

EDITORIAL

The situation of the martial arts and combat sports society, and the science of fighting arts in AD 2016

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Abstract

This is a description of the current situation, the news from Poland and from the perspective of the headquarters of the IPA & IMACSSS in Rzeszow starting with a reference to historical events. The editorial refers to international events in the martial arts circle, the issue of a new paradigm of learning and the content of volume 16. These include accounts (factual material), reviews (evaluation) and comments. There is also a preliminary announcement of significant events in 2017 and the publication of volume 17.

Dear Readers

Let us start the description of the situation with the news from Poland and from the perspective of the headquarters of the IPA & IMACSSS in Rzeszow. Then we shall refer to events in international martial arts circles, the issue of a new paradigm of learning and the content of volume 16.

It was the year of the 1050th anniversary of the baptism of Poland, of Polish royal statehood as a Christian country. However, according to some researchers, the Lekhian kingdom had already existed in this part of Europe for at least a few centuries before. 77 years ago, in September 1939 World War II began. Poland, as the first country involved, actively opposed the two totalitarian powers – Germany and the Soviet Union.

This year, two major international events took place: the 31st World Youth Day 2016 with Pope Francis in Cracow and the NATO Summit in Warsaw. The World Youth Day allowed pilgrims from around the world to be given information about Poland e.g. it was Poland that defended Western, Christian civilization in the Battle of Vienna (333 years ago); in 1920, the Poles fought against the two totalitarian powers; during the German occupation they saved many Jews and they created the Solidarity movement with 10 million followers, etc. In turn, the NATO Summit (July 8-9) constituted a definite breakthrough, making declarations of military support to countries in Central and Eastern Europe which are still threatened with the aggressive policies of power, which is a manifestation of the anti-way [Cynarski 2016].

In Poland it was the year of Henryk Sienkiewicz (5 May 1846 – 1815 November 1916), the centenary of his death. Sienkiewicz was the co-founder of the Polish cultural code („Quo Vadis”, „Teutonic Knights”, „Trilogy”, etc.). This great writer has his successors. The IPA &

European Nobility Club awarded four Poles the Knightly Order of *Nobilis Homo Creator* – a noble and creative man. The people awarded the Order include professors, men of science, but also men of a moral way of life.

But what has happened in my country which is significant for the circle of martial arts and combat sports researchers? In Rzeszow (the main office of the IMACSSS and IPA) there were two symposia IPA: The IPA 23rd General Assembly Commemoration Symposium: „Martial Arts in Scientific Research” [Kubala 2016], and the Symposium „Culture – Physical Culture – Humanities”, Rzeszow 2016, in addition, “Near and far. Japanese culture as seen from Europe”: The First International Interdisciplinary Conference about Japan at Rzeszow University that was held under the auspices of the IPA.

This year the 24th IPA Summer School in Chlapowo / Wladyslawowo, was held from July 24-30, 2016, with workshops on technical issues, and the forms and methodology of teaching. This has been a tradition of the IPA and the RODB (the Rzeszowski Centre “Dojo Budokan”) since 1992. Every year IPA members practice martial arts under the direction of the technical director [Cynarski, Cynarska 2013].

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the IPA Committee of Fencing the degrees of 7-10 dan with the titles of GM (*hanshi*) and Master (*kyoshi*) of Sabre were awarded for the first time in Poland to seven experts in Polish traditional fencing. A separate section for old Polish fencing (the Polish Traditional Sabre Fencing section) was established by the Dan Committee to supervise the development of traditional Polish martial arts, especially sabre fencing [cf. Zablocki 2001; Sawicki 2011; Marsden 2015].

On a global scale the central event of 2016 in the area of martial arts science was certainly the 5th World

Congress of IMACSSS in Rio Maior (Portugal). This was possible thanks to the efforts of Prof. Dr Antonio Vences de Brito and his team. And it was a big success – organisational and scientific, because of high level of the discours [cf. Vences de Brito 2016]. The review of this event should be published in the next volume of our Journal. The IMACSSS previous conference in Brno still enjoys a positive response [Bugala 2015; Cynarski, Kubala 2015].

Our quarterly has improved its position in the Scopus/Scimago Journal Rank (SJR) from the result of 0.187 for 2014 to 0.198 in 2015. However, progress in our journal was not acknowledged by the experts in the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, who awarded it a score 8 previously it was 10). The editor-in-chief appealed against this unjust assessment, but unfortunately to no avail. It is difficult to determine the criteria for the assessment by the ministerial expert team. We are waiting for indexing on the Web of Science hoping that their assessment will be more relevant, substantive and justified.

Let us move on to broader questions – new theoretical concepts and a new paradigm for our area of expertise. In the spirit of the new paradigm, the General Theory of Fighting Arts [Cynarski 2016b] is offered as an example. What are the distinguishing features of this new paradigm? They are supposed to have: Firstly: a systemic, and at the same time humanistic approach, which is in line with the preference of our Journal [cf. Cynarski 2013, 2014]. The second trait of the new paradigm, is a change in the state of knowledge as a result e.g. of genetic tests (Y-DNA), which almost lead to a revolution in archeology and ancient history. The third aspect of the change in scientific inquiry concerns the epistemology and methodology of scientific research. In this case it is not only allowed, but also advisable to delve into new categories of sources, such as photography and film recordings (visual sociology and analysis of pictures). These techniques make it possible to illustrate the publications through a film, and one such film presenting one form of karate, Idokan, is now available, and is also on YouTube [Cynarski, Sieber 2016]. It is also advisable to follow the same tracks. While it is usually true that authors should provide no more than 20% of references to their own work, in some cases it is justified. It may happen when a new theory arises from puzzles, and where about 50% of these puzzle pieces have to be created, it is then worth quoting a reference to one's own work [cf. Hetherington 1996].

Let us return to the second manifestation of the paradigmatic changes. The work of the American geneticists (Klyosov *et al.*; Underhill *et al.*; and others) now gives a new outlook to the history of Indo-European peoples and the Slavs. The article *The proto-Slavic warrior in Europe: The Scythians, Sarmatians and Lekhs* (Cynarski and Maciejewska) published in this volume disseminates this new knowledge, putting presenting a bold hypothesis and attempts to interpret the facts. It is possible a presumptive polemic will be published in subsequent issues.

Idokan Poland Association adopted a new project – IPA Project no. 4 / 2017-20. Its specific topics include: 4.1. The cultivation and institutionalisation and adaptations to martial arts in Europe; 4.2. Historical Polish and European fencing - factual material, restoration and teaching; 4.3. 70 years of *judo-do/ido* – the idea and technique; 4.4. Martial arts tourism – analytical and explanatory studies.

In the case of martial arts tourism there can be distinguished, by analogy to Alpinism and Himalayan mountaineering – the Big Crown (most Asian ‚magnets’ of tourism of this kind) and its main jewel: Shaolin Temple. This is undoubtedly the biggest attraction for martial arts tourism on a global scale. While the *Muay Thai* stadiums in Bangkok are interesting for fans of this sport, and Okinawa for *karate* enthusiasts, Shaolin attracts tourists as the birthplace of many varieties of martial arts. The report from a trip to this famous monastery should be published in the next volume of our quarterly.

In this volume we find a new interpretation of Lao Tzu's and Peter Jahnke's philosophy of the Way [article: The Christian and the pathway of martial arts]. This is a new reading, indicating the moral proximity of the Way of Virtue of Taoism philosophy and Christian ethics, and the deeper meaning of the ascetic way of martial arts [Cynarski 2016a]. Although in the Japanese version of the Gospel the translation: „In the beginning was the Tao”, can be found, Tao is not identified with a personal God. Kowalczyk [2016] rightly points out that there are fundamental differences between the ontological assumptions of Taoism and Christianity, as well as between personalistic anthropology and the concept of human Taoism or Buddhism.

It is encouraging that the circle of researchers on the issue of ‚tourism of martial arts’ is expanding. Noteworthy is the work *Beyond Martial Arts Tourism: Outcomes of Capoeiristas' Apprenticeship Pilgrimages* [Griffith 2016], describing the issue on the ground in Brazil. The next issues of our Journal will certainly include more studies on the ‚tourism of martial arts’.

Volume 16 contains works from different scientific disciplines. For example they include historical accounts devoted to the traditions of Eastern Asia (Liu, Jung and Shishida) and the history of martial arts and combat sports in Spain (Jimenez-Landazuri *et al.*). There are studies concerning cultural anthropology (Guodong, Green, Gutierrez-Garcia; Vicente), and from interdisciplinary perspectives, for example: between psychology and coaching (Shapie *et al.*; Ortenburger *et al.*). There are also articles representing kinesiology (Vodicka *et al.*), the general philosophy of sport (Pawlucki), the sociology of sport (Dziubinski; Dabrowski *et al.*), and also some specialist subdisciplines. These are: 1) the philosophy of martial arts (Martinkova and Parry), the sociology of martial arts (Kusnierz *et al.*; Ben Messaoud), and the pedagogy of martial arts (Johnson; Arziutov *et al.*).

Some scientific problems are very specific for our profile, like self-defence (Bugala *et al.*). Some others can be analysed in sport sciences or in the area of cultural

studies. In this context the article by Sieber and Pawelec [2016] concerning the autonomy of the science of martial arts and methods of determining highest competence. It is particularly important. In addition, it is difficult to overestimate the importance of reviews of publications and scientific events. This time we have a series of review articles and another portion of the news in a series *Facts and Comments*.

Today we are waiting for next year's 50th anniversary of the Japanese Academy of Budo, for a meeting of IMACSSS, IPA and DDBV experts in Munich, for the 25th Summer School of IPA, for the next Symposiums and Workshops. The IPA 24th General Assembly Commemoration Symposium: "Martial Arts in Scientific Research" 2017 in Rzeszow will be mainly devoted to historical sabre skills [Zablocki 2001; Sawicki 2011; Marsden 2015].

And the editorial Committee of our Journal is waiting for your best, new manuscripts, to be published. If you are looking for fresh inspiration please remember our website www.imcjourn.com.

We invite you to read and cooperate further,

Wojciech J. Cynarski
University of Rzeszow
Editor-in-chief

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Sytuacja stowarzyszeń sztuk walk i sportów walki, i nauki o sztukach walki A.D. 2016

Słowa kluczowe: metodologia, nowy paradygmat, szermierka na szable, turystyka, Wielka Korona

Abstrakt

Jest to opis sytuacji aktualnej - od aktualności z Polski i z perspektywy siedziby SIP i IMACSSS w Rzeszowie zaczynając - z odniesieniami do wydarzeń historycznych. Zaprezentowano odniesienia do wydarzeń międzynarodowych środowiska sztuk walki, do kwestii nowego paradygmatu nauki i do treści tomu XVI. Są to zarówno relacje (faktografia), opinie (oceny) i komentarze. Ma także miejsce zapowiedź wstępna istotnych wydarzeń roku 2017 i publikacji tomu XVII.