

About the invitation to Ma Yueliang to visit Germany (1986)

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Before Ma Yueliang came to Germany, people from the Taijiquan-scene said Germany was still an undeveloped area. When German people see Taijiquan, it is still strange and mysterious to them. This is an anecdote about that.

One morning in early spring a 30-year-old Chinese man dared to practise Taijiquan on a park lane in Düsseldorf. Another man who was passing was irritated a lot by this man who did not react to him and who moved slowly and softly, but strangely. Finally, he reached the conclusion that this was a mentally ill person and he called the police. The Chinese man politely gave his calling card to the policeman and explained in fluid German that he practised Wu Style Taijiquan, a kind of Kungfu. This dissipated any doubts that the spectators had had. The Chinese who lives in Germany is named Ge Xianzhong (also known as Tommy) and is the owner of a Chinese bookshop and a member of the board of the Association for German Chinese Cultural Exchange. He learned the slow form of Wu Style at the Jian Quan Taijiquan Association in Hongkong and the basics of pushhands in Shanghai. This time Ma Yueliang went to Germany and Mr. Ge was the one who welcomed him.