

REPORTS & REVIEWS

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World IMACSSS Congress and extraordinary distinctions for martial arts experts

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Before the Congress

As written in the introduction to the congressional Publishing House *Proceedings*: “Such broad participation is a result of numerous meetings and conferences which preceded the Congress in former years. Those meetings were held in Krosno and Targowiska (Poland), Viseu and Porto (Portugal), Chengdu and Taipei (China), Munich and Hockenheim (Germany). They were organized thanks to some institutions and prominent people” [Cynarski, Kubala, Obodyński 2010].

Indeed, it is mainly the merit of Prof. Dr hab. UR Wojciech J. Cynarski that after two years of efforts the organization of the Congress became possible. The meetings which contributed to that event took place in Krosno and Targowiska in 2008 and in Viseu in 2009, as well as travel to China, Germany, Portugal, Italy where the arrangements were made. [Cynarski 2010]. With Prof. Cynarski and the staff of the Faculty of Physical Education of Rzeszow University the following professors amongst others cooperated: Carlos Gutiérrez Garcia, Abel A. Figueiredo, Jong-Young Lee, Keith R. Kernspecht and Taketo Sasaki, experts - meijin Lothar Sieber, Dr Waldemar Sikorski, Dr Sergio Raimondo. Scientific and specialist institutions involved included: the International Association of Sport Kinetics (IASK), the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS), the International Society for Eastern Sports and Physical Education (ISESPE), the European Collage for Sport Sciences (ECSS), the European Jujutsu and Kobudo Committee (EJKC), the European Wing Tsun Organisation (EWTO), the Index Copernicus, the Idokan Poland Association (IPA), the European

Academy for Carpathian Euroregion (EACE) and the Podkarpackie Scientific Association of Physical Culture (PTNKF) in Rzeszów.

The Embassy of Japan in Poland offered, as it had two years before, an official patronage. It was the patronage of five scientific publications: “Archives of Budo”, “Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology”, “International Journal of Eastern Sports and Physical Education”, “Journal of Health Promotion and Recreation”, “Revista de Artes Marciales Asiáticas” and the Rector of Rzeszow University. Their access announced the representatives of Dai Nippon Butoku-Kai and Japanese Budo Academy, World Takeda-ryu Marotokan Federation (WTMF) and the French Institute of Budo Research, leading German organizations DDBV and DJJR e.V. as well as Okinavian, Chinese and Korean ones.

An invitation for cooperation was not accepted by the Polish sports associations. In contrast to the first Congress, which took place in September 2006 [Litwiniuk, Cynarski 2006], the emphasis was given not so much to the combat sports but the original martial arts and the organizers tried to invite the best present-day specialists in this area. In the Experts Committee there took their seat the holders of 9 dan in karate (R. J. Habersetzer) and *aiki-jūjutsu* (R. J. Maroteaux), 10 dan in karate and *kobudō* (T. Hokama), 10 dan in karate, *jūjutsu* and *idō* (L. Sieber), 10 dan in *jūjutsu* and *goshinjutsu* (J. Słopecki) and the leader of DJJR, Hannelore Sieber, 8 dan *jūjutsu*. Apart from the Japanese heritage of martial arts, other traditions were represented, including the traditions of Thailand (Prof. Chuchchai Gomaratur), China (Prof. Marc Theeboom, an expert in *wu shu*) and the Philippines (Prof. Kernspecht, a holder of 10 master degree in

Wing Tsun kung-fu and 6th rank in escrima), Korea (Prof. F. Prot, 7 dan WTF, Dr J. Wąsik, 4 dan ITE, Prof. S. Sterkowicz, 5 dan hapkido). Their access was confirmed by the enthusiasts of the old European martial arts – from Poland and the USA, among them there were school and organization leaders of the historical fencing such as J. Clements, Z. Sawicki and W. Zabłocki.

The day before the Congress sensei W. J. Cynarski and A. A. Figueiredo had a common practice session of karate and *jūjutsu* in *dōjō* of Rzeszow Centre "Dōjō Budōkan", the main place for the Idokan Poland Association. They started their congressional studies of martial arts with an exchange of experiences related to the forms and techniques used in the styles they practise. Both karate *idōkan* and karate *gōjū-ryū* teach harmonizing the contradictory elements and energies, which in poetical language of martial arts is called the softness and hardness.

On that day (16th September) in the office of the Congress registered their presence foreign guests, among them such renowned figures as Keith R. Kernspecht and Roland J. Maroteaux. Amongst the great people who were absent were Prof. Stanisław Tokarski, Dr Tetsuhiro Hokama and Doc Lothar Sieber, whose paper was delivered during the Congress by Prof. W. J. Cynarski.

The 2nd World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts

Finally between 17 and 19 September 2010 the 2nd World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts took place. Its opening was on the mat of Podpromie Hall, where the first workshop session was undertaken (photo 1). However, its formal opening happened in the Auditorium of Rzeszow University a few hours later.

Within the framework of the Congress the third Interantional Symposium in the series "Martial arts, combat sports, humanism" and the second International Gala of Martial Arts (masters' demonstrations) were planned and, for the first time, workshops. During the workshops the eminent experts shared their techniques and methodological experience with participants, providing an opportunity to get acquainted with the secrets of martial arts at first hand.

Similarly as in 2006, at the invitation of the organizers renowned specialists arrived – scholars and practitioners, dealing with broadly understood – both in the olympic sports domains (wrestling, boxing, fencing, *jūdō*, *taekwondo*) and the sports and martial arts less known although having a significant



Photo 1. The beginning of workshops at the Congress.



Photo 2. Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski begins the plenary discussion of the Congress. From the left are sitting Prof. K. Obodyński and Prof. E. Dynia.

place in our physical and spiritual culture – coming from the Far East and which are just becoming popular in our European cultural circle. Particular attention should be drawn to the participation, for the first time, of societies popularising old traditions of medieval wrestling and knightly combats. ("Signum Polonicum" and Polish division of the Association for Renaissance Martial Arts ARMA-PL (Stowarzyszenie na rzecz Sztuk Walki Renesansu).

The opening of the Congress was made on behalf of UR Rector, Vice-rector for Student Affairs and Education Prof. Dr hab. UR Elżbieta Dynia, while the guests were greeted by the Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education Prof. Dr hab. Kazimierz Obodyński and Prof. Dr hab. UR Wojciech J. Cynarski – the initiators and originators – of the both first and the second Congress as well as the initiators of founding of the IMACSSS (International Martial Arts & Combat Sports Scientific Society). Greetings of the incoming guests lasted for some time (photos 2-3). In total the organizers received over 100 application forms from 20 countries but not all the guests were able to arrive (for example those from Pakistan, Nepal and Iran). Apart from



Photo 3. The participants of the first plenary session of the Congress IMACSSS, Rzeszow, 17 September 2010.

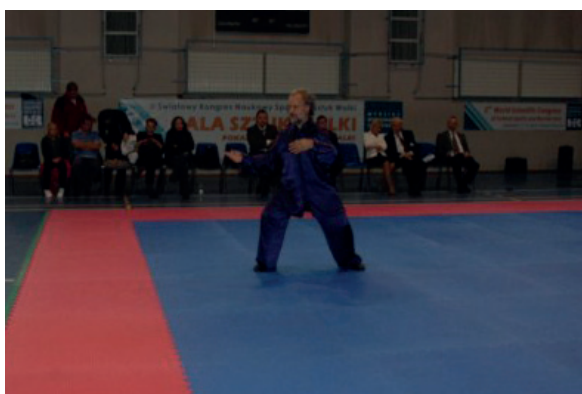


Photo 4. Gala of Martial Arts: Sifu Sergio Raimondo and chen taijiquan.



Photo 5. Demonstration of techniques *takeda-ryū aiki-jūjutsu* – R.J. Maroteaux 9 dan.

Australia and Africa there were representatives of all the continents. On behalf of the town authorities the official greeting was made by the Vice-president of Rzeszow Stanisław Sienko. After the official introduction the I Plenary Session began, which was conducted by Prof. Keith R. Kernspecht from Germany and Prof. W.J. Cynarski. Lectures were presented by the following speakers: Prof. Kurt Weis from the University of Munich (*Body Mastery, Holistic Experiences and Spiritual Horizons: An Intercultural Look at Body Techniques*), Prof. Chuchchai Gomaratur (Chulalongkorn University of Bangkok, Thailand) *Muay-Thai: The Art and Science of Thai Traditional Self Defence*, after the coffee break, Dr Willi Pieter (University of Asia and the Pacific, Philippines, a co-author Coral Falco from the USA): *Skinfold Patterning in Elite Spanish and American Junior Taekwondo-in* as well as Dr Fumiaki Shishida (Waseda University Japan): *Judo's techniques performed while keeping distance: The origin of Jigoro Kano's plan and its actualization by Kenji Tomiki*.

After the question session and a short discussion there was a time for the *2nd International Martial Arts Gala*. It took place in the Podpromie Hall and it was a meaningful event for many adepts of martial arts, making it possible to see the masters of the highest rank in their demonstrations. There was free admission for the inhabitants of Rzeszow and the event – already for the second time – evoked considerable interest. On the mat one could see the representatives of various schools of martial arts: Dr Sergio Raimondo (4 toan) – *Chen style taiji quan* (photo 4); Prof. Keith R. Kernspecht (10 master rank in Wing Tsun kung-fu) – Self-defence reactions; Prof. Abel A. Figueiredo (6 dan) – *Gojuryu karate kata*; Prof. Chuchchai Gomaratur – *Muai Thai*; Dr Roland J. Maroteaux (9 dan) – *Takeda-ryu aiki-jujutsu* (photo 5); Wiesław Gwizd (4 dan) – *Shinkyokushin karate* (e.g. interesting *tameshiwari tests*, photo 6) and a world champion Dr Marta Niewczas (3 dan) with her students from *ITKF karate school* (e.g. synchronous *kata*). The *Judo techniques demonstration* had to be cancelled due



Photo 6. Demonstration of *shinkyokushin karate sensei W. Gwizd 4 dan*.



Photo 7-8. Self defence *Wing Tsun* presented by GM Keith R. Kernspecht. Falling *uke* - D. Brizin.

to the absence of Dr Waldemar Sikorski (7 dan). A great interest was evoked by the demonstrations of the traditional European sword fights, wrestling according to the old rules and the Polish system of martial arts *Signum Polonicum* presented by the adepts from Zbigniew Sawicki's school and its master. There was also a presentation of fencing performed by the girls trained by Dr Gabriel Szajna, a master class coach.

For the participants of the Congress the most important meeting took place in the evening in the Prezydecki Hotel. It was a General Assembly of the



Photo 9. Sensei A. Figueiredo 6 dan is teaching karate *gojū-ryū*.

IMACSSS (International Martial Arts & Combat Sports Scientific Society), which had been prepared earlier and where Prof. Obodyński presented goals and plans for activity. His invitation for cooperation was met with a positive response. At the Assembly a new Board was elected, replacing a temporary one, and four new vice-presidents were accepted. The Committee Board includes the following people: **Prof. W.J. Cynarski – president, Dr F. Nakiri (Japan), Prof. C. Gomaratur (Thailand), Dr J.H. Yu (USA), Prof. A. Figueiredo (Portugal), Prof. K. Obodyński (Poland) – vice-presidents, Dr Krzysztof Kubala – secretary, Magdalena Kunysz-Rozborska, MA – treasurer. Among the members of the Board include: Dr Roland J. Maroteaux (France), Prof. Carlos Gutierrez Garcia (Spain), Dr Zdenko Reguli (Czech Republic), Prof. Keith R. Kernspecht (Germany) and Dr Sergio Raimondo (Italy).**

On Saturday the deliberations were continued in sections and workshops, and at the end of the day there was a stroll around Rzeszow and visits to the underground tourist trail. Discussions in sections were conducted by Prof. S. Sterkowicz and Prof. R. Escobar Molina (A1 – Asian martial arts in a biomedical approach); C. Gutierrez Garcia (A2 – western traditions of marital arts in a biomedical



Photo 10. After practice with *hanshi* Maroteaux.



Photo 11. From the left: W.J. Cynarski, K. Obodyński, R.J. Maroteaux and R. Pachurka.



Photo 12. Prof. Chuchchai Gomarutut is teaching techniques of *Muai Thai*.

approach); Dr W. Pieter (Philippines) and Prof. R. M. Kalina (A3 – other sports or combat sports); W. J. Cynarski and Z. Borysiuk (B1 – European traditions of martial arts in a humanistic approach); C. Gomarutut (B2 – Asian martial arts in a humanistic approach); Prof. K. Weis and A. Figueiredo (B3 – other traditions – in a humanistic approach). There were also two poster sessions.

During two-day long workshops the participants had an opportunity to practise or listen to a lecture on the following topics: W. Gwizd (*Idō geiko karate*), K. R. Kernspecht (*Contact reaction chi-sao*) (photos 7-8), A. A. Figueiredo (*Sanchin kata*) (photo 9), R. Maroteaux (*Aikijutsu techniques*) (photo 10-11), C. Gomarutut (*Muai Thai*) (photo 12), Z. Sawicki (*Signum Polonicum*) (photo 13), B. Walczak (Renaissance fencing and wrestling combat), R. Escobar Molina (Biomedical problems), J. Slopecki (Unconventional techniques of throws in *jūjutsu*). The effort of practical sessions was undertaken by numerous representatives of the

Czech Republic, Idokan (from Poland) and *Signum Polonicum*.

The third day was devoted to a trip to Krosno, visiting the Museum of Petroleum Industry in Bóbrka and then to Targowiska where the official closing and summing up of the discussions in sections as well as presenting awards and honorary ranks took place. The discussion panel and summing up was done by Prof. W.J. Cynarski – the president of the IMACSSS and a head of the Scientific Committee of the Congress. The accounts of the discussions in sections were presented by the following professors: K.R. Kernspecht, A. Tarabanov, C. Gutierrez Garcia, W. Pieter, W.J. Cynarski, Ch. Gomarutut, A.A. Figueiredo, K. Weis and S. Raimondo.

Special distinctions for martial arts people

Shihan W. J. Cynarski (8 dan) presented a few people with honorary master ranks in *idō*, which



Photo 13. Wielding a sabre – master Z. Sawicki.



Photo 15. Medal of Honour of WTMF for W. J. Cynarski.



Photo 14. Medal for "For the Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts" for W.J. Cynarski – presented by J. Słopecki 10 dan (from the left) and K. Dawidowicz 7 dan (from the right).



Photo 16. A knightly Order of *Homo Creator Nobilis* for Prof. Wojciech Zabłocki.

is a higher category of the master level in martial arts. The certificates were given to Prof. K. R. Kernspecht (3 dan *idō*), Prof. Taketo Sasaki (3 dan *idō*) and Dr Zdenko Reguli (2 dan *idō*). All three of them are members of Collegium Dan of IPA, experts advanced in different styles of martial arts. Additionally Prof. Roman Maciej Kalina received an honorary 4 dan in *jūdō* from the Idōkan Poland Association while K. Obodyński – from Central District Association of Jujutsu – an honorary 3 dan in *jūjutsu*.

The Congress was also an occasion for giving distinctions for particular merits and achievements in martial arts. *Shihan* Jan Słopecki (the president of the European Jūjutsu & Kobudō Committee) announced on behalf of EJJC and IMJFF¹ that for the first time three *budō* personalities were awarded with a Medal "For the Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts" and a title of an "expert professor". These three people were: Prof. **Roland J. Habersetzer** (France, 9 dan), Doc **Lothar Sieber** (Germany, 10 dan) and Prof. **Wojciech J. Cynarski** (photo 14). The medals were also



Photo 17. Summing up of the Congress. From the left A. Figueiredo, K. Weis, W. J. Cynarski and A. Huzarska. Targowiska, 19.09.2010.

given to the experts – seniors of Collegium Dan of Idōkan Poland Association [SIP 2010]. *Shihan* Habersetzer is still an active coach of martial arts and author of over 70 valuable books on martial arts. *Meijin* Sieber belongs to a phenomenon of contemporary scene of martial arts. Both of them have expressed their views in "Ido Movement for Culture" and their profiles have been introduced to the readers. Cynarski is both an outstanding practitioner, a holder of high ranks and *menkyō kaiden* licence, a coach, an activist as well as the renowned theoretician of martial arts.

¹ IMJFF – International Modern Ju-Jitsu Federation

The third of the mentioned people, W. J. Cynarski was also awarded with the "Medal of Honour" (no 27, photo 15) from the World Takeda-ryu Marotokan Federation, for his long-time practice, numerous publications and the knowledge of traditional and modern *budō*. Cynarski received the medal from the hands of Dr Roland J. Maroteaux (France, 9 dan), the president of WTMF. This unexpected distinction goes along well with the first Honorary Award of the Idōkan Poland Association awarded to the president of IPA "For Substantial Scientific Achievements" [look: Annex].

Two honorary members of IPA – professors **Andrzej Szyszko-Bohusz** and **Wojciech Zabłocki** (photo 16) – received from the elite Club of European Nobility the knightly orders *Homo Creator Nobilis*. The third such order was given to Dr **R. J. Maroteaux**, a *budō* teacher, a philosopher and writer. The orders were bestowed for the first time to distinguish extraordinary, noble and creative personalities.

A summary attempt

In a content-related summary of the Congress, Prof. Cynarski (photo 17) pointed at a variety of subjects of the congressional discussions, as martial arts and combat sports are varied. There are no doubts concerning the necessity to carry out research from different theoretical and methodological perspectives. The traditions of many countries were represented, from the Far East and Europe, Brazilian *capoeira* and for example the Polish hussar's sabre. Selected studies will be published in a collective monograph or as articles in periodicals connected with the Congress.

Among over 100 participants (together with the participants of the workshops and Gala) there were 30 professors and habilitated doctors. The participants of the event came from 20 countries and two more absent members of the Scientific Committee (namely the professors from Croatia and Great Britain). Among different countries of origin there were participants from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria (Dr hab. K. R. Kernspecht is a professor of two universities from that country), China, the Czech Republic, the Philippines (Dr W. Pieter from Holland represents the university of the Philippines), France, Spain, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Thailand, USA and Italy. Their papers were also sent by the authors from Algeria, Iran and Ukraine. Additionally, Dr hab. Svetlana Justickaja from Lithuania arrived as a companion. Together 24 countries were represented in various forms.

For the first time it was possible to gather such a circle of experts of the highest rank and scientists – specialists, combine the scientific deliberations with practical studies, integrate the scientific milieu. The first society of martial arts researchers of a global range was also founded. 44 members have enrolled formally to the IMACSSS. For the first time as well the highest honorary distinctions were awarded to people of merit in the field of studies and research on martial arts.

This second Congress has been a significant scientific event as far as history of martial arts is concerned. The third World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts will take place under the auspices of the IMACSSS – probably in Tokyo in 2012.

Photos (from the archives of the IMACSSS, IPA, Faculty of Physical Education of UR)

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Annex Laudation For Associate Professor Wojciech Jan Cynarski justification for bestowing the IPA Honorary Award

This year we are celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the annual Issue "Ido – Ruch dla Kultury / Movement for Culture". On this occasion on behalf of the Scientific Research Committee of the Idōkan Poland Association I would like to distinguish Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski by bestowing this diploma on him – the Honorary Award of the Idōkan Poland Association "For Substantial Scientific

Achievements”. Prof. Cynarski has been the editor-in-chief of this publication since the year 2000. During that time the journal has been highly indexed and received a considerable number of points on the list of the publications distinguished by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the international Copernicus Index.

Last year Prof. Cynarski published, thanks to his own financial means, the 7th book, which is both a monograph and a textbook of martial arts of the Idōkan system. The introduction to the book has

been specially prepared by the Grand Master of Idōkanu, *shihan* Lothar Sieber 10 dan.

The scientific achievements (research, didactics and publications) of Prof. Cynarski deserve a distinction with a motion of awarding him in 2013 a silver badge of marking 20 years of the Idōkan Poland Association with a number 1.

The Chairman of the IPA
Scientific Research Committee
Prof. Dr hab. Kazimierz Obodyński
