

## MARTIAL ARTS' TOURISM

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### ***Jūjutsu Seminar in Vienna at Wado Te Jutsu School of Franz Strauss. Presentation of Expert-Professor Medal and Diploma to Extraordinary Teacher of Jūjutsu and Judō-dō Idō***

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**Key words:** *jūjutsu*, seminar, expert-professor title, training, EJKC

#### **Abstract**

The problem of relations between martial arts study with methodical training and organisational trip to Vienna was analysed from the perspective of sociology as well as martial arts theory. The qualitative methods of participant observation, textual analysis, face-to-face interview were used, complemented by comparative analysis.

The results of research conclude that the trip to Vienna qualifies as martial arts tourism. The purpose of the organizational trip was to conclude the matter regarding the decision made by the European Jūjutsu and Kobudō Committee (EJKC) to distinguish master F. Strauss. Such a situation fosters cultural encounter of masters, master-teacher and his students and the cultural dialogue which constitutes secondary influence of martial arts practice.

#### **Introduction**

The theoretical perspective is provided by the sociology of martial arts teacher profession, the sociology of tourism and travel, the systemic theory of tourism, and the humanistic theory of martial arts [Cynarski 2004]. The issue concerns martial arts teacher profession on European scale, the relations between martial arts tourism and cultural tourism as well as, to some extent, scientific tourism.

The qualitative methods of participant observation, textual analysis of literature on the subject and documents, as well as face-to-face interview were used, complemented by comparative analysis. The basis for the research consists of seminar reports, analysis of recordings, interviews with martial arts masters which constitute development of skills and professional knowledge in the purest form.

The main goal of the trip, connected to organisational purpose, participation in the meeting aimed at professional development and the exchange of knowledge, was combined with cultural and social purposes, i.e. learning about history, monuments, national tradition and cuisine.

Martial arts tourism is a form of cultural tourism [Cynarski 2009b, 2010, p. 254] and at the same time, in a broader sense, sports tourism [Getz 1998; Chalip 2004; Sieber, Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2006].

The sociology of tourism and physical recreation reveal jointly the relations between the travelling of martial arts practitioners and their lifestyle, trends, as well as the axiology perceived by these tourists, but they are also related to physical practice of martial arts [Sieber, Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2006, p. 169].

#### **Impressions and observations**

European Jūjutsu and Kobudō Committee (EJKC) is an international educational and sports association. As an expert committee it constitutes a chapter of Medal “for Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts.” It operates within the structures of International Federation of Modern Ju-Jitsu; however, it is an independent organisation. The purpose of the Committee is to discover martial arts experts, award the title of martial arts expert-professor titles to deserving masters, implement the European project concerning training and obtaining the vocational qualifications in the



**Fig. 1.** The title of martial arts Expert-Professor being awarded to *shihan* Strauss. In the picture starting from the left side: *shihan* Franz Strauss, *hanshi* Jan Slopecki, *shihan* Krzysztof Grzybowski

field of martial arts. Distinguished and deserving masters, martial arts experts, who studied under other masters for many years, should be honoured and their professional skills should be appreciated. The title of “Expert-Professor” should be conferred in a manner similar to awarding titles in the field of art, i.e. in honour of outstanding skills, knowledge, didactic achievements, moral authority, as well as publication of specialist literature and recognition within the community.

The trip to Vienna may be qualified as martial arts tourism; it may be called an “organisational” trip. The authors of the article on the subject of athletes’ trips [Cynarski, Sieber, Litwiniuk 2006, p. 226] divide martial arts tourism into: 1) training camps, 2) internships and seminars, 3) tournaments and shows, 4) sightseeing trips “back to the roots,” and 5) organisational trips. *Hanshi* Jan Slopecki went to Vienna as the EJKC council of experts’ president. “Organizational trips consist of making agreements, participating in meetings of associations on the national or international level, or ‘dealing with’ matters regarding the operation of individual martial arts organisations.” These actions foster cultural encounter of masters, master-teacher and his students and the cultural dialogue which constitutes secondary influence of martial arts practice [Cynarski, Sieber, Litwiniuk 2006, pp. 227-228].

The seminar took place on 25 and 26 February 2012 in Vienna in Bezirk 22 district, at the main school of Franz Strauss. *Shihan* Franz Strauss, the vice-president of Austrian Jiu Jitsu Federation (JJVO) with the highest master rank (10<sup>th</sup> dan) in *jūjutsu* and *jūdō-dō* was the head of the training session. He has been developing his skills in these fields for over sixty years now. At first, he studied *jūdō* under Franz Nimfür and Leopold Wunsch.



**Fig. 2.** *Hanshi* Jan Slopecki conducting the training at the Vienna school

Later on, he trained *jūjutsu* under the supervision of Josef Ebetshuber, Rudolf Büchler, Josef Kühn and *aikidō* under I. Iwamoto (7<sup>th</sup> dan *yoshinkan*). He practiced *jūdō-dō* with Hans Schöllauf [cf.: Cynarski 2009a, p. 18].

Two members went to Vienna on behalf of the European Jūjutsu and Kobudō Committee (EJKC) – EJKC president, *hanshi* Jan Slopecki, 10<sup>th</sup> dan, and Krzysztof Grzybowski, 7<sup>th</sup> dan, both representatives of International Federation of Modern Ju-Jitsu. The representatives travelled by train from Warsaw to Vienna. The first stage of the journey was completed by reaching West-Banhof. At the train station, the Polish guests were welcomed by the seminar’s host *shihan* Franz Strauss.

*The remainder of our journey was completed by car – our destination was a hotel situated near the dōjō where the seminar was to take place. The ride took about 30 minutes. We reached our destination late in the evening. The purpose of our trip was to award the Expert-Professor title to the shihan (on behalf of EJKC). On Saturday morning, after breakfast, we went to the dōjō, which was located in the local school at Kirschenalle 29.*

The seminar started as planned at 9:30 AM. Franz Strauss officially welcomed all guests and participants of the training. Finally, it was time for the most important part of the seminar, i.e. the ceremony of awarding *shihan* Strauss the diploma and medal of EJKC. This exceptional award was presented to Franz Strauss by *hanshi* Jan Slopecki and *shihan* Grzybowski. Professor Strauss expressed his gratitude to the European Jūjutsu and Kobudō Committee for the award and for appreciation of his professional achievements.

After the official part of the agenda, it was time for the training sessions. They were conducted concurrently on two mats. The Saturday training

lasted until 5:00 PM with 1-hour dinner break. On Saturday, *hanshi* Słopecki conducted four 80-minute training sessions on mats, during which he presented the “modern ju-jitsu” technical program.

After Saturday training sessions on the mat, it was time to try the Viennese cuisine. *I could experience the touristic dimension of cultural exchange by the so called “touristic tasting”* [Cynarski, Obodyński 2006; Cynarski 2006, pp. 365-369]. All instructors went to dinner together. This part of the international meeting was devoted to tasting the delicacies of Viennese cuisine. *The taste of Viennese schnitzel we had for dinner confirmed its status as a traditional Viennese dish.* After the delicious first course we ordered dessert and Vienna coffee. Wonderful coffee served with warm apple pie set off the artistry of Viennese cuisine. *I was delighted with Viennese cuisine – the choices when it comes to the content and taste are similar to that of traditional Polish cuisine. In my opinion the effect achieved by chefs and waiters resembled a work of art..*

On Sunday the training lasted from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. On the second day of the seminar *hanshi* Jan Słopecki and *shihan* Grzybowski conducted two training sessions. During the first part of the session *shihan* Grzybowski demonstrated the technique of defence and attack combat with the use of a bat (60-centimetres). During the second part *hanshi* Słopecki demonstrated the use of *jūjutsu* throws in real combat. At 1:00 PM the seminar was formally concluded.

During the two-day training the sessions were conducted by the following masters: Franz Strauss (10<sup>th</sup> dan) from Austria, Jan Słopecki (10<sup>th</sup> dan) i Krzysztof Grzybowski (7<sup>th</sup> dan) from Poland, and the Austrians: Bernard Kovacs (6<sup>th</sup> dan), Robert Reinberg (5<sup>th</sup> dan), Wilhelm Erber (5<sup>th</sup> dan).

*After the official conclusion of the seminar we went for dinner with our colleagues from Vienna. We had to try more of the delicacies of Viennese cuisine we had tasted the day before. We still had some time before the departure of our train, so after the exquisite meal we decided to see the Viennese architecture.*

It was time for a “spiritual feast.” *Along with our Austrian friends, we decided to see the central part of Vienna. Rich Viennese architecture, old monuments of European culture were an excellent treat for our spirit.* The majority of monuments of the European culture have been renovated. The monuments, splendour and magnificence of architecture make Vienna the “heart of the

European culture.” Palaces, imperial courts, churches and castles testify to this; they are deeply rooted in the tradition and culture of Vienna. After sightseeing we decided to rest at a local café. *The traditional interior of the café dating back to the 19th century, its ambience, delicious Vienna coffee and biscuits delighted our palates and hearts.* The two-day experience was connected to tourism, getting to know the Viennese culture and tasting the delicacies of its cuisine.

Author’s own experience confirms the conclusions regarding the cultural and auto-creational motivation of this type of tourism [cf.: Chalip 2004; Funk, Bruun 2007; Cynarski 2010]. Furthermore, this constitutes another fact which confirms the hypothesis of secondary cultural influence of martial arts study [Cynarski 2000].

## Conclusion

The trip to Vienna was a planned “organisational” meeting of EJKC president with *shihan* Franz Strauss. The most important part of the visit concerned the EJKC’s decision and awarding master Strauss the title of Expert-Professor of martial arts (diploma and medal). The meeting was connected to the participation of *hanshi* Jan Słopecki – author of this article – in a two-day training seminar.

The trip for the organizational purposes along with active participation in training (as one of the instructors) allows the participants to get to know one another better and to achieve self-fulfillment resulting from the path of martial arts study and specific martial arts tourism. Such a situation fosters cultural encounter of masters, master-teacher and his students and the cultural dialogue which constitutes secondary influence of martial arts practice.

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## **Seminarium jūjutsu w Wiedniu w szkole Wado Te Jutsu Franza Straussa. Wręczenie medalu i dyplomu Expert-Professor wybitnemu nauczycielowi jūjutsu i jūdō-dō**

**Słowa kluczowe:** *jūjutsu*, seminarium, tytuł profesora-eksperta, szkolenie, EJJC

### **Streszczenie**

Autor w artykule tym omawia swoją podróż do prywatnej szkoły Wado Te Jutsu Franza Straussa. Perspektywę teoretyczną współtworzą tu: socjologia zawodu nauczyciela sztuk walki, socjologia turystyki i podróży, systemowa teoria turystyki oraz humanistyczna teoria sztuk walki. Problematyka dotyczy zawodu nauczyciela sztuk walki w wymiarze europejskim, powiązań turystyki sztuk walki z turystyką kulturową oraz w pewnym zakresie turystyką naukową. Zastosowano metody jakościowe – obserwację uczestniczącą, analizę treści literatury przedmiotu i dokumentów, wywiad bezpośredni, co uzupełniają analizy porównawcze. Bazą dla badań są: komunikaty o seminarium, analiza nagranych filmów, przeprowadzone rozmowy z mistrzami sztuk walki, będących „doskonaleniem umiejętności i wiedzy zawodowej” w czystej postaci. Wyjazd do Wiednia był zaplanowanym spotkaniem „organizacyjnym” przewodniczącego EJJC z shihanem Franzem Straussem. Najważniejszy punkt wizyty dotyczył zrealizowania decyzji EJJC i wręczenia mistrzowi Straussowi tytułu Experta-Profesora sztuk walki (dyplom i medal). Spotkanie to było powiązane z udziałem *hanshi* Jana Słopeckiego – autora artykułu - w dwudniowym seminarium szkoleniowym. Wyjazd w celach organizacyjnych powiązany z czynnym udziałem w szkoleniu, sprzyja lepszemu wzajemnemu poznaniu i samorealizacji wynikającym z drogi studiów sztuk walki i specyficznej turystyki sztuk walki. Sytuacja tego rodzaju sprzyja kulturowemu spotkaniu mistrzów, mistrza-nauczyciela i jego uczniów, oraz dialogowi kulturowemu stanowiącemu wpływ wtórny praktykowania sztuk walki. Cel główny wyjazdu był powiązany z celem organizacyjnym, udziałem w spotkaniu służącym doskonaleniu zawodowemu oraz wymianie wiedzy, łączył się z celami kulturalnymi i towarzyskimi – poznawaniem historii, zabytków kultury i tradycji narodowej oraz degustacją kuchni odwiedzanego kraju.