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## **Symbolic content diffusion and cultural dialogue on the example of the European Martial Arts Committee – international expert board, 2010–2020**

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### **Dyfuzyja treści symbolicznych i dialog kulturowy na przykładzie European Martial Arts Committee – Europejskiej Komisji Sztuk Walki – międzynarodowej rady eksperckiej, 2010–2020**

#### **Streszczenie**

Tłó. Sztuki walki, lub szerzej *fighting arts*, są interesujące z punktu widzenia ich instytucjonalizacji, rozwoju organizacyjnego, globalizacji i glocalizacji, a także jako wehikuły dialogu kulturowego.

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**Problem.** Autorzy podjęli próbę opisanego i wyjaśnienia funkcjonowania organizacji sztuk walki w aspekcie jej udziału w dialogu kulturowym. Przykładem jest EMAC – Europejska Komisja Sztuk Walki.

**Metoda.** Wykorzystano jakościową metodę badania pojedynczego studium przypadku, zarówno opisową, interpretacyjną, jak i ewaluacyjną. Drugą stosowaną metodą jakościową jest antropologia wizualna.

**Wyniki.** Dialog kulturowy i dyfuzję treści symbolicznych ilustruje fakt przyznawania najwyższych odznaczeń honorowych osobom z różnych krajów, ale głównie krajów zachodnich – za usługi dla azjatyckich sztuk walki. W przypadku EMAC i SIP (Stowarzyszenie Idokan Polska) symboliczne treści na dekoracjach są albo uniwersalne (feniks, idea szlachecka), albo chrześcijańsko-polskie (św. Jerzy, husarz na koniu). Dlatego nagradzani ludzie nie tylko są ambasadorami sztuk walki, lecz – wraz z instytucjami przyznającymi odznaczenia (takie jak EMAC) – pełnią też istotną rolę w dialogu kulturowym.

**Wnioski.** Dzięki obecności odpowiedniej ikonografii i symboliki na przyznawanych medalach honorowych następuje przenikanie symbolicznych treści – ich rozpowszechnianie, internalizacja i inkulturacja. Niezależnie od religii czy wyznania osób uczestniczących w działalności organizacji, z jednej strony akceptowany jest rycerski etos Europy, z drugiej – tradycje azjatyckich sztuk walki.

**Słowa kluczowe:** sztuki walki, dialog kulturowy, treści symboliczne, tytuł Wielkiego Mistrza, medal honorowy.

## Abstract

**Background.** Fighting Arts are interesting from the perspective of their institutionalisation, organisational development, globalisation and glocalization, and also as vehicles of cultural dialogue.

**Problem.** The authors tackled the problem of describing and explaining how martial arts organisation functions in the aspect of its participation in cultural dialogue. An example is EMAC, the European Martial Arts Committee.

**Method.** The qualitative method of single case study research, both descriptive, as well as interpretive and evaluative was used. The second qualitative method used is visual anthropology.

**Results.** Cultural dialogue and diffusion of symbolic content are illustrated by the fact of awarding the highest honour decorations to people from various countries, but mainly Western countries – for merits for Asian martial arts. In the case of EMAC and IPA (Idokan Poland Association) symbolic content on the decorations is either universal (phoenix, idea of nobility) or Christian/Polish (Saint George, a hussar). Therefore, rewarded people are ambassadors not only for martial arts themselves, but institutions awarding decorations appear as vehicles of cultural dialogue.

**Conclusions.** Through the presence of appropriate iconography and symbolism on the awarded honorary medals, symbolic content diffuses, which concerns its dissemination, internalisation and inculturation. Regardless of the belief of the people participating in the activities of the organisation, on the one hand, the knightly ethos of Europe is accepted, and the traditions of Asian martial arts on the other.

**Keywords:** martial arts, cultural dialogue, symbolic content, Grand Master title, honorary medal.

## Introduction

From the perspective of cultural anthropology, the researched martial arts institutions can be analyzed in synchronic and diachronic dimensions. The synchronous dimension includes:

- 1) Movement repertoire (art, game, theater, dance, combat);
- 2) Psychosocial context (compensation, outlet for aggression, conflict resolution and finding solutions);
- 3) Religious context (depending on the cultural circle).

On the other hand, in the diachronic dimension, we take into account wars and the early development of a given military culture, as well as stages of modernization or sporting, including institutionalization in the field of training, granting authorization to teach, adopting regulations, etc. Martial arts retain the components of art and culture, self-defense (technical-tactical skills), mental training, sport and game [3].

The road to the highest degrees and titles in martial arts is a long-term educational process, with the need to repeatedly confirm your skills and knowledge. Especially in commercialised Western countries there are attempts to modify traditional institutions in this area. As a result, young people with age and training experience receive high and highest grades, sometimes “buying” them or awarding them to themselves through organizations established by themselves. The fact of this type of pathology, which is the “pursuit of” the highest degrees in martial arts, meant that the masters of the highest rank decided to appoint an expert, international body, modelled on the Japanese Academy of Budo (JAB) in Japan or DDBV (*Deutscher Dan-Traeger und Budo-Lehrer Verbände.V.* – the German Union of Black Belts and Budo Teachers) in Germany. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *European Martial Arts Committee* (EMAC), formerly known as the *European Jūjutsu and Kobudō Committee* (EJKC). EMAC distinguishes and announces experts – martial arts professors, i.e. authentic masters of knowledge and skills [21].

The institutionalisation process of martial arts consists in the establishment of institutions regulating teaching (teaching rights, programs, methods), awarding degrees and titles, activities of the organisation, as well as scientific research in this area and scientific interpretation of issues in this area [4]. A positive example of imitation of the functioning of foreign organisations and institutions is adopting certain patterns of behaviour and names for specific institutions, which results from the experience of the leaders of individual schools and organizations [10]. One of such institutions is the title of master-teacher, another – awarding the best specialists.

In the scientific search for theoretical framework one can mention the achievements of the Rzeszów School of Martial Arts Sociology [5], the General Theory of Fighting Arts [1,6], and on the other hand, the theory of cultural dialogues and selected local theories [cf. 26, 14]. This is part of the study of the history, organisation and institutionalisation of the martial arts environment in Europe [cf. 25, 4].

The diffusion of symbolic content is at the same time a manifestation and effect of intercultural dialogue in the field of martial arts. The first stage is to introduce patterns of foreign origin. *Jujutsu* self-defence techniques were taught in Western countries as early as at the turn of the century. Inculturation of certain cultural codes, including concepts and symbols, followed the teaching of fighting techniques. The stage of internalization of the value of martial arts by practitioners can be considered as the second one. The international dissemination of martial arts (after *jujutsu* there were other Japanese and non-Japanese martial arts) was accompanied and is still accompanied by glocalization with exchange of values. That is to say, masters of a given martial art and its country of origin transfer their traditions to universal cultural heritage, adopting globally dominant content instead. This is the third stage of diffusion in cultural globalization. An example is the humanization of martial arts as a result of their confrontation with humanism derived from Christianity and respect for human life [cf. 26, 7].

The authors tackled the problem of describing and explaining the functioning of martial arts organisations in the aspect of their participation in cultural dialogue. An example is EMAC. The subject concerns international commissions, cooperation, exchange in the field of knowledge, activities of international experts, and the symbols on the awards granted. Thus, we implement the qualitative method of single case study research, both the descriptive, interpretive and evaluative [23]. The second qualitative method used is visual anthropology, based on photographic material and iconographic analysis of small graphic forms (medals, organization emblems) [2].

## 1. The idea of the opinion giving committee and the calendar

Among the representatives of sport sciences or physical culture sciences few are specialists in martial arts that are not combat sports, i.e. in martial arts rejecting sports competition. Such was Prof. Dr. Stanisław Sterkowicz (*hapkido*), such are Dr. Roland Maroteaux (*sobujutsu Takeda-ryu*) and Dr. Keith Kernspecht (*Wing Tsun*). Dr. Jan Słopecki emphasizes the dimension of self-defence in *jujutsu*, as earlier Dr. Krzysztof Kondratowicz in *jujutsu / goshinjutsu* or Roland Habersetzer in *karate* did. On the other hand, the traditionalists in the art of fencing are Sergio Mor-Stabilini (Japanese *kenjutsu*), Lothar Sieber (*iaido*) and Zbigniew Sawicki (Old Polish sabre fencing). Combat sports people rarely have the knowledge and skills of ancient martial arts traditions outside their own discipline.

The task of identifying martial arts experts was undertaken by the *European Jūjutsu and Kobudō Committee* (EJKC). This commission was established in early 2010 as an expert council, whose activities were initially sponsored by the *Mię-*

*dzynarodowa Federacja Modern Ju-Jitsu (MFMJJ) / International Modern Ju-jitsu Federation* in Głogów, then by Dr. Słopecki, and then by IPA. The idea was born in the discussions between Wojciech Cynarski and Jan Słopecki. Słopecki became the first EJKC leader. In the years 2010-2013, EJKC was an autonomous organisation at the MFMJJ, the headquarters was in Warsaw, and the president was Dr. J. Słopecki 10 dan. Roman Grzegorz 10 dan, president of MFMJJ, supported the activities of EJKC at that time. At that time, the EJKC awarded a special Medal for Extraordinary Achievements to those who had been distinguished for martial arts and a diploma with the title of Professor, Expert in martial arts.

2013–2015 – EJKC already operates outside MFMJJ, in parallel referred to as the European Martial Arts Committee (EMAC), based in Warsaw. In 2015, as part of the MFMJJ – *Jujutsu & Kobudo European Committee*, it changes its name to: *International Martial Arts Committee* (on the MFMJJ website). At the same time, a separate EJKC website is created by J. Słopecki, for the original Warsaw organisation EJKC. Formally, from 01.01.2016 the “Warsaw” EJKC changed its name to EMAC. On November 30 of that year, Jan Słopecki, EMAC leader, handed over the chairmanship to W. J. Cynarski, withdrawing from active participation.

Prof. Dr. Wojciech Cynarski has been the president of EMAC since December 2016, when the city of Rzeszów (Poland) became its headquarters. Thus, EMAC has become an autonomous international commission at the IPA in Rzeszów. There has been a change in the regulations, which has since allowed the granting of degrees and master titles. The composition of the Management Board was adopted as follows:

### **Executive Committee of EMAC**

*Chairman* – Prof. Dr. Wojciech J. CYNARSKI, 10 dan (for years 2018–2024)

*Deputy* – Prof. Lothar SIEBER, 10 dan (for years 2018–2024)

*Secretaries* (for years 2018–2022)

GM Dr. Zbigniew SAWICKI, 9 dan, Polish Traditional Sabre Fencing (*Signum Polonicum*)

Dr. Wiesław BŁACH, 7 dan *judo* / Poland

Mr. Evgeniy Valentinovich TKACHENKO, 8 dan *karate (Shotokan)* / Russia [33].

## **2. Important people and their achievements for martial arts**

Masters of the highest rank are those who achieve the highest degrees and master titles. This applies to the main masters-teachers, school and organisation leaders. Most often they reach 9 or 10 *dan*, or their equivalent (Chinese *duan* or *toan*, Philippine *antas*). The tradition of Japanese *budo* also allows grades 11 and 12 *dan*. The highest, honorary degrees and honourable titles are awarded for

exceptional achievements for a given martial art, in a given country or internationally.

Among the holders of over 10 dan / master degree we can mention:

- 1) GGM<sup>1</sup> Yip Man (Ip Man), from Hongkong – postmortem 12 toan in *VingTsun kung-fu*
- 2) Dr. Jigoro Kano, Japan – postmortem 12 dan in *judo Kodokan*
- 3) Dr. Krzysztof Kondratowicz, Poland – 12 dan in *jujutsu, soke Goshin-ryu*, father of Polish *jujutsu*
- 4) *Soke* Joseph M. Victory Jr., USA – 12 dan in *jujutsu*
- 5) GM Cacoy Canete – 12 dan in modern *escrima*
- 6) *Grand Guru* Jose G. Mena – 12 dan in Philippine *arnis*
- 7) GM Lothar Sieber, Germany – 12 dan w *jujutsu, soke* of E. Rahn's school, style "*jujitsu-karate*" *Yoshin-ryu*.
- 8) GGM Leung Ting, China – 11toan in *Wing Tsun kung-fu* [32]
- 9) Mr. Makoto Nakamura, Japan – 11 dan in *karate, style Kyokushin*
- 10) Mr. Gilberto Pauciullo – 11 duan in his own system *Mon Seer Kung Pai kung-fu* (He is also the holder of 10 dan *jujutsu*, 9 dan *karate, hanshi*, 8 dan *judo* etc.).

We omit *Bujinkan* instructors and the like, where the dan scale has been extended to 15 or higher. The following masters-teachers are holders of the title *meijin* or GGM (e.g.): Yip Man, Kazuo Ito, Kyuzo Mifune, Hakudo Nakayama, Hironori Otsuka, Minoru Michizuki, Gozo Shioda, Hirokazu Kanazawa, Leung Ting and Lothar Sieber.

Yet, who deserves the title of professor of martial arts so as to appreciate the vast knowledge and practical skills of individual experts? This issue has been an important task and goal since the beginning of EJKC / EMAC's operation. So far, few outstanding experts, i.e. masters of martial arts, have been awarded the EMAC medal and the title of Professor - Expert of Martial Arts.

### 3. Profiles of people awarded with the Medal

In 2010, the first three Medals "For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts" were awarded. They were received by:

NO. 1 – MR. ROLAND HABERSETZER (9 dan *karate, hanshi & soke*), France [photo 1].

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<sup>1</sup> Great Grand Master.



**Photo 1.** *Shihan* Roland HABERSETZER, 9 dan *karate, hanshi (Tengu-ryu)* [21].

**Habersetzer, Roland** (French, born in 1942), 9 dan *karate, hanshi*. Student of Henry D. Plée. In 1974, he founded CRB (Centre of Budo Research), in 2007 – *Tengu-ryu* style [13]. He is a historian and writer, author of over 50 books on martial arts [more: 17, 8].

He was awarded the EJKA / EMAC Medal for his contribution to popularising martial arts. This medal and the relevant diploma were sent to him by post.

NO 2 – MR. LOTHAR SIEBER (10 dan *judo-do/ido*; 10 dan *jujutsu*, and 10 dan *karate, meijin & soke*), Germany [photo 2].



**Photo 2.** *Shihan* Lothar SIEBER, 10 dan [21].

**Sieber, Lothar** (German, born in 1946). He is a nature therapist and master-teacher of *Yōshin-ryū* (10 dan), *jujutsumeijin*<sup>2</sup>, *karatemeijin*; *jūdō-dō / idō*, *bujutsu-idō* and *goshinjutsu* 10 dan; 8 dan *iaido, hanshi*, 8 dan kick-boxing, 5 dan

<sup>2</sup> This title is sometimes referred to as the creators of the *kata* and recognized martial arts styles.

*taekwondo*, etc., honourable 1 dan *kendō*; 2<sup>nd</sup> *sōke* *Zendō karate Tai-te-tao*, 3<sup>rd</sup> *soke* of the Erich Rahn's School, 4<sup>th</sup> *soke* of *Idokan* (teaching of Hans Schöllauf and Hubert Klinger von Klingerstorff). EMAC recognizes this triple succession.

In 2016, 25 years passed since L.S. achieved the 10<sup>th</sup> dan; it was the year of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday; Currently, L. S. is the only *meijin* in martial art *jujutsu*, as well as in parallel *karate*; he is an exemplary master of the moral path, which is confirmed by the highest honorary degrees, master titles and decorations awarded to him. He contributed significantly to the development of martial arts. He is the creator of the concept: "jujitsu-karate", "Idokan karate" and "Tai-te-jutsu". In view of the above, on January 15, 2017, Prof. Sieber received an exceptional degree of 11 dan of EMAC in *jujutsu*, and two years later (15/01/2019) – 12 dan.

GM Sieber is probably the only European *meijin*, both in *jujutsu* and *karate*, and *hanshi* in *iaido*. His school *Jiu-Jitsu u. Karate Schule L. Sieber* constitutes *honbu*. He is Honorary President of DDBV e.V. and IPA, leader of DFKB (*Dan-Federation of Zen-Do-Karate Tai-Te-Tao and Budo*, Germany), member of EMAC Executive Committee; author of over 50 scientific works on martial arts. He has received the following medals and orders: HCN, EJKC / EMAC, Fujiyama, Erich Rahn's, IPA Golden Medal of Honour, Medal "Warrior of the Way of Truth" (No. 01), and of the University of Rzeszow. He was a student of Rudolf Albertz (5 dan), P. Jahnke, C. Wiedmeier, Kwon J.H., V. Kimmey; and teacher of H. Sieber, W. J. Cynarski, Gerhard Jung 7 dan, Ulf Martens 6 dan, Dieter Drexler 6 dan, Bodo Blumentritt 7 dan. He is still active on the mat and teaches at the *Honbu dojo* [21, 17, 12, 8].

He was awarded the EJKC Medal in Munich in February 2011.

NO 3 – PROF. DR. WOJCIECH J. CYNARSKI (currently: 10 dan *ido*; 9 dan *jujutsu*, and 9 dan *karate*, *hanshi*) from Poland [photo 3].



**Photo 3.** *Shihan* Wojciech J. CYNARSKI, currently 10 dan *ido*, 9 dan *jujutsu*, 9 dan *karate*, *hanshi* (*Idokan*) [21].



**Cynarski, Wojciech Jan** (Polish, born in 1965). Student of the following masters: S. Cynarski, A. Floquet, R. Maroteaux, T. Nobetsu, S. Sato, L. Sieber, Yoshio Sugino, K. Tōse. Currently, he is the holder of the highest licence *menkyokaiden*, 10 dan *ido* (*Idokan*); 9 dan *jūjutsu*, *hanshi*; 9 dan *karate*, *hanshi*; 8 dan *aikijutsu*, *kyoshi*; 7 dan *kobudō*; 6 dan *kenjutsu* and *iaidō*; 4 dan *judo* and kick-boxing; 2<sup>nd</sup> degree in *Wing Tsunkung-fu*; honourable 1 dan *taekwondo*. Author of 18 books and over 700 scientific articles. Full Professor of physical culture sciences, and sociologist. Founder and President of IPA, the Idokan Poland Association (since 1993) and IMACSSS (since 2010), chairman of EMAC Executive Committee. His students are e.g.: Robert Wyskiel (3 dan), Marek Mroszczyk (2 dan), Adrian Piórko (2 dan), Paweł Szlachta (4 dan), Adam Hajduk (1 dan), Sebastian Skóra (1 dan), Łukasz Cynarski (1 dan). He is a researcher of fighting arts, the author of the General Theory of Fighting Arts, organiser of subsequent World Scientific Congresses of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszow (2006, 2010, 2014, 2018) [16, 29, 20, 21, 12].

During the Martial Arts Gala at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszow (Oct. 2010), Prof. Cynarski was awarded a medal by EJKC President, Dr. Jan Słopecki.

NO 4. DR. ROLAND J. MAROTEAUX (9 dan *aiki-jujutsu*, *hanshi&soke*), France [photo 4].



**Photo 4.** *Shihan* Roland J. MAROTEAUX, 9 dan *aiki-jujutsu*, *hanshi* (*Takeda-ryu Maroto-ha*) practising *iaido Takeda-ryu* [courtesy of Dr. R.J. Maroteaux].

**Maroteaux, Roland J.** (French, born in 1944). Student of e.g. *sensei* H.D. Plée, Ryuho → Okuyama, Hisashi → Nakamura. He introduced *Hakko-ryū* to Europe, and next the *Takeda-ryū*; 9 dan *aiki-jūjutsu Takeda-ryū*, *hanshi*; teaches *sōbujutsu Takeda-ryū Maroto-ha* (6 disciplines) [21,18]. PhD, author of many books and editor-in-chief of the magazine “Aiki Goshondo Kaishi”, very active as the master-teacher [12, 8].

He received the HCN (2010) and EJKC / EMAC Medals. The EJKC Medal was awarded in 2011. It was only awarded during the Closing Ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszów (Oct. 2018).

NO 5. MR. FRANZ STRAUSS (10 dan *judo-do*, 10 dan *jujutsu*, *hanshi*), Austria [photo 5].



**Photo 5.** *Shihan* Franz STRAUSS, 10 dan *judo-do* & *jujutsu* [21].

**Strauss, Franz** (13.03.1933-06.10.2014), Austrian of Jewish descent, martial arts teacher, 10 dan *judo-do*, 10 dan *jujutsu* (own school or style: *Wado Te Jutsu*). He was a student of Josef Ebetshuber, and Adolf Bauer [8]. Later, he taught these martial arts for many years. He received the EJKC / EMAC Medal and title. He was awarded this medal in Vienna in 2011 [24].

NO 6. DR. JAN SŁOPECKI (10 dan *jujutsu*, 10 dan *goshinjutsu*, *hanshi* & *soke*) from Poland [photo 6].



**Photo 6.** *Shihan* Jan SŁOPECKI, 10 dan *jujutsu*, *hanshi* (*Mukashi-to Kindai*) [21].

**Slopecki, Jan** (Polish, born in 1950). PhD in physical culture sciences, 10 dan *goshinjutsu*, 10 dan *jujutsu hanshi*, 5 dan *ido*, 4 dan *judo*. He was the vice president of IPA; member of IMACSSS; creator of the style: *Mukashi-to Kindai jujutsu* (2012) [11, 21,12,8]. His master-teacher was Franz Strauss.

*Shihan* Slopecki received the HCN and EJKC / EMAC Medals with the title of Professor of Martial Arts. He was awarded this Medal in Głogów in 2013. In addition, he was awarded the Medal of “Warrior of the Noble Road – Road of Truth” no 02 (Rzeszów, March 2019).

NO 7. DR. KEITH R. KERNSPECHT (10 toan *WingTsun kung-fu*, 8 dan *karate*), Germany [photo 7].



**Photo 7.** GM Keith R. KERNSPECHT, 10 toan *kung-fu* (Wing Tsun), 8 dan *karate* [courtesy of Dr. K. R. Kernspecht].

**Kernspecht, Keith** (German, born in 1945), teacher of *Wing Tsun kung-fu* (10 toan), also 8 dan *karate* and 3 dan *ido*; Doctor of sports sciences and *Doctor honoris causa* [21]; founder (1971) and leader of EWTO, one of the largest European *kung-fu* organisations. Prof. Dr. *habil.* K. Kernspecht was a student of the GM Leung Ting. In the 1970s he introduced Chinese and Philippine martial arts to Germany. He was also the first to introduce Bruce Lee’s style of *Jeetkune do* to Germany. In 1996 Kernspecht became Visiting Professor at Paisii Hilendarski State University in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. In 1999, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate there. In 2006, he was awarded an honorary Professorship by the National Sports Academy in Sofia. After that, he obtained his full Doctorate (habilitation) in 2009. In 2011, he was awarded the title of “Professor Emeritus”. He promoted Dr. Siegfried Wolf (7 dan *karate*) from Germany and Dr. Oliver Koenig

(GM, 9 toan *Wing Tsun kung-fu*) from Austria. Kernspecht is a leader of the Logic of Combat Division in the IMACSSS, and a creator of the multidisciplinary discipline “combatology” [21]. Author of a series of books on martial arts. Creator of the concept of internal *WingTsun* [17, 15,12, 8].

He was awarded the HCN Knight’s Order and the EJKC / EMAC Medal. He was awarded the medal in Hockenheim in May 2016.

NO 8. MRS HANNELORE SIEBER (9 dan *jujutsu*, 8 dan *karate, hanshi*), Germany [photo 8].



**Photo 8.** *Shihan* Hannelore SIEBER, 9 dan *jujutsu*, 8 dan *karate (Jiu-Jitsu u. Karate Schule Sieber)* in *Honbu dojo*, Munich [courtesy of H. Sieber].

**Sieber, Hannelore** (German, born in 1951). She is an economist and martial arts teacher; 9 dan *jujutsu*, 8 dan *karate, hanshi*, 7 dan *ido, etc.*, DJJR exponent President “Erich Rahn” e.V., specialist in real self-defense of women and the style of *Zendō karate Tai-te-tao*. From the beginning she leads *Jiu-Jitsu u. Karate Schule L. Sieber*, along with Lothar Sieber. Decorated with the following medals: Fujiyama, E. Rahn, and EJKC / EMAC [9,12, 8].

The EJKC Medal was awarded in 2016; handed out – in Munich in February 2017.

NO 9. MR. RICARDO CAVALCANTI (7 dan in Brazilian *jujutsu*) from Brazil.

*Sensei* R. Cavalcanti (7 dan Bjj) was awarded by IMAC in Głogów in 2016, however it was against the Regulations of EMAC (points 1 and 16 g). He should be a holder of a higher degree, 8 dan minimum. Therefore, this medal was awarded by IMAC in Głogów, Poland, temporarily without the approval of EMAC [30].



Fig. 1. Medal EJKC (EMAC) from Głogów, Poland [courtesy of IMJJF].

NO 10. MR. SERGIO MOR-STABILINI (9 dan *karate*, 7 dan *kenjutsu*, 6 dan *iaido*, *renshi*) from Italy [photo 9].



Photo 9. *Shihan* Sergio MOR-STABILINI, 9 dan *karate*, *hanshi*; 7 dan *kobudo/kenjutsu* (*Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu*), 6 dan *iaido*, *renshi* practising *iaijutsu Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu* [courtesy of S. Mor-Stabilini].

**Mor-Stabilini, Sergio** (born in Bergamo, Italy, 1948), 9 dan *karate Sankido*, 7 dan *kobudo/ kenjutsu* (*Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu*), 6 dan *iaido*. Prof. and Director of the *Jitakyoei Budo & Wushu*, and *European University of Martial Arts and Oriental Culture*, and EJKC/EMAC. Founder and GM of *Sankido karate*, i.e. a part of *Budo* without sport of rivalry. He is also a teacher of *Chen taijiquan*, and *Yiquan kung-fu*, 6 toan/duan in both of these Chinese styles. He is the author of a valuable book about *Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu* and Japanese culture [19]. He is a strong advantage of *Shibu Kobudo* by IPA [8, 33].

He taught, among others, during the IMACSSS Congress and IPA workshops in Rzeszów in 2014 and during the Symposium in 2019. The medal was awarded in Rzeszow, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. During the Special Symposium of IMACSSS "Today's

relevance of traditional Martial Arts” Prof. Cynarski presented a laudation and handed him the Medal and a diploma.

NO 11. DR. MOHAMAD NIZAM MOHAMED SHAPIE (9 dan *silat*) [photo 10].



**Photo 10.** GM Mohamad Nizam Mohamed SHAPIE, 9 dan in Malaysian *silat* [courtesy of Dr. Shapie].

**Shapie, Mohamed Nizam Mohamed** (Malaysia, born in 1979) holds PhD in sport sciences, GM, 9 dan; activist of *Sen iGayung Fatani Malaysia Association*. He was a student of GM Aminuddin Anuar, 10 dan in *Senisilat* [8]. GM Shapie has been an active member of IMACSSS since 2014. Dr. Shapie was given an award during the 9<sup>th</sup> IMACSSS Conference in Putrajaya (Malaysia). He was the main organiser of this conference. There he should have received the EMAC Medal, as the first expert outside Europe, from the hands of the President IMACSSS and EMAC W.J. Cynarski. Due to the pandemic, the conference was held online for foreign participants. The medal will therefore be presented at the next opportunity.

#### 4. A certain stage has ended

From the perspective of the decade of functioning of EMAC, we can say that this institution is subject to certain changes due to the processes of institutionalization and adaptation to changing conditions. A new logo and a new medal have been adopted, which derived from both a certain necessity (exhaustion of

the circulation of the medal issued in Głogów in 2010) and a deliberate change of symbolism. The MFMJJ (training sweatshirt) logo has been replaced with the image of a phoenix that comes out of fire [Fig. 2 and 3]. It illustrates the immortality of the human soul and the noble ideas of knighthood. The phoenix is also a symbol of the highest level of mastery, associated with the Japanese tradition and with the title of *hanshi* (usually at the level of 9–10 dan, less often than 8 dan).

EMAC has awarded the highest grades to only one person – *meijin* L. Sieber. After 2016, two more people were awarded the old design medal [Fig. 1] and one – the new EMAC Medal. There is rather no risk of inflation of degrees and honorary titles. Significantly, the Medal and Professor of Martial Arts were first awarded to a person from another continent.



Fig. 2. Logo EMAC. According to the concept of W.J. Cynarski, it was designed by Wojciech Paćczek, January 2017.

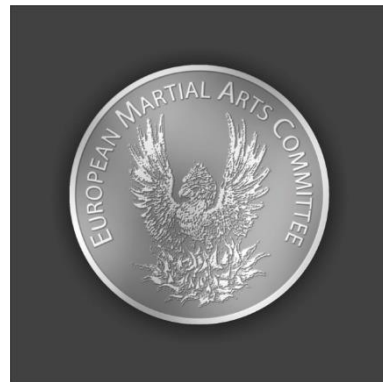


Fig. 3. Medal EMAC – For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts (since 2020) [authors' own collection].





Fig. 4. The Noble Way Warrior Medal – the Way of Truth [authors own collection].

2023 will be the year of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Shibu Kobudo* in Poland (founded in 1993). From the very beginning, *Sensei* Wojciech J. Cynarski teaches here the Old Japanese fencing, basically according to the transmission line of Yoshio Sugino (10 dan, *hanshi*) and Goro Hatakeyama (9 dan, *hanshi*) from 1987-1993, and according to school *Takeda-ryusobudo* (Hisashi Nakamura, *soke*, and Dr. Roland J. Maroteaux, *hanshi*) [31]. Because at the *Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu* school, parallel teaching of *shihan* Risuke Otake and Yukihiro Sugino (son of master Yoshio Sugino) is honoured, *sensei* Stanisław Cynarski (Wojciech's cousin) here transmits teaching and interpretation of technical forms according to Yukihiro Sugino. This took place, for example, during the 27<sup>th</sup> Summer Camp IPA, Chłapowo 2019. In the same year, an *iaido* workshop was held in Munich, under the direction of L. Sieber and *naginata-jutsu* in Rzeszów under the direction of Sergio Mor-Stabilini. *Shibu Kobudo* cooperates with other *kobudo* experts, too.

In 1996, a Committee of Fencing was established, also as an autonomous commission at IPA. It brings together teachers of old Polish sabre fencing, like GM Wojciech Zabłocki, GM Zbigniew Sawicki and an American Richard Marsden. Since 2016, degrees and titles modelled on those used in *budo* have been awarded here for the Polish traditional sabre fencing discipline. Referring to Old Polish traditions and the ethos of European knights, they have influenced the symbolism adopted here and the emphasis on Christian values. St. Archangel Michael is the official patron of IPA, according to the decision of Fr. Kazimierz Górny, Bishop of Rzeszow, from 17 March 2009 [28]. Since the Middle Ages, Archangel Michael has also been the patron of European knights. St. George and the dragon he defeated (at the Knight's Order of *Homo Creator Nobilis*, awarded by the European Nobility Club and IPA) symbolizes the fight against spiritual evil. A hussar on a horse shown on another IPA medal [fig. 4] refers to the best Polish



military and nobility tradition. Hussars were Polish hard driving, winged knights who became famous in numerous victorious battles and wars [cf. 27, 22].

Meanwhile, the phoenix is a mythical, fiery bird. It is known both in Europe and in China. It burns but is never burnt and is always reborn. It is like Poland after World War I, after the partitions, and later Warsaw after 1944 (Warsaw Uprising). The capital of Poland was completely destroyed by the Germans, but rebuilt after the war. Therefore, it was not by chance that the phoenix became the new EMAC emblem.

## Discussion and summary

In total, in 2010–2019, ten Experts were awarded by EJKC / EMAC in this way. In addition, four people received the Noble Way Warrior - Way of Truth Medal from IPA: no 1 – Lothar Sieber, no 2 – Jan Slopecki, no 3 – Wojciech J. Cynarski, no 4 – Stanisław Cynarski (he received it in Rzeszow, in March 2021 during the 28<sup>th</sup> IPA General Assembly). The latter is a master of social rehabilitation and martial arts teacher. Stanisław Cynarski (Polish, born 2.01.1948) holds 9 dan *aiki-jūjutsuhanshi*, 9 dan *goshinjutsu*, *yūdansa* (2 dan) in *judo* and *kenjutsu*, and 5 dan *ido*. He is the founder of *Yoseikan Yōshin-ryū* (2005-2008), *Idōkanaiki-jūjutsu* and *Tsunarusuki-ryū* (in 2016) [8, 12]. An important fact is that the *Idokan* style developed in IPA is a Japanese-European style. It also contains elements of Chinese and Korean origin, and one of its co-authors was the Australian expert Dr. Wally Strauss [7].

In EMAC we can distinguish between different categories of expert professors. Some are only top educators, such as Hannelore Sieber and Franz Strauss, and Stanisław Cynarski, too. Others are also active in science and have academic degrees. These are usually degrees in physical culture sciences or sports sciences. In particular, these are people still active in teaching martial arts. They are also efficient in organizational activities.

Many martial arts organisations produce emblems and badges, and award special distinctions on special badges or medals, paying special attention to their symbolic content. However, symbols from the Christian tradition are not so common in the martial arts environment. Cultural dialogue and diffusion of symbolic content are illustrated by the fact of awarding the highest honour decorations to people from various countries, but mainly Western countries - for merits for Asian martial arts. In the case of EMAC and IPA (Idokan Poland Association), the symbolic content on the decorations is either universal (phoenix, idea of nobility), or Christian and Polish (Saint George, a hussar on a horse). Thus, not only are rewarded people ambassadors of martial arts themselves, but institutions awarding decorations (such as EMAC) appear as vehicles of cultural dialogue. In

several cases, the same people operate in EMAC and IPA. Leaders are also connected by non-profit activities. Grand Masters (like Schöllauf and Sieber, Słopecki and Cynarski) are still adding private funds to this activity.

The *Idokan* organisation has been operating for over 70 years [7], while EMAC for only 10. However, intercultural dialogue takes place here in a similar way, mainly in the relationship between East and Southeast Asia and Europe and the West [7]. The reason may be close cooperation of EMAC and IPA. Through the presence of appropriate iconography and symbolism on honorary medals awarded by EMAC and IPA, symbolic content diffuses; its dissemination, internalization and inculturation continues. Regardless of the religion or worldview of the people participating in the activities of the organisation, on the one hand, the knightly ethos of Europe is accepted, and the traditions of Asian martial arts on the other.

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