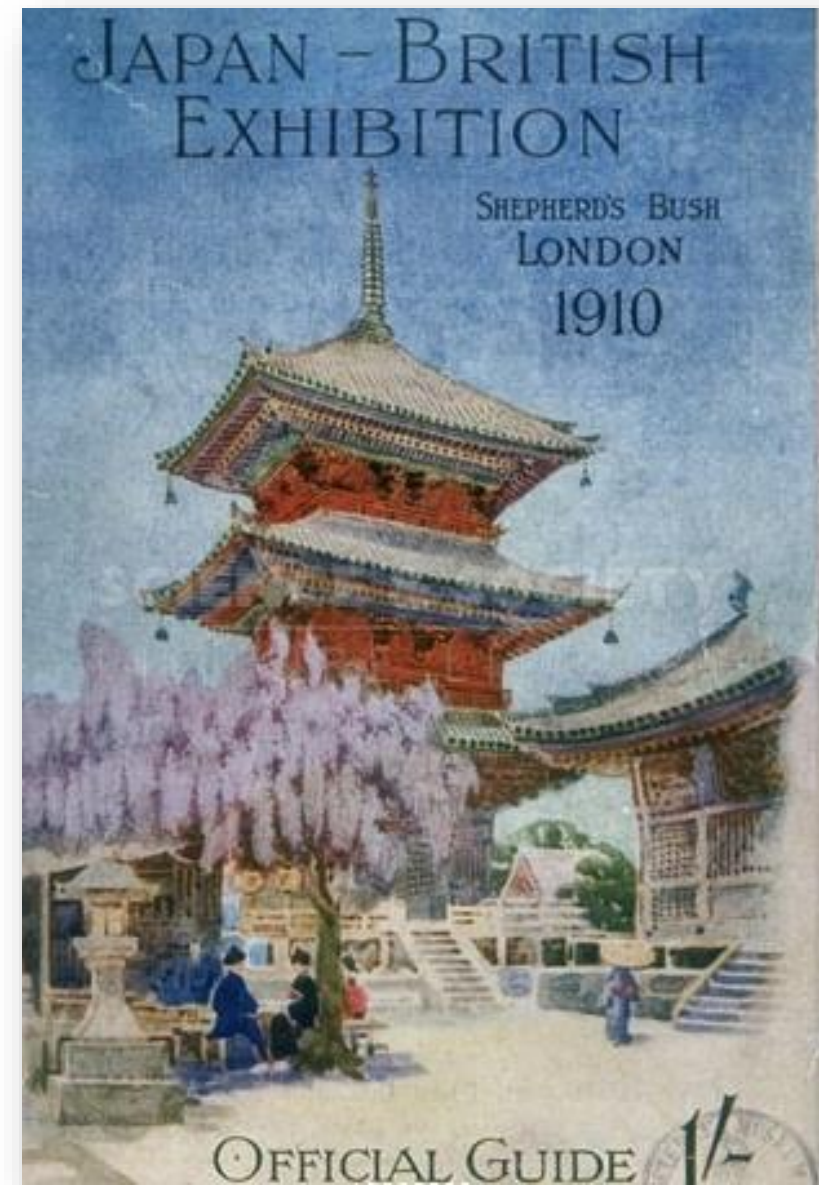
Just before the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition in White City.





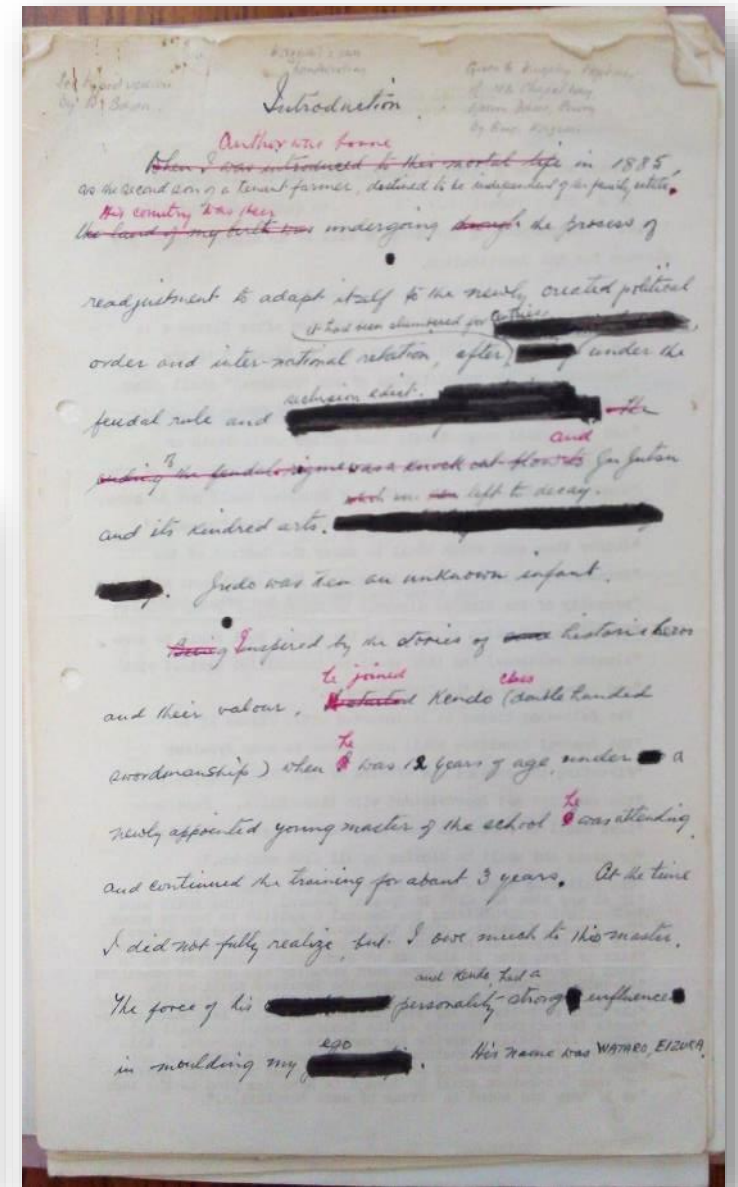
# Anglo Japanese Exhibition 1910

- Ohno and Koizumi – Japanese wrestlers



# Koizumi Gunji

- Handwritten autobiography
- Alien Registration Card
- Held in the Bowen Archive





Author was female

~~When I was introduced to this mortal life in 1885,~~  
as the second son of a tenant farmer, destined to be independent of the family estate.

~~This country was the~~  
~~the land of my birth was~~ undergoing ~~through~~ the process of

readjustment to adapt itself to the newly created political

order and inter-national relation, after [redacted] under the

feudal rule and <sup>reclusion edict.</sup> [redacted] The

And  
during the feudal regime was a knock out blow to Jintan  
and the feudal system fell to decay.

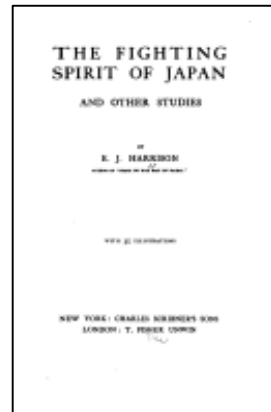
and its kindred arts.

Judo was then an unknown infant.



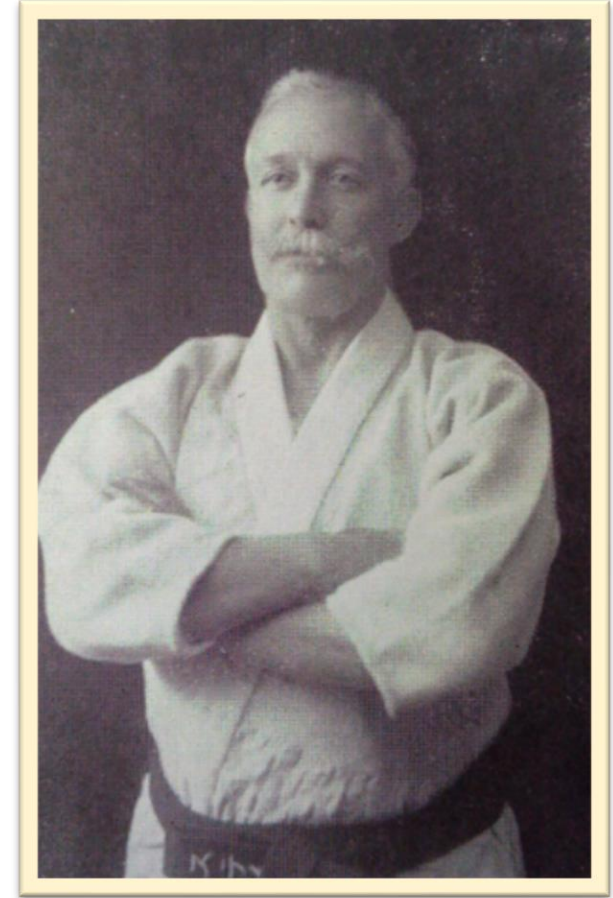
# Ernest Harrison

- Studied Ju-jutsu (Tenshin Shinyo-ryu)
- In 1897 at the Hagiwara Ryoshinsai dōjō, Yokohama
- Moved to Tokyo and joined the Kōdōkan
- Achieved shōdan at the Kōdōkan.



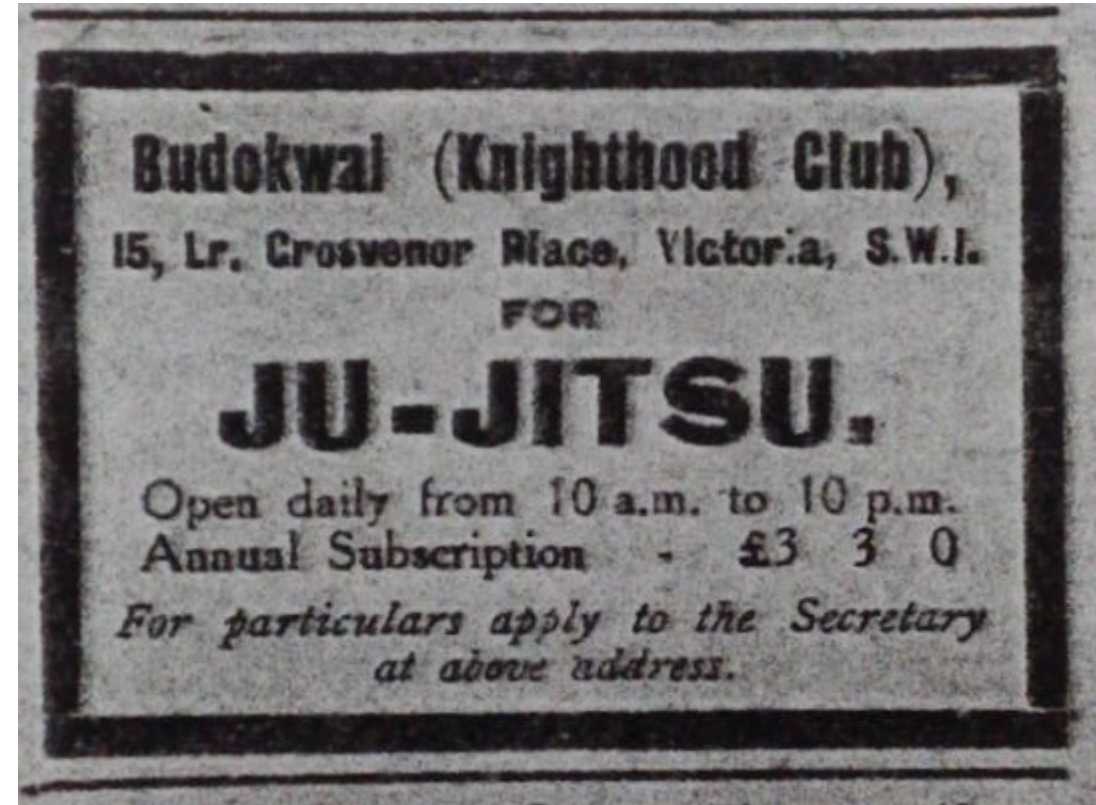
# William E. Steers

- Steers had met Koizumi at the Golden Square School in 1906
- During a visit to Japan in 1912 he was awarded shōdan by the Kōdōkan aged 55
- He joined the Budokwai on 29 November 1918
- By the end of the year had taken on the role as Honorary Secretary
- Encouraged the fledgling society to adopt Kōdōkan judo



# Advertising

- In the initial months, the Budokwai did not use the term judo
- An advertisement in Health and Strength states: 'Budokwai (Knighthood Club) for Ju-jitsu'
- Archival material, shows how the principles of the society changed.



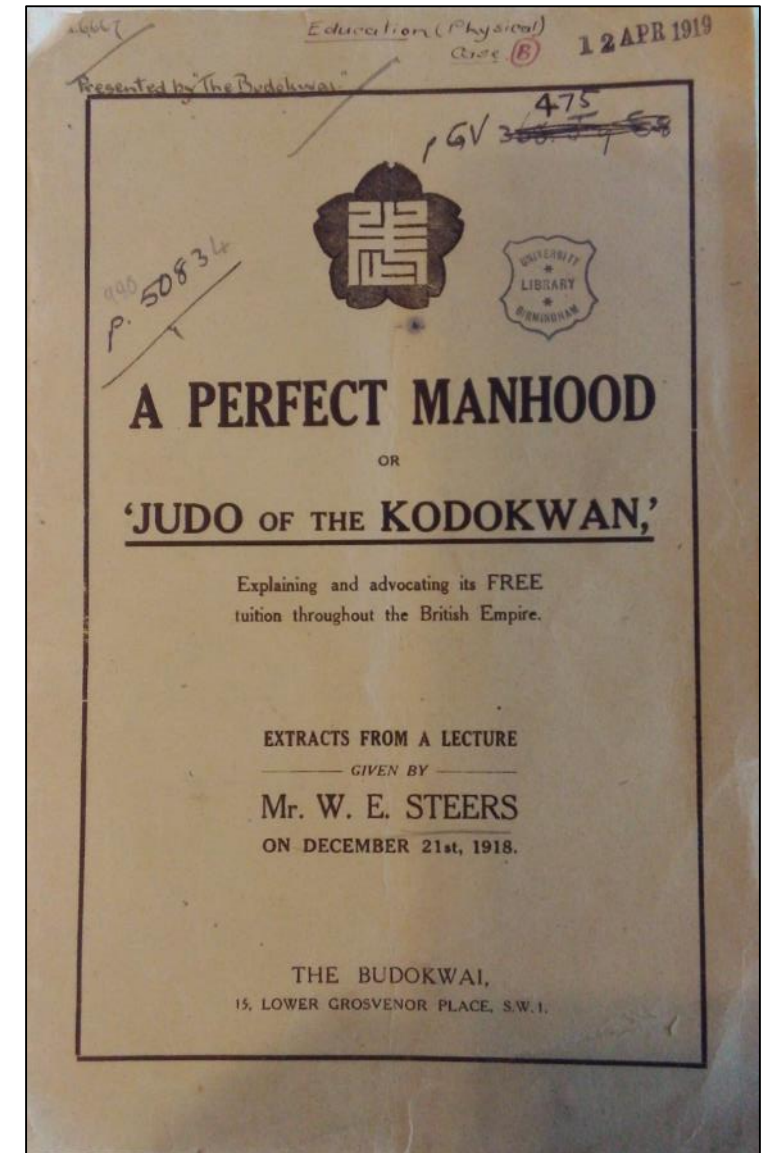


# A perfect manhood

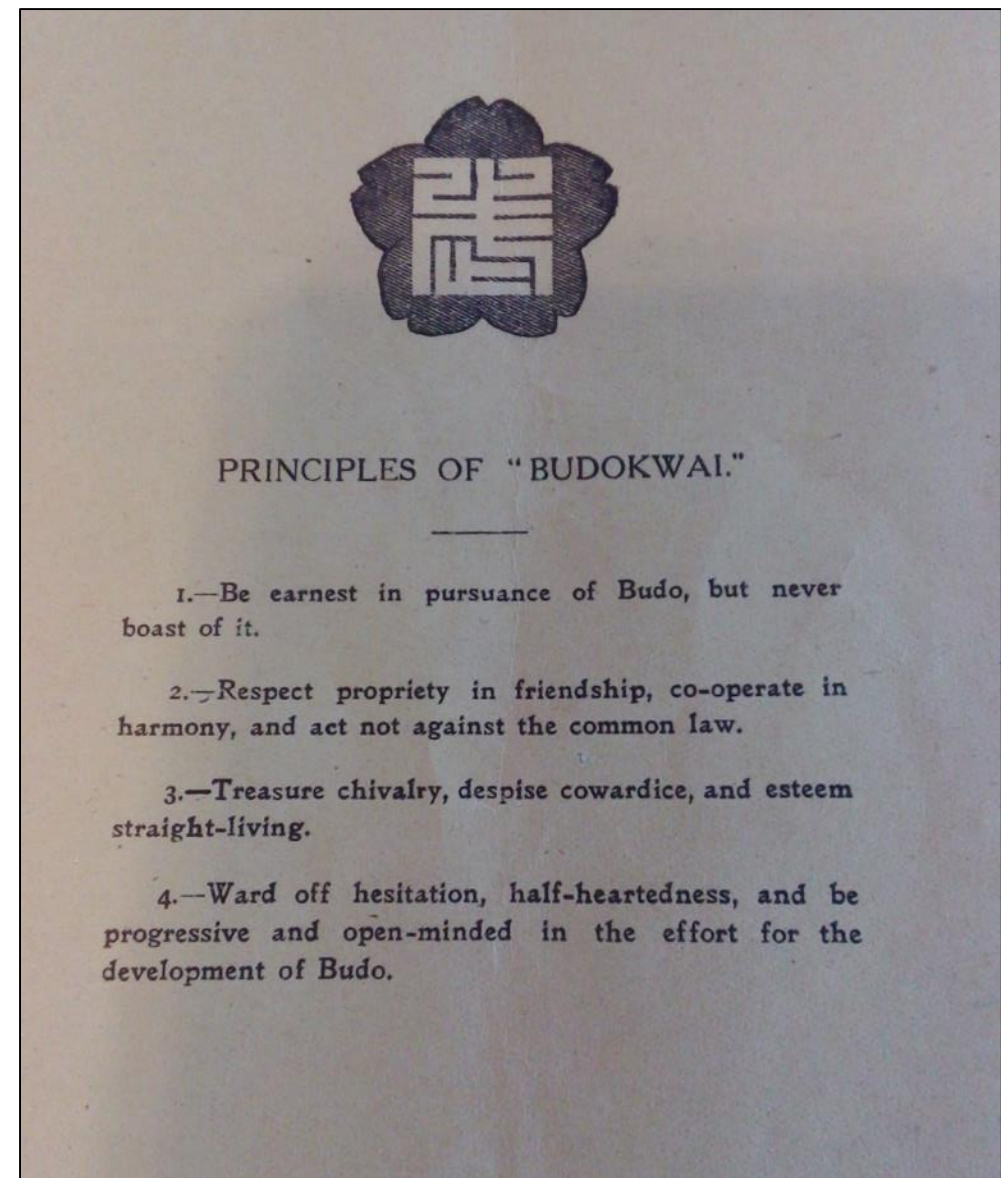
On 21 December 1918, Steers gave a lecture at the Budokwai

‘A perfect manhood and judo of the Kōdōkan’

The lecture was heavily promoted and was reported in the Sunday Times



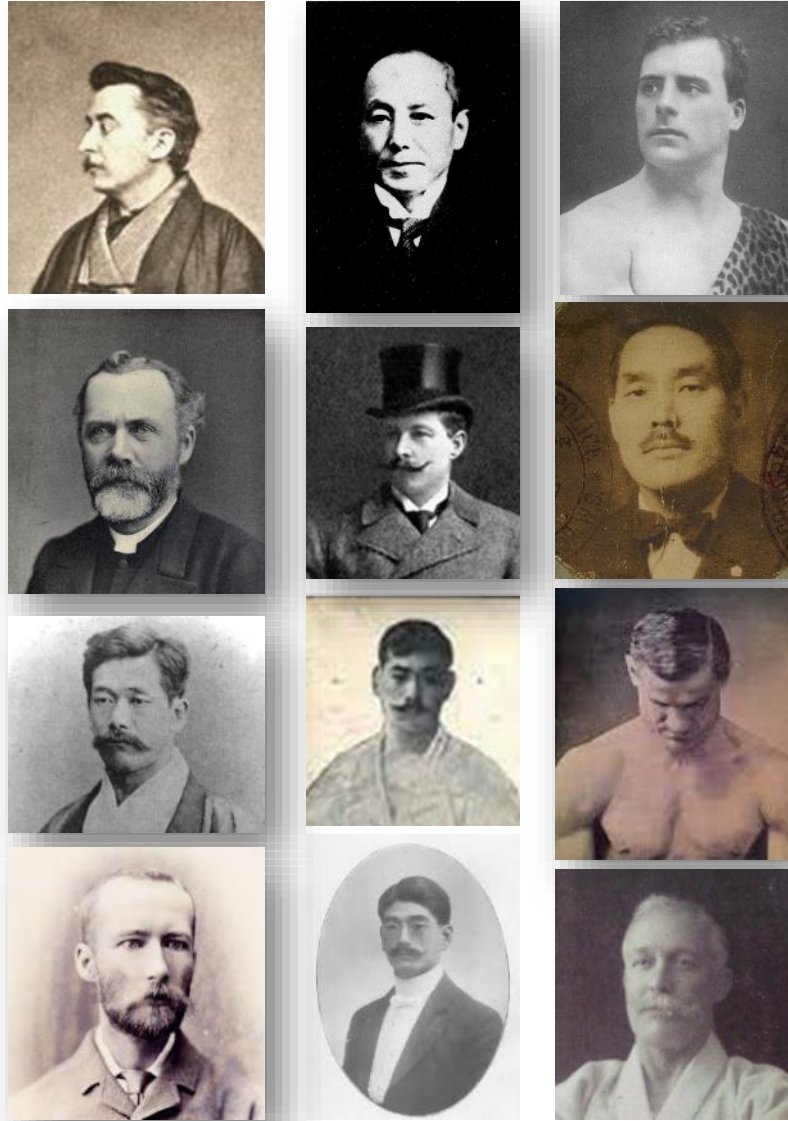
# Principles of Budokwai





# Summary

- Lafcadio Hearn
- Rev. Thomas Lindsay
- Jigorō Kanō
- Basil Hall Chamberlain
- Tetsujirō Shidachi
- Edward William Barton-Wright

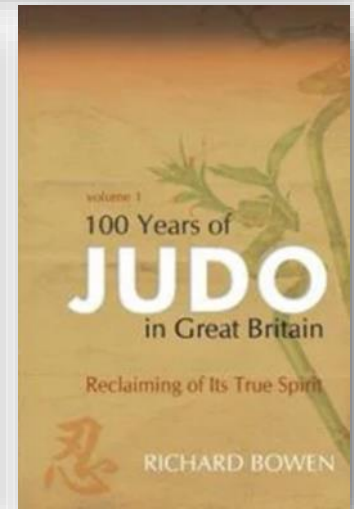
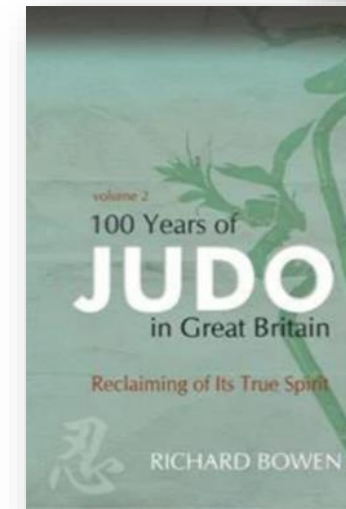


- Yukio Tani
- Sadakazu Uyenishi
- William Bankier
- Gunji Koizumi
- Ernest Harrison
- William E. Steers



# Grateful thanks to Richard Bowen and University of Bath

- Richard Bowen (Judo) Collection: A collection of archival material and publications relating to the history of judo assembled by Richard Bowen (1926 – 2005), judoka and sports historian.
- <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/richard-bowen-judo-collection/>
- Lizzie Richmond
- University of Bath Archivist & Records Manager
- [e.richmond@bath.ac.uk](mailto:e.richmond@bath.ac.uk)



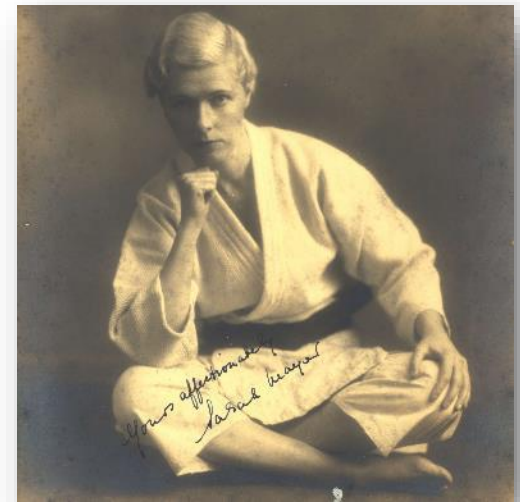
# Thanks to the Museum of East Asian Art

- 12 Bennett Street, Bath BA1 2QJ, UK [info@meaa.org.uk](mailto:info@meaa.org.uk)
- Judo: A Cultural History of Martial Art, 17 July 2021 to 12 March 2022
- <https://meaa.org.uk/event/judo-a-cultural-history-of-martial-art/>



# Women and the Japanese Martial Arts in the Early Twentieth Century

- Dr Amanda Callan-Spenn
- WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2021 FROM 19:00 -20:00 UTC+01
- <https://meaa.org.uk/event/women-and-the-japanese-martial-arts-in-the-early-twentieth-century>







# Questions?

