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## CONGRESS EWTO IN HOCKENHEIM 2016 :TRIP TO THIS EVENT FOR STUDIES OF MARTIAL ARTS

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### Keywords:

- martial arts,
- EWTO,
- Keith Kernspecht,
- martial arts tourism.

### Abstract:

Background. This work was prepared in the scientific framework of the anthropology of martial arts and theoretical conception of the “martial arts tourism”. Moreover, it is a contribution to the knowledge of the functioning of martial arts’ organization and cultural dialogue in the area of physical culture.

Problem. Description and assessment of events in Hockenheim, as significant for the study of martial arts, and a case study of martial arts tourism are the target of this work.

Method. The main method is participant observation, and – additionally – analysis of the literature.

Results. The program of the congress was presented, comments of the evolution taught in EWTO martial arts and the specific characteristics of participation in the event. Hockenheim was the place of meeting Grand Masters and many students, EWTO members and guests.

Conclusions. EWTO is the high advanced organisation in institutionalisation process, and already has its own tradition. Seminar ‘2016 was the event that can be remembered as important for contemporary history of martial arts.

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## INTRODUCTION

This work was prepared in the scientific framework of the anthropology of martial arts and theoretical conception of the “martial arts tourism” [Cynarski 2009; 2012a]. Moreover, it is a contribution to the knowledge of the functioning of the organization (and others) of martial arts and cultural dialogue in the area of physical culture.

Description and assessment of events in Hockenheim, as significant for the study of martial arts, and a case study of martial arts tourism are the target of this work. It will be another, next contribution to the state of knowledge. The main method used here is the participant observation, and – additionally – analysis of the literature [Krippendorf 2004; Spencer 2012].

In recent years, the annual international seminars EWTO, the European Wing Tsun Organisation, held in Hockenheim, a town more famous for its motor racing [Cynarski 2011, 2013a, b; *WingTsun Welt* 2015]. A large town hall and the surrounding squares plus tents are appropriate for many participants in these annual events.

Will be discussed program of this year's congress, comments of the evolution taught in EWTO martial arts, important figures and specific characteristics of participation in the event. Hockenheim was the meeting place of the Grand Masters and many students, EWTO members and guests. Because the number of participants (about a thousand, including 800 active participants), it was the Congress, and according to the organization – an international jubilee seminar. It concerned mainly the methodology of teaching internal WingTsun, *escrima*

and grappling, and *qigong*. In the programme were also some issues on strategies to combat and the psychology of self-defence.

## PROGRAMME

In Hockenheim (Germany), May 14-16, 2016 was organised the big event: “40 Years Anniversary of the European WingTsun Organisation”. Workshops were held from morning to evening, with short breaks.

On Saturday, May 14 Mr J. Kestner (Germany) conducted about the behaviour in real combat situations and “Scenario-training”; Mr R. Schirdewahn (Germany) – “prevention of violence”, Dr Oliver König (Austria) – “WingTsun and grappling”, GM G. Schembri (Swiss) – classical WingTsun, Prof. B. Newman (UK) – *escrima*, Dr Siegfried Wolf (Germany) – *bunkai karate* (*kata* interpretation), Prof. Charles Spring (UK) – *karate* in self-defence, Sascha Rimasch (Germany) – sensory awareness, and Prof. Keith Kernspecht – inner WingTsun. There were also sessions on conducting activities with children, free fighting WingTsun, *qigong* exercises and grappling on basis of Brazilian *jujutsu*.

May 15 topics above were continued. Additionally, Prof. Jon Bluming (The Netherlands) and Dr O. König conducted workshop (practical work): grappling - fighting techniques on the ground. In the afternoon was the presentation of knights fighting prepared by GM Newman’s fencing school.

The Plenary Session was opened at 19:45. Were greeted representations of different countries. For example from Bulgaria there was representation of two Universities, from Plovdiv and Sofia. Dr Hans-Wolfgang Neumann (ex-student of K. Kernspecht and bodyguard of Georg Harrison from ‘The Beatles’) – presented a speech on the EWTO history. Prof. Veselin Margaritov, Bulgarian ex-Ministry of Sport and Olympic athlete in wrestling, took about his cooperation with Prof. Kernspecht and EWTO. Andre Karkalis conducted a panel discussion with Prof. Kernspecht and Prof. Newman. Announced the release of new books of both authors.

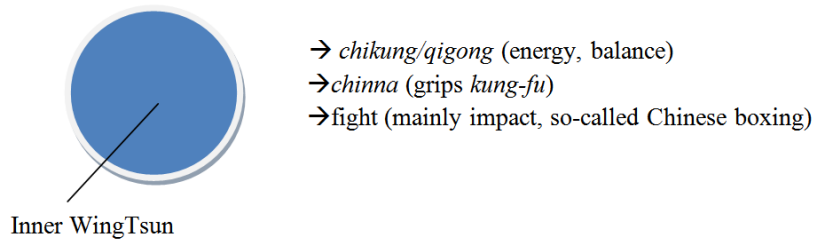
Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski, President of IMACSSS, presented laudation for title and medal for the president of EWTO. On behalf of European Martial Arts Committee and International Martial Arts Committee “Medal for Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts” and Professor title were handed for Prof. **Keith Kernspecht**.

They were also awarded certificates confirming the award of higher degrees for several people. E.g. Thomas Schrön received 9<sup>th</sup> *toan* and Grand Master title in *WingTsun* (EWTO), and *kaicho* J. Bluming handed 6<sup>th</sup> dan in *Kyokushin karate* for Charles Spring. Several demonstrations of martial arts graced the gala evening.

May 16 there was another series of workshops and a session devoted to the theory of martial arts and history, under the direction of Prof. Bluming. Participants received certificates confirming participation in the seminar and at 3 p.m. announced the completion of the event.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVOLUTION OF MARTIAL ARTS

Important figures from the world of martial arts, present in Hockenheim, develop today's form of martial arts. The author especially tried to fathom the meaning of created by the GM K. Kernspecht system called "Inner WingTsun". Deliberately so he practiced at almost every session devoted this.



**Figure 1.** Inner WingTsun [author's explanation]

GM **Keith Kernspecht** (10<sup>th</sup> master degree / *toan* Wing Tsun *kung-fu*, 8 dan *karate*, etc.) is one of the best experts of Asian martial arts [Sieber, Pawelec 2016], creator and leader of EWTO. He has been studied Chinese, Japanese and other martial arts for many years. Now he creates the new style and system: the *Inner WingTsun* [Kernspecht 2014].

As a result of the descriptions [Kernspecht 2014; *WingTsun Welt* 2015: 10-15, 75-81] and explanations, and especially practical exercises, the author of this article considers this system interesting from the keel reasons. It is: 1) the development of the classical WingTsun *kung-fu*; 2) application valuable achievements of the Taoist schools *Nei-jia* (the "inner styles" *kung-fu*); 3) an explanation of the classic poetic concepts in a rational way. Furthermore, the *Inner WingTsun* combined with *qigong* and *chinna* (fig. 1).

GM **Bill Newman** (10<sup>th</sup> master degree in Newman *escrima*), properly Sir William Newman, lord of Dilish and member of the European Nobility Club IPA, is master-teacher of modernised *escrima*. He was student of GM Rene Latosa (Latosa *escrima*). He completed this school of fencing, adding possession of weapons of European Middle Ages [Newman 2005; Cynarski 2013b]. It is like a combination wielding white weapons of chivalry and fighting techniques according to tradition from the Philippines.

GM **Jon Bluming** (10 dan *karate*, 10 dan *hapkido*, 9 dan *judo*, etc.) is first of all a living legend of *Kyokushin karate*, and *Kodokan judo*. He is Professor of PE (Tokyo) and Prof. emeritus of the Bulgarian Hilendarski University in Plovdiv. The famous expert of fighting was the one of first European students of Masutatsu Oyama, *yudansha* (black belt) in *kendo* and *iaijutsu*, *judoka*, and he teaches grappling now [Bluming 2015: 5-237]. Therefore in Hockenheim had gathered a bunch of *karate* black belt holders, e.g. Dr Siegfried Wolf (8 dan, President of KVBW<sup>1</sup>), Prof. Kernspecht (8 dan), W.J. Cynarski (8 dan, *hanshi*). People came to Hockenheim, to practice under the supervision of the 83-year-old master. So once J. Bluming traveled to Japan and Korea to learn martial arts, and he still teaches now.

In addition to these Grand Masters, the Congress participated actively, among other GM **Josef Schoop** (10 dan *hapkido*, etc.) and GM **W.J. Cynarski** (10 dan *judo-do/ido*, etc. [Kubala 2011, 2015]), and other high-ranking experts, as mentioned earlier GM **O. König** and GM **G. Schembri** (9 toan WingTsun), Dr **S. Wolf** (8 dan Shotokan), and *sensei* **C. Spring** (5 dan Shukokai), who effectively develops pedagogy and didactics of martial arts [cf. Spring 2015].

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARTIAL ARTS TOURISM

The "tourism of martial arts" appeared here in its pure form [Cynarski 2011, 2012b; Griffith 2016], when people came to Hockenheim for this jubilee seminar to learn or teach martial arts, and in scientific / cognitive dimension [Cynarski, Kubala 2015; Cynarski, Sieber, Mytskan 2015]. That means, for the realization of martial arts' studies, which does not preclude active participation in practical classes.

Because of that EWTO is an organization of private and commercial, the program has been arranged for participants who pay for their participation. Compared to previous years,

the number of papers, analyzes and theoretical lectures were reduced, while the increased offer of workshops (teaching technical-tactical and methodical issues).

GM Bluming learned once martial arts mainly from Japanese teachers to teach today. GM Newman went to California, there to learn about martial art *escrima*. For many years now, he has been developing and teaching a modified version of the fencing. GM Kernspecht was yet in 2014 in China to supplement there (at the source) his knowledge and improve skills in the "inner styles". All of them was a teacher during this event in Hockenheim. They came here to teach. GM Cynarski taught here advanced form of *karate - Yori-no kata*, and learned under the eye of the aforementioned Grand Masters. In each of these cases it was the martial arts tourism in the strict sense.

Dr S. Wolf and C. Spring came to the Seminar for teaching (role of referents), meeting people, and practicing too; Prof. Newman – for teaching and celebration the anniversary; Prof. Cynarski – for research, cooperation in IMACSSS<sup>ii</sup>, and for practical study. Prof. Kernspecht, the organiser and host, was here the teacher who teaches the new created style of *Inner WingTsun*.

In parallel, we can speak about cultural tourism, when the matter concerns learning cultural products of foreign, non-European countries, as well as scientific one, as the event was important for the practice of martial arts associated with research about institutionalization of martial arts, their history and evolution, teaching methodology, the functioning of the socio-cultural phenomenon of martial arts and on martial arts tourism [*cf.* Cynarski, Sieber, Mytskan 2015; Griffith 2016].

## CONCLUSIONS

International Seminar “40 Years EWTO” brought together about 1000 participants. Workshops were contacted by Grand Masters: Prof. Keith Kernspecht (WingTsun *kung-fu*), Prof. Bill Newman (Newman *escrima*), Prof. Jon Bluming (grappling), and some other teachers. It was well organised, with presented contents in a good level of quality.

EWTO is the high advanced organisation in institutionalisation process, and already has its own tradition. Seminar ‘2016 was the event that can be remembered as important for contemporary history of martial arts.

Achievements in life undisputed martial arts’ masters of the highest-ranking assured bring together hundreds of athletes who came to practice under the guidance of top experts. It was a particularly important meeting of experts and practitioners of martial arts.

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<sup>i</sup> The Karate Verband Baden-Württemberg, federation for Bundesland Baden-Württemberg [Karate 2016]

<sup>ii</sup> The International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society.