

# Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the 30th Anniversary edition of the Journal of the Tai Chi Union for Great Britain. The current issue commemorates the founding of the Tai Chi Union. The TCUGB was founded in 1990, three years before the first issue. The Journal started as a modest publication, 24 pages black and white, a couple of articles, in the autumn of 1993.

From the beginning Ronnie Robinson, the first editor and publications guiding light, offered a variety of outlooks, discussions and thoughts that encompassed all styles of tai chi chuan and qigong. It was this broad stance that helped unite Chinese internal art practitioners from all regions of the United Kingdom. This founding principle continues to this day.

To celebrate 30 years of the Union we have collected a series of articles from many of the past issues starting with the Chairman's Welcome letter from the very first issue from the autumn of 1993.

In addition to the various articles, you will find interspersed throughout brief 'interviews' with past and current members

of the executive committee, those who have steered the Union from the beginning. Each came to tai chi and the Tai Chi Union in their own way and have been and continue to be instrumental in the growth and development of tai chi and qigong.

As George Santayana wrote:

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it!"

Taking that to heart, we will remember the past and use that knowledge to forge the continued development of the art we have all discovered.

Finally, a major step forward in the recognition of tai chi chuan has occurred recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) has placed tai chi chuan on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Recognition and placement on the List will encourage increased visibility and dialogue of the diversity found within the world-wide tai chi chuan community.

  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*The first issue of the Journal of the Tai Chi union for Great Britain appeared in the Autumn of 1993. Though only 24 pages with one colour, it was the model for all the successive issues to the present. Below is the 'Welcome Letter' by Gary Wragg, the Chairman of the TCUGB at the time as well as the first Editorial by then editor Ronnie Robinson.*

# Chairman's Letter

BY GARY WRAGG | ISSUE 1, AUTUMN 1993

"Teach each one to prolong his life it is not solely for martial arts" was the advice of Chang Sang Feng, founder of Tai Chi Ch'uan.

Since the Song dynasty in China, the art of Tai Chi Ch'uan has blossomed into a range of styles which were practised throughout the world, bringing through the dreams of past masters. The benefits of Tai Chi Ch'uan have become widely recognised, and its popularity increases all the time.

The art is vibrantly alive in the UK, for which the Tai Chi Union of Great Britain can

take much credit. We have lifted it out of the shadows, and we must continue to encourage future growth and excellence. This can be done not only by our own private practice, but also by exchanging and sharing our experience.

The evolution and standards of the internal arts in this country is what we make it, and we welcome your views on the subject. In the meantime, please encourage other practitioners to join us.

# Editorial

BY RONNIE ROBINSON | ISSUE 1

Becoming editor of the Tai Chi newsletter, I hoped to create a magazine which reflected the interest and scope that Tai Chi offers. I contacted the members to enlist their help with this task. Whilst, thankfully, many members were more than willing to contribute in some way, I detected an undercurrent of "what has the union ever done for me?" Whilst, to a certain extent, I initially had some sympathy for their views I prefer to pursue a more positive path.

The Collins English Dictionary offers the following meaning for the word union "... An association, alliance, common purpose..."

No argument there. A common purpose. We are all members of this union because

we have a passionate interest in Tai Chi and, presumably, hope that we can mutually benefit by sharing our skills and opinions. It is only through involvement of its members that can unions survive and spread their message. The message we have is very much worth spreading, so let's shout from the rooftops and let everyone benefit from the fruits of this wonderful art!

Be active in your union and participate in the newsletter. Write about recent experiences, any books you have read, workshops you've attended. The magazine is for your benefit and we need your help to continue!