

LUM TAI-YUNG: SIL-LUM FUT-GAR



**LUM TAI-YUNG
(1895 - 1957)**

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Lum Tai-Yung was born August 10, 1895 and died June 10, 1957. As well as being well versed in the Sil-Lum Fut-Gar (少林佛家) arts, Lum Tai-Yung was also skilled in medicine and healing arts. He was well known in the islands as a bone setter. He would help a lot of the ill in the Chinese community.

According to one source, Lum Tai-Yung was also a personal bodyguard to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen before coming to Hawai'i.

Lum Tai-Yung was educated in a Sil Lum (Shao-Lin) Monastery, somewhere in northern China and was one of the youngest who came out. He was one of five who graduated at the same time. Two came to Hawai'i, one, a lady monk, resided in Kauai, and the other three went to South America, Canada, and Okinawa. Every ten years he had to return to China to renew his vows.

Lum Tai-Yung was about 5'9" in height and not more than 135 pounds. He had deep-set eyes and when he looked at you, it seemed he could read your mind. His personality was irresistible, and he had exceptionally long arms and fingers. In his teaching he was firm and yet kind; however, he expected students to do their best and improve from there.

CHINESE PHYSICAL CULTURE ASSOCIATION

Lum Tai-Yung was the third teacher recruited by the Chinese Physical Culture Association, the oldest non-profit kung-fu club in Hawai'i. In 1933, four men got together and organized this club. These four founding fathers were: Hoo Ching, Ching

S Hong, Lum Young, and Lee Wai Choy. They met to create an organization to perpetuate the martial arts of kung-fu, lion dancing, and all the values inherent in practicing and perfecting Chinese physical culture. Professor Yen Kong Bung was asked to be the first instructor. Shortly after, in 1934, Professor Lau You Cho joined the ranks as instructor. A year later, Professor Lum Tai-Yung became the third bona fide master to teach there. In 1941, Lum Tai-Yung opened his own martial arts school, naming the Gee Yung ("Go Forth: Be Courageous") Chinese Physical Culture Association, which taught the Fut-Gar style exclusively.



Photos courtesy of Silu Arthur Lee

LUM TAI-YUNG'S INFLUENCE

Lum Tai-Yung, who was well known to all of the martial artists in Hawai'i, taught and influenced many people who would go on to become prominent teachers in the United States. In Hawai'i Lum Tai-Yung's art is still being taught by Arthur Yau Sun Lee (Sil-Lum Fut-Gar), Andrew Lum (Tao-Gar) and Harlan Lee, Son of Arthur Lee.

Other famous martial artists who trained with or were influenced by Lum Tai-Yung are Ming Gun Lum (the Late master of Fut-Gar and Choy Li Fut), Adriano Emperado (the late grandmaster of Kajukenbo) and Daniel K. Pai (the late grandmaster of Pai-Lum Kung-Fu).



Portrait of the first Chinese Kung-Fu Club outside China, which operated in Hawai'i from 1933-61. Lum Tai-Yung is seated in the second row, second from the right.

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