

DOI 10.31392/NPU-nc.series15.2022.5(150).04

**Stepanyuk S.**  
*Candidate of Physical Training and Sport Sciences, Associate Professor*  
**Associate Professor, Department of Theory and Methods of Physical Education Kherson State University**

**Serputko O.**  
*Candidate of the Second (Master's) Level of Higher Education*  
**Kherson State University Aikido instructor Eurasia Aikido Organization Head of AIWA DOJO**

**Maksymyak V.**  
*Senior Teacher of Department of Sports Disciplines and Tourism*  
**Drogobych Pedagogical Institute named after I. Franko**

**Yukhymuk V.,**  
*Candidate of Pedagogy (Ph. D), teacher of Ivano-Frankivsk College of Physical Education of National University*  
**of Physical Education and Sport of Ukraine**

## HISTORICAL PREREQUISITES OF DEVELOPMENT OF AIKIDO IN KHERSON

The presented article considers the historical prerequisites for the development of aikido in Kherson. Despite the lack of research in this area, we were able to find out the date of the first section on aikido in Kherson, it is the 1996<sup>th</sup> year.

Speaking about the development of sports and the work of sports sections in Kherson in the 1990s, one must note that was a difficult period in the life of all the Ukrainian cities. As the collapse of the USSR and the beginning of the formation of Ukrainian statehood were associated with a huge shortage of basic livelihoods of common people. However, in contrast to the lack of material goods, there was an increase of interest in sports life, especially among children and youth. The sections on boxing, wrestling, judo, sambo wrestling, hand-to-hand combat, kickboxing, as well as martial arts, in particular karate, wushu, ninjutsu, taekwondo, etc., were especially popular.

This interest was further reinforced by the influx of films, magazines and television programs that broadcast pro-Western trends in the information space. According to the participants of these processes, there was a great desire among young men and women to study martial arts on a professional level, but there were no masters in Kherson or even in Ukraine. Foreign educational publications came to the rescue, which were self-translated, repeatedly copied by hand and studied; techniques were tested in practice, which was often accompanied by high injuries. Gradually, the flow of knowledge became more accessible and the understanding of techniques deeper, and even excellent masters, representatives of various schools started to come to Ukraine, and it became possible for our compatriots to learn directly from masters.

That is how in the second half of the 90s a group of like-minded people appeared in Kherson, who began their first steps in a completely new form of Japanese martial arts for this region – aikido. Often their interest and devotion to aikido was a real test, because they all developed and promoted aikido in Kherson exclusively at their own expense and often at the cost of their own health, but today we can talk about Kherson aikido thanks to the first masters who laid the foundations of the first dojos in Kherson.

Today almost all types of traditional martial arts are practiced, among which the disciplines of Budo and, in particular, aikido, occupy an important place in Kherson. This article discusses how the process of development and formation of lasting interest in this type of Japanese martial arts in Kherson took place, and what figures and masters are behind this process.

**Key words:** aikido, aikido in Kherson, history of Kherson aikido, development of aikido in Kherson, history of sports, martial arts in Kherson, history of martial arts, disciplines of Budo in Kherson.

**Степанюк С., Серпутко О., Максим'як В., Юхимук В. Історичні передумови розвитку айкідо в Херсоні.** У представленій статті розглянуто історичні передумови розвитку айкідо в Херсоні. Не зважаючи на відсутні дослідження в цій галузі, нам вдалося з'ясувати дату появи першої секції з айкідо в Херсоні – це 1996 рік. Взагалі, говорячи про розвиток спорту та роботу спортивних секцій у Херсоні в той період. Треба відзначити, що 90-ті роки були складним періодом в житті всіх українських міст, адже розвал СРСР та початок становлення української державності були пов'язані із величезним дефіцитом елементарних засобів для життя. Проте, на противагу браку матеріальних благ, спостерігався сплеск інтересу до спортивного життя, особливо серед дітей та молоді. Особливою популярністю користувалися секції з боксу, боротьби, дзюдо, самбо, рукопашної боротьби, кікбоксингу, а також східних єдиноборств, зокрема карате, ушу, ніндзюцу, тхеквондо тощо.

Такий інтерес додатково підкріплювався ще й напливом фільмів, журналів та телевізійних передач, які транслювали прозахідні тенденції в інформаційному просторі. За згадками учасників цих процесів, серед юнаків та дівчат спостерігалось велике бажання вивчати східні єдиноборства на професійному рівні, проте майстрів в Херсоні та навіть в Україні не було. На допомогу приходили іноземні освітні видання, які самостійно перекладалися, багаторазово вручну переписувалися, вивчалися, техніки та прийоми випробовувалися на практиці, що часто супроводжувалося високим травматизмом. Поступово потік знань ставав все доступнішим, а розуміння технік глибшим, і навіть в Україну стали приїжджати майстри світового рівня, представники різних шкіл, а також для наших співвітчизників стало можливим навчатися напряму та безпосередньо у майстрів.

Саме так у другій половині 90-х в Херсоні з'являється група однодумців, які починають свої перші кроки у зовсім новому для цього регіону виді японських єдиноборств, айкідо. Часто їх інтерес та відданість айкідо будуть справжнім випробуванням, адже абсолютно всі вони розвивали та популяризували айкідо в Херсоні виключно власним

коштом та часто ціною власного здоров'я, проте сьогодні ми можемо говорити про херсонське айкідо саме завдяки тим першим майстрам, які заклали основи перших доджо у Херсоні.

На сьогоднішній день в Херсоні практикують майже всі види традиційних одноборств, серед яких дисципліни Будо та, зокрема, айкідо, посідають важливе місце. Як відбувався процес розвитку та формування стійкого інтересу до даного виду японського одноборства в Херсоні, та які постаті й майстри стоять за цим процесом, розглянуто в даній статті.

**Ключові слова:** айкідо, айкідо в Херсоні, історія айкідо в Херсоні, розвиток айкідо в Херсоні, історія спорту, бойові мистецтва в Херсоні, історія бойових мистецтв, дисципліни Будо в Херсоні.

**Introduction.** Aikido, although based on ancient martial arts, has no respectable age, as Morihei Ueshiba founded it only in the early twentieth century in Japan. O'sensei managed to take the best techniques of all known at the time applied types of oriental duels, combining them in a laconic and effective discipline, which was called by the author "The Art of Peace" [3].

Today, centers that cultivate this type of Eastern combat are located in more than a hundred countries and involve both children and adults, regardless of age, gender and level of previous physical preparedness.

Aikido appeared in Ukraine a little more than thirty years ago, for the first time in the capital, Kyiv city. Its appearance, as well as its development, is connected with the diligent activities of a number of people who, guided by their own interest in the "art of peace". They did everything possible to make Ukrainian aikido not only successful in its formation and popularizing among the general population, but also its quality level increased, making Ukrainian aikido competitive and important for the global movement of wellness, recreation and practice of Budo disciplines [1].

Aikido in Kherson appeared about 5-6 years later, but over time, this type of martial arts has gained widespread popularity in the southern region of Ukraine, which allows us to talk today about the special features of Kherson aikido, despite the difference between techniques and interpretation receptions by representatives of different schools.

The number of athletes, both adults and children, practicing aikido in Kherson today is up to a thousand people, including about 60 people who are the holders of black belts and have master levels of dan. Eight aikido clubs are officially registered, which are currently active in the city and are representatives of domestic and international organizations in which Kherson aikido has a proper place.

Despite the differences in styles and methodological bases of different schools, as well as the lack of competitions as a way to transfer knowledge and experience, Kherson aikido has a pronounced style, which is noted by masters from other cities of Ukraine and high-level international class. The reason for this is the common roots, special mentality and friendly relations between representatives of different clubs, which allows athletes to share experiences in joint seminars and demonstrations, participation in sports and educational events in their hometown.

We tried to study the problem of aikido in Kherson and the prerequisites for the development of this type of martial arts in the city.

**Materials and methods of research.** There is a significant lack of scientific works and research in the field of Ukrainian historical and sports science, especially in the first steps in any kind of sports. Moreover, this feature is characteristic of those species that have long been popular among Ukrainian athletes, and those that are relatively "young" in the sports movement of Ukraine (just like aikido and other Budo disciplines).

We consider a significant and authoritative practice of historical publications from high-ranking officials of national sports (P.F. Savitsky, V.V. Kulik, Y.M. Bak, etc.). However, for more than thirty years the Ukrainian sports have been developing and operating in the conditions of building an independent and sovereign state, so it deserves appropriate study of the development and formation of some of its species in certain regions and cities in the national development of sports movement.

In recent years, the area of historical research in the field of physical education and sports has become a space of interest for such authors of scientific dissertations as O.O. Grechanyuk (2000), A.M. Okopny (2001), O.V. Rymar (2002), S.P. Kozibrotsky (2002), S.I. Stepanyuk (2003), N.A. Dedelyuk (2004), Y.V. Zaidovy (2005), A.S. Bondar (2006), O.M. Galchenko (2008) [2, 4]. Our research is an attempt to study, analyze and summarize the history of the formation and development of aikido in the Kherson region. We believe that an objective scientific analysis of the historical aspects of the development of this type of martial arts in Kherson is an urgent problem. Unfortunately, there are no research papers or publications on this issue, so we relied entirely on the oral stories of the participants in those events, analyzing and composing them in chronological order. Also correlated the obtained facts with the data of researchers and colleagues from other cities of Ukraine.

The purpose of this work was to investigate and analyze the history of the prerequisites and development of aikido in Kherson. To achieve this goal, we used the following research methods. They are theoretical analysis and generalization of eyewitness data and the media; historical and comparative-historical methods; system-structural analysis and method of complex research of historical data.

**Results of the research.** According to eyewitnesses, the history of aikido in Kherson began in 1996, in the dormitory of the Kherson Industrial Institute, the building of the today's Tax Inspectorate on the Illya Kulik Street. At that time, there was only one adult group of seven people, trained by a former military helicopter pilot, who taught the basics of proper ukemi, as well as elements of sambo and judo, emphasizing that all Japanese martial arts, including aikido, have common roots and principles. Unfortunately, the name of the first instructor has not survived, but participants of those trainings mention that the coach did not show up for every training session and was not very interested in teaching. However, his students were interested. Because of it, on the basis of the club of jit-fan-jitsu "Tao" in the city center, the young people rented a room where they practiced techniques, which they learned from the master. Some of them say that they have learned about aikido long before they got to trainings, the source of knowledge was magazines and stories brought by sailors to Kherson from European countries, where aikido has long been popular. Among the aikido pioneers on the Kherson land are Zabolotny Serhiy Ivanovych, Hryenko Serhiy Petrovich, Plyas

Pavlo, Buidze Oleksandr, Lebedevsky Oleksiy, Penezev Igor, Isakin Andriy Ivanovych and Serputko Dmytro Mykhailovych. They formed the basis for the birth of the art of aikido in Kherson, and most of them devoted their entire lives to its development and formation, and not only aikido, but other martial arts. Trainings in this group were always held in regular pairs, demonstration and control of techniques was usually carried out by Alexei Lebedevsky, who at that time already had a green belt (3rd kyu), received from the master from St. Petersburg, Vladimir Tagirov, in which he studied while studying at a military school. By the end of 1997, the aikido group on the premises of the Kherson Industrial Institute ceased to exist due to the fact that the coach almost did not show up for classes. Meanwhile, since the fall of 1997, the young aikidokas have already tried their hands as Aikido instructors, opening four clubs in different parts of the city, while twice a week going to a joint training session in the hall of the Tao Club at the corner of Illya Kulik and Ushakov Streets. Serhiy Zabolotny, together with Igor Penezev, opened an aikido class in the premises of the Kherson Agricultural Institute. On the basis of this duo with the participation of Sergei Antonov later the Hikari Aikido Club will be formed, many students of which will not only promote the popularity of aikido in Kherson, but also form their own clubs, promoting martial arts.

Oleksiy Lebedevsky together with Pavel Plyas and Oleksandr Buidze, laid the foundation of the Tanren Club, which, in addition to aikido, also studied iaido, and currently, under the leadership of Pavel Plyas, the club teaches and studied Japanese jiu-jitsu. Serhiy Petrovich Hrynko at that time taught aikido in a sports boarding school on the Chekists Street.

As for Andriy Ivanovich Isakin, he, together with Dmytro Mykhailovych Serputko, organized the Dan Sports Club, which will be officially reorganized in 2000 as the Kherson Aikido Federation. Classes at this club were originally held in the 41st school. And the main peculiarity of Dan Sports Club and its branches is that it became the first aikido school for the new wave of aikidokas, which formed a new face not only of Kherson but also of Ukrainian aikido. Namely they are: Vlad Los – Founder of the Aikido Club Kensai, Artem Bratchenko – Technical Director of Eurasia Aikido Ukraine, Volodymyr Dubrovsky – Founder of the Bushin Aikido Club, as well as Maksym Vyhor, Oleg Stakorozhev and many aikido masters who today demonstrate a high level of performance and represent Kherson and Ukraine at home and abroad on the international sports arena. The first seminar and attestation on aikido in Kherson took place in late 1998, which was not only a landmark but also a turning point in the life of Kherson aikido. At the invitation of S. Zabolotny and S. Hrynko, Poznakharev Serhiy Andriyovych, the owner of the second dan degree at that time, a representative of the Aikido Aikikai Association of Ukraine, arrived in Kherson. The Crystal Sports Complex on Robocha Street hosted the first seminar. Participants note that at that seminar they received considerable criticism from Mr. Poznakharev, who spoke about the need to hone the technique more carefully and stressed the need of regular attending to aikido seminars. It was after this seminar that there was a split between the pioneers of Aikido in Kherson, because criticism was not well received, but it was the impetus for the formalization of Aikido clubs and schools, because until that moment they all existed only by verbal agreement. In the fall of 1998, representatives of the Kherson Aikido (D. Serputko, A. Isakin, S. Zabolotny, S. Hrynko) attended a seminar in Kyiv. They held classes led by Sugano Sensei (the 7<sup>th</sup> dan), Mori Sensei (the 4<sup>th</sup> dan) and other masters, who were part of the delegation from the Hombu Dojo in Japan (direct representation of the founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba). During 1999-2000, several aikido seminars were also attended in Kyiv under the chairmanship of Fujida Sensei (the 8<sup>th</sup> dan), Bakas Sensei (the 6<sup>th</sup> dan), Francesco Verona (the 5<sup>th</sup> dan) and other masters. In the early 2000s, Ukrainian aikido underwent changes, resulting in a large number of new individual clubs and associations in the city of Kyiv. In particular, the Kandeji Aikido Club under the leadership of S.A. Poznakharev, the Kaizenki Aikido Club – under the leadership of I. Vychyk, Aikido Federation of Ukraine – under the leadership of O. Kudryavtsev, Aikido Aikikai Association of Ukraine – under the leadership of I.Y. Shmygin. In turn, the emergence of new organizations in the capital of Ukraine has influenced the development of aikido in Kherson. Because of the changes, all Kherson clubs (except the school of O. Lebedevsky), which until that moment have been certified under the leadership of S.A. Poznakharev, have separated. Some (S. Zabolotny, S. Hrynko) remained, and some (D. Serputko, A. Isakin) joined the Aikido Aikikai Association of Ukraine, which were the first to invite Stefan Benadetti Sensei (the 5<sup>th</sup> dan) to Ukraine. By the way, Dmytro Androschuk (Kyiv) was the master who conducted seminars and certifications in Kherson from the Aikido Aikikai Association of Ukraine. In 2000, there were more than 15 aikido dojos in Kherson, which employed about 500 people.

**Conclusions/ discussion.** Continuing the legacy of the glorious Cossack chivalry the aikido athletes of Kherson land, despite the relatively short period (only 26 years) of development and formation of aikido in Kherson, managed not only to develop this type of Japanese martial arts, but also to create numerous clubs and schools and to bring Kherson aikido to a sufficiently high world level. Evidence of the quality of Kherson aikido is the number of practitioners, the number of high-level masters, black belt holders, and the high number of aikido instructors in Kherson. Also important is the fact that for more than 15 years Kherson has been hosting training and certification seminars on aikido from world-class masters, such as Nebi Vural Sensei (7 dan), Stefan Benadetti Sensei (7 dan), Takeshi Kuroki Sensei (6 dan) and others.

#### References

1. How Ihor Shmygin has changed the Law of Ukraine and opened Ukrainian sports for the entire world //Interview on 11/Feb/2022. URL: <https://tsn.ua/video/video-novini/yak-sportsmen-igor-shmigyn-zminiv-zakon-ukrayini-ta-vidkriv-ukrayinskiy-sport-vsomu-svitu.html>
2. Stepanyuk, S. The history of Physical Culture: [educational and methodical manual/ for applicants for higher education degree “bachelor” full-time and part-time forms of study specialties 014.11 secondary education (physical culture), 017 physical culture and sports] // Svitlana Stepanyuk, Oksana Grechanyuk, Iryna Malyarenko, Vira Tkachuk. Kherson. PE Vysheymyrskiy V.S., 2016. p. 272.
3. Tamura Nobuyoshi. Aikido. Etiquette et transmission. 1991.
4. Vatseba, O. History of physical culture and sports in the subject of dissertation researches: index author's ref. dis. on the history of physical culture and sports (1950-2002 pp.). Lviv Phranko State Institute of Physical Education. Lviv, 2002. p. 120.