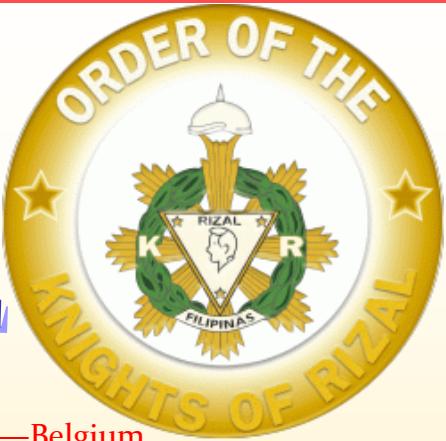




# Newsletter Knights of RIZAL



Issue 17  
Volume 2  
December 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Introduction*
- *Welcome Sir Evangelio and Sir Vomberg*
- *New Belgian Ambassador*
- *Fundraising activity for typhoon victims*
- *Rizal Day Dec. 30*
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- *Pasko sa Brussels*
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Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium



Knights of Rizal – Diamond Chapter – Jan. 2009

## UPDATED WEBSITE KOR DIAMOND ONLINE

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

### INTRODUCTION

Dear Brother Knights of Rizal Diamond Chapter and affiliated chapters in Belgium, Europe and worldwide

Dear friends of our organisation

Last weekend we officially started the preparation period before the birth of Christ, the so-called Advent. Even we are a non-sectarian and a totally independent organisation, I believe – above all religions in the world – we only can wish each other the light and the inspiration of Christmas: peace of the mind and the heart for a better world and understanding.

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(Continued from page 1)

This also means within our fraternal organisation. Let us more share each other's goals and if possible our activities.

In this strong month of December I wish you all **in advance a truly Merry Christmas 2009 with inspiration for our hearts but also a Strong and Honest 2010.**

In this Newsletter we look back to **our successful activity last Oct. 17, the Quiz and Barbecue and the support of the victims** of the typhoons and floodings in and around Manila.

We share some pictures of this activity and also we give you the opportunity to let you know better two Knights of Cebu who recently visited Europe and Belgium and who were guests at our last board meeting **November 27** at the Honorary Consulate General, Sir Günther Vomberg, KCR and Sir Claudio Al Evangelio, KGOR, a 4<sup>th</sup> degree member of the KOR Cebu and who is the City's Cultural and Historical Affairs Commissioner. He is the author and director of the **stage play and musical "Calamba Joe", about Rizal's life from age 3 to 36**. We are planning with OKOR to bring this play by the middle of next year in Belgium, maybe in Brussels, Antwerp or even Knokke .

Last **Saturday Nov. 28** a delegation of KOR Diamond attended the celebration of the **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Philippine Sports Community – PSC** – at Hilton in Brussels. More power to the PSC!

Further we invite you all to **Pasko Sa Brussels** this coming **Sunday December 6** from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m. at Salle Boetendael – Salle Boetendael – 96 Rue du Doyenne – Ukkel (Brussels – near Square des Héros).

More info and the whole program in this Newsletter. Congrats to the team of COFAB and Dhel Lulu together with FILCOM Belgium and Luxembourg, the Philippine Chaplaincy and all organisations who participate in this event with the cooperation of the Philippine Embassy. The KOR of Diamond also supports Pasko Sa Brussels.

May I remind you all at December 30, Rizal Day and of course at our 10<sup>th</sup> Chartering Anniversary scheduled on Sat. January 23 at Salons De Watermeulen. Please mark these dates and in this Newsletter more info.

Yours very sincerely in Rizal

NOM

Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KCR

Chapter Commander KOR Diamond – Antwerp – Belgium

Deputy Area Commander KOR Belgium – Europe

## New Belgian Ambassador his Excellency Christian Meerschman in Manila

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo accepted last Oct. 1, 2009 the credentials of His Excellency Christian Meerschman as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Belgium during the Presentation of Credentials at the Bahay Pangarap, Presidential Security Group (PSG) Compound in Malacanang Park, Manila. His Excellency Meerschman follows Sir Grégoire Vardakis, KCR, who on July 6, was Knighted to KR and elevated to KCR (see Newsletter 16). Picture by courtesy of R. Mailo, with our sincere thanks to PNA/NIB PNA/NIB).

The Knights of Rizal Diamond Chapter sincerely congratulate Excellency Christian Meerschman being posted as Belgian Ambassador to the Philippines and his wife Mrs. Greta Vanmaele-Meerschman. We wish them a good stay and many opportunities for even more close relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Belgium.



Ambassador Christian Meerschman &  
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

## WELCOME SIR EVANGELIO, KGOR & SIR VOMBERG, KCR

Last Friday November 27 the KOR organised a board meeting at the Honorary Consulate General. A lot of topics were discussed (evaluation activities, planning 2009-2010 with Rizal Day Dec. 30, 10<sup>th</sup> Chartering Anniversary Jan. 23, postulants, elevations, future of our Order, support of the KOR the project of the Filipino Catholic Community of Antwerp by sending relief goods to KOR Headquarters for the victims typhoon Undoy, future of the board, supporting Pasko Sa Brussels).

After the official part we had the honour to give fraternal greetings and embraces to Sir Evangelio, KGOR and Sir Vomberg, KCR from Cebu about their plan to bring the stage play and musical "Calamba Joe" to Belgium.

Some more info.

Sir Evangelio is a multi awarded play writer, stage and film director who has been engaged in the arts and entertainment field for more than forty years in key cities in the Philippines, Asia, America, Canada and in Mainz, West Germany. He is Cebu City's Outstanding Individual Centennial Awardee in Arts and Culture.

His 1998 Philippine Centennial Commission prizewinning play, "**CALAMBA JOE**", which is the only musical dramatization on Dr. Jose Rizal's life from age 3 to 36 has been staged, after its World Premiere at the International Convention Center of the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu, in June 19, 1998; for 36 times all over the Philippines.



In the summer of 2001, it became the first full-length English musical play from the Philippines to ever tour America (Anaheim, Los Angeles, Connecticut and New York) to overwhelming response from both Filipino and American audiences.

We feel that bringing "**CALAMBA JOE**" to Europe would greatly enhance the understanding of Rizal's genius, valor, virtues and heroism expounding reasons for the existence of our august Order of the Knights of Rizal..

On this regard, Sir Evangelio is self-financing this trip to Europe with the hope that his belief in Rizal's greatness find kinship among the European Chapters' members. Being also Knight of Rizal, Sir Günther Vomberg, KCR – originally from Germany – was accompanying him in this trip.

At the Honorary Consulate General last Nov. 27 we spot from left to right: Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR, our Regional Commander Europe – Sir Roy De Mol, KCR, Deputy Commander – Sir Dominiek Segaert, KCR, Chapter Commander Diamond and Deputy Area Commander Belgium – Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Special Adviser to the Supremo – Sir Paul Verloo, KOR, Chancellor – Sir Günther Vomberg, KCR – Sir Claudio Al Evangelio, KGOR, both with a Resolution of Brotherhood between KOR Diamond and them – excused for the board meeting were Sir Kris Van Thillo, KCR and former Chapter Commander and also Sir Rik Van Tiggel, KCR, Deputy Commander.

(Picture: Ariel)

*The Order of the Knights of Rizal*  
*Diamond Chapter – Antwerp – Flanders – Belgium*



*Hereby gives this*

**RESOLUTION OF BROTHERHOOD TO**

**SIR CLAUDIO EVANGELIO, KGOR & SIR GÜNTHER VOMBERG, KCR (CEBU) &**

**KNIGHTS OF RIZAL – DIAMOND CHAPTER – ANTWERP – BELGIUM – EUROPE**

*to strengthen the friendship and brotherhood with the Diamond Chapter of Antwerp in Belgium and  
through this to make more effort to unite all Knights & Ladies in and outside Europe. Non Omnis Moriar!*

*Given on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009 after the board meeting of KOR Diamond and presentation background of the musical-play  
“Calamba Joe!” – a dramatization of the life of Dr. Jose Rizal by Sir Evangelio, author, stage and film director – at the Honorary Consulate  
General – Deurne – Antwerp – Belgium – Europe*

***Given by***

**Sir Tony GUANSING, KGOR**  
**KGOR**

*Regional Commander for Europe  
Life Time Member*

**Sir Dominiek & Lady Leah SEGAERT-GALLEGO, KCR**

*Chapter Commander Diamond 2008-2010  
Deputy Area Commander for Belgium  
Distinguished Service Medal*

**Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT,**

*Honorary Consul General  
Special Adviser to the Supreme Commander*

**Sir Roy DE MOL, KCR**

**Sir Rik VAN TIGGEL, KCR**

*Deputy Chapter Commanders 2008-2010*

**Sir Kris VAN THILLO, KCR**

*Past Chapter Commander Diamond 2006-2008*

*Distinguished Service Medal*

**Sir Paul VERLOO, KOR**

*Chancellor Diamond 2008-2010*

## **KNIGHTS OF RIZAL DIAMOND CHAPTER – ANTWERP – BELGIUM – EUROPE DONATED 2100 EUR FOR VICTIMS OF THE TYPHOONS**

Recently, on Sat. Oct. 17, the KOR Diamond held its yearly Philippine and Rizal Quiz in Kruibeke. Through the efforts of Sir Michel & Lady Rosy DU BOIS-AMARO, KR of the NGO Trias and Sir Eric & Lady Jacqueline BORGHIJS-VAN DEN EDE, KR, representing the project of Lorraine Pimentel in Marikina (their son Alain is married to Lorraine, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Nene Pimentel), a nice quiz and a touching picture presentation about the typhoons was given to a very interested audience.



Sir Michel Du Bois assisted by his sister Christine

Sir Ronny FELIX, KR, gave also a short presentation about the recent 4<sup>th</sup> ERA in Prague. A final word of appreciation was given through Sir Antonio GUANSING, KGOR, Regional Commander for Europe, who spoke his appreciation for the efforts of the Chapter. 60 members and their ladies and some friends attended the meeting. Also attending the activity was Sir Pros SLACHMUYLDERS, KGOR, our Chartering Commander, currently residing in the Philippines and on a visit in Belgium.

Besides the participation of the complete board, the following Knights, Ladies and friends attended this fundraising activity:

Sir Marc and Lady Felly Helsen, Sir Guy and Lady Mercy Waterloos, Sir Geert and Lady Faith Verhaegen, Sir Johan De Boeck, Sir Michel and Lady Rosy Du Bois, Sir Eric and Lady Jacqueline Borghijs.

Afterwards our hearts became even warmer after having seen the results already of the current helping NGO's in and around Manila and Marina areas.



Sir Tony Guansing and Sir Eric and Lady Jacqueline Borghijs-Van Den Eede

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Above de 1500 EUR KOR Diamond decided in the recent board meeting of Nov. 27 to donate an extra 600 EUR for sending relief goods together with the Filipino Catholic Community of Antwerp to KOR Headquarters, making the total donation 2100 EUR.



The audience during the bbq



A very happy and proud Chapter Commander, Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KCR, donated for the 2 projects who immediately support the victims of the recent disaster in and around Manila, each 750 EUR, a total of 1500 EUR. On the picture also the other members of the board: Sir Kris VAN THILLO, KCR, Sir Paul VERLOO, KOR, Sir Roy DE MOL, KCR, Sir Rik VAN TIGGEL, KCR, Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT, KGOR and of course Sir Antonio GUANSING, KGOR, together with the representatives of the organisations to support the victims.

**INVITATION**  
**RIZAL DAY – DECEMBER 30**



*Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR, Area Commander for Belgium, together with the Belgian Council of KOR, invites all Knights on Wednesday December 30 at 6 p.m. at the Philippine Chaplaincy (Rue de l'Ourthe – near Saint Remy Church) on the occasion to celebrate Rizal Day.*

*Details of the program will be given soon by Sir Nollas.*

*On the program there will be a flower offering and a commemoration of Dr. Jose Rizals Martyrdom.*

*Each Chapter will offer flowers in respect for the National Hero.*

*A short inspirational talk will be given by each Chapter.*

*Reception follows wherein each chapter offers.*

**Diamond Chapter will offer a delicious glass of white wine – Sauvignon de Chili – produced by Fair Trade – Oxfam – who also has partners in the Philippines**

*Sir Rudy requests us to please be on time and to wear Rizal barong or winter uniform (you can choose).*

*Please confirm to me your attendance and participation in this program. Thanks in advance*

*Yours sincerely*

*Sir Dominiek*



# **INVITATION**

**FOR MEMBERS & NON MEMBERS**

**EVERYBODY *IS* WELCOME!**

**10<sup>TH</sup> CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY**

**DIAMOND CHAPTER – ANTWERP  
BELGIUM**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 23 – 2009**

**4.30 P.M.**

## **WHERE?**

*SALONS DE WATERMEULEN – Burchtstraat 160 – 9150 KRUIBEKE – location: [www.watermeulen.be](http://www.watermeulen.be)*

## **PROGRAM?**

*welcome*

*dubbing ceremony of new Knights (KR) – elevation to KOR – KCR – KGOR (to be confirmed by International Headquarters)*

*A short film introduction musical-play "Calamba Joe" (the Life of Dr. Rizal) – possible on tour in Belgium middle 2010*

*Inspirational talk by the Philippine Embassy and the Royal Embassy of Belgium (to be confirmed)*

*reception – toast on the New Year*

*special guests (surprise)*

*fraternal dinner – world buffet with drinks*

*the new Newsletter and updated website*

*dessert – coffee – fellowship – dancing*

*news from the Diamond Chapter – Belgian Council – European Council – Supreme Council*

*Dancing*

**PARTICIPATION?** 55 EUR members and non-members – children from 7 half price – everything included (all drinks, apero, wines, water, coffee, ...)

## **PAYMENT?**

*We prefer payment on the account 979 6095137 50 of DIAMOND CHAPTER RIZAL – 2100 DEURNE with amount of ADULTS/CHILDREN.*

## **DEADLINE?**

*We really would appreciate to CONFIRM your participation and payment on or before January 15, 2010*

*Please ALSO send an email to confirm your participation.*

*Info : Sir Dominiek Segaert, KCR, Chapter Commander & Deputy Area Commander Belgium –*

*[dominiek.segaert@skynet.be](mailto:dominiek.segaert@skynet.be)*

# *Pasko sa Brussels 2009*

## *Belgium*

*Date:* 6 December 2009, Sunday

*Time:* 10:00 am – 20h00

*Venue:* Salle Boetendael 96 Rue du Doyenne 1180 Uccle

*Organized by:* COUNCIL OF FILIPINO ASSOCIATIONS IN BELGIUM

*with the support of FILCOM Belgium & Luxembourg & The Philippine Embassy & Filipino Chaplaincy*

## PROGRAM

8:00 am	-	Opening of the salle for the exhibitors
9:30	-	Door opens for the guests Welcoming of the Participants by the Reception Committee
10:00	-	Celebration of the Holy Eucharist “Misang Pamasko” (Christmas Mass) for the FILCOM Choir: FILCOM Christmas Choral Group
11:30 – 14h00	-	Salo-salong Pamasko (Lunch)
14h00	-	Welcome Greetings - Ms. Dhel Lulu- Chairman, PSB 2009 Decorating the Christmas Tree - Leaders of FILCOM & Members of the Organizing Committee PSB 09
	-	Christmas Message - Her Excellency Cristina G. Ortega Ambassador, Philippine Embassy
	-	Opening Christmas Song - “Ang Pasko ay Sumapit” - by the Leaders with the Ambassador & the other Embassy Officers
	-	Oath-Taking for Dual Citizenship
Part I	-	Christmas Presentations of Community Children c/o Ms. Del Nala, Ms. Grace Castillo & Ms. Juliet Regidor
	-	1 <sup>st</sup> Tombola Raffle - c/o Ms. Conching Reyes, Ms. Lilia V.
Part II	-	Variety Show - Christmas Carols from different choral groups, vocal solo, modern dances & other special/surprise numbers

**AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO  
PIC 2009 & PSB 2009 - by Ambassador Cristina G. Ortega**

*Gift-giving to the performers (children- part I) and to all the children  
in attendance to the “Pasko sa Brussels 2009” – by Sta. Claus  
Announcement on Updates for helping typhoon victims in the Philippines  
- Vice-Consul Chris Rola—Phil.Embassy  
- Ms. Dhel Lulu - COFAB  
Acknowledgment - Mr. Frank Velasquez – COFAB Vice-Pres.  
Final Tombola Raffle - by the Tombola Committee  
- Christmas Community Singing - “Pasko ng Madla”  
“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”  
19h00 - End of the program*

**Mr. Joel Sampang**  
*Emcee*

## Successful CADAATAN Winter-barbecue in Kortemark.

Sunday 15th November the members of Cadaatan organized their 8<sup>th</sup> Winterbarbecue.

With about 600 participants the barbecue was a tremendous success.

Besides the fact that it was a new occasion for the many Filipinas and their partners to meet each other again, also a lot of Belgian couples attended the barbecue.

The complete staff of Cadaatan not only arranged for a sumptuous barbecue but they also prepared a nice program with traditional Filipino dances, a movie about the work of the Cadaatan team and of course a tombola with a lot of prizes.



Tombola sales

We also want to complement the Cadaatan staff who delivered an impeccable service in attending such a big crowd in a very organized way.

From the Diamond Chapter following knights attended the fundraising activity:

Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR and Special Assistant to the Supremo and Lady Babes

Sir Dominiek Segaert, KCR and Chapter Commander and Lady Lea and daughter Magalie

Sir Paul Verloo, KOR and Chancellor and Lady Mayet

Sir Marc Helsen, KR and Lady Felly

Sir Jokan De Boeck, KR

Sir Ronny Felix, KR and Lady Phoebe



View of the numerous participants



The delegation of the Diamond Chapter

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*Cadaatan helps to improve the living conditions and gives financial support to school and community projects especially in Cebu. In order to raise the funds for these projects they organize different activities like this barbecue.*

*We want to congratulate the chairman Luc Waeyaert and his staff amongst whom is our fellow knight Sir Guy Waterloos, KR and vice-president of Cadaatan, for their involvement in the help of building a better future for the less blessed.*



Sir Dominiek during his "Tinikling" demo



## WRITINGS ABOUT AND FROM JOSE RIZAL

Dear fellow knights and friends,

In continuation of the previous newsletter we publish here the 4th 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 4

by Maximo Viola

As the date of our departure from Berlin had been previously agreed upon, we had more than fifteen days left to spend in instructive recreational activities, walking daily from six to eight hours in the environs of Berlin, looking at her monuments such as the Column of Victory made of cannons taken from the French in the Franco-Prussian War, the synagogue, a beautiful building entered with the hat on and whose priest, who had the voice of Gavarre, sang every Friday afternoon during religious ceremonies attracting a large audience; the National Gallery, theaters, museums, castles, libraries, Reichstag, and others which I regret I can't describe in detail as I have lost my travel notes.

However, I can put down here some data about our life in Berlin during that fortnight which would give an idea of the plan we followed in visiting other cities. When we got up in the morning or even before that, we opened Baedeker's map and we learned by heart some straight or principal streets to orient ourselves in case we became lost. We read the guidebook to find out the time of the opening of museums, libraries, offices, and others and to get some notion of the history of the city to be visited. Thus prepared, he took his breakfast (a glass of water) and we immediately set out on foot in a straight line to the end of the city visiting all the museums or monuments found on our way. At the time we entered a cafe nearest to the place we were visiting for our breakfast, and afterwards we continued our walk. At lunch time (between twelve and one o'clock) we went to the nearest restaurant and after eating (he ate double my ration) he read some newspapers, magazines, and others, and we immediately resumed our interrupted tour, always in accordance with the guidebook. In the afternoon, between five and six or earlier, when there was nothing more to visit, we returned to the

Beste collega ridders, vrienden,

Als vervolg op onze vorige nieuwsbrief publiceren we hier het 4de 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 4

door Maximo Viola

Sinds de datum van ons vertrek uit Berlijn reeds eerder overeengekomen was hadden we meer dan vijftien dagen de tijd om aan leerzame recreatieve activiteiten te besteden. Dagelijks liepen we zes tot acht uur in de omgeving van Berlijn rond op zoek naar haar monumenten zoals de Triomfzuil, gemaakt van kanonnen afkomstig van de Fransen in de Frans-Pruisische Oorlog, de synagoge, een prachtig gebouw waar men mocht binnenkomen met de pet op, waarvan de priester, die een stem zoals Gavarre had, elke vrijdag namiddag tijdens religieuze ceremonies zong en een groot publiek aantrok, het Nationaal Museum, theaters, musea, kastelen, bibliotheken, de Reichstag en anderen die ik spijtig genoeg niet in detail kan beschrijven vermits ik mijn reisnotities heb verloren.

Maar ik kan hier enkele gegevens vermelden over ons leven in Berlijn tijdens die twee weken die een idee geven van het plan dat wij gevuld hebben bij het bezoeken van andere steden. Toen we 's morgens of zelfs vroeger wakker werden openden we Baedeker's stadskaart en leerden we enkele rechte of belangrijkste straten van buiten om ons te oriënteren in het geval wij de weg verloren hadden. We lazen de reisgids om de openingstijden van de musea, bibliotheken, kantoren en anderen te weten te komen en om een idee te krijgen van de geschiedenis van de stad die we bezochten. Na deze voorbereiding nam hij zijn ontbijt (een glas water) en we gingen onmiddellijk te voet in een rechte lijn naar het einde van de stad, onderweg alle musea en monumenten bezoekend die we tegen kwamen. We gingen toen in een cafe voor ons ontbijt het dichtst bij de plaats die we bezochten en daarna zetten we onze wandeling verder. Tijdens de lunchtijd (tussen twaalf en één) gingen we naar

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point of departure through different streets through almost parallel to the one we went through before. The following day we repeated the same procedure, taking another street and, if possible, parallel to the one we had taken before without failing to see and study the worthwhile objects or buildings located on the street. On our return we took another street parallel to the former one and thus successively completed our simulated circuits of parallel lines having approximately the same direction always keeping our point of departure as our center. If we failed to visit some other museum or building in one of these parallel lines of our excursions, then we took the streets transversal to the known ones, continuing our excursions in this way through the successive streets. When marked graphically on paper, the streets we had gone through represented a geometric figure very similar to a spider web. When we passed by some old tree planted by a historical personage, a beautiful or rare plant that symbolized a memorable epoch or commemorated some historic event, he picked a leaf or flower of it and methodically kept it between the leaves of a book that he always carried in his hand.

After knowing Berlin according to the system described, we moved on to Potsdam and with the pedometer always in the pocket we succeeded to know what that historic city was in detail with its fantastic mausoleum with her excellent marble statue of Frederick the Great and his consort in a lying position, various palaces or buildings of different architectural styles, made of marble or other materials, in whose luxurious halls were admired decorations of bronze, topaz, or shells of various colors and sizes forming fantastic combinations. Amazed at the contemplation of so much luxury, we wondered whether all the luxury in the immense garden, whose outlines were lost in the distance, that Frederick the Great ordered to be built, was the work of man or marvels from another world.

Worthy of mention also was the windmill for wheat standing in the neighborhood of that magnificent garden whose presence formed a contrast to the sumptuous buildings already mentioned. The fame of this windmill had its origin in a dispute between a private owner and Frederick the Great. When Frederick the Great was once ill, his physician prescribed his transfer to one of his palaces which was close to this windmill erected on private land. As the windmill continuously operated day and night, its noise bothered the illustrious patient. Finally he sent for the owner and proposed to him either the sale or the removal of the troublesome appara-

het dichtstbijzijnde restaurant en na het eten (hij at het dubbele van mijn rantsoen) las hij een aantal kranten, tijdschriften en anderen. Dan hervatten we onmiddellijk onze onderbroken rondleiding, altijd volgens de reisgids. In de namiddag, tussen vijf en zes of vroeger, toen er niets meer te bezoeken was, keerden we terug naar het punt van vertrek via verschillende straten die bijna parallel liepen aan diegenen waar we tevoren door hadden gelopen. De volgende dag herhaalden we dezelfde procedure, een andere straat nemend en, indien mogelijk, parallel aan diegene die we ervoor hadden genomen en zonder de waardevolle objecten of gebouwen te zien en te bestuderen die in die straat gelegen waren. Op onze terugweg namen we een andere straat die parallel liep aan de vorige en zo beeindigden we achtereenvolgens onze veronderstelde circuits van parallele lijnen met ongeveer dezelfde richting terwijl we steeds ons punt van vertrek als ons centrum hielden. Als we een of ander museum of gebouw niet konden bezoeken in een van deze parallele lijnen van onze excursies dan namen we de straten die transversaal aan de bekende lagen en vervolgden onze uitstappen op deze wijze door de opeenvolgende straten. De straten die we grafisch hadden aangeduid op papier vertoonden een geometrisch figuur, zeer vergelijkbaar met een spinnenweb. Toen we bij een oude boom kwamen die geplant was door een historisch personage of een mooie of zeldzame plant die een gedenkwaardige periode symboliseerde of een historische gebeurtenis herdacht, nam hij hiervan een blad of een bloem en bewaarde het methodisch tussen de bladeren van een boek dat hij altijd in de hand had.

Nadat we Berlijn kenden volgens het beschreven systeem verhuisden we naar Potsdam en met de stappenteller altijd in de broekzak slaagden we erin om de details te kennen van deze historische stad: haar fantastische mausoleum met haar voortreffelijk marmeren standbeeld van Frederik de Grote en zijn gemalin in een liggende positie, verschillende paleizen en gebouwen van verschillende architectonische stijlen, gemaakt van marmer of andere materialen, in wiens luxueuze zalen decoraties van brons, topaas, of schelpen van verschillende kleuren en maten die fantastische combinaties vormden konden bewonderd worden. Verbaasd over het aanschouwen van zoveel luxe, vroegen we ons af of alle luxe in de enorme tuin, waarvan de contouren vervaagden in de verte, die Frederik de Grote liet bouwen, het werk was van mensen of wonderen uit een andere wereld.

Vermeldenswaard was ook de windmolen voor tarwe die in de buurt stond van die prachtige tuin waarvan de

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tus. Naturally the owner opted for the sale but they could not agree on a price. Consequently, the emperor imposed himself, threatening to take the dissident owner to the courts of law for the solution of the conflict. The owner then replied that in that case he would like to find out if there was justice in Berlin. In fact, he got it inasmuch as the windmill remains in its place until now as a symbol of German justice. Since then the boastful invocation of German justice by the Germans has become proverbial in all controversies arising between the weak and the strong. Rizal, envious of that symbol of justice, could not refrain from exclaiming, "Fortunate country is this that does not have to suffer so much thirst for justice like ours, because here the rule of law and judges prevail and not the friars!"

While engaged in preparations for our trip I found in Rizal's luggage a bundle of nothing more than a large collection of letters from relatives, friends, and countrymen addressed to him among which I saw my own dated at Barcelona. I asked Rizal why he preserved all this correspondence whether important or not. Rizal explained that through the correspondence he wanted to study the character, temperament, transformation, and intellectual tendencies of his friends and countrymen.

At the break of day of the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1887, we departed from Berlin and we visited the following cities:

#### DRESDEN

It was one of the best cities of Germany and in its study we spent more time than what was necessary due to the timely celebration of a regional exhibition of floriculture [The cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants]. We were entertained for sometime by the contemplation of such a numerous variety of flowers of extraordinary size and beauty, such as the leaves of aquatic plants of some two meters in diameter. In visiting monuments and other notable buildings and museums the same Rizalian procedure already known was adopted. The other details of our visit were to be found in the guidebook already referred to. There being nothing more to study we moved on to

#### TESCHEN [08]

This city offers nothing notable in comparison to other cities already visited and nevertheless we stopped here due to the suggestion of Dr. Feodor Jagor [09] made through a casual

aanwezigheid een schril contrast vormde met de al genoemde weelderige gebouwen. De faam van deze windmolen had zijn oorsprong in een geschil tussen een particuliere eigenaar en Frederik de Grote. Toen Frederik de Grote eens ziek was, schreef zijn arts zijn transfer voor naar één van zijn paleizen dat dicht bij deze molen stond die op particulier terrein was opgericht. Vermits de molen continu dag en nacht bediend werd had de beroemde patiënt last van het lawaai. Uiteindelijk heeft hij de eigenaar laten komen en stelde hij hem voor om ofwel het lastige toestel te verkopen of het te verwijderen. Uiteraard koos de eigenaar voor de verkoop maar ze konden het niet eens worden over een prijs. Bijgevolg heeft de keizer zich opgedrongen en bedreigde de dissidente eigenaar om hem voor het gerecht te dagen voor een oplossing van het conflict. De eigenaar antwoordde vervolgens dat hij in dat geval zou willen weten of er gerechtigheid in Berlijn was. In feite had hij die gekregen omdat de molen tot nu toe nog steeds op zijn plaats staat als een symbool van de Duitse justitie. Sindsdien is het opschepperig inroepen van de Duitse justitie door de Duitsers spreekwoordelijk geworden in alle controverses ontstaan tussen de zwakken en de sterken. Rizal, jaloers op dat symbool van rechtvaardigheid, kon zich niet inhouden van uit te roepen: "Een gelukkig land is dit dat niet zoveel dorst voor justitie hoeft te lijden als het onze, omdat hier de regels van de rechtsstaat en rechters prevaleren en niet de broeders!".

Terwijl we met de voorbereidingen voor onze reis bezig waren vond ik in Rizal's bagage een bundel van niets meer dan een grote verzameling brieven van familieleden, vrienden en landgenoten van hem onder dewelke ik die van mezelf zag, gedateerd in Barcelona. Ik vroeg Rizal waarom hij al deze correspondentie, belangrijk of niet, bewaarde. Rizal legde uit dat door middel van de correspondentie hij het karakter, temperament, veranderingen en intellectuele neigingen van zijn vrienden en landgenoten wilde bestuderen.

Bij dageraad op de 11<sup>de</sup> mei 1887 verlieten we Berlijn en bezochten we de volgende steden:

#### DRESDEN

Het was een van de beste steden van Duitsland en in haar studie staken we meer tijd dan wat noodzakelijk was vanwege de tijdelijke viering van een regionale tentoonstelling van bloementeelt [De teelt van bloemen en sierplanten]. We werden voor een tijd vergast op het aanschouwen van een

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encounter we had at the Dresden Exhibition. We telegraphed Professor Blumentritt about our arrival from the previous city of our stop, for being of a nervous temperament, our sudden appearance might hurt him. After sending the telegram we continued our trip to

#### LEITMERITZ

The kind friend whom before that moment we knew only through pictures and letters was awaiting us at the railroad station. As our train approached the station the current of mutual identification between friends who were anxious to see each other was soon established. We stepped down to greetings and fraternal embraces, the sign of our effusive sympathy and friendship. Conducted to our hotel, the Krebs, and after being installed in it, Blumentritt invited us with his proverbial kindness to his house where his table immediately became ours under the direction of his no less amiable wife, Doña Rosa, who displayed no little attention and amiability in receiving and entertaining us during our sojourn in that city. The topic of our conversation was varied and pleasant as was to be expected in that joyous and cordial interview. Speaking about the *Noli me tángere*, the Austrian professor said to me that "It was a book written with the blood of the heart, according to a German expression, and at whose denouncement even more unpleasant scenes than those in the novel itself might arise, considering the limitless influence of the friars on the Spanish government." [10]

[08] In Silesia, formerly an Austrian duchy.

[09] Dr. Feodor Jagor, a wealthy Prussian scholar residing at Berlin, who enjoyed enviable fame in the European scientific world as well as in India. In 1891 he went to the Celebes and returned to Berlin at the age of 74 with new scientific discoveries. He died at Berlin in 1900. he was the author of *Reisen in den Philippinen* (Travels in the Philippines) Berlin, 1873, and "On the Natives of Naga, Luzon, Philippine Islands" published in the *Journal of the Ethnological Society of London*, 1870, vol. II, No. 2, pp. 170-175.

[10] To what Dr. Viola says about their visit to Professor Blumentritt we can add what this illustrious Austrian wrote on 20 May 1911 to a friend of his at Manila. This letter was published in *La Vanguardia* on 1 July 1911 and among other things he said:

Rizal had that novell (*Noli me tángere*) printed at the Lette Press, Lette being the name of a society or association whose purpose was to give bread to women, so that its compositors

dergelijk groot aantal verschillende bloemen van buitengewone omvang en schoonheid, zoals de bladeren van waterplanten van ongeveer twee meter in diameter. Wij pasten dezelfde gekende Rizaliaanse procedure toe bij het bezoeken van monumenten en andere opmerkelijke gebouwen en. De overige details van ons bezoek waren te vinden in de gids waar al naar verwezen werd. Vermits er verder niets meer te bestuderen viel, verhuisden we naar

#### TESCHENER [08]

Deze stad biedt niets opmerkelijks in vergelijking met andere steden die we reeds bezochten en toch stoppen we hier door de suggestie van dr. Feodor Jagor [09] tijdens een toevallige ontmoeting die we hadden op de Dresden Tentoontelling. Wij telegrafeerden professor Blumentritt van hieruit over onze aankomst in de volgende stad want vermits hij een nerveus temperament had zou onze plotselinge verschijning hem kunnen kwetsen. Na het verzenden van het telegram vervolgden we onze tocht naar

#### LEITMERITZ

De aangename vriend die we vóór dat moment enkel kenden van foto's en brieven stond ons op te wachten op het treinstation. Terwijl onze trein het station naderde was de vonk van wederzijdse identificatie tussen vrienden, die elkaar graag wilden zien, snel overgeslagen. We begroetten en omarmden elkaar direct broederlijk ten teken van onze overdreven sympathie en vriendschap. Nadat we naar ons hotel, de Krebs, werden gevoerd en na er te zijn geïnstalleerd nodigde Blumentritt ons met zijn sprekwoordelijke vriendelijkheid uit in zijn huis waar zijn tafel onmiddellijk de onze werd onder leiding van zijn niet minder beminnelijke vrouw, Doña Rosa, die niet weinig aandacht en gemoeidelijkheid toonde in onze ontvangst en ons onderhield tijdens ons verblijf in die stad. Het onderwerp van ons gesprek was gevarieerd en aangenaam zoals was te verwachten in dat vrolijke en vriendelijke interview. Over de "Noli me tangere" sprekend zei de Oostenrijkse hoogleraar me: "Het is een boek geschreven met het bloed van het hart, volgens een Duits gezegde, en door wiens aanklacht nog meer onaangename scènes, dan die in de roman zelf, kunnen ontstaan gezien de onbeperkte invloed van de broeders op de Spaanse regering". [10]

[08] In Silezië, voorheen een Oostenrijkse hertogdom.

[09] Dr Feodor Jagor, een rijke Pruisische geleerde woonachtig in Berlijn, die een benijdenswaardige faam genoot in de Europese wetenschappelijke wereld als in India. In 1891 ging hij naar Celebes en keerde terug naar Berlijn op 74-jarige leeftijd met nieuwe wetenschappelijke ontdekkingen. Hij overleed in Berlijn in 1900. Hij was de

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were not men but women. After the last copy had been printed, Rizal left Berlin to embark at Marseille to return to his country, accompanied by his intimate friend Dr. Máximo Viola y Sison. In the course of that trip he stopped at Dresden, Leitmeritz, Prague, Munich, and various cities of Switzerland. About the visit of Rizal to Leitmeritz I can furnish you with the following data:

*Mr. José Rizal and Mr. Máximo Viola arrived at Leitmeritz at 1:30 in the afternoon of 13 May 1887. I met them at the station and we went together to Hotel Krebs (or Crabs). After having been installed in their room, number 12, Rizal, Viola, and I went to my residence. We had a very pleasant time until 10:30 p.m. My wife felt the most pleasant satisfaction upon seeing that Austro-Bohemian dishes were enjoyed by our Filipino friends. The conversation was very animated and the impression was most pleasant. My children later became friends of our friends.*

*The 14<sup>th</sup> May was a very cold day but it did not bother Rizal, who withstood the cold better than ourselves, children of the country. Rizal found out that on the afternoon of that day the board of directors of the Tourists' Club (whose secretary I was) would hold a meeting, and he asked me permission to attend it, for he was very much interested in everything that was being done in Europe to attract tourists and to open the public roads that made picturesque spots of the country accessible. Rizal and Viola received the desired invitation. The president of the club, José Krombholz, cordially greeted the Filipinos and at the same time begged them to pardon us for boasting so much of our landscape, poor and rachitic in comparison to the beautiful and exuberant vegetation of the Philippines with her majestic volcanoes and lands. Rizal replied in perfect German in the following tenor, the text of his speech, not having been preserved verbatim:*

*"The vegetation of my native land is certainly richer and all its landscape variegated with brilliant colors; but this country of Bohemia is also beautiful for its simplicity and idyllic scenery. But what I admire among you is the love you have for your native land, the appreciation of her beauty, the intimate contact between man and nature. To the tourists here nature is the object of admiration and of a very special cult that serves to exalt the soul. When we are afflicted, our nerves are agitated, we cannot bear either the echo of the best music in the world or the consolation of friends or the distractions of social life. But as it happens in European countries, inhabited by Germanic peoples, accustomed to read the expression of*

auteur van "Reisen in den Philippinen" (Reizen in de Filippijnen) Berlijn, 1873, en "Over de Inboorlingen van Naga, Luzon, Filippijnen" gepubliceerd in het *Tijdschrift van de Etnologische Vereniging van Londen*, 1870, vol. II, nr. 2, pp. 170-175.

[10] Bij wat dr Viola zegt over hun bezoek aan professor Blumentritt kunnen we toevoegen wat deze illustere Oostenrijker schreef op 20 mei 19.111 naar een vriend van hem in Manila. Deze brief werd gepubliceerd in *La Vanguardia* op 1 juli 1911 en onder andere zei hij: Rizal liet die roman (*Noli me tangere*) drukken bij de Lette Press, Lette zeinde de naam van een vereniging of organisatie waarvan het doel was om brood aan vrouwen te geven, zodat de letterzetters geen mannen maar vrouwen waren. Nadat de laatste kopie gedrukt was, verliet Rizal Berlijn voor Marseille om terug te keren naar zijn land, vergezeld door zijn intieme vriend Dr Maximo Viola y Sison. In de loop van die reis stopte hij in Dresden, Leitmeritz, Praag, München, en de verschillende steden van Zwitserland. Over het bezoek van Rizal aan Leitmeritz ik kan u de volgende gegevens verstrekken:

Jose Rizal en Mr Maximo Viola arriveerden in Leitmeritz om 1:30 in de namiddag van 13 mei 1887. Ik ontmoette ze op het station en gingen we samen naar Hotel Krebs (of Krabben). Nadat ze geïnstalleerd waren in hun kamer, nummer 12, gingen Rizal, Viola, en ik ging naar mijn woonplaats. We hadden een zeer aangename tijd tot 22:30 uur. Mijn vrouw voelde zich aangenaam verrast dat onze Filippijnse vrienden genoten van de Oostenrijks-Tsjechische gerechten. Het gesprek was zeer geanimeerd en liet een zeer aangename indruk na. Mijn kinderen werden later vrienden van onze vrienden.

De 14<sup>de</sup> mei was een zeer koude dag maar dat hinderde Rizal niet die weerstand de kou beter dan wij, kinderen van het land. Rizal ontdekte dat op de middag van die dag de raad van bestuur van de Toeristen Club (waarvan ik de secretaris was) een vergadering zou houden, en hij vroeg mij toestemming die bij te wonen want hij was zeer geïnteresseerd in alles dat in Europa werd gedaan voor het aantrekken van toeristen en om de openbare wegen te openen die de schilderachtige plekjes van de land toegankelijk maakten. Rizal en Viola ontvingen de gewenste uitnodiging. De voorzitter van de club, Jose Krombholz, begroette de Filippino's hartelijk en tegelijkertijd excuseerde hij zich om zo veel te pochen over ons landschap, arm en

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*nature, we find the best solace in the solitude of the forest, in gazing at the clouds that cross the space above, in admiring the beauty of the flowers, and in listening to the innocent song of the little birds. We forget our afflictions and troubles, the hand of the Creator caresses us, and on our return home, we feel refreshed, for nature has gladdened the formerly saddened soul. For this reason, I admire the activity of the members of the Tourists' Club, because, instead of taking the traveler to the noisy life, to the bars and bright spots of the cities, they invite the man with a heart and soul to acquire new strength for the struggle of life to the bosom of nature, pure, sublime, and enchanting."*

*This speech aroused the greatest enthusiasm of the audience and was rewarded with an applause very rare among my very cold countrymen.*

*On 15 May our Filipino friends visited the churches, the bishop's residence and other important buildings of this city. We visited also my special friend, Dr. Carlos Czepelack, who, though immobilized by a partial paralysis, has wished to see Rizal and pay him his homage, because I had spoken to him much about Rizal and I had translated to him some salient chapters of the Noli. My friends were very much satisfied with the very affectionate reception they were given by the old parents of Czepelack. Rizal told me that friendly hospitality reminded him of Filipino customs. Naturally they dined with us. We visited the Island of Shooters whose gigantic trees greatly pleased Rizal.*

*On 16 May Professor Robert Klutschack, a venerable naturalist, invited Rizal, Viola, and me to eat at his house. The dinner was held at the Hotel Krebs, for my friends Rizal and Viola had invited us to dine there with them.*

*On the 16<sup>th</sup>, at 9:45 a.m. Rizal and Viola left by train for Prague. They were accompanied to the station by my whole family and Professor Klutschack. When the train started, my little daughter Loleng ran (like a butterfly, wrote Rizal) beside the coach greeting with her tiny hands the dear Filipino friends. The parting deeply moved us and tears moistened our eyes.*

wankel in vergelijking met de mooie en uitbundige vegetatie van de Filippijnen met haar majestueuze vulkanen en landschappen. Rizal antwoordde in perfect Duits in de volgende strekking vermits de tekst van zijn toespraak niet letterlijk bewaard is gebleven:

"De vegetatie van mijn geboorteland is zeker rijker en haar landschap gevarieerd met briljante kleuren; maar dit land van Bohemen is ook mooi door zijn eenvoud en idyllische landschappen. Maar wat ik bewonder onder u is de liefde voor uw geboorteland, de waardering van haar schoonheid, het intieme contact tussen mens en natuur. Voor de toeristen hier is de natuur het voorwerp van bewondering en van een zeer bijzondere cultus die de ziel dient te verheerlijken. Wanneer we worden gekweld worden onze zenuwen geagiteerd en kunnen we zowel de echo van de beste muziek in de wereld of de troost van vrienden of de afleiding van het sociale leven verdragen. Maar toevallig vinden we in Europese landen, bewoond door de Germaanse volkeren die gewend zijn om de uitdrukking van de natuur te lezen, de beste troost in de eenzaamheid van het bos, in het staren naar de wolken die de ruimte boven ons doorkruisen, in het bewonderen van de schoonheid van de bloemen en in het luisteren naar het onschuldige lied van de kleine vogels. We vergeten onze verlokkingen en problemen, de hand van de Schepper streeft ons en op onze terugkeer naar huis voelen we ons verfrist want de natuur heeft de voorheen bedroefde ziel opgefleurd. Om deze reden heb ik bewondering voor de activiteit van de leden van de Toeristen Club, want in plaats van de reiziger naar het drukke leven, de bars en levendige plaatsen in de steden te brengen nodigen ze de mens met hart en ziel uit aan de boezem van de natuur, zuiver, subliem en betoverend, om nieuwe kracht te verwerven voor de strijd van leven."

Deze toespraak wekte het grootste enthousiasme van het publiek op en werd beloond met een applaus dat zeer zeldzaam was onder mijn zeer koude landgenoten.

Op 15 mei bezochten onze Filippijnse vrienden de kerken, het bisschoppelijke verblijf en andere belangrijke gebouwen van deze stad. We bezochten ook mijn speciale vriend, dr Carlos Czepelack die, hoewel geïmmobiliseerd door een gedeeltelijke verlamming, wilde Rizal wenste te zien en hem respect wilde betonen want ik had hem over Rizal gesproken en ik had enkele opmerkelijke hoofdstukken van de Noli voor hem vertaald. Mijn vrienden waren heel erg

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tevreden met de zeer hartelijke ontvangst die zij kregen van de oude ouders van Czepelack. Rizal vertelde me dat vriendelijke gastvrijheid hem herinnerde aan de Filipijnse zeden. Natuurlijk dineerden ze met ons. We bezochten het *Schutter's Eiland wiens gigantische bomen Rizal enorm bevielen.*

*Op 16 mei nodigde professor Robert Klutschack, een eerbiedwaardig natuurwetenschapper, Rizal, Viola, en mij uit om te eten bij hem thuis. Het diner werd gehouden in het Hotel Krebs, want mijn vrienden Rizal en Viola hadden ons uitgenodigd om er met hen te dineren.*

*Op de 16<sup>de</sup>, om 9u45 reisden Rizal en Viola met de trein naar Praag. Zij werden naar het station begeleid door mijn ganse familie en professor Klutschack. Toen de trein vertrok liep mijn kleine dochter Loleng (als een vlinder, schreef Rizal) naast de wagon, de dierbare Filippijnse vrienden groetend met haar kleine handen. Het afscheid ontroerde ons diep en we stonden met tranen in de ogen.*

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## CALENDAR

- **Dec. 6 – Pasko Sa Brussels (see article and program) – 10 am-7 p.m.**
- **Wed. Dec. 30 – Rizal Day – Philippine Chaplaincy – Rue de l'Ourthe (near St. Remy Church) – 6 p.m. – Brussels**
- **Sat. Jan. 23 – 10<sup>th</sup> Chartering Anniversary KOR Diamond - starting 4.30 p.m.  
(PLEASE MARK THIS DATE FOR THIS UNIQUE OCCASION!)**

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## NEXT NEWSLETTER

*Our next Newsletter will be published in December 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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[paul.verloo@hotmail.com](mailto:paul.verloo@hotmail.com)

## NEWSLETTER LAY-OUT AND CO-EDITOR

Sir Ronny FELIX, KR – ☎ 03 252 77 81 - Mob. 0473 491 482  
[felilong@gmail.com](mailto:felilong@gmail.com)

## WEBMASTER

Sir Danny BERGHMANS, KR – ☎ 0470 276 558  
[familie@berghmans-ferrater.be](mailto:familie@berghmans-ferrater.be)

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