



The Shômen of the seminar with Nishioka Sensei and the three calligraphers, Sergio for the calligraphy on the left (Ôshû Jôdô Renmei), Kees for the one on the right (Shintô Musô Ryû Jô) and PK for the one in the centre, the theme of the seminar (Hyakuren Jitoku = train 100 times for your own satisfaction).

Report on the 2008 European Jô Gasshuku in Guadarrama, Spain

From 2 to 10 August, Jô practitioners from the whole of Europe met in the marvellous site of Guadarrama, about 40 kilometers from Madrid: a spacious and green place.

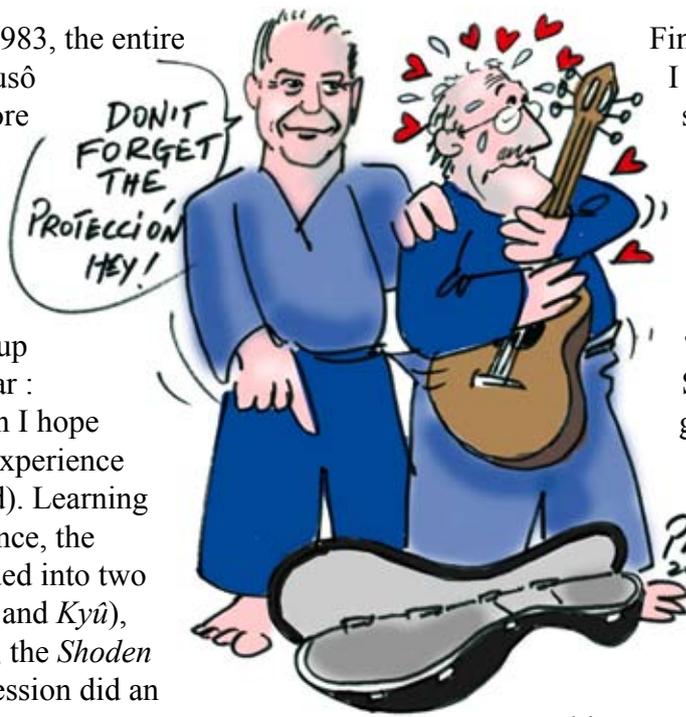
Grateful to an excellent organization (thanks to Vicente Borondo's Spanish team) the Gasshuku was a real success. This was also due to the presence of Nishioka Sensei and all the participants' efforts in respecting the timetable, their willing to train hard, and a particularly friendly atmosphere.

On Wednesday, *Cultural Day*, we had a very much appreciated visit of the superb city of Toledo with a very rich meal in a fresh basement (40° outside). The culminating moment of that day was the Flamenco show after dinner, a very impressive

performance. It is quite certain the handsome young dancer and the superb young woman must have been present in the dreams of many, that night. The two excellent singers and the very gifted guitarists really impressed me and made me think of the Gasshuku's, "*Repeat 100 times, for your own satisfaction*".

The silent Thursday (*Musei no hi*) was a very interesting experience, especially for the neophytes. Even Nishioka Sensei starts to like it! We moved, in the evening, from silence to noise again, beginning with the one that came out of my old guitare. Always filled with emotions by this instrument, I nearly had a heart attack at the sight of the marvellous instrument that was presented to me by the Gasshuku's participants. It has a so nice sound (when I don't touch it) that I just stay beside it, contemplative...

For the first time since 1983, the entire curriculum of Shintô Musô Ryû was completed before the end of the seminar, parallel weapons included. This left us enough time for a thorough preparation of the exams which ended up in being an excellent year : (only two failures, which I hope will become a positive experience for the people concerned). Learning from our Kácov experience, the exams session was divided into two parallel sessions : (*Dan* and *Kyû*), and as far as I could see, the *Shoden* taking care of the *Kyû* session did an excellent job.



Finally, I have to say that I sincerely enjoyed that seminar, without counting the marvellous present that moved me to the tears and for which I thank, once again, all the participants. Once again too, I wish to say a warm “thank you” to the wonderful Spanish team for its humour, gentleness, and efficiency.

My warm thanks also to Megumi San and Vicente for their kind hospitality at their home in Madrid. My gratitude to them and to Adrian for taking good care of our beloved teacher during the *Gasshuku*.

The *Embu* (organized by Sylvain Creuzet) preceding the exams session was also very much appreciated by all.

The evenings seemed to have been much appreciated by all. Presentation of the various groups on Sunday evening (15 countries represented : Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States). On Monday night, a “*Mondo*” with Nishioka Sensei brought more light on the *Gasshuku*’s theme. On Tuesday night, the calligraphy presentation must have been fairly well appreciated since it ended up at around 1 h 30 in the morning. On Wednesday night, as we have said above, Flamenco inflamed us. As for Thursday and Friday nights, they were free. Saturday night was the occasion of a fiesta everyone will remember for a long time, a highly hilarating cultural exchange culminating with a presentation of “international Iai”, by Daniel Leclerc.



In conclusion, my gratitude to the “*Kami*” who kept unwished experiences away from us (wounds, insulations, altercations, etc) and to have allowed the seminar to be a success even in its financial aspect. The 6 000 Euros lent by the EJF for Sensei’s travelling expenses and the organization of the seminar have been entirely reimbursed. An indemnity could be given to Sensei and the travel expenses and the lodging of the teachers were mainly covered. A benefit of 1 000 Euros has been returned to the Federation.

As I was saying in my welcome speech (and in Spanish...), after football and tennis, this marvellous country could not have produced anything but a high class *Jô* seminar.

¡Gracias por su atención!

Pascal Krieger
EJF, Technical Director

If you have pictures of the seminar, please send them to Helga.