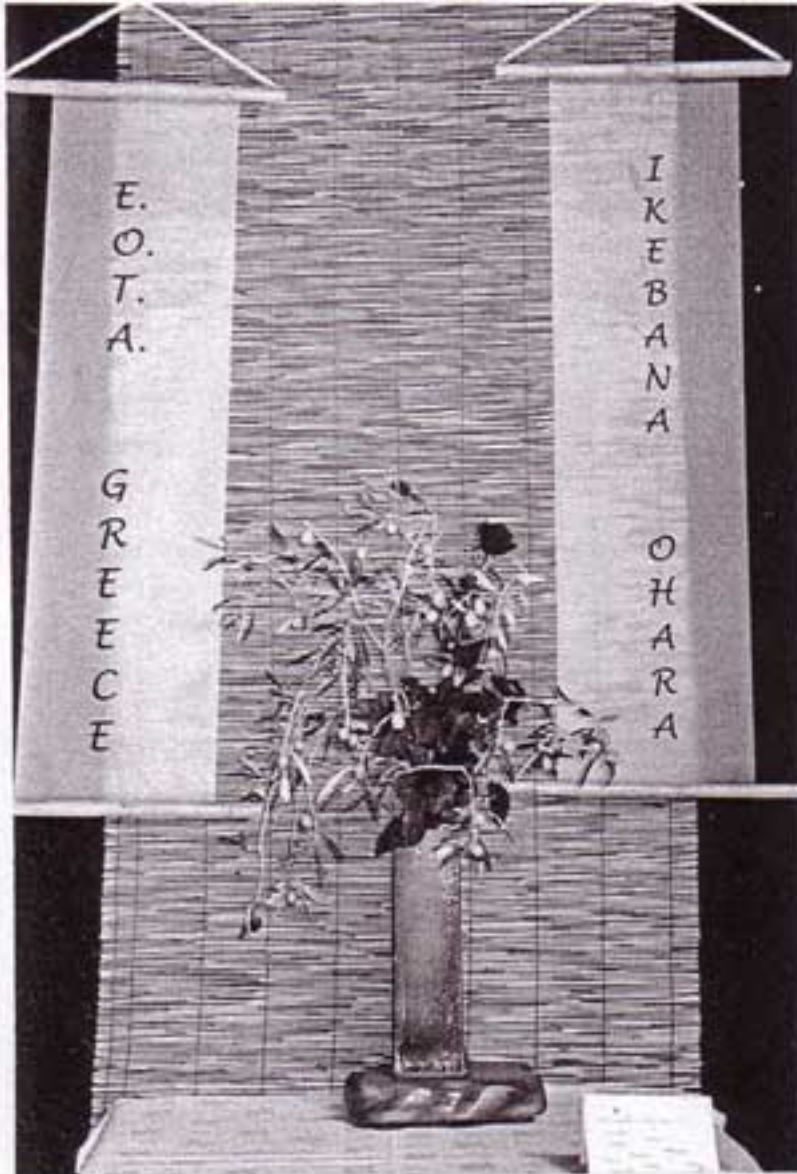


October 19th-21st, 2005

General Assembly and Ikebana Seminar in Kinetta, Attica, Greece.

E.O.T.A.- Greece welcomed in our country Ass.Professor Takumi Ito and his assistant Ass.Professor Hiroyuki Kawakami. The Japanese Masters were sent to Greece by Ohara School Headquarters, Japan, to direct this Ikebana-Ohara seminar





Three days E.O.T.A seminar

in Greece

19 - 21.10. 2005

To have the occasion to exercise Ikebana in a country, which has influenced the European culture with its mythology and art, means to "search the country of the Greeks with our souls".

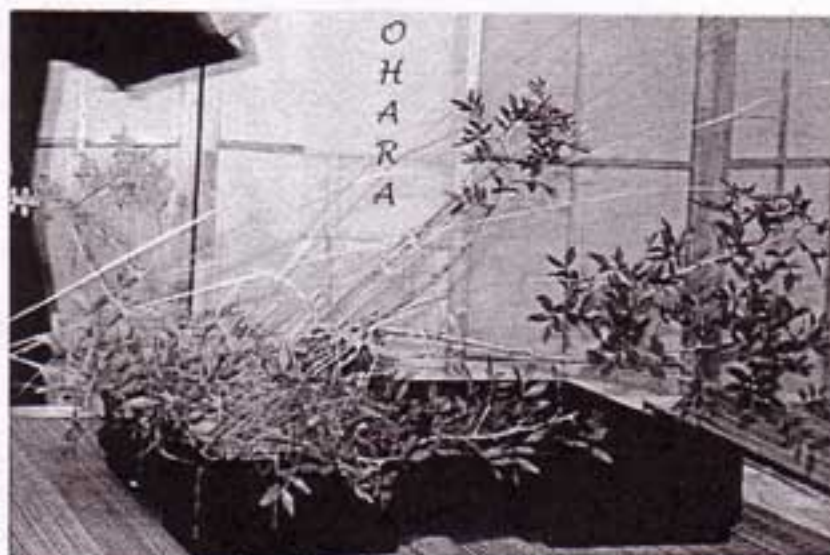
Joanna Charitou Barczyk, our new president, could welcome on the evening of October 18th, at the 26th E.O.T.A. seminar in Kinetta Beach Hotel, 64 participants and some of their husbands. They had come from seven European countries, even from Canada and Guyane. The nice bungalows in the park, the mild sea climate, which invited to have a swim and the delicious buffet with greek specialities increased the anticipation of the next days. Joanna distributed the seminar program which gave us a first impression of the well planned and perfect organization of the seminar. An olive branch was meant to accompany us:

1. As a welcomegift in form of a brooch
2. In our rooms in a vase combined with a red rose
3. As Ikebana in the seminar room

How can one create a realistic landscape?

By first exploring the landscape with your eyes and your feet!

To cut material for all the lessons, we travelled by bus and cars to the Gerania mountains at impressive altitude, where we found an abundance of vegetation with wonderful shades of green: a fresh light green of the pine, the greyish green of cistus and the dark green of oak- and pistachio-trees. At some places we saw the orange-red shine of the fruits of the greek strawberry-tree. Enchanting were various planes covered with bright violet Cyclamen. Not to forget: old bizarre bushes of heather (*Erica arborea*).



Programs:

Jeannine Koster showed us a video film of a demonstration which was performed by Master Ito on the occasion of the anniversary of the Ohara Netherlands Chapter. Master Ito continued his journey afterwards via Switzerland and England to Greece, where he and his assistant, Mr. Kawakami, were expected for the E.O.T.A. seminar. The video showed wonderful arrangements with beautiful material.

The evening programs started on Wednesday with the General Assembly. A dance evening followed on Thursday with a performance of greek folk dances. Highlight for our mind and soul was a lecture in English by G enevi e Ausenda on Friday evening: "Luminous destiny of the Chinese Literati".

Our knowledge about Bunjin-bana and its origin experienced a new dimension by this enthusiastic performance which was illustrated by slides. Maybe we will receive one day this lecture written. I can see in my imagination a scroll picture of Sesshu Toyo, who lived during the Muromachi period 1336-1568 and who travelled to China to learn painting. One can learn further details from the book: Japanese painting in the Literati Style by Yoshiho Yonezawa und Chu Yoshizawa, English by Betty Iverson Monroe. New York Weatherhill/Heibonsha Tokyo. ISBN 0-8348-1019-0. A painting of a Literati sitting on a banana leaf, which can be found in the Rietberg Museum, Zurich, shows Nan Sheng-lu, painted in 1649 by Ch' en Hung-shou. This happy face remains in everyone's memory. The evening closed with a special buffet which offered a variety of tasteful specialities and increased the anticipation of the next day's excursion to Argolis, October 22nd.



Our esteemed teachers
Grand Masters Jenny Banti + Annik Gendrot

Five countries - five friends
Ikebana Friends from:
(left to right)

Italy, France, Spain, Belgium
and France



Excursion to Argolis: Mycenae, Epidaurus, Nafplion, Canal of Corinth

Thérèse Brissy had prepared a report about the history and the mythology of the sites, which were to be visited. This report showed that the seminar would be topped by a highlight: Knowing that our eyes would see the same landscape in Mycenae, which the inhabitants of the fortress saw in 1600 b.c. and that we could touch the same cyclopien walls from limestone conglomerat, is unforgettable.

What must Heinrich Schliemann have felt in 1876, when he started his excavations?

Epidaurus is today famous for its theater and the theater festivals. The ruins of Asclepius sanctuary show the extension of the buildings' complex and remind us the strong faith of the sick. Have they been actually cured? This place is still an oasis of hope today.

The most beautiful small town in Greece, Nafplion, impressed by its history and its site. The venetian fortress from the 17th century looks from its height all over the town. It reminds the people, who live in its shadow, that they had survived a foreign reign. A stroll through the narrow streets confirmed the praise, we had read, for the beauty of the town.

We saw in twilight the Canal of Corinth. It was inaugurated in 1893 - we were allowed to see it, Caesar, Caligula and Nero could only dream of it.



The Citadel of Mycenae.
The Lions Gate, seen from behind,
embedded in the Cyclopien Walls.



Glory and Ruins - Epidaurus.



Happy Joanna, surrounded by Masters Takumi Ito and Hiroyuki Kawakami, as well as a joyful participant from France.

Many thanks to Joanna Charitou Barczyk and her team for these successful and harmonious days. Mr. Barczyk has contributed too. Thanks!

The "Big Seminar", which will take place in spring 2007 with all its wonderful spring material will certainly attract the Friends of this year's seminar, to come again to Greece.

What did Assistant Professor Ito say in his resumé?
Be kind to the plants because they will be forever your friends.



With all the best wishes.....
Text and Photographs: Margot Kawinski