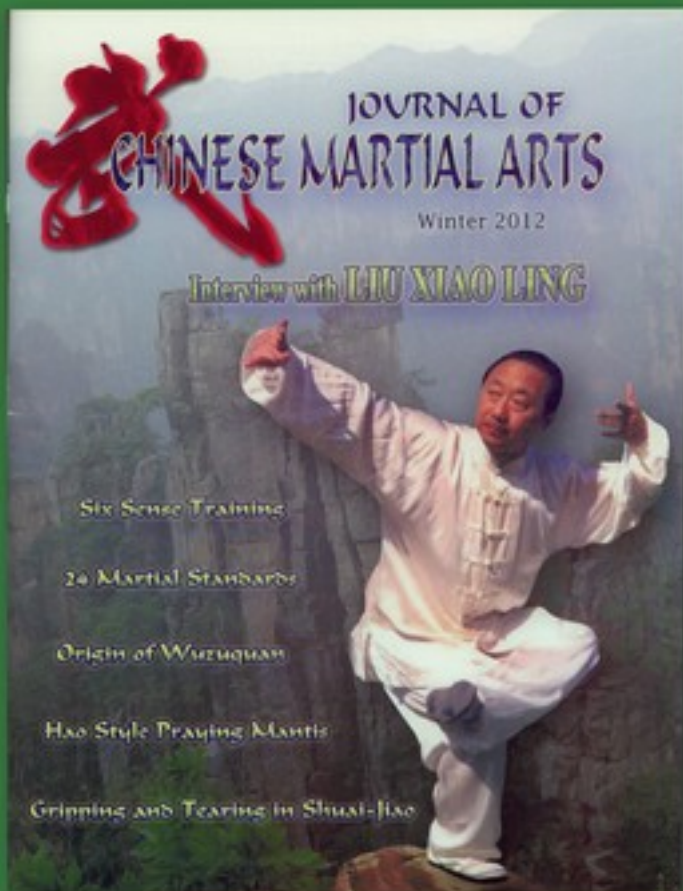


Congratulations to the rebirth of the Journal of Chinese Martial Arts

March 4, 2012

1:55 PM MST



Cover of the Inaugural Issue of Journal of Chinese Martial Arts
Journal of Chinese Martial Arts

Wu Gong Journal was first published in 1995 and then changed to the *Journal of Chinese Martial Arts* (JCMA). In 2002, it stopped printing. This year, Editor and Publisher Master [Nick Scrima](#) brought it back to life. The first issue (Winter 2012) of *JCMA* just came out. It is in both print and digital formats. Below is the excerpt of my recent interview with Master Scrima.

“ Violet: There is a Chinese cliché that the best way to get back at your enemy is to persuade him to publish a magazine. So why are you doing this to yourself?

Nick: (chuckling) The saying is funny but very true considering the time and money involved. But I feel very fortunate having a successful career in martial arts. I have owned my Chinese Martial Arts (CMA) school for over 30 years. I have been a promoter of Chinese Martial Arts tournaments for many years. I strongly feel there is a need to preserve the arts and keep CMA live. Publishing the Journal is my way of giving back to the community. Of course, I was constantly encouraged by people asking when I would bring the Journal back.

“ Violet: But when we look at the general landscape of the media, we have witnessed so many papers and magazines go bankrupt. In the martial arts community, Inside [Kung Fu Magazine](#) folded last year. It is quite courageous of you to undertake this new endeavor.

Nick: *JCMA* is in a unique position to present a comprehensive approach to the arts and the masters, to synthesize the traditional and the modern. The Internet provides us the opportunity to reach out and share our work with CMA enthusiasts all over the world. For example, we use Internet to interview masters in many different countries, to take subscriptions, and to distribute the digital edition of the magazine.

“ Violet: There is an interview in the inaugural issue with Master Liu Xiaoling from Shanghai, China, who now lives in Maryland. Did you conduct it yourself?

Nick: Yes, I handle the special interview for each issue. We normally select masters who have historical relevance. For example, Dr. Yang Jwing-Ming will be on the cover for the Spring 2012 issue and the subject of the feature interview. I spend long hours on extensive research on the historical context and lineage before doing the actual interview. We devote 10 to 12 pages to each interview article. We try to

obtain as many historical photos as possible to share because we cherish them and want to preserve them. I learn a lot during the preparation and interview process. It is good for my own growth.

“ Violet: So do you speak Chinese?

Nick: I am studying the language but do not speak enough to conduct serious interviews. Fortunately, we have Masters [Alex Kwok](#), Alex Liu and [Jason Tsou](#), along with many others among my good friends, to help as translators.

“ Violet: I found it extremely useful that the Journal includes a Pinyin Glossary in the back.

Nick: Actually, it is self-serving because it is helping me with my own language studies. (laughing)
Hopefully, we won't make too many mistakes along the way.

“ Violet: I don't have the old Journal to compare. The new one is very classy looking and the design format is clean with tons of photos. So what are the differences between this new one versus the old one in terms of the format?

Nick: We use full color for every page edge-to-edge. We use heavy 100-lb glossy paper for the cover and 80-lb glossy paper for all inside pages. The old version used 60-lb paper. We want the new Journal issues to be collectors' items.

“ Violet: I agree that they look valuable. There are not many advertisements in the Journal. Can you make money on it?”

Nick: We don't want to publish a Journal that looks like a catalogue, so we have almost no ads. Honestly, I will never do it as a business venture. I just want to share the knowledge and information and to keep in touch with martial artists all over the world through this magazine.

“ Violet: Have you set a date that you want to break even?”

Nick: Based on our past experience, we realized that this would be a long process but we are committed to the project for the long run. It would be nice if we could break even within two years.

“ Violet: I notice that there are a few columns such as “Book and Media Reviews,” “Martial Theory,” and “Health Research Corner.” Do you have regular columnists for them?”

Nick: Sifu [Sara Gellhorn](#) is in charge of “Book and Media Reviews” and Master [Nick Gracenin](#) is responsible for “Coach's Corner.” For other columns, we are open to everyone.

“ If you want to know more about the Journal, to learn the content of the inaugural (Winter) and Spring 2012 issues, or to place a subscription order, you can click the [link](#) here.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- Reading the tea leaf of the closing of Inside Kung-Fu Magazine
- Get Qi Magazine for free
- Welcome Yang Sheng
- Mastery Journal
- Kung Fu Tai Chi Magazine is now on iPad!



Violet Li

Tai Chi Examiner