

[Kirvoku International](#)

[5. Dezember 2019](#) ·

MANNHEIM GERMANY IAIDO SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY DOJO GEI SHIN KAN

From 29 November until 1 December 2019 Roland Tropschug sensei from dojo Gei Shin Kan organized an iaido seminar with René van Amersfoort.

Since 1996/1997 is René visiting Mannheim for iaido and jodo seminars. Many iaidoka and Jodoka visited these seminars during the development in their iaido and jodo careers.

A seminar with René is a demanding seminar. It is not only about repetition of techniques. But about changing. Learning will be a life long endeavor.

Students need to gain those skills necessary for a good technical development. They have to be adaptable and the teacher have to teach them how to learn. If flexibility stops than learning will stop too. This counts both for teacher and student.

Practising Budo also must learn us how to be a better person. Etiquette is important. But sometimes it looks like that especially in Budo negativity, envy, jealousy, ego's, secret agenda's win from continuous training.

Budo must learn us how to deal with all those negative elements of life.

The seminars in Mannheim already running for more than 20 years! In those years we saw many iaidoka and jodoka passing by and disappear. Lucky for us also many students stayed and some of them developed into good teachers. Just keiko, only Keiko and no politics seems difficult. And most of the time those people with critics on how a seminar is being organized or critics on the activities of the teachers, are not training consequently and continuously. They don't change and don't listen, so they don't develop and always searching for outside factors instead of looking to themselves.

If your Iaido or jodo is not developed according to the right concept, than further development to a higher level is not possible. If you train once a month or do your training just on a base of only repeating over and over the same things, then many mistakes will settle down in your fundamental techniques.

Without the correct fundament it is not possible to build a future upon it. Sometimes the guest trainer gets the blame. But the guest trainer is nothing more than looking into a mirror, with the difference that this mirror image being the teacher is talking back to you. Telling you what to do and not to do. And in a Sensei, Sempai, Kohai system you have to bent your ears according to the Budo hierarchy.

Budo is difficult.

Learning is difficult.

Changing is difficult.

It is important to balance building technical skills with more general critical thinking and communication skills. Needed to be able to deal with the offered work- and trainingflow.

The Dojo this weekend again was the place to gain and share knowledge, empowering the iaidoka to learn from others and better understand their personal “iaido -world.”

Those not present missed another chance to gain the necessary tools needed for their iaido development. Ofcourse some students were not there with a plausible reason □
Normally we have groups of 20-30 iaidoka. This time the amount was six, which changed immediately the didactically and methodical approach.

Friday evening we were with two: Dirk and Wilfried. A private training. A very good possibility to zoom in on each person and the fundamental basic techniques. After training dinner in Spanish restaurant Andalusia. Tapas and Paella with in the background Spanish guitar music and Flamenco!

Saturday we were with six: Peter, Jens, Dirk, Wilfried, Matthias and Merlin. We had lunch in café Bernstein. In the morning we practiced the correct execution of kihon and learned again how to cut. Also how to do Migi ni hiraite no chiburi (Yoko chiburi) and O-chiburi.
Then we did only ZNKR Seitei kata no 3 Ukenagashi. This was our program from 10:00-13:30 then lunch until 15:00 and until 18:00 Koryu Iaido, Muso Shinden Ryu: Shohatto, Sato, Uto, Atarito, Inyoshintai and Koranto. And Tachi Waza Okuden: Yukizure, Rentatsu, Somagori. Many repetitions. The day finished with a demonstration of René off the full Tachi Waza Okuden including itto-magoi.

Saturday evening dinner in café Bernstein.

Sunday training from 09:30-16:00 hour. Lunch in café Bernstein.

Morning global program: basic techniques and calmness, metsuke, kihaku and kikentai itchi.
Focus on three exercises.

Specific program: after warming up

1 cutting exercise 1-2 short and 3 long

Then focus on the abovementioned three exercises:

1 cutting exercise - standing kikentai itchi

1 cutting exercise - second part of Mae.

In between a specific workshop with Jens to reduce:

too much use of force,

too much use of only body,

too much use of only technique.

(Muda na chikara, muda na dosa, muda na waza)

We (Jens, René and the students in their mitori Keiko) went until the edge! With a good and positive result!

1 cutting exercise - second part of Shohatto

Then to ZNKR Seitei kata:

Demo by René: 5-12 plus comments afterwards

Demo by Peter 5-12 plus comments afterwards

Demo by Wilfried 5-6-8-10-12 plus comments afterwards

Demo by Dirk 6-7-9-11-12 plus comments

All together continuous training of 5-12 until 13:00 hours meaning many repetitions of each kata. Non-stop during 45-50 minutes.

After lunch from 14:30 - 16:00 hours Suwari waza Okuden: Kasumi, Tsune Gakoi, Shihogiri, Towaki, Tozume, Tanashita and Ryozone. We had no time for Torabashiri. We did many repetitions and trained many different kaiwaza.

Evening had a dinner with Roland in Gasthaus am Rhein and so we ended another great seminar with a treasure of learning points and subjects. But without the coming homework, making a change will not be possible. So the personal question must be: Do you want to change? Just DO it.

Next seminar in Mannheim will be in the third week of January 2020. See you all there again
Gambatte kudasai!