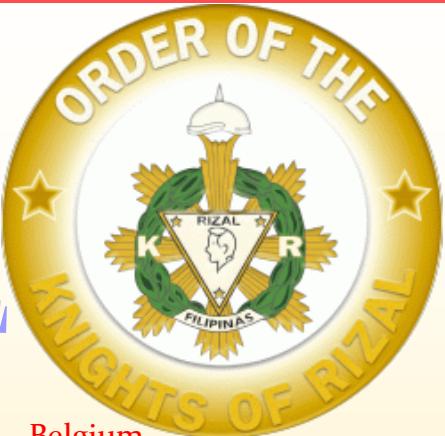




# Newsletter Knights of RIZAL



Issue 16  
Volume 2  
October 2009

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Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium



Knights of Rizal – Diamond Chapter – Jan. 2009

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Brother Knights of Rizal and Ladies,

Dear friends of the Knights of Rizal Diamond Chapter,

Dear Knights of our co-Chapters in Belgium, Europe and worldwide,

*It is with pleasure that I introduce our 16<sup>th</sup> issue of our KOR Diamond Newsletter. May I urge you to read it with attention and spread the good news by forwarding this issue to friends, relatives and possible interested parties of which we hope we can enlighten their interest in our Chapter and in the Knights of Rizal in general.*

*In this issue we look proudly back to the 4<sup>th</sup> European Assembly in Prague last Sep. 17-18-19-20 under the leadership of Sir Noubikko of Prague. A full report with a selection of pictures in this issue by Sir FELIX, KR. I am proud to say that our Chapter was represented in an excellent way. This was not only proved by a large participation (a delegation of 18) but also in the active representation. Again I felt so sorry that – due to my obligation as a teacher at high school till Friday evening – I could not attend.*

*I also want to INVITE you ALL on our already announced next activity on SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2009 starting 4.30 p.m. at Kruibeke (Zaal De Schuur) with a PHILIPPINE & RIZAL QUIZ (thank you Brother-Knight Sir Michel Du Bois, his wife Lady Rosy and sister Christine), followed*

*(Continued on page 2)*

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by a BARBECUE and a LOOKING BACK at the 4<sup>th</sup> ERA and the CURRENT SITUATION OF THE TYPHOON IN THE PHILIPPINES.

KOR Diamond cannot be blind in this unbelievable disaster that hit so many people and lives in the area of Manila and around that KOR Diamond decided to support the victims, as also urged by our beloved Ambassador H.E. Cristina G. ORTEGA and the Council of Philippine Associations in Belgium and also in his memorandum 49, our Supreme Commander Sir ES-GUERRA. **Therefore the profit of our OCT. 17 activity will completely go to two projects that will support the victims and their immediate families: 1. TRIAS, presented by Sir Michel DU BOIS, KR and 2. a project lead by Lady Lorraine PIMENTEL, daughter-in-law of our Brother Knight Sir Eric & Jacqueline BORGHIJS-VANDENEEDE. More info in this Newsletter.**

**Please: BE THERE ON OCT. 17 and SPREAD THE NEWS TO ALL OTHER CHAPTERS OF KOR IN BELGIUM AND OUTSIDE.**

Finally I great everybody and thank you all also for participating in the 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Friendship for the Philippines last Sunday Sept. 27 in Knokke.

God bless you all. NOM

Your Chapter Commander KOR Diamond & Deputy Area Comm. Belgium

Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KCR



# **SUPPORT THE TYPHOON VICTIMS**

## **KNIGHTS OF RIZAL**

### **DIAMOND CHAPTER – BELGIUM – EUROPE**

#### **SATURDAY OCT. 17 – 4.30 P.M. KRUIBEKE**

#### **PHILIPPINES & RIZAL QUIZ – LOOKING BACK AT 4<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY PRAGUE – BARBECUE**

Fastly approaching: Sat. Oct. 17. We invite you all again to a relaxing activity where we figured out a nice program in the spirit of Rizal and where brotherhood is again touching our hearts.

The venue is DE SCHUUR at Broekdam-Noord 47 at Kruibeke Centre. Welcome at 4.30 p.m. Start program 5 p.m. (final at around 9.30 p.m.).

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### On the program:

- ◆ Quiz Mabuhay "Philippines & Rizal" by our member Sir Michel DU BOIS, KR and his wife Rosy AMARO, assisted by his sister Mrs. Christine DU BOIS. We sincerely thank Sir DU BOIS for his initiative.
- ◆ Presentation of project TRIAS, NGO that works for the development in the South, also in the Philippines with 9 partners (e.g. ASHI, micro-finance) with cooperation of 6 Flemish movements, e.g. MARKANT – support for the flood & typhoon victims
- ◆ Presentation of project of Lorraine BORGHIJS-PIMENTEL – support flood & typhoon victims
- ◆ A review of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Assembly KOR Prague with presentation of pictures by Sir Ronny FELIX, KR – rapporteur
- ◆ Fraternal barbecue
- ◆ News from the European and Belgian Council
- ◆ Update of the situation in and around Manila
- ◆ KOR Diamond acts immediately after the appeal of KOR International Headquarters for support the VICTIMS of the TYPHOON that recently hit the Philippines – see also the memorandum of our Supreme Commander Sir Esguerra, KGCR in this Newsletter

Participation is very democratic!



Inform one of our board members in your area for reserving a ticket for the price of 22 EUR (children 6-12: 8 EUR – under 6: free). We would appreciate if you could inform us **before Oct. 14**. You can pay your tickets after reserving at the entrance to our exchequer and Deputy Chapter Commander Sir Roy De Mol, KCR

You can also pay the amount on our ACCOUNT NUMBER **979 6095137 50** of ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL – 90 VENNEBORGGLAAN – 2100 DEURNE (ANTWERPEN) WITH NUMBER OF ADULTS/CHILDREN.

**Dresscode: casual (so no barong needed)**

Profit of this event will go to the VICTIMS of the ONDOY TYPHOON in MANILA, and also the area of MAKIKINA

**1. the PROJECT of TRIAS, presented by Sir Michel & Rosy DU BOIS-AMARO & Christine DU BOIS**

**2. the project of Lorraine BORGHIJS-PIMENTEL, daughter-in-law of our active KOR members Sir Eric & Lady Jacqueline BORGHIJS-VANDENEDE.**

You can read in this Newsletter some information of TRIAS send by Sir Michel.

You can also read the letter of Lorraine in Dutch and English in this Newsletter.



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The BOARD OF KOR DIAMOND DECIDED in an emergency conference through the phone that we have to reply the emergency call of our Philippine Ambassador H.E. Cristina G. ORTEGA, TO SUPPORT THE VICTIMS OF THE DISASTER IN THE PHILIPPINES. We also acted according the proposal of our Supreme Commander Sir ES-GUERRA, KGCR. See and read his MEMO 49. We thank Sir Michel DU BOIS for his help for TRIAS and the Family BORGHIJS-PIMENTEL that we choose in these DAYS OF EMERGENCY for the IMMEDIATE ASK FOR HELP IN AND AROUND MANILA.

Please reply as soon as you can....  
We also invite our brother knights of all other Belgian Chapters

*Tickets:*

Sir Dominiek Segaert, KCR, 050 601320 or 0479691865

Sir Kris Van Thillo, KCR, 03 6664385

Sir Tony Guansing, KGOR, 03 2191491

Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, 03 3257116

Sir Roy De Mol, KCR, 03 5419482

Sir Rik Van Tiggel, KCR, 0475 763663

Sir Paul Verloo, KOR, 03 5424411



## Mail from TRIAS

Dag allemaal,

Zaterdag 26 september brak de hel los boven Manilla, waar in zes uur zoveel regen viel als in een hele maand. Tachtig procent van de miljoenenstad verdween onder water. Gelukkig hield het 's avonds op met regenen. Toen het water wegtrok, was de ravage enorm. De vele krottenwijken in de stad zijn het hardst getroffen en verschillende ervan zijn gedeeltelijk van de kaart geveegd. Een half miljoen mensen ontvluchtten hun huizen.

Ashi, CSE en Trias gaan aan de slag! Het Trias team en medewerkers van Ashi en CSE staan hun leden bij in de heropstart na de storm, de regen en de verwoesting.

Wil je weten wat onze plannen zijn? Wil u Ashi steunen? Ga dan naar [www.triasngo.be](http://www.triasngo.be), en vervolgens naar nieuwsberichten.

Vriendelijke groeten,

Barbara Luypaert

Noorddienst Trias vzw

[barbara.luypaert@triasngo.be](mailto:barbara.luypaert@triasngo.be)

Wetstraat 89

1040 Brussel

[www.triasngo.be](http://www.triasngo.be)

## Letter from Lorraine BORGHIJS-PIMENTEL

Beste Vrienden van de Filipijnen,

*Op zaterdag 26 september veroorzaakte Typhoon Ondoy grootschalige verwoesting in de Filipijnen en Metro Manilla. Tot 80% van Manilla werd overstroomd, de ergste overstromingen in 50 jaar. Het dodental staat momenteel op 140, en er zijn nog veel vermisten.*

*Mijn ouders, senator Nene & Mrs Bing Pimentel, wonen in Fairlane Subdivision, Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina . Dit is een van de zwaarst getroffen gebieden door de overstromingen. Ik dank God dat mijn hele familie veilig is. Terwijl zij de middelen hebben om het huis te herbouwen, te reinigen en langzaam weer op orde te brengen, wachten veel mensen in het gebied nog steeds op eerste hulp.*

*Ik ga dagelijks naar Marikina om gekookt voedsel en voorraden te leveren. Ze hebben daar nog steeds geen elektriciteit, de waterkwaliteit is twijfelachtig en de lage druk levert enkel druppelsgewijs water.*

*Voordat ik bij mijn ouders aankom, passeer ik door de Barangay van Tumana. Veel bewoners daar zijn overleden. Bijna alle bewoners van Tumana waren zeer slecht gehuisvest met nauwelijks bezittingen en nu zijn ze dat weinige wat ze hadden, kwijt in de overstromingen!*

*Ik doe een beroep op u om onze behoeftige broeders en zusters te helpen in deze tijd van extreme ontberingen.*

*Nu ik dagelijks naar Marikina ga, bied ik u mijn diensten aan door hulpgoederen direct te verdelen onder de slachtoffers.*

*U kunt ervan verzekerd zijn dat er geen administratieve kosten afgetrokken worden van uw giften en ik zal zelf alle kosten voor het vervoer, organiseren en verdelen van de goederen, dragen. 100% van uw giften gaat rechtstreeks naar de slachtoffers.*

*Gebaseerd op wat ik meegemaakt, hebben de slachtoffers nodig: water, gekookt voedsel, plastic beker, borden, lepels en vorken, kleding,*

Dear Friend of the Philippines ,

*On Saturday 26 September Typhoon Ondoy caused widespread devastation in the Philippines and Metro Manila . Up to 80% of Manila was flooded in the worst flood in 50 years. The death toll currently stands at 140, and many more are missing.*

*My parents, Senator Nene & Mrs. Bing Pimentel, live in Fairlane Subdivision, Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina . This was one of the hardest hit areas of flooding. Thank God my entire family is safe. While we are fortunate to have the means to have our house rebuilt, cleaned and slowly put back in order, many people in the area still need a lot of help.*

*I go to Marikina everyday to deliver cooked food and supplies. They still have no electricity, the water quality is questionable and the pressure is trickling at best.*

*Before I reach my parents home, I pass by the barangay of Tumana. A lot of residents died there. Almost all of Tumana's residents are very poor with hardly any possessions and yet they still lost what little they had in the flood!*

*I am appealing to you to help our needy brothers and sisters in this time of extreme suffering.*

*Since I go to Marikina everyday, I am offering my services to distribute relief goods directly to the victims.*

*You can be assured that there will be no administrative cost deducted from your donations as I will take care of shouldering all cost of transporting, organizing and distributing the goods. 100% of your donations will go directly to the victims.*

*Based on what I witnessed, the victims need water, cooked food, plastic cup, plates, spoons*

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*zaklantaarns met batterijen,  
schoonmaakproducten en geld. Met uw financiële  
steun zou ik in staat zijn om deze  
levensnoodzakelijke benodigdheden te kopen en  
hen verder te helpen.*

*De sanering van Marikina (én alle getroffen  
gebieden) en het organiseren van de  
overlevenden is een gigantische taak. Ik neem  
een kleine stap met het schrijven van deze brief  
om een beroep te doen op u.*

*Bedankt en moge God ons allen zegene.*

*Met vriendelijke groeten,  
Lorraine Pimentel Borghijs*

Naar aanleiding van dit schrijven hebben wij hier een feitelijke vereniging gesticht waarop stortingen kunnen gebeuren ten voordele van de actie van onze schoondochter die hiermee de liefde voor haar volk en haar land toont, waarop wij bijzonder fier zijn.

De vereniging draagt de naam: Hulp slachtoffers overstromingen Manila. Rek. nr.: 751 - 2044288 - 53

Hartelijk dank voor jullie bijdrage. Wij houden jullie op de hoogte.

Eric en Jacqueline Borghijs - Van den Eede

(Continued from page 6)

*and forks, clothes, flashlights with batteries,  
cleaning supplies and money. With your financial  
assistance, I would be able to buy these critical  
supplies.*

*Rehabilitating Marikina (plus all affected areas)  
and the lives of the survivors is a gargantuan  
task. I am taking the small step of writing this  
letter of appeal to you.*

*Thank you and may God bless all of us.*

*Sincerely,  
Lorraine Pimentel Borghijs*



# Memo of our Supreme Commander Sir Esguerra about the typhoon



## The Order of the Knights of Rizal (Chartered Under Republic Act No. 646) SUPREME COUNCIL Manila, Philippines



Non Omnis Moriar

A civic patriotic, cultural, non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-profit organization

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### MEMORANDUM NO. 49, Series 2008-2010

FROM : SIR VIRGILIO R. ESGUERRA, Supreme Commander  
TO/FOR : Regional Commanders, Area Commanders and Chapter Commanders  
SUBJECT : An Appeal for Donations to the Victims of Typhoon Ondoy  
DATE : 1 October 2009

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*"Truly the Filipino rises to his finest self during trying times, the more trying the times, the finer the rising. Or it is in times of disaster that the Filipino ceases to be a disaster, thinking of others first before self." – Conrado de Quiros*

Metro Manila and large parts of Luzon in the Philippines have suffered an extensive injury and damage to life and property due to the devastating effect of the tropical storm Ondoy which has caused more or less 300 people dead [and still counting] and displaced nearly half a million people -- leaving the metropolis and other neighboring provinces under water for days (and probably months for other areas).

Humanitarian considerations and our deep regard for the welfare of others, especially the least fortunate summon us, under this exceptional and extraordinary circumstance obtaining, to extend a helping hand.

Any appropriate assistance we can give and provide will help in making good and in satisfying the basic and urgent needs of the flood and typhoon calamity victims.

Such assistance is in line with the ideals and values of mutual help and support specifically envisioned by the example and teachings of the national hero and more emphatically embodied in the goals and policies of the La Liga Filipina and the Order of the Knights of Rizal.

The situation cannot just be ignored and disregarded because of the extent of the damage and devastation that even the Philippine government has appealed for international humanitarian assistance.

A multitude of donors have already responded for the call to help the victims of tropical storm Ondoy through various relief agencies. But the work is far from over – donations are still needed. We enjoin everyone to continue sending financial aid and contributions in kind for our fellow countrymen.

Yahoo-Philippines has a listing of organizations and relief agencies working for the typhoon victims. The International Headquarters of the Knights of Rizal can also serve as a channel of your donations and we can transmit them to our choice agencies. Already, an initial amount has been approved by the Supreme Council for the typhoon victims. Please e-mail or call us if you need any information.

Let us all show our finest selves during these trying times by thinking of others first before self.

**NON OMNIS MORIAR !**

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International Headquarters: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Knights of Rizal Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, Philippines or P.O. Box 102 Manila  
Telephone Numbers: (02) 528-1974/ 521-0141 Telefax: (02) 528-1973; 526-0322; Celfone Numbers: 0927-528-1711  
E-mail Address: okoriam@yahoo.com

## Details betreffende de Mabuhay Quiz

“Mabuhay” betekent welkom in het Tagalog, de taal van de meeste Filippino’s.

Ze zijn gekend omwille van hun gastvrijheid. Deelnemers aan de quiz zijn virtueel te gast in de leefwereld van de Filippino’s. Sommige deelnemers zullen als uitwisselingsreiziger, samen met **TRIAS**, ook echt naar de Filippijnen reizen.

“We reizen om te leren”, is een bekende zegswijze. Als we willen leren tijdens onze reis, is het goed om voor vertrek één en ander te weten over de bestemming. Tijdens deze quiz worden de deelnemers voor een namiddag uitwisselingsreiziger

bij **TRIAS**. Ze maken kennis met de ervaringen en betekenissen die elke uit-wisselingsreis boeiend maken. Ze maken kennis met **MERCEDITA**, die symbol staat voor een Filippijnse vrouw op het platteland die naar **MANILA** wil. Zij is gids doorheen de Filippijnse geschiedenis en gewoontes en laat je kennismaken met het werk van **TRIAS** en haar partner **ASHI**.



### TRIAS

**TRIAS** is een **Vlaamse NGO**, een niet gouvernementele organisatie, die samen met zes Vlaamse bewegingen, waaronder **MARKANT**, werken aan ontwikkeling in het Zuiden. Ze steunen ondernemende mensen in het Zuiden door middel van microkredieten, door middel van ondersteunende diensten voor kleine ondernemingen, door het versterken van het verenigingsleven en door middel van het zoeken naar markttoegang. Ze werken in twaalf landen, verdeeld over negen regio's en werkt met meer dan 80 plaatselijke partners. Eén van die landen zijn de Filippijnen. Ze hebben in **MANILA** een regiokantoor met twee coöperanten en drie lokale medewerkers.

## Report on the 4th E(uropean) R(egional) A(ssembly).

17th – 20th September 2009

The 4th ERA was held in the city of Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, where the souls of Antonin Dvorak and Franz Kafka wander through the streets with the colorful houses, built in renaissance or functional style.

The theme of the assembly was: "Keeping Alive the Friendship of Rizal and Blumentritt in the Future".

There were representatives of the Czech Republic, Belgium, Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Great Britain, Ireland, U.S. (New Jersey, Hawaii), Canada and the Philippines.

The Diamond Chapter was very well represented with 10 members. Following people made the trip to Prague:

Sir Antonio & Lady Susan GUANSING, KGOR, Regional Commander for Europe

Sir Peter & Lady Babes VAN BOGAERT, KGOR, Special Adviser to the Supreme Commander

Sir Pros SLACHMUYLDERS, KGOR, Chartering Commander of the KOR Diamond Chapter

Sir Paul & Lady Mayet VERLOO, KOR, Chancellor

Sir Ronny & Lady Phoebe FELIX, KR

Sir Dirk & Lady Grace VANDEWEGHE, KR and daughter Nicky

Sir Guy & Lady Mercy WATERLOOS, KR

Sir Geert & Lady Faith VERHAEGEN, KR

Sir Marc & Lady Felly HELSEN, KR

Sir Kristoff MORTIER, KR

Also present from other Belgian chapters were

Sir Lino Paras KGOR,

Sir Bhoy & Lady Lita Alcoba KGOR, Former Area Commander for Belgium

Sir Elvy Rutor, KCR, Brussels Chapter

Sir and Mrs Francois Ooms, KCR, Chapter Commander of II Filibusterismo

Sir & Mrs Lucien & Lady Madeleine Spittaels, KGOR, II Filibusterismo

Sir Albert & Lady Melba Arevalo, KCR, Aalst Chapter

Lady Joanne Arevalo

Sir Cipriano Reyes, KCR, Aalst Chapter

Sir Maximo Villaroman Junior & Lady Airine, Aalst Chapter

And a delegation of the ladies of the Kababaihang Rizalista



The Castle in Prague

Unfortunately Sir Dominiek Segaert, Chapter Commander of the Diamond Chapter, was not able to attend the meeting due to professional obligations.

Most of the members arrived one day earlier, on the 16<sup>th</sup> September.

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#### Day 1 - 17th September.

During the afternoon all attendants were officially registered in order to participate to the program. More than 70 knights and about 30 Rizalistas attented the assembly.

With some delay the participants were transferred by busses to the Clam-Gallas Palace where they could participate in a presentation about the friendship between José Rizal and Ferdinand Blumentritt.

Welcome words were spoken by Dr. Pavlicova , Head of Prague-Aachen Cultural Club, Sir Noubikko Ulanday, KCR, Sir Jaroslav Ludva, KGOR and former ambassador to the Philippines,

Sir Ladislav Chlupac, KCR, Mayor of Litomerice and Prof José Lapuz, KGOR and UNESCO Commissioner. Professor Lapuz gave an overview of the travels of José Rizal, especially in Europe.

The meeting was also attended by the Philippine Ambassador in Prague, mrs Regina P. Sarmiento.

A presentation was then given by Mgr. Stejskalová, Curator of Ceske-Budejovice in which she showed examples of the correspondence between José Rizal and Ferdinand Blumentritt. It was however a pity that the participants could not really see the documents of Rizal and Blumentritt and also the 5 paintings of Juan Luna, that were communicated to the public this year . It was Sir Lucien Spitaël, KGOR, who had seen already proof of their existence in February 1998.

After the presentation, a letter of appreciation was given to mgr Stejskalová by Sir Tony Guansing, KGOR and Regional Commander for Europe. Sir Regis Romero also addressed the audience and thanked mgr Stejskalová for her presentation.

The evening was concluded by a reception in the palace and later a party in the PM Club, a music bar, in Prague.



Flower offering ceremony for Ferdinand Blumentritt



The audience in the Clam-Gallas Palace

#### Day 2 – 18th September

On the second day the participants went by bus to the town of Litomerice where Ferdinand Blumentritt lived. Litomerice is one of the oldest towns in the Czech Republic; it was founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The city is small and calm and has many picturesque houses and nice views in the landscape.

After a trip of one hour the first stop was made at the cemetery where professor Blumentritt is buried. A flower offering ceremony was held at his grave by all the knights and Rizalistas.

After the ceremony the company was invited to have lunch in the Garda Salva restaurant which used to be the former city hall.

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After the lunch the participants were invited in the city's theatre where welcome speeches were given by the bishop of Litomerice, the Mayor, Sir Ladislav Chlupac and Knight of Rizal and local sculptor Sir Libor Pisklák who mentioned the making of a new documentary movie about the meeting of José Rizal and professor Ferdinand Blumentritt. The documentary will show the different life paths of the two persons which, at one moment in time, intersected and created a strong, almost brotherly, life lasting friendship, violently interrupted by José Rizal's execution in Manila on December 30<sup>th</sup> 1896. Worth mentioning also is that Sir Pisklák made the busts of Rizal and Blumentritt that can be seen in the town. He also made the Rizal bust for the Rizal Park in Lima, Peru.

The audience was then invited to hear one of the best young Czech choirs who entertained the guests with some local and international songs. Noted was also the performance of Lady Ching Vianzon of the Kababaihan Rizalista of Florida who sung a potpourri of Filipina songs.



The Diamond Chapter representatives before the bust of José Rizal in Litomerice

tomerice – the view on the cathedral. Also here a flower offering ceremony was held.

The group then went further for another flower offering at the bust of professor Blumentritt. This bust is facing the Technical Secondary School of which professor Blumentritt was the director.

After the ceremony the group went to visit the newly installed "Blumentritt and Rizal's Bastion", a museum with copies of writings and pictures of Rizal and Blumentritt.

After this visit most of the group got thirsty and hungry. The participants were offered a sumptuous dinner buffet on a river boat while sailing on the river Elbe.

After the treat in the theatre many Knights and Rizalistas climbed the steep path towards the cathedral of the town, while other partners went on their own tour, exploring the city (and the shops). In the cathedral the bishop, who is an experienced organ player, entertained us himself on the newly restored pipe-organ.

After this visit the walk went back downwards and uphill again to the small Rizal park that is located near the town square. Here the bust of Rizal is facing one of his favorite spots in LI-



AT night on the boat in Litomerice

### Day 3 – 19<sup>th</sup> September

After a nice breakfast in the hotel, the convention started with some delay (Filipino time?).

Remarkable speeches were given by Mrs Amalia Rosales, Dean of the Graduate School of the Polytechnic University of Manila and by Atty Ramoncita Reyes, a descendent of José Rizal.

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Other speeches were rendered by Sir Reghis Romero, KGOR and Supreme Chancellor, Sir George Poblete, KGOR and Supreme Archivist, Sir Tony Guansing, KGOR and European Regional Commander and Sir Lino Paras, KGOR and former European Regional Commander.

Sir Reghis also welcomed 4 students from the University of the Philippines from Mindanao and from the Ateneo de Jesus. They were all four winners of a Rizal Essay Writing Contest and a quiz about Europe and they were rewarded with a trip to Europe.

After a lunch in the hotel, the convention continued with the Are Commanders' reports and ended with the knighting and exaltations amongst which also the new Czech Ambassador to the Philippines Sir Josef Rychtar. Congratulations also to Sir Francois Ooms who was exalted to KGOR.

After the official part, busses left to the city of Prague. The first participants that arrived could attend to a small walking tour in the town. For a conclusion of the day the participants were invited to another boat trip on the Vltava (or Moldau) river. While sailing under the Charles bridge and passing the Prague Castle (biggest castle in the world), we were offered a dinner with live music.



Boat trip on the Vltava

#### Day 4 – 20<sup>th</sup> September

Many people already left in the morning of the last day of the assembly. Those who stayed could attend a catholic mass in the Shrine of the Infant Jesus in Prague.

This ended the 4<sup>th</sup> ERA in Prague.

**We want to extend special kudos to Sir Noubikko Ulanday and his chapter for organizing this assembly in Prague in difficult circumstances and also to the Mayor of Litomerice, Sir Ladislav Chlupac, for his warm hospitality.**

Ronny Felix



Sir Noubikko Ulanday



Sir Ladislav Chlupac

## FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PHILIPPINES CELEBRATED 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Sir Dominiek

Last Sunday Sep. 27, 2009 the small NGO FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PHILIPPINES organised a Filipino Day in Knokke-Heist to celebrate the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organisation that supports a street youth foundation Balay Pasilungan in Davao City and Saint Michael's School in Padada (Davao del Sur) together with a scholarship program.

In the morning participants could bike through nice spots in Knokke-Heist with two stops for apero and soup. At noon 289 participants enjoyed a sumptuous barbecue and a cultural program with the Pag-Ibig Choir of Gent (under the leadership of Bing REQUIERON, wife of KOR-postulant Michel MIGOM) and the Silayan Dancers of Brugge (choreographed by Alpha GALECIO).

Extra surprise & dance numbers were performed by our KOR-member Sir



Sir Roy Ecraela

Joseph & Lady Divina SNEYAERT-MARIANO, KR. Minister and Consul Sir Roy ECRAELA delivered an inspirational message of Ambassador Cristina G. ORTEGA, who originally confirmed her participation but due to an unexpected obligation was called back for a diplomatic appointment. We thank as always the Philippine Embassy for the continuous interest in the goals of Friendship for the Philippines.



The board of "Vriendschap voor de Filippijnen"

An update of the realisations of the last 7 years was given by Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KCR, president of this organisation. KOR Diamond attended with a nice delegation this event wherein also some Knights of KOR Diamond assisted in serving the audience and by helping in the setting up of the venue or providing some prizes for the tombola. Thank you Sir Martin HEMELAER, KR and Sir Dirk & Lady Grace VANDEWEGHE, KR. Photographer in full action was Sir Kristoff MORTIER, KR and assisting in the projection of a power point (thanks!) was Sir

Ronny FELIX, KR. Among the participants we also had the following Knights and their Ladies: Sir Guy & Mercy WATERLOOS, KR, Sir Michel & Rosy DU BOIS, KR, Sir & Mrs. Danny VANDENBOGAERDE, KR, Sir & Mrs. Paul VERLOO, KR, Sir Albert & Fe BIJLOOS, KOR, Sir Marc & Mrs. HELSEN, KR, Sir Danny & Marilou BERGHMANS, KR, Sir Eric & Jacqueline BORGHIJS-



The Pag-Ibig choir from Gent

VANDENEDE, KR. Former member Sir Dirk WIEME also joined the festivities.

Also Sir Peter & Lady Babes VAN BOGAERT, KGOR and Sir Antonio & Lady Susan GUANSING, KGOR, respectively Honorary Consul General and Honorary Consul, also participated together with Sir Pros SLAYCHMUYLDERS, KGOR, Chartering Commander of KOR Diamond and very active now in Cebu where he will charter very soon the International Queen City Chapter Cebu, and also Sir François & Lady OOMS, KGOR, Chapter Commander El Filibusterismo. The Brussels & Aalst

Chapters were excused by Sir Rudy NOLLAS, KGOR, Area Commander Belgium, due to festivities at the Philippine Chaplaincy in Brussels. Also Sir Lino PARAS, KGOR, excused himself due to earlier commitments at the Brussels Chaplaincy. Also Sir Lucien & Lady Madeleine SPITTAEL, KGOR, were excused (Philippines).

Thanks for so many generosity! Appointment on Sunday Sep. 26, 2010 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Knokke-Heist.



## WRITINGS ABOUT AND FROM JOSE RIZAL

Dear fellow knights and friends,

In continuation of the previous newsletter we publish here the 3rd part of the writings of Maximo Viola who travelled together with Rizal in Europe. These writings will give you an idea of the person behind the phenomena Rizal. The English text is a copy from the website of dr Robert L. Yoder. The translation is from Ronny Felix.

### My Travels with Doctor Rizal – part 2

by Maximo Viola

Om zich te kunnen terugtrekken van zijn vele bezigheden en om de richtlijnen van de voorgeschreven oefeningen te volgen, kocht hij een stappenteller met eigen kompas die hij meenam voor zijn uitstapjes buiten de stad. Na zijn wandeling ging hij de samenstelling van de plaats na die hij bezocht had met toevoeging van een aantal fortificaties. En wanneer hij niet in de stemming was voor dit soort van oefening dan bracht hij een bezoek aan de musea, aquaria, botanische tuin, synagoge, de Triomfzuil, de bibliotheek en anderen, er herinneringen oproepend aan tragische en wetenschappelijke gebeurtenissen of de betekenis trachtend te begrijpen van de hiëroglieven van prehistorische betekenis of de beroemde mummies van de geschiedenis.

Doctor Rizal was uitgenodigd door een militaire kapitein en de voormalige aide-de-camp van generaal Moltke van de Frans-Pruisische oorlog (1870-71) om het nieuwe jaar te vieren met zijn familie. Om het weelderige feest te gedenken, improviseerde dr Rizal een artistiek aandenken, bestaande uit een combinatie van Chinese klei potten voor muurtafeltjes die hij enkele uren daarvoor gekocht had en op dewelke hij met Chinese inkt de figuur van een oude man geschilderd had die het vertrekende jaar voorstelde, een jongen die het Nieuwe Jaar voorstelde en een Duitse matrone die de tijd vertegenwoordigde want tijd in het Duits is vrouwelijk - die Zeit.

Unter den Linden werd ook bezocht door dr Rizal niet alleen omdat in een van de bierzalen in die mooie straat kranten uit alle landen van de wereld in hun respectievelijke talen te vinden waren, maar ook omdat de keizerlijke familie in deze straat woonde. Keizer Wilhelm I, die in één van de paleizen woonde, had de gewoonte om elke zaterdagmiddag voor een paar minuten op het balkon te verschijnen, dus persoonlijk

Beste collega ridders, vrienden,

Als vervolg op onze vorige nieuwsbrief publiceren we hier het 3de deel van de geschriften van Maximo Viola die samen met Rizal in Europa reisde. Deze geschriften zullen jullie een idee geven van de mens achter het fenomeen Rizal. De Engelse tekst is een kopij van de website van dr Robert L. Yoder. De vertaling is van Ronny Felix.

### Mijn reizen met dr Rizal – Deel 2

door Maximo Viola

In order to draw away from his many occupations and to follow the rules of the prescribed exercise, he bought a pocket pedometer with its own compass which he took along with him in his outings outside the city. After his walk he traced the configuration of the place he had covered with the addition of some systems of fortifications. And when he was not in the mood for this kind of exercise, then he visited the museums, aquarium, botanical garden, synagogue, Column of Victory, library, and others, evoking there memories of tragic and scientific events or interpreting hieroglyphics of prehistoric significance or the famous mummies of history.

Doctor Rizal was invited by a military captain and former aide-de-camp of General Moltke of the Franco-Prussian war (1870-71) to celebrate the New Year with his family. To commemorate the sumptuous feast, Doctor Rizal improvised an artistic remembrance consisting of a pair of Chinese clay jars for console tables which he bought a few hours before the event and on which he painted with Chinese ink, the figure of an old man representing the outgoing year, a boy representing the New Year, and a German matron representing time, for time in German is feminine – die zeit.

Unter den Linden was also frequented by Doctor Rizal not only because in one of the beer halls on that beautiful street there were newspapers from all countries of the world written in their respective languages, but also because the imperial family resided on that street. Emperor William I who lived in one of the palaces had the custom of appearing on the balcony every Saturday afternoon for a few minutes, thus personally announcing the state of his health to the public.

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zijn gezondheidstoestand verkondigend aan het publiek.

Een zeldzaam incident dat zich afspeelde in het leven van onze Rizal in Berlijn is het volgende: het ging over een bezoek van dr. F. Jagor bij dr Rizal op een bepaalde ochtend. Ik hoorde uit hun gesprek dat ze het hadden over de dreiging van deportatie tegen Rizal. Na de bezoeker zijn vertrek spraken we over de kwestie. Het hoofd van de politie had hem zeer vroeg bezocht en om zijn paspoort gevraagd. Vermits hij er geen bij had werd hij geadviseerd om het binnen de vier dagen te komen tonen bij de politie. Anders zou hij onder bewaking tot aan één van de Duitse grenzen geleid worden. Wij hadden onmiddellijk een aanvraag voor de vereiste paspoort ingediend op het Spaanse gezantschap dat gelegen was in een afgelegen wijk, de wijk van de Joden. Na veel komen en gaan, na veel beloftes en het verstrijken van de termijn van vier dagen, bleek dat de graaf van Benomar, de ambassadeur of vertegenwoordiger van de Spaanse regering in Berlijn, geen bevoegdheid had tot het uitvaardigen van het beloofde paspoort. (De zoon van ex-minister Moret die op dat moment in Berlijn gevorderde cursussen voor burgerlijk ingenieur volgde en assistent aan de Spaanse ambassadeernaast hielp ons ook vriendschappelijk). Verontwaardigd door dat onverwachte besluit gingen we naar de prefectuur van de politie, niet zonder het Spaanse regime te vervloeken. Daar kwam, op een satirische manier, de kolossale blunder aan het licht, begaan door niet minder dan een ambassadeur die na zo veel beloftes en verloren tijd in het heen en weer gaan, op de valreep geleerd had dat het niet in zijn macht lag om een dergelijk document uit te geven. En nu dat hij tijd te kort kwam om bij een andere bevoegde Spaanse autoriteit een dergelijk document aan te vragen dat nooit in zijn reizen in Frankrijk was vereist van hem, stelde hij zich onvoorwaardelijk ter beschikking van het gevinstige gezag. Het hoofd van de politie, na beraadslaging over wat was uiteen gezet, verklaarde dat de maatregel toe te schrijven was aan het feit dat dr. Rizal steden en dorpen bezocht, zelfs de kleinste en meest onbeduidende, met een min of meer langdurig verblijf in elk van hen en bepaalde persoonlijke relaties met sommige van hun inwoners creëerde. De overheid, in het licht van de gedane onderzoeken en de informatie die door de verschillende politiedistricten geleverd werd, interpreerde al die acties, genomen door dr. Rizal, als daden van spionage voor de regering van Frankrijk (op dat moment waren de relaties gespannen tussen de twee landen op grond van Elzas-Lotharingen). Op dit alles antwoordde dr Rizal dat het waar was dat hij op diverse plaatsen in Duitsland

A rare incident that occurred in the life of our Rizal at Berlin was the following: It was about the personal call of Dr. F. Jagor on Dr. Rizal one morning. I heard from their conversation that they were talking about threats of deportation against Rizal. After the caller's departure, we talked about the matter. The chief of police had visited him very early asking him for his passport, and as he didn't have any with him, he was advised to show it at the police prefecture within four days from that date. Otherwise he would be conducted under guard to one of the German frontiers. Immediately we applied for the required passport at the Spanish Legation located in a distant district, the district of the Jews. After many comings and goings, so many promises, and the expiration of the four-day term, it turned out that the Count of Benomar, the ambassador or representative of the Spanish Government at Berlin, had no power to issue the promised passport. (The son of ex-Minister Moret who was at that time at Berlin taking advanced courses in civil engineering and assistant at the Spanish embassy besides also helped us amicably.) Vexed by that unexpected decision we went to the prefecture of police, not without cursing the Spanish regime, and there was exposed in satirical tone the solemn blunder committed by no less than an ambassador who, after promising so much and making us waste time in going back and forth, learned at the eleventh hour that it was not within his power to issue such a document. And now, lacking time to apply to another competent Spanish authority to give him such a document which, never in his travels in France was required of him, he placed himself unconditionally under the orders of the established government. The chief of police, after deliberating on what had been expounded, explained that the measure was due to the fact that Dr. Rizal had been visiting cities, towns, and villages, even the smallest and most insignificant, with more or less prolonged sojourns in all and each one of them and establishing certain personal relations with some of their inhabitants. The government, in view of the investigations made and the information furnished by the different police precincts, had interpreted all those steps taken by Dr. Rizal as acts of espionage in favor of the government of France. (At that time the relations were strained between the two countries on account of Alsace-Lorraine.) To all this Dr. Rizal replied that it was true that he had been in various points of Germany alluded to, not for any illicit motive but for purely instructive purposes. Desiring to study the ethnography of a nation, he had adopted the principle of making his preliminary investigation in the towns or the smallest

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geweest was waarop gezinspeeld werd, niet voor enig illegaal motief maar voor zuiver informatieve doeleinden. Vermits hij ernaar verlangde om de etnografie van een natie te bestuderen nam hij het principe aan om een voorlopig onderzoek in de steden of in de kleinste dorpjes uit te voeren, waar de zeden en gewoonten van de mensen eenvoudig en natuurlijk zijn, in tegenstelling tot in de grote steden waar deze kenmerken min of meer gewijzigd zijn een door kunstmatige cultuur. In het licht van deze verklaringen en misschien van geheime rapporten, was het hoofd van de politie tevreden en sindsdien waren er geen dreigingen meer van deportatie.

Betreffende de theaters kan er niets opmerkelijk worden genoteerd, ten minste gedurende de vijf maanden van ons leven samen in Berlijn. Zeer zelden heb ik hem dit soort spektakel zien bijwonen.

Zodra hij klaar was met de correctie van de "Noli me tangere" ging hij meteen naar een fotograaf om zijn foto te laten nemen, in weerwil van zijn ziekelijk uiterlijk. Die diende om de omslag van zijn boek te sieren met zijn beeld, een idee dat ik steunde omdat het in die tijd reeds een aangepast gebruik was onder sommige schrijvers. Maar na een poos aarzelen en heroverwegen zegevierde bescheidenheid over ijdelheid en verscheen de "Noli me tangere" zoals het werd gedrukt door de drukkerij van de Berliner Buchdruckerer-Actien-Gessellschaft, Setzerinnen-Schule des Lette-Vereins en dus zonder de foto van de auteur. Terwijl we verschillende drukpersen bezochten op zoek naar de meest voordelige prijzen drong ik aan op het onvoorwaardelijk betalen van de kosten voor het drukken van de roman, maar zijn kiesheid vond een excus in de heer Antonio Regidor verblijvend te Londen, de schilder Juan Luna te Parijs en zijn broer Paciano op de Filipijnen die, zo vertelde hij me, op de hoogte waren van het drukken van zijn roman en op zijn eerste wens zou gelijk wie van hen vlot gelijk welk bedrag bezorgen.

Maar zo veel volharding en zoveel ernst van mijn kant overwonnen eindelijk zijn weerstand. Daarna begon het drukken van tweeduizend exemplaren voor driehonderd pesos.

Ik was alleen in staat de echte waarde en het belang van dit werk te apprecieren toen ik dagelijks de drukproeven las die aan de auteur werden afgeleverd. Het belang van het werk moet zijn begrepen door de letterzetters want tijdens het drukken kon één van degenen die belast waren met het leveren van de drukproeven naar het huis van de auteur, zonder een woord Spaans te kennen, zich niet bedwingen en

villages where the customs and ways of living of the people are simple and natural, unlike in the large cities where these characteristics were more or less modified by artificial culture. In view of these explanations and perhaps of secret reports, the chief of police was satisfied and since then there were no more threats of deportation.

About theaters nothing notable can be recorded, at least during the five months of our life together at Berlin. Very rarely did I see him attend this kind of spectacle.

As soon as he had finished the correction of the *Noli me tangere*, he went immediately to a photographer to have his picture taken, in spite of his sickly look in order to adorn the cover of his book with his picture, an idea which I seconded inasmuch as in those times that was already a current custom among some writers. But after hesitating and reconsidering for some time, modesty prevailed over vanity; and thus the *Noli me tangere* appeared such as it was printed by the printing firm of Berliner Buchdruckerer-Actien-Gessellschaft, Setzerinnen-Schule des Lette-Vereins and therefore without the author's photograph. While we went around different printing presses in search of the most economical prices, I insisted on defraying unconditionally the cost of printing the novel, but his delicacy found an excuse in Mr. Antonio Regidor residing at London, the painter Juan Luna at Paris, and his brother Paciano in the Philippines, who, he told me, were aware of the printing of his novel and at his first hint, any one of these would readily furnish any amount. But so much persistence and so much earnestness on my part finally overcame his resistance. After that, the work of printing began two thousand copies for three hundred pesos.

The genuine merit and importance of this work I was able to appreciate only when I read the proofs every day as they were delivered to the author. The importance of the work must have been understood by the compositors at the press, for during the course of the printing, one of those in charge of delivering the proofs to the house of the author, without knowing a word of Spanish, could not repress himself and manifested that he forbade a fatal end for the author of the novel if he should return to the Philippines, because with all certainty they would cut off his head (and for greater emphasis he raised his hand to his own neck moving it horizontally.) And then he permitted himself to give the advice that he should not go to the Philippines. By way of a reply the author merely smiled as if saying: What's done is done.

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gaf te kennen dat hij tegen een fataal einde van de auteur van de roman was als hij zou terugkeren naar de Filipijnen. Want zijn hoofd (en voor meer nadruk bracht hij zijn hand aan zijn eigen nek en bewoog ze horizontaal) zou met alle zekerheid worden afgehakt. En dan gaf hij het advies dat hij niet naar de Filipijnen zou gaan. Bij wijze van antwoord glimlachte de auteur slechts alsof hij wilde zeggen: wat gebeurd is, is gebeurd.

Wanneer het drukken van de "Noli me tangere" was voltooid toonde hij mij de eerste druk zorgvuldig opgerold met de pen of een van de pennen die hij gebruikt had bij het schrijven ervan dienstdoend als as of midden en alles met grote toewijding mooi verpakt in stevig papier. Hij heeft ook mij een gebonden exemplaar aangeboden met een autograaf die vermeldde:

Aan mijn beste vriend Maximo Viola, de eerste die mijn werk heeft gelezen en gewaardeerd.

José Rizal

Ik verloor al deze onvergetelijke herinneringen tijdens de revolutie van 1896.

Zich daarna zijn vrienden in Europa herinnerend begon hij aan elk van hen een afschrift te zenden. Bij wijze van proloog op zijn gewenste terugkeer naar de Filipijnen, stuurde hij ook een kopie aan de uitstekende Kapitein-generaal van de Filipijnen en een andere aan de vermaarde aartsbisschop van Manilla. Als antwoord op mijn opmerkingen tegen die demonstratie van onbezonnen dapperheid aan de twee genoemde autoriteiten gaf hij me een Voltaire-achtige glimlach.

Na enige tijd en zodra hij een wissel van duizend pesos ontving van zijn familie via de schilder Luna was het eerste wat hij deed me het bedrag van driehonderd pesos betalen dat ik hem had voorgeshoten. Daarna bereidde hij de route voor van onze reizen.

In de tussentijd begon hij afscheidsbrieven te schrijven aan zijn vrienden die in Europa verbleven waarin hij zijn verlangen aankondigde voor een terugkeer naar zijn geboorteland. De brieven werden beantwoord met levendig bezwaar en overduidelijke bezwaren van de kant van de heer Antonio Regidor, de heer Juan Luna en anderen. Toch werd de vooropgestelde reis uitgevoerd ondanks alle angsten en tegen alle suggesties en broederlijk advies in. We bediscuteerden dit

The printing of the *Noli me tángere* having been finished, he presented to me the galley proofs carefully rolled, the pen, or one of the pens that he used in writing it, serving as the axis or center, and all nicely wrapped in sturdy paper with a significant dedication. He also presented me with a bound copy with an autograph that said:

To my dear friend Máximo Viola, the first who read and appreciated my work.

José Rizal

I lost all these unforgettable remembrances during the Revolution of 1896.

Remembering afterwards his friends in Europe, he began sending a copy to each one of them. By way of prologue to his desired return to the Philippines, he also sent a copy to the Most Excellent Captain General of the Philippines and another to the Most Illustrious Archbishop of Manila. As a reply to my observations against that demonstration of rash gallantry towards the two mentioned authorities he gave me a Voltairian smile.

After some time and as soon as he received a draft for one thousand pesos from his family through the painter Luna, the first thing he did was to pay me the amount of three hundred pesos, I had advanced and then he prepared the itinerary of our travels.

In the meantime he began to write farewell letters to his friends residing in Europe announcing his longing for return to his native country. The letters were answered with energetic opposition and manifest reproaches on the part of Mr. Antonio Regidor, Mr. Juan Luna, and others. Nevertheless, the projected trip was carried out despite all anxieties and against all suggestions and fraternal advice. We discussed this matter at length and tried to set forth different points of view. Nothing we discussed produced anything convincing or had a settling effect. Indeed, Rizal said that he had some mission to accomplish on earth. Inasmuch as God had given him that manner of thinking and being, to act otherwise distinct from his own convictions would be tantamount to rebellion against his will which might condemn him. Just as a physician who had studied the manner of preventing, cutting, or alleviating the physical ailments of man, in the same way he was convinced of the duty of consecrating himself to remedying the moral diseases of his people subjected to the Spanish flag. Moreover, he doubted how his fellow countrymen would respond to the purposes of his novel if he didn't

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onderwerp uitgebreid en probeerden verschillende standpunten voor te stellen. Niets dat we besproken hadden produceerde iets overtuigend of had een beslissend effect. Inderdaad, Rizal zei dat hij een missie te volbrengen had op aarde. Aangezien God hem die manier van denken en zijn gaf zou dit, indien hij zich anders gedroeg dan zijn overtuigingen, neerkomen op een opstand tegen zijn wil die hem zou kunnen verdoemen. Net als een arts, die had onderzocht hoe de fysieke kwalen van de mens te voorkomen, weg te snijden of te verlichten, was hij overtuigd van de plicht van zich te wijden aan het genezen van de morele ziekten van zijn volk onderworpen aan de Spaanse vlag. Bovendien betwijfelde hij hoe zijn landgenoten zouden reageren op de doeleinden van zijn roman als hijzelf niet het voorbeeld stelde in zijn eigen land. Ze zouden kunnen zeggen dat hij kon schrijven en zeggen wat hij wou vermits hij ver van enig gevaar was. En toen ik voorstelde om van nationaliteit te veranderen, ten minste om de gewelddadige gevolgen te verminderen van de zekere verontwaardiging waaraan hij sterk was blootgesteld, argumenteerde hij dat dat allemaal pure lafheid was dat hij helemaal niet kon overwegen en dat hij in elk geval graag het lot van de mier die bleef bijten zou accepteren, zelfs na de dood.

set the example personally in his own country. They could say that if he could write and say all that he pleased it was because his skin was far from any danger. And when I proposed the change of nationality, at least to lessen the violent effects of the certain outrage to which he was very much exposed, he argued that all that was pure cowardice that he couldn't by any means consider and that at all events he would gladly accept the fate of the ant which continued biting even after death.

## CALENDAR

- *Sat. Oct. 17 – 4.30 p.m. – 4<sup>th</sup> Rizal Quiz – Lecture – barbecue (casual attire) – De Schuur – Kruibeke (same venue as April 4 – Rizal Quiz)*
- *Sun. Nov. 15 – Barbecue vzw Cadataan 8<sup>th</sup> edition! – Kortemark – noon – info: Sir Guy Waterloos, KR – [guy.waterloos@skynet.be](mailto:guy.waterloos@skynet.be)*
- *Wed. Dec. 30 – Rizal Day – Philippine Embassy – Brussels*
- *Sat. Jan. 23 – 10<sup>th</sup> Chartering Anniversary KOR Diamond (PLEASE MARK THIS DATE FOR THIS UNIQUE OCCASION!)*



## NEXT NEWSLETTER

*Our next Newsletter will be published in November 2009*

*Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to anyone who shows an interest in the Knights of Rizal! They are always welcome at one of our activities.*

*Also former members who wish to receive again news from our Chapter are free to request to put their email address again on our list. We respect the view of everybody!*

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