名誉会員からのメッセージ

Fruitful culture mixing and new IRSID

Michel Olette

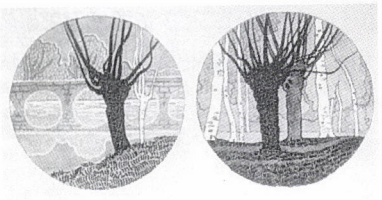
I have always been impressed by important possibilities of the exchange of cultures, particularly between Japan and France, through my own professional experiences at IRSID and floral art activities of my wife Solange. In fact the comparison of different traditions and experiences can create and accelerate the thought process.

Culture exchanges in the field of arts

Taking his place in time, the artist can only observe how nature also follows the course of time. Such was the great innovation of Impressionism. The discovery of Japanese wood cut prints Ukiyoe in Western Europe and particularly in France, combined its influence with the feeling of universal gradual change. Ukiyoe expresses the painting of a changing world, approaching very different subjects, but it is landscape that gave it the opportunity to develop on a larger scale. The perspective of Hokusai, for example, differs singularly from Western habits and inspired impressionists and philosophers (J. Cassou, for ex.).

It is worth-while to mention the important collection of Ukiyoe prints left by Claude Monet in his Giverny house as well as the fact that some Utamaro prints are visibles in the background of Zola's portrait by Edouard Manet. Another good illustration of Japanese art influence is also given by series of Monet's paintings of Rouen cathedral (more than 20) or hayricks views, differing with seasons and hours of the day. Ukiyoe art caused a real interest among French impressionists.

In return, an example of cultural exchange backward should be referred to: in 1900, several Japanese painters stayed in Grez-sur-Loing near Fontainebleau. One of them, Chû Asai, sent by Japanese government, prepared Japanese artistic participations at Paris World Exhibition of 1900. Later, back in Japan, his influence was really sensitive on Japanese paintings, and he is thereafter considered as one of the precursors of Japanese modern painting.



Decoration project
by CHU ASAÏ :
"The old bridge and willows"

Floral art is a phenomenon not only artistic but also historical, that is connected closely to civilization and culture. The first traces of floral traditions were found in the Nile valley in Egyptian royal tombs. Persian, Greek and Roman civilizations also left proofs of the same interest. But between the decline of the Roman Empire and the High Middle Ages, floral decoration was abandoned. It is only arround the tenth century that flowers as an artistic element of interest reappeared, while in the East, especially in China and in Japan, the floral art got considered as an essential and sacred part of their life scheme. Effectively, Ikebana, born from flower offerings in Buddhist temples in the 6th century, was introduced in private houses in the 15th century.

In the 20th century, new artistic tendencies like cubism, functional architecture, simple and modern style of life, have revolutionized floral art. European artists in flower arrangement looked again with great interest into Ikebana.

The influence of Ikebana on European floral art is typical: use of fewer flowers and integration of leaves and boughs. On the contrary, it is observed, in some Japanese reception halls or banquet rooms, the use of numerous flowers in Floral arrangements, like in Europe and USA !

New IRSID regrouping different cultural elements

IRSID, created in 1943, is now one of the essential elements of the USINOR SACILOR Research and Development organisation. The research center of St

HANA MAI Style, by Suzy VALLEE and Marcel VRIGNAUD. IKEBANA OHARA

Germain-en-Laye was inaugurated in 1952 in the outskirts of this town, at 20km west of Paris with such research units as Physics, High Temperature Physical Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Mechanical Testing. The construction having started in 1947, at the end of 1952, nearly 150 papers were already published. Research activities were largely developing and soon a pilot station was created in the east of France, at Maizières-les-Metz, which was officially opened in April 1958 for such research purposes as 1) Iron and Steelmaking processes; 2) Rolling problems; 3) Control of Energy and Raw Materials consumption; 4) Improving Productivity. UNIREC Research Center focused on speciality steels and alloys, formerly belonging to USINOR and located then in Unieux, near St Etienne, joined IRSID in 1987.

In 1993, USINOR SACILOR decided to regroup in Maizières all IRSID research facilities in order to improve the efficiency of research. IRSID, today, is an impressive large unit of competencies and technical and scientific means brought together in Maizières-les-Metz: 500 people in different buildings of 34 000m^2, of which 14000m^2 entirely new, on a site of 24 hectares. One of the main characteristics of this new IRSID is the variety and complementary aspects of these competencies and implements thus put together. Most of the problems under investigation are calling on various scientific and technical specialities. It is clear that IRSID's strength consists in its capacity of having work together several departments of different culture and tradition in order to benefit from exchange of a variety of experiences.

The large delta-shaped building, (see photo) expresses a marked will to realize a real continuity between several scopes of research, for exemple:

-Surfaces studies, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry of Iron and Steelmaking.

-Physical Metallurgy, Mechanical Behaviour and Forming

Thus regrouped, engineers, technicians, office staff and workers are the heirs and holders of traditions and cultures of the three former centers which constituted the actual IRSID. This diversity with multiple potentialities is now creating a new culture, multiplying effects and efficiency.

Furthermore, through IRSID, a constant and living dialogue is maintained between scientists of the university and engineers on the shop floors, particularly in 3 fields of competency: 1) Competencies linked to processes: Iron and Steelmaking, Rolling, Coatings; 2) Scientific competencies supporting industrial teams (Physical chemistry) or playing a part in the fundamental approach of research on products (Physical Metallurgy, Mechanics, Surface Chemistry). 3) Transverse competencies in Measurement/Analysis, Non-destructive Testing, Simulation, Advanced Computer Science, etc...

IRSID/USINOR SACILOR is involved in international exchanges:

-Research groups of European Community working on subjects of mutual interest of iron and steel industries, or between users and steel producers.

-Myosotis: German-French project on strip casting technology, involving THYSSEN STAHL and USINOR. The industrial pilot plant is in operation since June 1991 at Isbergues.

-Shinseiko Project, in order to design the hot end of a new steel production route based 100% on scrap, with high quality and friendly way to the environment.

-EMC or Electromagnetic Casting Project to replace the conventional caster.

(With heartfelt thanks to: Mr A. Van Honacker, Directeur Général of IRSID, Mrs. Yoko SIM, Manager of Japan Bureau, as well as Mr. J.P. Birat, Mr. R. Nicolle, Mr. and Mrs. H.Gaye.)

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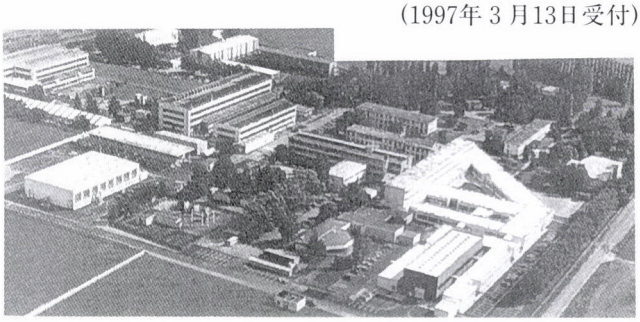

Aerial view of the "new" IRSID