

ROLAND R. ROPERS

**KULTUR- & SPRACHPHILOSOPH
BEGRÜNDER DER ETYMOLOGIE**



Brigitte D'Ortschy & Yasutani Roshi

The first Western female ZEN-Master
Brigitte D'Ortschy
(1921 - 1990)

Brigitte D'Ortschy, born **31st May 1921** in **Berlin**; died **9th July 1990** in **München-Grünwald** (only 2 days after **Hugo Makibi Enomiya-Lassalle's** death on 7th July 1990 in Münster/Germany) was a German architect, translator, journalist and author. She was the first German female ZEN-Master, known as **Koun-An Doru Chiko Roshiof** the **Sanbo Kyodan** lineage, **Kamakura, Japan**.

AM GRUNDWEIHER 2
D 82347 BERNRIED AM STARNBERGER SEE
PHONE: +49 (0) 8158 457 9195
MOBILE: +49 159 0127 1631
E-MAIL: ROPARADISE@GMX.DE
WWW.KARDIOSOPHIE-NETWORK.DE

Brigitte D'Ortschy grew up in Berlin. As an adolescent, she read **Angelus Silesius, Meister Eckhart, Teresa of Ávila** and **Chuang-tzu**. After graduating from high school, she studied architecture in Berlin and Graz/Austria. One focus of her studies was the sociological and psychological aspects of building. In 1945 she received her diploma as an architect and engineer.

From 1947 to 1950, Brigitte D'Ortschy worked as a research assistant at the **Technical University of Munich** in the field of history of architecture and archaeology. In 1950 she was sent to the USA to gain experience in the field of urban and regional planning for the reconstruction of post-war Germany. She completed her advanced studies at the **University of North Carolina** and worked for the **Philadelphia Planning Commission**. It was during this time that she met **Frank Lloyd Wright**.

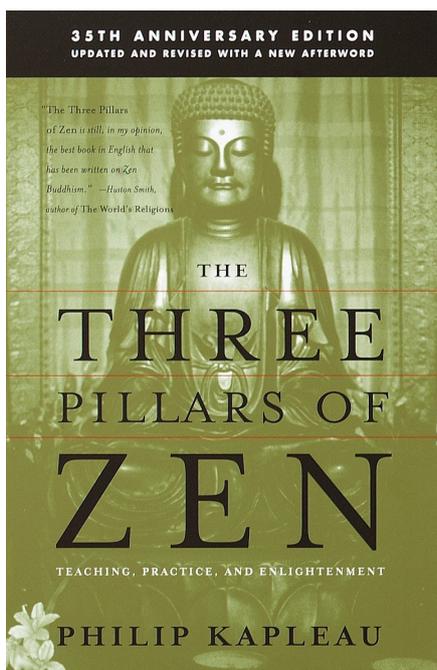
In 1951, she co-founded the **Bavarian Working Group for Spatial Research** and worked in urban and regional planning. In 1952, on her initiative, the exhibition **"60 Years of Living Architecture"** on the work of **Frank Lloyd Wright** was brought to **Munich's Haus der Kunst**. In 1953, Frank Lloyd Wright invited her to work in his architectural studio in **Taliesin West** (Arizona/USA). The ideas of Frank Lloyd Wright's **"Organic Architecture"** helped her to grasp the essence of Japanese culture.

When she returned to Europe in 1954, she took charge of the organization and design of the German section of the **"Triennale"** in **Milan/Italy**. Exhibitions followed in **Hälsingborg** (Sweden), **Milan, Israel, Berlin** and **Munich**, as well as building projects for private clients, lectures and articles for the trade press.

In 1960 she travelled **to Israel** and prepared an exhibition on the art and craft of Israel. In addition to her work, she maintained contacts with religious philosophers and natural scientists. At this time she read the book **"ZEN in the Art of Archery"** by **Eugen Herrigel** (1884 – 1955), which created in her a feeling for the value of Japan. Herrigel died in **Garmisch-Partenkirchen/Bavaria** – famous for Germany's highest mountain **"Zugspitze"** (2.962 m).

Until 1963, she worked as a freelance architect, writing for trade magazines, publishing houses and the general press, and worked for **Bavaria Film GmbH Munich**.

After her arrival in Japan, **Brigitte D'Ortschy** met the ZEN-Master **Yasutani Hakuun Ryoko Roshi** (1885-1973) and began her ZEN-training with him in April 1964 at **Fukusho-ji** in **Tokyo** and at **Mokuso-in** in **Kamakura**. She herself taught at **Waseda, Yokohama** and **Tokyo Universities**. In her essays she dealt with the ancient Japanese culture and its ZEN arts. She underwent the complete koan training, completed it in 1972 and received **Inka Shomei. Yasutani Hakuun Roshi** gave her the name "**Doru Chiko Daishi**" and thus his Dharma succession. In 1973, the **Hasan Sai ceremony** took place with **Yamada Koun Roshi** (1907 - 1989). She received his Dharma succession and he gave her the name **Koun An Roshi**, since then she has been called **Koun An Doru Chiko Roshi**. Finally, in 1983, Brigitte D'Ortschy was confirmed by **Yamada Roshi** as an authentic ZEN-Master of the **Sanbo Kyodan School**. She is the 85th generation after **Shakyamuni Buddha** and the 35th generation of the Japanese lineage from **Dogen-Zenji** onwards. In 1964, in the zendo in **Kamakura**, she met her ZEN-companion **Philip Kapleau** (1912 – 2004), who was working on his ZEN classic "**The Three Pillars of Zen**".



She translated this book into German. She translated the old original texts, some of which were written in Kanbun, into English in order to keep her German translation as true to the original as possible. The German translation of the book ***"The Three Pillars of Zen"*** was published in 1969. Another ZEN-companion at this time, besides **Hugo Makibi Enomiya-Lassalle S.J.**, was the Californian Jesuit Father **Thomas Hand** (1921 – 2005), one of the first Catholic priests in the **San Un Zendo** and a pioneer of Buddhist-Christian dialogue. **Brigitte D'Ortschy** had a long-standing friendship with him, which is documented in a 20-year correspondence. From 1973 she held the first sesshin in Germany with **Yamada Koun Roshi** and in 1975 founded her own Zendo in **Munich-Schwabing** and later in **Munich-Grünwald**. The Zendo grew into a community of ZEN students from all over the world. She worked semi-covertly, protecting her Zendo and her students from the public eye to ensure intensive ZEN training. In accordance with her view that "spiritual training is always free", she taught free of charge. Under the pseudonym **"Michael Mueller"**, Brigitte D'Ortschy published a teisho on the koan **"MU"**. It was published under the title **"ZEN"** (1984/97) together with photos by Eberhard Grames. Until her death in 1990, she spent the winter months in her garden house in **Kita-Kamakura** and continued her training. Together with **Yamada Koun Roshi**, she translated from the Chinese and Japanese originals in the San-Un Zendo in Kamakura the fundamental key texts of ZEN-Buddhism such as **"Hui-Neng (Eno) (638-713) The Sutra of the High Seat of the Sixth Patriarch"**, **"Sosan no hanashi"** and complete koan collections such as **"Mumon Ekai, Mumon-Kan (The Gateless Barrier)"**, **"Setcho/Engo, Hekigan-Roku (The Blue-Green Cliff)"**, **"Keizan Jokin Denko-Roku (The Transmission of Light)"**, **"Wanshi Shogaku Shoyo-Roku (The Book of Equanimity)"** and wrote her own teisho teachings. Just as **Yasutani Hakuun Roshi** is considered the pioneer of ZEN in the USA, **Koun An Doru Chiko Roshi** is considered the first Western ZEN- Master with students from all over the world.