

OKINAWA KOBUDO SEMINARS – V I E N N A - September 15th and September 16th



In 2004 I had an opportunity to visit the Matsumae Budocenter in Vienna and to see for the first time tatami covered floors on European soil. I am sure that tatami floors exist elsewhere in Europe but I had never seen one. When Mr. Robert Goslbauer and Mr. Manfred Tiefenbach invited me to share a two day training in Vienna, little did I know that we would be training in the Matsumae Budocenter!

I flew to Vienna on Friday afternoon and Robert was at the airport to pick me up. After we checked into our Hotel Hoffinger, we drove back out in the city for a restful and scenic drive and dinner in a small out of the way restaurant where we sat in the back,

ate and spoke for hours. (picture: from left there is Robert, Manfred and Volker)

On Saturday, September 15th and on Sunday, September 16th, Robert, Manfred with a small group of their students and other karate friends we trained for eleven hours in learning Bo and Sai. We studied Shushi no Kun Sho and Chatan Yara no Sai. Although for many of the participants Sai was a first time experience, all threw themselves in learning the usage and subsequently the kata Chatan Yara no Sai with diligence, enthusiasm, enjoyment and attention to detail.

The diligent participants who made me feel at home and were responsible for my enjoyment during this training weekend are as follows: Alex Niedereder, Volker Schafer, Manfred Tiefenbach, Werner Vogl, Daniel Huber, Georg Jurcela, Marcus Vitek, Clemens Thrakl, Martina Allmer, Michaela Wagner, Patrick Puls, Aliko Kopanakis, DDr. Andrea Namini and Robert Goslbauer.



When the training was finished some of us still had a little energy left to pose for a photo.

On Sunday night I met with Mr. Josef Gehring and Mario Wolfram both Jundokan Goju Ryu Karate Do practitioners and old time friends. We enjoyed dinner at a restaurant near a closed community with lakes and small homes. Absolutely beautiful!

Dr. Friedrich Gsodam and Manuela Fischer, both

Jundokan Goju Ryu Karate high ranking karateka, met with me on Monday afternoon and together we spent many hours at Vienna's La Gloriette. From the hill we admired the beauty and enjoyed

the serenity of the Belvedere Palace. We had a lovely dinner and much conversation about their recent trip to Okinawa, their training in the Hombu Jundokan Dojo and about the success of Jundokan Goju Ryu in Austria.



Manuela and I in front of the magnificent La Gloriette.



In an effort to capture the beauty of the Belvedere Palace Dr. Gsodam, Manuela and I posed for this photo.

It was a wonderful training trip with a promise to meet again next year, and if all goes according to plan in the year 2009 we would like to make a group training trip to mainland Japan and Okinawa.

Katherine Loukopoulos