

Report on nr6de event, Germany

October 12th marks a special date for every German Prisoner fan and supporter of the series. For it was exactly five years ago the German group was holding its anniversary event, 50 years after the first German TV broadcast of what they call Nummer 6. As before the meeting-up was held at the German (language) Prisoner epicentre in the city of Giessen.

About 15 people had arrived to join the organisers on this particular Saturday afternoon, thereby, at the least, four absentees normally to be reckoned with.



The agenda called for the official presentation of Arno's and Michael's book about Nummer 6 and there was Cyril Martin from Paris, guest of the day. He was to present his own special edit of the first episode "The Arrival" the way the original script would have had it.

The book



Arno Baumgärtel and Michael Brüne arguably are the most knowledgeable individuals about The Prisoner / Nummer 6 in this country. For decades they've been focused on the series, they set up their own events in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and the anniversary event in 2019. Over time it was thus inevitable that one day the idea of creating their own book about Nummer 6 would become manifest and in the end

palpable. Well after three years in preparation or in production the book was eventually printed by the end of July. It is currently even on display at the annual Frankfurt International Bookfair, at a joint stand. People were given insight into the making of the book where everything had to be effected by Arno and Michael. In the end the book comprises of 520 pages of rather glossy paper, it has a name and a keyword directory. It sells at a mere 10 Euros plus postage.

Cyril's arrival

Then came Cyril. Those who attended the convention in April had come to know him already. Cyril Martin is a French Prisoner fan from Paris. He was curious to see and hear what the German event would be like, in particular with regard to his own work, his video editing of the episode "Arrival" which would be screened. He was invited and he did show up.



Cyril has continued to work on this experiment since the convention in April. Cyril is a walking Prisoner encyclopaedia. He has stored all the details of the series in his mind, the

creation process, the production and everything that goes with it. He knows all the scripts, all the revisions, adaptations and filmed versions in every detail. It's phenomenal!

Discussing Prisoner topics and details with Cyril is as stimulating as it is challenging. It is certainly no exaggeration to say that we have never spent two such intensive Prisoner days with anyone else as with Cyril. For his purpose he uses a lot of still photographs, graphics either used or unused footage in order to fill the gaps between the very early script and what was eventually filmed. This is not to say this material would also have been used by the producers. On one occasion, when No. 6 is shown his own record, we see lots of Danger Man photos which shouldn't be there because, obviously, PMcG would never have taken the identity of the Prisoner that far in the direction of John Drake. He wanted the Prisoner to be if not "Anonymous" but "Everyman". Cyril says he'd used this material as nothing else was at hand. And he is likely to change things in the upcoming weeks or months.

One further topic between Cyril and Michael was the Prisoner episode order as published in the German book. Cyril's own order of episodes and Michael's are very similar. Even if he sometimes justifies his completely differently. There is still potential for more discussions about this topic. Afterwards there was a discussion about this work and the participants thanked Cyril for his extraordinary commitment and his great work. He'd very much like to come back to us next year and show us, for example, his extended "Free For All" version. Cyril's take on restoring/recreating episodes as they could have been envisaged at an early development stage is and remains fascinating. It even tells something about future developments of the action and such of a proper chronological order.

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freunde & förderer der fernsehserie
Arno Baumgärtel
www.nummer6-theprisoner.de
nr6de@nummer6-theprisoner.de