



P R O G R A M

Sunday, 26.10.08 Dance and General Assembly

After the first day of the seminar, a delicious buffet waited for us for dinner. Before the G.A. we could relax enjoying a performance of folk-dances from Northern Greece.

Clad in traditional costumes, 16 young dancers of the Greek Lyceum from Megara offered – accompanied by thrilling music – fireworks of movements, which made us applaud breathlessly and enthusiastically.

Afterwards followed the General Assembly, main point of the Convention of E.O.T.A.- Greece, which was carried out as planned and ended when Joanna Barczyk handed over the “President’s Hammer” and the “Chain of Presidency” to Greta Vervoort, the new Belgian E.O.T.A. President.

Joanna handed to Greta gifts for the members of the Belgian Board – table cloths with hemstitch, depicting Olive branches.

Greta expressed her thanks to the Greek Board and its President, Joanna Barczyk, for the seminar, hoping to be able to continue in the same way.

E.O.T.A. means Solidarity that’s why Greta knows that she can always count on Joanna’s help.

Greta described the belgian E.O.T.A.-locality, the health resort SPA, where we shall be happy to meet again in 2010.

Greta Vervoort introduced two ladies of the future Belgian Board who were present as participants of the seminar: Jeannine Devocht and Nelly Cautereels.

Long lasting applause, expressing appreciation, ended the G.A.

Text: Margot Kawinski

Fotos: Annelie Wagner und M.K.



**Monday, 27.10.2008: Lecture about Ikebana „Landscapes“
by Geneviève Ausenda, Milan Chapter**

Geneviève sees Landscape-arrangements in a different way since she has visited in 2006 the great exhibition “Moribana from now on” in the Takashimaya Department Store in Tokyo, which was created for the 111-years Anniversary of Ohara School. Just as the Japanese believe, that in each tree there lives a Deity – Kami -, she remembers her experience: to feel respect and devotion to Divinities.

She speaks about her conclusive thoughts and asks us to consider the following

- which vegetation exists in our country
- which trees have a religious background
- which symbolism do flowers have
- which trees were painted during Renaissance in 15th and 16th century or later

**Let us study the old Masters in museums and illustrations so that we can create “Near View, Middle- and Far View landscapes” following traditional and realistic methods.
We can then show photos of these arrangements in our next E.O.T.A. seminar in Belgium.**

Two examples: Leonardo da Vinci painted on his “Annunciation to Maria” in the background Cypresses (ideal for a Traditional Landscape), or the “Holy Forest” from Poussin with its manifold botanics.

My researches have shown till now, that “holy trees” had already been dedicated to teutonic deities, for example:

- Yew-tree = Taxus, Linden-tree = Tilia, Ash-tree = Fraxinus, Oak-tree = Quercus

In the mediterranean region the Christian Symbols:

- Pine-tree = Pinus for endurance and strength, pine-cones too
- Cedar-tree = Cedrus, Cypresses = Cupresus for immortality, Palm tree = Palmier

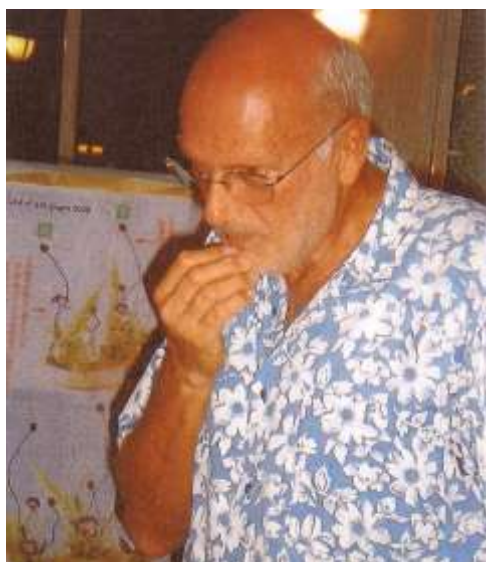
Flowers with Christian Symbolism:

- Lilies = Liliun (see Leonardo’s Annunciation), Larkspur = Delphinium, Angelica archangelica = Angelica,
- Arum macalatum = Arum and Clover leaf = Trifolium means Trinity, Violet = Viola and Strawberry = Fragaria symbolize Modesty.

We are all anxious to see the result - what a challenge !

Text and photo: Margot Kawinski





**Monday, 27.10.2008:
2nd Lecture: “ The influence of TAOISM and
SHINTOISM in Ikebana”
by Mauro Graf, Milan Chapter**

Mauro collects books, which were written before the foundation of Ohara School and which inform us about the origin of Ikebana.

Of utmost importance were the rules for the 3 major lines Shu, Fuku and Kyaku in the different religions: Taoism, Shintoism, Buddhism and Konfuzionism.

The picture he showed of a Rikka-example of Ikenobo School with 9 major lines is difficult to be understood. In comparison to this, the Shoka from the Edo-period with its major lines, Shu, Fuku, Kyaku plus high branch filler and low branch filler are similar to the Ohara rules.

The example with *Aspidistra* leaves shows an important aspect of Taoism: Light and dark side at Yang and Yin with the examples of positive and negative, masculin and feminin, strong and weak, front side and back side (see the sunny side of the mountain and its shady one), which is applied in Ikebana too.

While TAOISM with its theory of Yin-Yang shows, through TAI-JI, especially the asymmetric triangle and influences too the combination of materials, the religious meaning is explicit in SHINTOISM.

Heaven = Sun should be imagined in the south, that is up high, where the Tenno-Emperor is looking at, having the sun in front of him, but all the “subjects” of his retinue look towards the Tenno. In all the other civilisations one must imagine North up and South down.

Transferred to Ikebana, the Tenno is Shu, all the other “subject” fillers, inclusive the other major lines, look towards the Tenno – i.e.: in Ohara School all plants look towards the Sun.

YANG: Colours of Shu and Fuku are strong
Shu and Fuku branches are strong
YIN : Kyaku is soft, weak

This means for the traditional Colour-method: Kyaku is white.
Red or pink is standing by the side of Yang = Shu + Fuku.
In San-Shu-Ike the independent group is standing between Shu/Fuku and Kyaku.
San-Shu-Ike = traditional Colour Scheme Moribana with 3 materials.

In One Row example, Shu = Tenno is standing in the middle. Fuku and Kyaku hongatte (left) and gyakugatte (right) look towards Shu.

This theory is evident in Hagumi-Technics (Position of the Iris-leaves in the example of the Hanashobu Iris).

An 8-pages theory, elaborated by Mauro Graf gave us a widespread interesting base for our Ikebana knowledge.

Text and photo: Margot Kawinski

Tuesday, 28.10.08 – Farewell Party

Before we met for our Farewell Party, there was a cheerful occasion for a celebration. After the delicious supper suddenly the lights went out in the dining room, so that the “fireworks” accompanying the birthday cake, which was brought in, could better be appreciated.

We celebrated our dear Edeltraut Kokocinski with greek Champagne and a Happy Birthday song. There were lots of happy moments we experienced with her as german E.O.T.A. President and now Honorary President and tireless translator during our E.O.T.A. seminars.



Our Farewell Party was a medley of music, dance and poetry with participants from different countries:

Japan: Our two Japanese Masters and all japanese participants sang traditional songs from their country.

Italy: The italian participants entered with handmade leather-masks from Mauro Graf and acted cheerfully accompanied by Sardinian music.

Martinique: A key note speech for the recently deceased writer Aime Césaire.

We were put into good mood with Punch (prepared by original recipe) as well as a “Pas de deux” dance accompanied by cheerful music.

France entertained us with a wonderful humorous performance.

England: We heard a cheerful and at the same time sad poem of Lewis Carroll, known through “Alice in Wonderland” about a pig which was sad because it could not jump.

Belgium: In view of the new E.O.T.A. host country, we laughed and enjoyed the actor’s talent of Nelly Cautereels who praised peculiarities of her country.

Germany:

1. North Germany – North West Germany Study Group:

We drank offered specialties like “Bünting Tee” and “Tee Söpke” but the illustrating film about drinking habits and landscape fell victim of technical problems.

2. Frankfurt Chapter:

The german participants did honour to our President Joanna Barczyk, singing for her the Hildegard Knef song: „Für Dich soll es Rote Rosen regnen“ (It should rain Red Roses for you), by offering her as gift a basket of handmade red roses.

Switzerland: Two Cow-herds conducted their small herd of black and white cows who danced to the tune of alpine music all singing together the song “Le vieux Chalet” (The old Chalet).

The cheerful mood turned to contemplative and at the same time happy mood.

The President thanked all those, who, with their help, had contributed to the success of the seminar, with dear convenient gifts. The most heartfelt thanks were due to our Honorary President Jenny Banti, who had founded E.O.T.A. in 1979 and who till today had honoured every E.O.T.A. country and its seminar participants with her presence.

Our strong wish is to see Jenny Banti and each other safe and sound again in Belgium, where maybe after the seminar we shall be able to admire its flemish art of painting.

The three successful and harmonic seminars in Greece were the result of an outstanding organisation by Joanna Barczyk and her Board and the active help of Günter Barczyk, her husband. This performance we all take thankfully as a great gift.

The greatest gift, Joanna gave us, was a good bye without sadness, but with a wonderful feeling of happiness.

Text : Margot Kawinski

Photos: Annelie Wagner and Margot Kawinski



29 and 30.10.2008: Excursion to Lake Plastira and Meteora.

Making way by bus to Thessalia in the center of the greek mainland, one is not any more focusing on beautiful Ikebana material, but notices fertile plains, beige grey limestone rocks, green forests and finally with astonishment a great surface of water: The 25 sqkm large lake Plastira reservoir, being surrounded by the Agrafa mountains. From the restaurant we had the most beautiful view over this lake Tavropos, which is its official name. Apart of its hydroelectric power plant it supplies about 40 villages in the Thessalian plain with water.

At dusk we arrived in Kalambaka, below the Meteora monasteries and most of us were enticed to see the illuminated rock formations from near. The word Meteora in Greek means "pending in the air", the Turkish word Kalambaka has the same meaning, and it gave the name to the village at the side of the river Pinios, called before Stagi. The unique group of monasteries was declared UNESCO world heritage in 1988.

A desire we had for a long time was fulfilled the next morning: to finally see the rock monasteries from the near, but not with blue sky, but full of mystery in the autumn mist, like an enchanted forest of stones.

These rock formalities in the plain of Trikala came into existence 60 million years ago in the tertiary period, when the sea, which had covered them, fell into the Aegeis and left these sedimentary rocks exposed to erosion.

Since the 11th century a number of caves had been used as hermitages for orthodox monks. From the monasteries which were built later on, only six still have inhabitants. The first one and till today the most beautiful monastery, which we visited, was founded in 14th century by Athanassios, a monk from mount Athos. With the help of serbian princes, who in those days were the sovereigns in Thessalia and especially his friend Iosaph, who had become a monk too, the monastery Megalo Meteoron was created. Today this monastery consists of the main church = Katholikon, chapels, cells for the monks, a guest house for visitors, refectory, kitchen, library etc.

In the main church, the walls of which are covered with icons, which picture the doctrinal and liturgical cyclus of the Orthodox Church, we saw icon paintings of cretan school and remembered "El Greco", who originally was a cretan icon painter.

This kind of painting is characterized by special features: the eyes, the forehead and the nose express tranquility, rapture and celestial felicity. Mountains and hills are stylized, while plants and animals take geometric shape. The human body is of secondary importance, that is why the orthodox painter shows it either with classical draped garment or naked, without characteristic features. Everything radiates immortal beauty.

In the museum we could admire Codices = handwritten documents from the 14th century with wonderful paintings, furthermore portable icons, magnificent crucifixes, made of gold, silver or with enamel platings, other liturgy-used items and lots of other things. Owing to the foresight and cleverness of the monks these treasures are preserved till today.

When climbing 115 steps (till 1923 the ascent was managed by rope-ladder or by net) we discovered the hermitage of the founder Athanassios.

Our second visit was to the nunnery St. Stephanos (since 1961). Its history is an eventful one and it is the only Meteora monastery, that was granted in 1605 autonomy by the Patriarch Raphael from Constantinople. In the main church are no wall paintings, but most skilled woodcarvings, which represent symbolic themes from flora and fauna, scenes which show saints and the holy communion as well as two choir stalls with intarsias from mother of pearl and ivory. The former refectory is now used as museum, showing masterpieces of church art treasures.

27 nuns live here, fulfilling social duties as doctors and teachers.

Remarkable were in the open air numberless lush potted plants, flower beds and a rose garden on a steep ledge. Even if you did not know it, you could recognize caring female hands.

It is not possible to express in writing those feelings, which every visitor experiences, who may see this peaceful, sublime beauty and who feels those mysterious might, which work in one's soul.

Thank you Joanna.

Text and photos Margot Kawinski

