

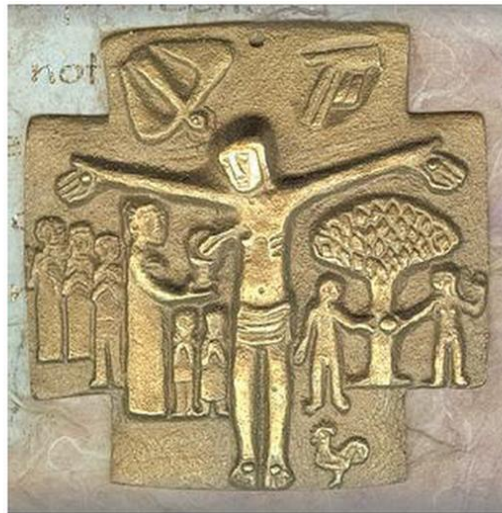
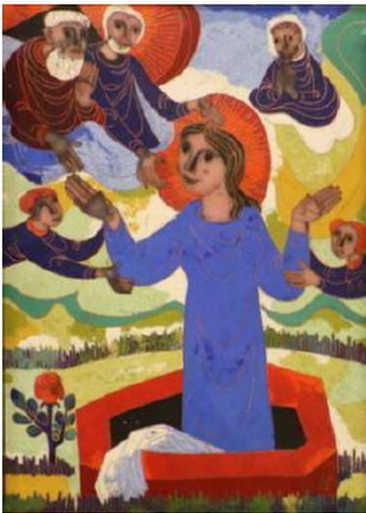
# IN MEMORY OF EGINO WEINERT

***A LAY ARTIST AT THE SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL HE EXPRESSED IN ALL HIS WORKS***

*Announcing the sad event of German artist Eginö Weinert's death on September 4th, we want to remember the artistic career and the difficult life of this great 20th century enameller.*



Eginö Günter Weinert (aka Franz Stanislaus Günter Przybiski) was born on **March 3rd 1920** in Berlin in the quarter of Schöneberg. His childhood is soon marked by a deep faith in God<sup>1</sup> and a strong interest towards art; this passion pushed him to visit the museums in Berlin and to try and learn painting and sculpture at a very early age. He develops very soon the conviction to serve Christ by translating his Gospel into his art. His art wants to distance itself from the modern styles and to adopt stylized figures and a style later known as naïf.



*Enamel, bas-relief and stained glass with the typical stylized figures by Eginö Weinert.*

In **1934**, when he was just 14 years old, Eginö enters the Benedictine monastery of Münzerschwarzach as a student.

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<sup>1</sup> Eginö owes his faith to his mentor Romano Guardini (Verona, 1886 - Monaco di Baviera, 1968), teacher of Philosophy of Religion and considered one of the most influential theologians of the 20th century.



During this period of religious and artistic formation, Eginow learns from Master Aldemar the style of the so-called Beuron School, named after the Archabbey where Father Desiderius Lenz and other Benedictine monks invented a new style which aspired to oppose the excesses of Naturalism with simplified and bi-dimensional figures, in order to recover a form of art inspired by the Medieval genres. Eginow clearly let himself be inspired by the philosophy of this artistic movement, although it developed into the later more simplified style of Weinert. In 1936, Eginow is a novice and starts to work as ecclesiastical restorer and painter by Brother Lukas. In 1937, he studies sculpture by Prof. Valentin Kraus. In 1941 it's the turn of goldsmith/silversmith studies. These are the years of Hitler's dictatorship, when Eginow refused to perform the Nazi salute in public in Würzburg and was put under arrest. He was released two months later and forced to enlist in the navy during World War II.

During the rest and recuperation leaves in the period **1942-1943**, he manages to continue his passion for art, mainly painting in Düsseldorf with his colleagues Günther Blunk and Ewald Jorzig and later goldsmith art in Bremen. The artist himself claims that there was an experience of great importance in his career: the restoration of the Golden Altarpiece of the Cathedral of St. Mark in Venice during this period, which made it possible for him to learn the Byzantine style and to "rediscover", in his exact words, the method of copper salts solder, used to get some ancient goldsmith techniques such as cloisonné wires, filigree and granulation.



*Example of Beuron Style (left) and detail from the Golden Altarpiece in the Cathedral of St. Mark, Byzantine art (right): two techniques that inspired Eginow Weinert's style.*

In 1944, he graduated as master. At the end of the war, after long researches, he managed to find his mother who had moved in a quarter of Berlin under the control of the Russian troops.



In **October 1945**, Egino Weinert suffers a new terrible loss. During a black out, a Russian soldier gives his mother a fuse to turn the light on. But the fuse was filled with explosive: it was Egino's mother who unknowingly gave him the bomb that mutilated his right hand. After a long and difficult medical care in an American hospital, Egino is finally discharged and can try to be admitted in the Benedictine monastery of Münsterschwarzach, who has survived the war. Nevertheless, he is admitted solely as a Goldsmith.

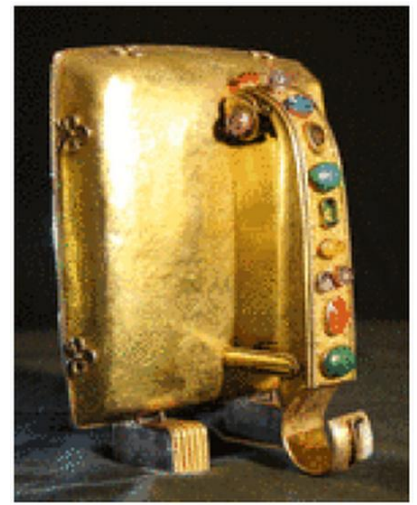


*Egino Weinert works despite his handicap.*

His loss of the right hand means that he couldn't produce any artistic works; nevertheless, Egino doesn't surrender and decides to exercise his left hand in the production of enamel works with Biblical and religious themes. In **1947**, he produces his first one-handed artistic work: the Peace Table. He also attends great artists and produces some bronze sculptures on his own.



*The first one-handed work of Egino Weinert: The Peace Table.*



Egino wants to take his vows in the Benedictine Order, but in **1949** the Chapter of monks assembled and decided against his suitability because of his handicap and his reduced autonomy. The same refusal was confirmed by the Franciscans. The 29-years old artist was thus forced to return to live in the outer world after a whole monastery-oriented life. Egino obviously feels abandoned by all, but a meeting with *Teresa Neumann*<sup>2</sup> encourages him, claiming that God had new greater plans on him. He finds new hope and begins to expose his works for sell in Bonn in the library of *Anneliese Leopold*, a fatherless girl who will become his wife in **1951**. Egino founds his little private workshop and 1952 a second workshop in Lucerne: he can finally commit to his mission of lay artist. In this period, he fathers three sons and one daughter.

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<sup>2</sup> A German nun and seer (1898-1962).



*Cover of a Gospel book by Egino Weinert, decorated with enamel and gemstones.*

In **1956**, he builds and opens both a new home and a laboratory in Cologne in Marzellenstrasse n.42. Important events are also the opening of his first workshop in Spain in **1963** and his first meeting with *Pope Paul VI*. Egino Weinert, now 43, seems to have found the balance and serenity he has been looking for throughout his life. During this period, his production ranges over a wide variety of sacred art. Many of his works have even been commissioned by the Popes of the last century.



*Meetings of Egino Weinert with Popes Paul VI and John Paul II.*



Nevertheless, Egino suffers a new disgrace, aged 65, when his wife dies in **1985** after a long illness. In the same year, the artist is awarded with the **Federal Cross of Merit**. Egino later marries Waltraud Foerster. Ten years later, in **1995**, Egino celebrates his 75th birthday with a Mass in his honor in the Cologne Cathedral.



*On the left: a postage stamp from Luxembourg after a work of Egino Weinert (Christmas 1997).*

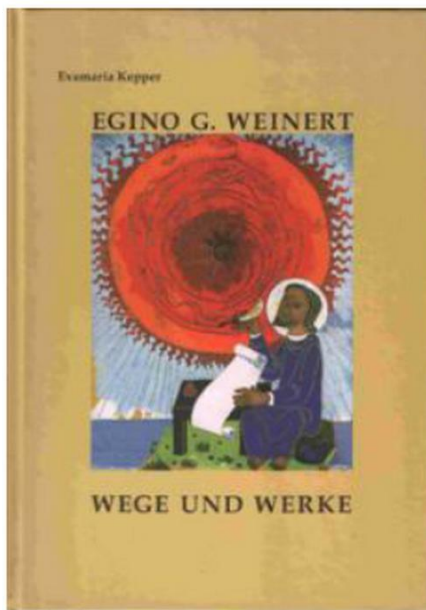
*On the right: Egino and his second wife.*

*Below: Cup from the Trier Cathedral (1995).*



In **2000**, Egino completes his wonderful stained glasses in the Benedictine monastery of Waegwan in the North Gyeongsang Province (South Korea) and publicly celebrates his 80th birthday. This event will be repeated in **2010** on occasion of his 90th birthday: this is the last public appearance of Egino

in his long and fruitful career. Eginö Weinert died on September 4th 2012, ages 92, and rests in the cemetery of Kleinkönigsdorf.



*A stained glass from the Benedictine monastery of Waegwan (South Korea). On the left: cover the book "Eginö G. Weinert. Wege und Werke" by Evamaria Kepper: most of the information in this paper is derived from this book.*



# BIOGRAPHY

- 03/03/1920 He is born in Berlin – Schöneberg, a brother of five sisters.
- 10/01/1934 He enters the Benedictine Abbey of Münzerschwarzach as a student, active in the missionary section.
- 1935 He studies agriculture (one year) and commerce (two years).
- 1936-1937 Education by ecclesiastical restorer and painter Brother Lukas.
- 04/25/1937 Postulant, entrance in the community of the monastery.
- 04/27/1938 Acceptance as a novice. Order name: Brother Egino.
- 1937-1938 Education in a goldsmith workshop in Münsterschwarzach and Würzburg.
- 1939/05/04 Temporary vows.
- 1939-1945 World War II.
- 07/11/1940 Goldsmith and silversmith examination.
- 1941 He is put under arrest in Würzburg, in Ottostrasse, because he refused the Nazi salute.
- 12/01/1941 Egino enters the military service, in the navy.
- 1942 Painter with Günther Blunk and Ewald Jorzig.
- 09/13/1944 Graduation as artisan master in goldsmith and silversmith arts (Bremen).
- 1944 Soldier in the navy in La Spezia (Italy).
- 1945 He serves on the battlefield till the end of the War in Kustrin and in Schleswig-Holstein.
- 05/28/1945 Discharge and return to the monastery.
- 03/11/1946 Loss of the right hand in the house of his parents in Berlin, caused by a Russian homemade bomb disguised as a fuse.
- 1946 First work as a one-handed goldsmith: the Table of Peace.
- 1947-1948 Attendance of the Work-School in Cologne.
- 1947 Goldsmith seminary by Prof. Elisabeth Treskov.
- 1947 Sculpture in metal: Prof. J. Jaeckel; Graphics: prof. Hussmann; Artistic Fusion: three plastic figures created by Egino individually.
- 03/16/1949 Egino exits the monastery.
- 1949 New Attendance at the Work-School in Cologne. Free painting by Prof. Vordemberge, headmaster of the school.
- 1949 Foundation of his first goldsmith, painting and sculpture atelier in Bonn, Kronprinzenstrasse n.3.
- 1950 Foundation of an atelier in Switzerland (Lucerne).
- 01/06/1951 Wedding with Anneliese Leopold in Bonn.
- 1951 Birth of Gisela, his first daughter.
- 1954 Birth of his son Clemens. Opening of a gallery in Bonn.
- 1956 His atelier moves to Cologne, in Marzellenstrasse.
- 1957 Birth of his son Egino.
- 1961 Birth of his son Fidelis.
- 1963 Foundation of a second atelier in Denia, Spain. First meeting with Paul VI.
- 1980 Atelier enlarged; opening of an exposition room in Königsdorf (by Cologne).
- 1985 Death of Anneliese. Second Marriage with Waltraud Foerster.
- 1985 Federal Order of Merit Cross.
- 1994 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his career as goldsmith, painter and sculptor.
- 1995 Religious celebration and feast for Egino's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Cologne Cathedral.
- 1995 First calendar with his works. Themes: the Holy Family and married saints.
- 1996-2002 Calendars with the gospel readings for the three cycles of the Lectionary.
- 1997 Production of Christmas postage stamps for Luxembourg.
- 03/03/2000 Religious celebration and feast for Egino's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Church of the Assumption to Heaven of St. Mary in Marzellenstrasse (Cologne) with abbot Fidelis from the

monastery of Münsterschwarzach, the abbey Nicholas of the monastery of Strachov (Prague) and the Provost Johannes Stöver.

2002 Production of 16 cathedral glasses for the Abbey of Waegwan (South Korea).

2003-2004 New calendars.

03/03/2010 Religious ceremony and feast for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

09/04/2012 Eginio Weinert dies ages 92. He is buried Kleinkönigsdorf (Cologne).



*Tabernacle of the burning bush,  
Church of St. Ulrich, Paderborn (1985)*