

Report of Pascal Krieger's Seminar in Valencia (October 2013)

During October the 19th and 20th Pascal Krieger Shihan conducted the Jôdô and Shodô Seminar that took place in Valencia (Spain). "Bun Bu Ryô Dô" was the theme chosen for this occasion, referring to the balance between cultural and martial ways.



About forty people from Madrid, Barcelona, Cartagena, Leon, Bern, Padua, Brussels and Valencia attended the event. Although about half of the attendees participated in both activities, some others preferred to focus on Jôdô or Shodô respectively.

The seminar began on Saturday morning with a review of Kihon tandoku in which every kihon was followed by brief remarks of Pascal Krieger. After then, the group was split into beginners and those who had some experience in Jôdô. The first group started a detailed study of Kihon. The second one spent their time in reviewing the kata they already knew while Pascal was teaching a new kata to each participant.



The first part of Saturday afternoon session was dedicated to lay the foundations for the use of the ken. Pascal reviewed kamae undo and happo giri and, at the end of this part, gave some details on Etsu principle. The second part was a continuation of the work done during the morning: kata geiko for experienced and kihon study for the rest. The session ended with the shodan examination of Josemi, the Spanish Jôdô group sempai. On Sunday beginners completed kihon series and those more advanced payed attention on some unusual uchikomi. After this first part Pascal gave the opportunity to those more experienced of choosing the issue for investing their time. Some chose to review the katas learned during the stage and others preferred to devote his time to delve into the saber use. Meanwhile, the beginner's group learnt Monomi.



Regarding the Shodô part, the two sessions had approximately the same structure. First Pascal made a brief introduction to the art and, after that, provided work for every attendee. The first session Pascal gave a general introduction to Shodô and participants chose one or two kanji to work on. The second one a brief explanation of the Japanese language was given and the attendees worked on their own name in katakana.



Finally, I want to convey my gratitude to Pascal Krieger shihan for accepting our invitation, to Vicente Borondo for his help from the very beginning, to the Physical Activity and Sport Service of the UCV for offering its excellent facilities and to everyone who attended for their good willingness.

Fernando Gómez