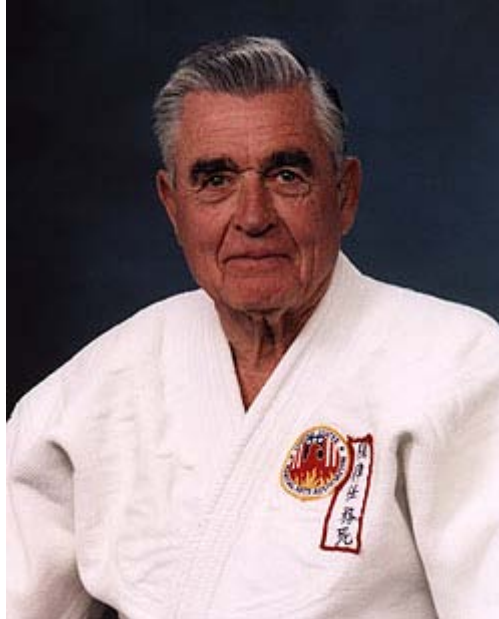


United States Martial Arts Association

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Philip S. Porter Biographical Notes



It is safe to say that there is no other person alive in the world today who has had so varied and comprehensive a career of achievement in Judo and the Martial Arts as Philip S. Porter. In every field of endeavor involved in Judo; from coaching, teaching and national and international leadership positions to writing, refereeing and building the theoretical framework of Judo, he has excelled. His competitive career spanned 50 years, culminating with four US National Masters Gold medals in winning which he never lost a match.

He may be the only person who has refereed the finals in the world championships and fought in the world masters championships as well. During his many years in Martial Arts training, Porter has lived, taught and competed in Europe for four years; and lived, studied and competed in Japan for two years, From Thailand to Germany, from England to Brazil, he has studied, refereed, taught, and competed for 65 years.

O-Sensei (Teacher of teachers) Philip S. Porter began his Martial Arts career as a boxer 65 years ago-- in 1943 at age 18. He was later a member of the West Point Boxing Team; and in 1950, Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the Western Area of the Air Training Command, USAF. Porter graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1948, and served in the U.S. Army and Air Force for 25 years, retiring as a major in 1967.

O-Sensei started Judo, JuJitsu, and Karate training in 1951 while serving on a Strategic Air Command (SAC) combat crew at Travis Air Force Base, California. His first teacher was Sensei Walter Todd, 2nd Degree in Judo and the first American to be awarded a black belt in Shotokan Karate. Todd was later promoted to 9th Degree Black Belt in Shudokan Karate, and is now

deceased. Because Porter was 27 years old at the time, he soon started teaching and coaching Judo as well as competing. Now, he is called O-Sensei because he is responsible for teaching and watching over the rank promotions of thousands of his Black Belt students and club leaders throughout the country in over 1,500 clubs of the United States Martial Arts Association.

O-Sensei's Judo Competition History. O-Sensei Porter started competing in Judo in 1951, and is still active in masters competition, a competitive career spanning over 50 years. He was US Air Force USAFE champion in 1957, won a Bronze Medal in the US Senior Nationals in 1963, won the US National Masters Championship four times (1975, 1977, 1980 and 1981), and won two gold and a silver medal in the 1998 World Masterathlete Games in Ottawa, Canada in 1998.

Coaching History. Phil Porter's coaching achievements are legendary. He has produced over 1,000 national and international medalists in Judo over the past 50 years, 500 of them during the eight years he coached the National Judo Team at the NJI (1984-1992). No other coach in America has even approached this record. His team won six medals with six athletes in the 1991 Pan American Games, including Kate Donahoo's Gold Medal. Kate Donahoo also won 5th place in the World Judo Games of 1989, 5th place in the 1992 Olympics, and won the Bronze Medal in the 1988 World Good Will Games.

Porter's Creative Work In Judo. Coach Porter considers that his most important contribution to Judo and the Martial Arts is the large number of books, magazine articles, videos and DVDs that he has created. Many of these works outline and explain his own original theoretical contributions to Judo. His videos alone have sold over 130,000 copies, the most important and popular Judo videos in English ever made in the world. Among his video masterworks are the world standard for Judo, "The 65 Throws of Kodokan Judo" (Now available for the first time on DVDs); as well as, "The Secrets Of Winning In Judo," "The Counters of Judo," and "Judo Grappling Techniques," all of which will soon be available on DVDs.

In addition, an incredible ten DVD series titled "My Life In Budo" is now in preparation by a professional cinematographer, and O-Sensei himself is also shooting, writing and directing the creation of a special DVD series on the bent arm lock, ude garami.

His well-known books include "Judo From The Beginning," "Championship Judo Drill Training," (with Ben Campbell), "The Basic JuJitsu Manual," and the Junior and Senior Rank System Manuals for American Judo, which have been printed in hundreds of thousands of copies over the past 40 years. He also created and was the editor of the magazine "American Judo" for 35 years.

O-Sensei believes that at age 83, his theoretical, teaching and coaching work in Judo is just beginning. He says, "My creative ability in Judo seems to increase over the years. I am developing more new concepts, teaching methods, and technical applications of Judo now than ever before. The next 30 years promise to be a very rich experience!"

Founding The National College Judo Movement. In 1962 Porter hosted the first National Collegiate Judo Championships at the US Air Force Academy, wrote the constitution and bylaws of the first National Collegiate Judo Association (NCJA), and was elected as its Secretary. Later he was elected for a term as President of the NCJA.

National And International Leadership. O-Sensei Porter is called “The Father of American Judo” because he helped found the USJA in 1954, and personally built it into the largest Judo group in America, as well as the largest non-profit Martial Arts organization in the country, over a period of 41 years. Below are listed a few of O-Sensei Porter’s leadership achievements in American and world Martial Arts.

Porter served three years as National Chairman of the AAU Judo Committee (1961-1964), Chairman of the U.S. Olympic Judo Committee (1964-1968), Secretary General of the Pan American Judo Union (1964-1967), Technical Director of the Pan American Judo Union (1967-1969), President, U. S. Judo Association (1980-1995); Editor, “American Judo” (1960-1995), President and Head Coach, National Judo Institute and National Judo Team, (1980-1995), and Founder of the United States Martial Arts Association since 1995.

Porter founded and became President of the U.S. Martial Arts Association in late 1995. The USMA is the only non-profit American organization devoted to unifying the Martial Arts in our country, and recognizing all Martial Arts.

O-Sensei’s Teachers. Porter says, “I was blessed with the greatest teachers a man could ever have.” While in the Air Force, his first teacher was Walter Todd (later 9th Dan). In 1953, Sumiyuki Kotani (later 10th Dan) and Tadao Otaki (later 9th Dan) both accepted him as their student. Then O-Sensei trained in England at the famous Budokwai in London for a period of four years (1954 to 1958). At that time his teacher was Trevor P. Leggett, until his death the only 9th Degree in Judo in Europe, and one of only a few 9th Degrees in Judo outside of Japan. O-Sensei insists that his teachers are still with him, and that now his O-Sensei is the Lord Christ.

Refereeing History. Porter was active as a national and international referee in Judo for many years. He rewrote the IJF contest rules in 1967. He refereed the finals in the 1965 World Judo Championships in Brazil between Geesink and Matsunaga. He served on the six-member Consultative Committee of Referees for the first Judo Olympics in Tokyo in 1964, and was the referee for the team finals in the World CISM Games of 1971 in Vienna, Austria.

O-Sensei’s Martial Arts Rank History. O-Sensei holds the 10th Dan or higher rank in more than 15 Martial Arts. Many of these ranks are honorary and are not listed below. The six arts in which O-Sensei holds 10th Dan and which he considers earned ranks are included in the rank history below, arranged alphabetically.

Beikoku Mizu Ryu JuJitsu: Judan (10th Degree), by the Beikoku Mizu Ryu JuJitsu Association.
Budo Taijutsu: Judan (10th Degree), 1998 by Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi, 34th Soke of the Togakure Ryu.

Judo: Judan (10th Degree). Shodan, 1954; Nidan, 1956, Budokwai, England; Sandan, 1959, Yondan, 1963-Personally presented by Sumiyuki Kotani, 9th Dan, of the Kodokan, after O-Sensei placed third in the U.S. Judo Nationals at age 38. (Kotani Sensei was later for many years the only living 10th Degree in Judo in the world). Rokudan, 1973; Shichidan, 1981; Hachidan, 1989; Kudan, 1994, Judan, January 1, 2005. Note: There are now about 25 living Kudan (9th Degrees) in Judo in Japan, and a few more outside Japan. There are now (2008) five Judo 10th Degrees in the world. They are: Abe, Osawa, and Daigo of Japan; Anton Geesink (of the Netherlands), and O-Sensei Porter. There have been 18 Judoists of 10th in the history of Judo (15 from Japan). One of the last four Japanese Judan was Sumiyuki Kotani Sensei, who died on October 19, 1991, at age 89. He was O-Sensei Porter’s most revered teacher.

O-Sensei's Martial Arts Rank History (Continued),

JuJitsu: Judan. All degrees, 1st through 9th (1951-1994) by USJA. Judan (10th Degree) 1997 by USMA and Beikoku Mizu Ryu JuJutsu.

Jun Kin Shin. Soke-10th Degree. Jun Kin Shin is the JuJitsu ryu founded by O-Sensei from his many years experience in teaching self defense to law enforcement and military personnel. He has awarded only a few ranks in this system because he does not consider the system complete.

Taiho Jitsu: Judan (10th Degree) 1997 by Mid-Atlantic Self Defense Association.

Wushu: 9th Degree (Honorary) 1994.

Moo Hap Sul Hapkido: 9th Degree (Honorary), 1997 by House of Discipline Martial Arts Group.

Karate: 8th Degree (Honorary) 1996 by the American Shotokan Karate Alliance.

Hall Of Fame Honors. World Martial Arts Hall of Fame. O'Sensei has also been honored (April 1997) as a member of the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame as the recipient of the coveted "Heritage Award of Excellence" award. International Karate & Kickboxing Hall of Fame. O-Sensei was inducted into the International Karate Hall of Fame at a special ceremony conducted in Cleveland, Ohio in April, 1997. World Headfounders Council. O-Sensei was admitted as the 18th member of the World Headfounders Council in July, 1997. He is the 18th member inducted out of 3,219 applicants. In May, 1998, O-Sensei was inducted into the Martial Arts Masters, Pioneers and Legends Hall of Fame Council International in the highest category, "Legend."

In 2000, O-Sensei created the USMA International Hall of Fame and the USMA National Junior and Senior Training Camps. O-Sensei Porter has been granted several honorary Doctor's degrees, and has written many books on Judo and JuJitsu. O-Sensei travels extensively, conducting over 100 seminars a year.