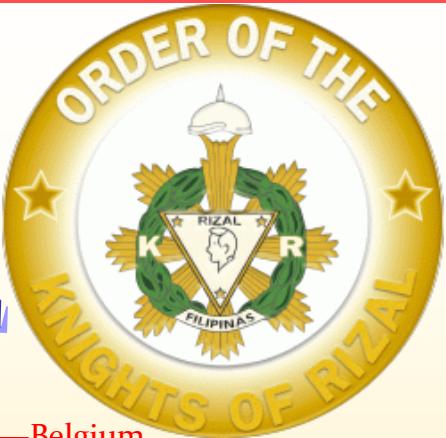


Newsletter

Knights of RIZAL



Issue 19
Volume 3
March 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Introduction**
- **New Philippine Ambassador**
- **10th Chartering anniversary**
- **Renewal membership**
- **The Singing Ambassadors**
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Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium



Knights of Rizal – Diamond Chapter – Jan. 2010

Introduction

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

Dear friends of our organisation

We are happy to send you this 19th issue of our KOR Diamond Newsletter. After a moment of 'silence' we can assure you our board and the chapter are active as ever and after our successful 10th Chartering Anniversary last Jan. 23 we want to invite you to renew your membership and to participate actively in one or more of our upcoming activities. We want to promote especially the April 16 event of KPA in cooperation with KOR Diamond and El Filibusterismo with the concert of The Singing Ambassadors in Geel and also our dinner for a cause and Phil-Bel Language Quiz on April 24 at Seamen's Club in Antwerp.

A Newsletter with a lot of news and topics for true Rizalists. Enjoy and please: your comments and contributions are very welcome! Enjoy also our updated website. Everyday many visitors worldwide visit our website. Welcome!

Yours very sincerely in Rizal

NOM

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Board 2010-2012

Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR, Chapter Commander Diamond – Antwerp – Deputy Area Commander Belgium

Sir Tony GUANSING, KGOR, Past Chapter Commander, Life Time Member, Regional Commander for Europe

Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT, KGOR, Special Adviser to the Supreme Commander Manila

Sir Kris VAN THILLO, KCR, Past Chapter Commander

Sir Roy DE MOL, KCR, Deputy Commander

Sir Rik VAN TIGGEL, KCR, Deputy Commander

Sir Paul VERLOO, KCR, Chancellor, Deputy Commander, Incoming Commander 2011

Sir Ronny FELIX, KOR, Archivist – Editor Newsletter

KOR DIAMOND WELCOMES NEW PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR

The KOR Diamond Chapter welcomes His Excellency Enrique A. MANALO, the newly assigned Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Communities.

We hope, Excellency, in the very near future, we may welcome you personally and we of KOR Diamond, together with the other Belgian Chapters, will further promote Philippine culture and values. We also want to tighten Philippine-Belgian relations together with the Belgian authorities and the Royal Belgian Embassy in Manila, through our very own Ambassador His Excellency Christian Meerschman, who is very interested in the KOR and will be a full member this coming summer 2010.

KOR DIAMOND ANTWERP BELGIUM CELEBRATED 10TH CHARTERING ANNIVERSARY JAN. 23 – 2010

Saturday January 23, 2010 the KOR Diamond Chapter of Antwerp in Belgium (Europe) celebrated with 82 active participants the 10th Chartering Anniversary at Salons De Watermeulen in Kruibeke.

It was Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Honorary Consul General and Adviser to the Supremo, who welcomed the guests.

Current Chapter Commander and Deputy Area Commander for Belgium Sir Dominiek Segael, KGOR, was obviously a very happy man on this occasion with a full program: inspirational messages by Sir Roy Ecraela, Consul and Minister Philippine Embassy, Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR, Area Commander Belgium, Sir Antonio Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander Europe (who confirmed the conferment tot Knight Grand Officer of Rizal to Sir Dominiek by the Supreme Council Manila) Sir Lino Paras, Past European Commander, Sir Pros Slachmuylers, KGOR, Chartering Commander, on visit in Belgium.

In a solemn ceremony 5 new Knights were dubbed to KR: Manuel Duchesne, Gino Moens, Guido Robyns, Joeri Vertongen, Marc Wouters. Elevated to KOR was Sir Ronny Felix, KR and an exaltation ceremony to KCR was for Sir Paul Verloo, KOR.

Further on the program was an update of the supported projects by KOR Diamond, e.g. the victims of the typhoons in and around Manila. Also a fragment of the musical-play "Calamba Joe" about the life of Dr. Rizal by Sir Al Evangelio, KGOR, award-winning play writer of Cebu, was shown since KOR Diamond wants to organise together with all Belgian Chapters on June 19 the performance of this play at the Cultural Centre of Knokke-Heist, hometown of Chapter Commander Sir Dominiek & Lady Leah Segael-Gallego.

In the special program brochure there were messages of CDA Mrs. Mauro Michu of the Philippine Embassy, H.E. Christian Meerschman, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the Philippines – who will also be knighted – and our very own Supreme Commander KOR Sir Virgilio R. Esguerra, KGCR in which he praised the good communication of KOR Diamond and the variation of Rizal activities.

A moment of silence was given in remembrance of Sir Alex Mushake, KGCR, on his 1st year death anniversary (+ Jan. 4, 2009). He was former Over-all Adviser Europe. Lady Jane Mushake expressed in a letter her gratitude to KOR Diamond.

We remembered further Sir Cerge Remonde, KGOR, Past Chapter Commander Cebu Chapter & Past Regional Commander Visayas, Press Secretary of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (+ Jan. 19, 2010), the nephew of Sir Bernard Pot, KCR, Chapter Commander KOR Dimasalang Paris (+ Jan. 2010), Sir Juanito "Nito" Solis, KCR, Life Time Member of the KOR London Chapter (+ Dec. 2009) and the son of Sir Jimboy Rebong, KOR of KOR Aalst Chapter (+ Oct. 2009).

A sumptuous and delicious dinner and dancing finalised the successful event that was blessed first by Sir and Father Bago, Filipino priest and Chaplain of the Antwerp Filipino Community.

Among the guests there were members of the KOR El Filibusterismo, Brussels & Aalst Chapter, Dimasalang Ile de France Paris Chapter and the Kababaihang Rizalista. Rizals living Wikipedia Sir Lucien Spitta, KGOR was also present together with El Fili Chapter Commander Sir François Ooms, KGOR and Dimasalang Ile de France Deputy Chap Comm. Sir Leo Mojica, KCR. Praised were also the restyled bimonthly published electronic Newsletter by Sir Ronny Felix, KOR and the regularly updated website www.knightsofrizal.be by Sir Danny Berghmans, KR. Sir Peter Plückenbaum, KGOR, Deputy Regional Commander Europe, send a message and congratulations to the Chapter.

Participated at this event were:

Mr. Roy Ecraela – Minister & Consul Philippine Embassy

Sir Antonio & Susan Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander for Europe – Honorary Consul

Sir Rudy Nollas, KGOR, Area Commander for Belgium

*Sir Peter Van Bogaert, KGOR, Honorary Consul General &
Special Adviser to the Supreme Commander*

Lady Nina Fernandez, President Kababaihang Rizalista

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Sir Lino Paras, KGOR, Past Regional Commander for Europe

Sir Dominiek & Lady Leah Segaert-Gallego & Magalie, KGOR

Chapter Commander KOR Diamond

Deputy Area Commander Belgium – Europe

Sir Pros Slachmuylders, KGOR

Chartering Commander KOR Diamond

Fater Bago, KR, Chaplain

Sir Leo Mojica, KCR, Deputy Commander Dimasalang Ile de France

Lady Joan Chavez & Sir Henri Calicdan of Dimasalang

Sir François Ooms, KGOR, Chapter Commander El Filibusterismo – Sir Lucien Spittael, KGOR

Sir & Mrs. Kris & Marisa Van Thillo, KCR, Past Chapter Commander

Sir Roy & Grace De Mol-Almacen, KCR – Sir Paul & Mayet Verloo-Folloso, KCR

Sir Ronny & Phoebe Felix-Padilla, KOR – Sir & Mrs. Frank Van Overloop, Phoebe, KOR

Sir & Mrs. Frankie Vercammen, KOR – Sir Albert & Fe Bijloos-Saniel, KOR

Sir Guy & Mercy Waterloos-Cortuna, KR – Sir Dirk & Grace Vandeweghe-Getutua, KR

Sir Eric & Jacqueline Borghijs-Van den Eede, KR

Sir Geert & Faith Verhaegen-Nunez, KR – Sir Danny & Marilou Berghmans-Ferrater, KR

Sir Danny & Mrs. Vandenbogaerde, KR – Sir Marc & Ofella Helsen-Facto, KR

Sir Kristoff & Rama Mortier-Gajurao, KR – Sir Joseph & Divina Sneyaert-Mariano, KR

Sir Christian Donners, KOR – Sir Frankie & Mrs. Vercammen, KOR

Sir Willy & Merelin Hermans-Vilbar, KOR – Mrs. Marie-Christine Du Bois & friend

Mr. Louis & Mrs Nancy (friends Sir Paul & Mayet Verloo)

Sir Danny & Gina Vandenbogaerde-Navea, KR

Sir Eric & Jacqueline Borghijs-Van den Eede, KR – Sir Dirk Wieme, KOR

Sir Sylvain & Patricia Herremans-Jasmin, KR

Sir Guido & Virginia Robyns-Villanueva, KR – Elvy Waegmans

Sir Joeri & Mrs. Vertongen and friends, KR – Sir Gino & Kristine Moens-Junsay, KR

Sir Marc & Rowena Wouters-Padua, KR – Mr. Paul & Mrs. Emilie Haesevoets

Sir Manuel & Martine Duchesne-Beddegeenoonts, KR

Lady Ligaya Nacua – Sir Tony Sienes, KCR – Sir Jose Perez – Lady Jemmie Rose Lumibao

Lucy & Guy Magmanlac-Nuyens – Roselinda Ramakers – Koen & Analyn Saelens

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)



The current board of KOR Diamond – Belgium:

front left to right: Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR, Chapter Commander 2008-2011 & Deputy Area Commander Belgium 2008-2010 – Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT, KGOR, Special Adviser to the Supremo – Sir Antonio GUANSING, KGOR, Regional Commander Europe 2008-2010 and LIFE TIME MEMBER – accompanied by guest and Chartering Commander Sir Pros SLACHMUYLDERS, KGOR – Sir Paul VERLOO, KCR, Chancellor, Dep. Comm. & incoming Chap. Comm. 2011 – back: Sir Roy DE MOL, KCR, Dep. Comm. & treasurer – Sir Kris VAN THILLO, KCR, Former Chap. Comm. – new board member Sir Ronny FELIX, KOR, archivist, co-editor Newsletter –
not on picture: Sir Rik VAN TIGGEL, KCR, Dep. Comm.
(picture: taken by Sir Kristoff Mortier, KR)



The members of KOR Diamond – Belgium (picture: Sir Kristoff Mortier, KR)

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

More pictures from the 10th Chartering event.



Sir Dominiek Segaert & Sir Peter Van Bogaert



Sir Tony Guansing



The new knights and their ladies



Sir Ronny Felix & Lady Phoebe



Sir Paul Verloo & Lady Mayet



Start of the buffet

(Continued on page 7)

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More pictures from the 10th Chartering event.



A view of the hall



The buffet



The buffet



Ladies Phoebe, Ligaya, Leah, Grace & Sir Christian
Donners



Sir Pros Slachmuylers



Sir Dominiek Segaert & Sir Felino Parras

KNIGHTS OF RIZAL – DIAMOND CHAPTER - ANTWERP

REMINDER INVITATION RENEWING MEMBERSHIP 2010



Beste vrienden Knights

Op 19 februari nodigden wij jullie uit om het lidmaatschap te hernieuwen.

Op 23 januari 2010 mochten wij de 10de verjaardag vieren sinds de start van de Diamond Chapter van de Knights of Rizal. Het was een bijzonder geslaagd vriendenfeest met 85 deelnemers waarbij in de eerste plaats broederschap én de herinnering aan de Filippijnse vrijheidsheld Dr. José Rizal de rode draad vormden. Ook mochten we 5 nieuwe en heel gemotiveerde Rizal-vrienden tot Knight 'slaan'. Het doet deugd dat de Diamond Chapter een enthousiaste koers vaart. Graag wil ik het bestuur én iedereen danken voor het vertrouwen in onze chapter. Een verslag met veel foto's zal zowel verschijnen eerstdaags in een nieuwe Newsletter alsook binnenkort op onze website www.knightsofrizal.be.

Naar jaarlijkse gewoonte verzoeken wij jullie om het lidgeld voor 2010 te betalen. Dit bedraagt 40 EUR en ik zou jullie heel dankbaar zijn, mocht de betaling gebeuren voor 1 april op ons rekeningnummer 979 6095137 50 van DIAMOND CHAPTER RIZAL – 2100 DEURNE. Namens het bestuur wil ik jullie alvast danken voor de hernieuwing van het lidmaatschap en aan de nieuwe Knights voor het hopelijk blijvend engagement voor onze vereniging!

Dank bij voorbaat voor jullie engagement en tijdige betaling van het lidgeld.

Dear brother Knights

On February 19 we invited you to renew your membership.

Last January 23, 2010 we could celebrate with you the 10th anniversary since the chartering of the Diamond Chapter of the Knights of Rizal. We look back at a successful activity with 85 participants where brotherhood and remembering our Philippine national hero Dr. José Rizal formed the spirit of this celebration. Also we could dub 5 new Knights of Rizal. I am very pleased and happy that the Diamond Chapter is until now successful. I am honoured to thank the complete board of our chapter and everybody for the loyalty to our chapter. A report with a lot of pictures will be published very soon in an upcoming Newsletter and also in our website www.knightsofrizal.be.

As yearly we would like to invite you in the beginning of the month of March to renew your membership for 2010. We would be grateful to pay the amount of 40 EUR before April 1 on our account 979 6095137 50 of DIAMOND CHAPTER RIZAL – 2100 DEURNE. In the name of the whole board I want to thank you for renewing your membership and to the new Knights I sincerely hope you will engage yourself for a very long time in our chapter.

We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in paying the membership fee.

THE SINGING AMBASSADORS

APRIL 16 – 2010

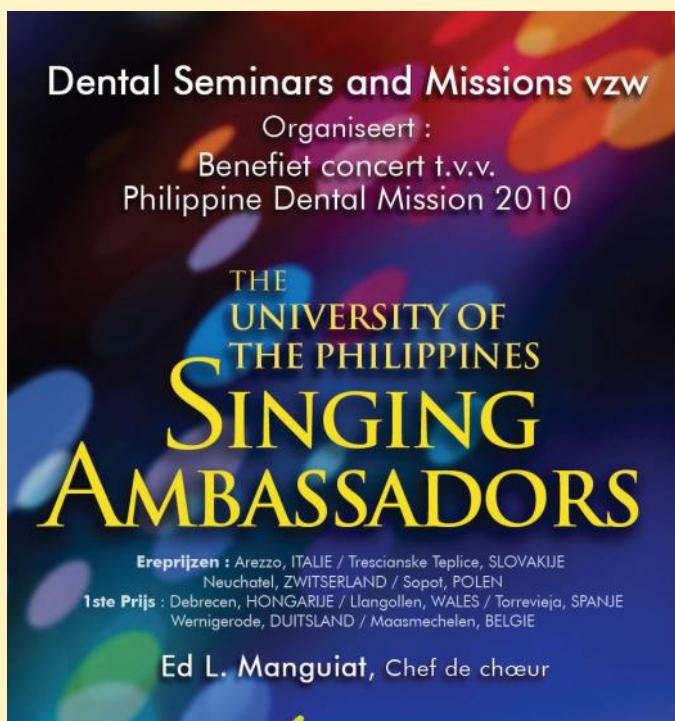
Kempen Philippine Association in cooperation with Knights of Rizal Diamond Chapter and El Filibusterismo organise on Friday April 16 at 8 p.m. at 't Geels Volkstoneel (Rauwelkoven 49a – next to football stadion) in 2440 Geel "THE SINGING AMBASSADORS IN CONCERT". Profit of this event goes to the project of Sir Geert & Faith Verhaegen-Nunez "Philippine Dental Mission" that took a successful start in 2007. This year the mission again goes to the Philippines to help the poor and neglected and give them complete dental care.

We of KOR Diamond want to invite you all to attend with as many as possible to this event. You reserve tickets at 014 236 448 or 0478 261 849 or geert.verhaegen1@telenet.be

Look once on the website of The Singing Ambassadors (under the direction of Ed Maguiat) on www.upsa2009.weebly.com

More information on the Dental Mission? Look once at the film of the mission of 2007 at the following link: www.benedenti.be/patienten/nieuws/1/onsfilippijnenproject/filmpje/filippijnenproject/

Forward this NEWS to all your friends, dear Brother-Knights!



Dental Seminars and Missions vzw

Organiseert :

Benefiet concert t.v.v.

Philippine Dental Mission 2010

Vrijdag 16 april

't Geels Volkstoneel

Rauwelkoven 49a

2440 Geel

(naast voetbalstadion)

Deuren open: 19u00

Aanvang: 20u00

Entree : € 18

Ticket reservatie:

Tel: 014-236 448

In samenwerking met :

Autre Terre ASBL

Kempen Philippines Association

Knights of Rizal - Diamond chapter

Knights of Rizal - El Filibusterismo chapter



**SAT. APRIL 24 – 5.30 P.M. – KOR DIAMOND
DINNER FOR A CAUSE**

**PHIL-BEL LANGUAGE QUIZ
ASIAN DINNER (SIR BIEN DE LEON)
AT SEAMEN'S CLUB – ANTWERP**

Under the direction of Marisa Van Thillo – wife of our former chapter commander Sir Kris Van Thillo KOR Diamond organises a PHILBEL LANGUAGE QUIZ on Sat. April 24, 2010 at Seamen's Club, Italiëlei 72, Antwerp.

Bien De Leon, devoted Knight of KOR Brussels, will prepare a delicious dinner in the form of a buffet (some choices: fried lumpia with chicken, pork, vegetables, soup, rice, fish filet wrap, iceberg salad, coconut milk, barbecue, sweet and sour meat, noodles pancit, delicious Pinoy desserts – more than the eye can see!).

Participation: 20 EUR – Drinks at very very reasonable prices.

Children: 10 EUR.

Please confirm your participation on this event BEFORE APRIL 18 through our board members or the Chapter Commander Sir Dominiek. Payment please on our account 979 6095137 50 of DIAMOND CHAPTER RIZAL –

2100 DEURNE.

Professor Jose David Lapuz

The knights of Rizal from Belgium who attended the 4th ERA in Prague will surely remember Prof. Lapuz who also gave a speech in the Clam-Gallas Palace about the travels of Jose Rizal in Europe.

Professor Lapuz sent us some pictures and articles for which we want to thank him.

Professor José David Lapuz was invited to the traditional Vin D' Honneur that is yearly organized by Malacañang. This time, it was held on Wednesday, 20 January 2010 at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall.



PROF. JOSE DAVID LAPUZ IS GREETED BY H.E PRES. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO DURING THE VIN D'HONNEUR
HELD AT THE MALACANANG PALACE ON JAN. 20, 2010, 2:00 PM.
THE EVENT TOOK PLACE IN HONOR OF DIPLOMATS, CONSULS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR 2010.
AT THE CENTER IS THE BULLETIN PUBLISHER, A DEDICATED RIZALIST-PATRON, DON EMILIO YAP.

The Vin D' Honneur is an opportunity where President Arroyo greets the New Year and welcomes Ambassadors, Consuls accredited to the Republic and other dignitaries and esteemed guests. It is also the occasion where the President discusses important problems of international politics and comparative foreign relations.

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PROF. JOSE DAVID LAPUZ IS SHOWN DELIVERING THE 2009 JOSE RIZAL LECTURE AT THE RIZAL PARK, SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE ON DECEMBER 30, 2009, THE 113TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF RIZAL. IN HIS WELL-RECEIVED SPEECH, PROFESSOR JOSE DAVID LAPUZ DESCRIBED RIZAL AS "UN FILIPINO DE ORO MAS PURO"—"A FILIPINO OF THE PUREST GOLD."

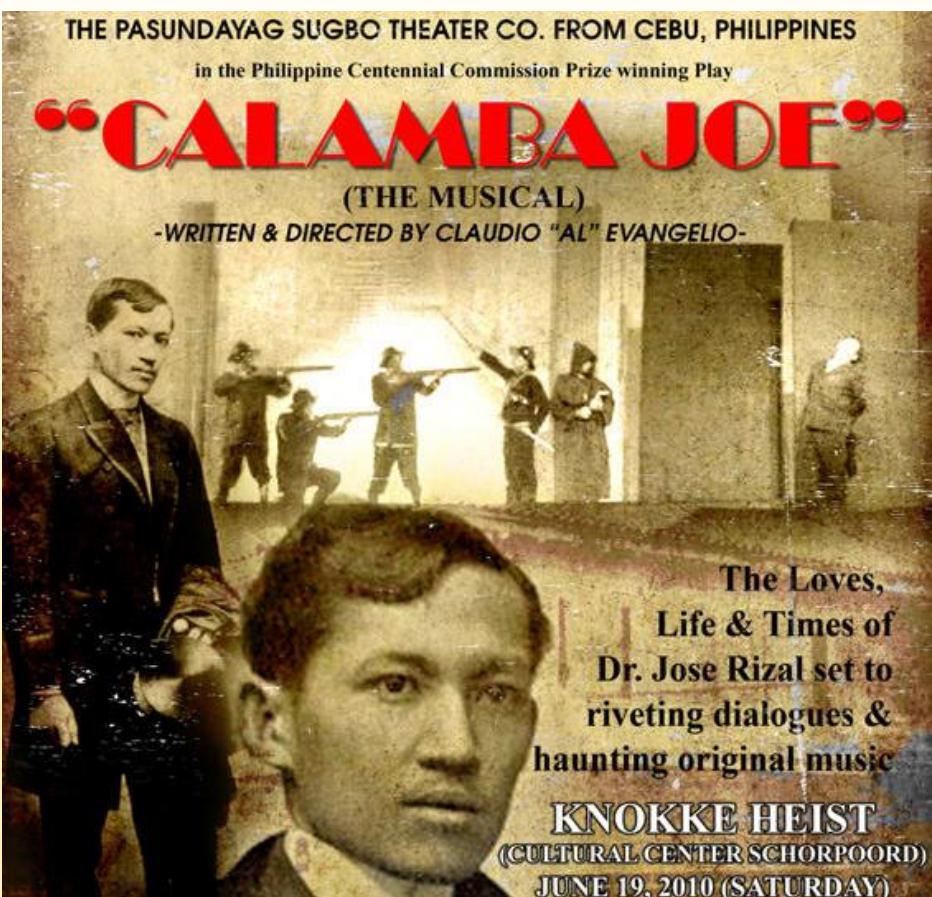
Professor José David Lapuz, who is one of the greatest and most illustrious experts on the Life of Rizal and certainly the most eminent and the most outstanding KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF RIZAL (KGCR) of the historic Order of the Knights of Rizal, commented: "Rizal's erudition and extensive knowledge introduced and interposed historical awareness into the nationalist movement. He demanded his people to search their great past and to think of what they had been before the Spaniards obliterated and shattered much of what was good and noble in Philippine culture, restricted commerce and industry, and racially decimated the Filipino population through conscription and other compulsory means of the Filipinos to fight Spanish wars. In an article, entitled "Filipinas Dentro de Cien Años," Rizal swerved our attention on the future and forced us to look to the day when we would have shaken off Spanish rule. In a magnificent moment of clairvoyance and reading into the future, the prophet Rizal hypothesized that the United States of America might one day consider acquiring the Philippines but added that this would be a violation of U.S. republican traditions." But, of course, as we know, the U.S. ignored the opposition of the American democrats and went on to acquire the Philippines anyhow."

CALAMBA JOE
MUSICAL PLAY LIFE RIZAL IN BELGIUM
JUNE 19 - 2010

Soon the different Chapter Commanders and some interested Knights will be informed about a meeting to finalise a possible performance of the Musical Play Calamba Joe about the life of Dr. Rizal. 22 singers, dancers, performers will bring the beautiful show about Rizal. The show is mainly in English, parts in Tagalog and there will be an introduction in Dutch.

The meeting for finalising this performance and to have a good organisation will be held in the beginning of April. The different Chapters will be given the possibility to give a few preferred dates for an informal meeting.

Meanwhile Sir Claudio Evangelio, KGOR and Sir Günther Vomberg, KCR, both of Cebu and recently in Belgium (see Newsletter 17) will be asked to give the KOR Belgian Council more specific information regarding the requirements for the play.



The performance would be scheduled on Saturday June 19 (the birthday of Rizal) at 8 p.m. at the Cultural Centre Schorpoord, Meerlaan 32, 8300 Knokke-Heist. PLEASE MARK ALREADY JUNE 19 IN YOUR AGENDAS AND CALENDARS. With the support of Knokke-Heist and Friendship for the Philippines Knokke-Heist.

(to be continued)

Some pictures from the musical



(Continued on page 13)

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Calamba Joe

June 19



Knokke-Heist

REPORT KOR DIAMOND RIZALIAN YEAR 2008-2010

Please browse on the updated website www.knightsofrizal.be for the detailed report of KOR Diamond Rizalian Year 2008-2010.

GET WELL, SIR JOHNNY VILLA OF KOR BRUSSELS

We were informed of the hospitalisation and illness of our Brother-Knight and good friend Sir Johnny Villa of KOR Brussels. His situation at the moment is better and we wish him a good recovery. Be assured of our sympathy to you, Sir Johnny. Get well and take care!



ELECTION SUPREME COUNCIL KOR MANILA

MAY 30 – 2010

On May 30 the new Supreme Council will be elected. As always there is a place for an overseas representative. While in the past Sir Poblete represented the overseas chapters and was chosen as a KOR of Canada, this time a representative of Europe can be given a seat in the Supreme Council.

The different chapters in Europe can nominate a candidate by sending an official and truly signed nomination form, information sheet and picture to the KOR Headquarters in respecting the by-laws of KOR.

We nominated Sir PETER VAN BOGAERT, KGOR, Special Adviser to the Supreme Commander, for the position of a seat in the Supreme Council.

We sincerely hope our nomination will be backed by the other Belgian Chapters. The official form and the information sheet regarding our nomination for Sir Peter has been delivered to the International Headquarters, together with a complete list of our current members and also the members who can attend the election on May 30.

KOR Diamond is an Outstanding Chapter and has paid all dues for the year 2010.

To all candidates: good luck!



NOMINATIONS POSITIONS EUROPE AND BELGIAN COUNCIL

In its board meeting of last Feb. 18, 2010 the board of KOR Diamond decided to submit the following names for the following positions.

All names have been submitted to the Area Commander of Belgium, Sir Rudy Nollas on Feb. 19.

European representative in the Supreme Council Manila: Sir Peter VAN BOGAERT, KGOR

Regional Commander for Europe: Sir Antonio GUANSING, KGOR, Sir Choy ARNALDO, KGOR

Deputy Regional Commander for Europe: Sir Rudy NOLLAS, KGOR, Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR, Sir François OOMS, KGOR, Sir Lucien SPITTAEL, KGOR

Area Commander for Belgium: Sir Rudy NOLLAS, KGOR, Sir François OOMS, KGOR, Sir Lucien SPITTAEL, KGOR, Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR

Deputy Area Commander for Belgium: Sir Albert AREVALO, KCR, Sir Dominiek SEGAERT, KGOR, Sir Edmund ROJAS, KCR

According to the by-laws it will be the Supreme Council who will decide about the different positions in the European Region and in the different Areas.



WRITINGS ABOUT AND FROM JOSE RIZAL

Dear fellow knights and friends,

In this newsletter we start with the writings of José Rizal about his youth as a student.

The English text is a copy from the website of dr Robert L. Yoder. The translation is from Ronny Felix.

Beste collega ridders, vrienden,

In deze nieuwsbrief starten we met de geschriften van José Rizal over zijn jeugd tijdens zijn studententijd.

De Engelse tekst is een kopij van de website van dr Robert L. Yoder. De vertaling is van Ronny Felix.

Memoirs of a Student in Manila:

Chapter 1: My Birth - Early Years

By P. Jacinto (01)

I was born in Calamba on 19 June 1861, between eleven and midnight, a few days before full moon. It was a Wednesday and my coming out in this vale of tears would have cost my mother her life had she not vowed to the Virgin of Antipolo to take me to her sanctuary by way of pilgrimage. (02)

All I remember of my early days is I don't know how I found myself in a town with some scanty notions of the morning sun, of my parents, etc.

*The education that I received since my earliest infancy was perhaps what has shaped my habits, like a jar that retains the odor of the body that it first held. I still remember the first melancholy nights that I spent on the terrace [azotea - Zaide] of our house as if they happened only yesterday -- nights full of the saddest poem that made impression of my mind, the stronger the more tempestuous my present situation is. I had a nurse [aya - Zaide] who loved me very much and who, in order to make me take supper (which I had on the terrace on moonlit nights), frightened me with the sudden apparition of some formidable *asuang*, [ghosts], of a frightful *nuno*, or *parce-nobis*, as she used to call an imaginary being similar to the *Bu* of the Europeans. They used to take me for a stroll to the gloomiest places and at night near the flowing river, in the shade of some tree, in the brightness of the chaste Diana.*

Memoires van een student in Manila:

Hoofdstuk 1: Mijn geboorte – eerste jaren

Door P. Jacinto (1)

Ik ben geboren in Calamba op 19 juni 1861, tussen elf en middernacht, een paar dagen voor volle maan. Het was een woensdag en mijn komst in dit tranendal zou mijn moeder haar leven hebben gekost had ze niet gezworen aan de Maagd van Antipolo om me naar haar heiligdom te brengen door middel van een pelgrimstocht. (02)

Het enige dat ik me herinner van mijn eerste dagen is dat ik geen idee heb van hoe ik mezelf ontdekte in een stad met enkele schaars noties van de ochtend zon, van mijn ouders, enz.

*Het onderwijs dat ik ontvingen heb sinds mijn vroegste jeugd was misschien wat vorm heeft gegeven aan mijn gewoontes, zoals een pot die de geur van het voorwerp behoudt die het voor het eerst bewaarde. Ik herinner me nog de eerste melancholische nachten die ik doorgebracht op het terras [Azotea - Zaide] van ons huis alsof het pas gisteren gebeurde - nachten vol van het meest trieste gedicht dat indruk maakte op mijn geest, hoe sterker hoe onstuimiger mijn huidige situatie is. Ik had een verpleegster [Aya - Zaide], die heel veel van mij hield en die, om me mijn avondeten te laten eten (dat nam ik op het terras op maanverlichte nachten), me bang maakte met de plotselinge verschijning van een aantal geduchte *asuang*, [geesten] van een verschrikkelijke *nuno*, of *parce-nobis*, zoals ze een*

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

.... Thus was my heart nourished with somber and melancholic thoughts, which even when I was a child already wandered on the wings of fantasy in the lofty regions of the unknown.

I had nine sisters and one brother. My father, a model of fathers, had given us an educational commensurate with our small fortune, and through thrift he was able to build a stone house, buy another, and to erect a little nipa house in the middle of our orchard under the shade of banana trees and others. There the tasty ate [atis] displays its delicate fruits and bends its branches to save me the effort of reaching for them; the sweet santol, the fragrant and honeyed tampooy, the reddish macupa, here contend for supremacy; farther are the plum tree, the casuy, harsh and piquant, the beautiful tamarind, equally gratifying to the eyes and delightful to the palate, here the papaya tree spreads its broad leaves and attracts the birds with its enormous fruits, yonder at the nangca, the coffee tree, the orange tree, which perfumes the air with the aroma of its flowers; on this side are the iba, the balimbing, the pomegranate with its thick foliage and beautiful flowers that enchant the senses; here and there are found elegant and majestic palm trees loaded with enormous nuts, rocking its proud crown and beautiful fronds, the mistresses of the forests. Ah! It would be endless if I were to enumerate all our trees and entertain myself in naming them! At the close of the day numerous birds came from all parts, and I, still a child of three years at the most, entertained myself by looking at them with unbelievable joy. The yellow caliauan, the maya of different varieties, the culae, the maria capra, the martin, all the species of pitpit, joined in a pleasant concert and intoned in varied chorus a hymn of farewell to the sun that was disappearing behind the tall mountains of my town. Then the clouds, through a whim of nature, formed a thousand figures that soon dispersed, as such beautiful days passed away also, leaving behind them only the flimsiest remembrances. Alas! Even now when I look out the window of our house to the beautiful panorama at twilight, my past impressions come back to my mind with painful eagerness!

Afterwards comes night; it extends its mantle, sometimes gloomy though starred, when the chaste Delia (03) does not scour the sky in pursuit of her brother Apollo. But if she appears in the clouds, a vague brightness is delineated. After-

denkbeeldig wezen noemde dat te vergelijken was met de BU van de Europeanen. Ze namen mij mee voor een wandeling naar de donkerste plekken en 's nachts in de buurt van de stromende rivier, in de schaduw van een boom, in de helderheid van de kuise Diana. Zo werd mijn hart gevoed met sombere en melancholische gedachten, die, zelfs wanneer ik een kind was, dwaalde op de vleugels van de fantasie in de verheven regio's van het onbekende.

Ik had negen zussen en een broer. Mijn vader, een model van vaders, had ons een opvoeding gegeven evenredig met ons klein fortuin, en door zuinigheid was hij in staat om een stenen huis te bouwen, een ander te kopen, en om een klein Nipa huis op te richten in het midden van onze boomgaard, in de schaduw van bananenbomen en anderen. Daar toont de lekkere ate [ATIS] zijn delicate vruchten en buigt zijn takken om me de moeite te besparen naar ze te reiken; de zoete Santol, de geurige en honingzoete tampooy, de roodachtige macupa kampen voor suprematie; verder staan de pruimenboom, de casuy, hard en pikant, de mooie tamarinde, even verheugend aan de ogen en heerlijk aan het gehemelte, hier spreidt de papaja boom zijn brede bladeren en trekt de vogels aan met zijn enorme vruchten, ginds bij de nangca, de koffieboom, de appelsienboom, die de lucht parfumeert met de geur van zijn bloemen; aan deze zijde zijn de iba, de balimbing, de granaatappel met zijn dikke bladeren en prachtige bloemen die de zintuigen betoveren, hier en daar staan elegante en majestueuze palmbomen geladen met enorme noten, hun trotse kroon en mooie bladeren wiegend, de meesteressen van de bossen. Ach het zou eindeloos zijn als ik al onze bomen moest opsommen en mezelf te amuseren met hen te benoemen! Aan het einde van de dag kwamen van overal verschillende vogels en ik, nog een kind van op zijn hoogst drie jaar, vermaakte mezelf door naar hen te kijken met ongelofelijke vreugde. De gele caliauan, de Maya in verschillende soorten, de culae, de Maria Capra, de martin, alle soorten van pitpit, gebundeld in een aangenaam concert en in toon in gevarieerd koor in een hymne aan het afscheid van de zon die verdween achter de hoge bergen van mijn stad. Dan vormden de wolken, door een gril van de natuur, wel duizend figuren die snel uiteen gingen, zoals zulke mooie dagen ook verdwenen, enkel de zwakste herinneringen achterlatend. Ach! Zelfs nu als ik kijk uit het raam van ons huis naar het prachtige panorama in de schemering, komen

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wards, as the clouds break up, so to speak, little by little, she is seen beautiful, sad, and hushed, rising like an immense globe, as if an omnipotent and invisible hand is pulling her through the spaces. Then my mother would make us recite the rosary all together. Afterward we would go to the terrace or to some window from which the moon can be seen and my nurse would tell us stories, sometimes mournful, sometimes gay, in which the dead, gold plants that bloomed diamonds were in confused mixtures, all of them born of an entirely oriental imagination. Sometimes she would tell us that men lived in the moon and the specks that we observed on it were nothing else but a woman who was continuously spinning.

When I was four years old I lost my little sister (Concha) and then for the first time I shed tears caused by love and grief, for until then I had shed them only because of my stubbornness that my loving proving mother so well knew how to correct. Ah! Without her what would have become of my education and what would have been my fate? Oh, yes! After God the mother is everything to man. She taught me how to read, she taught me how to stammer the humble prayers that I addressed fervently to God, and now that I'm a young man, ah, where is that simplicity, that innocence of my early days?

In my own town I learned how to write, and my father, who looked after my education, paid an old man (who had been his classmate) to give me the first lessons in Latin and he stayed at our house. After some five months he died, having almost foretold his death when he was still in good health. I remember that I came to Manila with my father after the birth of the third girl (Trinidad) who followed me, and it was on 6 June 1868. We boarded a casco, (04) a very heavy craft. I had never yet gone through the lake of La Laguna consciously and the first time I did, I spent the whole night near the catig, (04) admiring the grandeur of the liquid element, the quietness of the night, while at the same time a superstitious fear took hold of me when I saw a water snake twine itself on the bamboo canes of the outriggers. With what joy I saw the sunrise; for the first time I saw how the luminous rays shone, producing a brilliant effort on the ruffled surface of the wide lake. With what joy I spoke to my father for I had not uttered a single word during the night. Afterward we went to Antipolo. I'm going to stop to relate the sweetest

mijn indrukken uit het verleden terug in mijn geest met pijnlijke gretigheid!

Daarna komt de nacht; hij spreidt zijn mantel uit, soms somber maar nochtans met sterren, wanneer de kuisse Delia (03) de hemel niet opklaart in achtervolging op haar broer Apollo. Maar als ze verschijnt in de wolken, wordt een vage helderheid afgebakend. Daarna, als de wolken breken, om zo te zeggen beetje bij beetje, is ze mooi, droevig en stil, stijgend als een immense bol, alsof een almachtige en onzichtbare hand haar door de ruimten trekt. Dan liet mijn moeder ons allemaal samen de rozenkrans bidden. Daarna gingen we naar het terras of aan een raam van waaruit we de maan konden zien en mijn kindermeisje vertelde ons verhalen, soms treurige, soms vrolijke, waarin de dode, gouden planten die diamanten bloeiden in verwarde combinaties, allemaal geboren uit een geheel oosterse fantasie. Soms zou ze ons vertellen dat er mensen leefden op de maan en dat de vlekken die we waarnamen niets anders waren dan een vrouw die voortdurend spinde.

Toen ik vier jaar oud was verloor ik mijn kleine zusje (Concha) en vervolgens moest ik voor de eerste keer tranen laten, veroorzaakt door liefde en verdriet, want tot dan had ik alleen geweend vanwege mijn koppigheid die mijn liefdevolle moeder zo goed wist te corrigeren. Ach! Wat zou er zonder haar van mijn opleiding zijn geworden en wat zou mijn lot zijn geweest? Oh, ja! Na God is de moeder alles voor de mens. Ze leerde me lezen, ze leerde me de nederige gebeden die ik vurig tot God richtte, te stamelen, en nu ik een jonge man ben, ah, waar is die eenvoud, die onschuld van mijn eerste dagen?

In mijn eigen stad heb ik geleerd te schrijven, en mijn vader, die op mijn opleiding toezag, betaalde een oude man (die zijn klasgenoot was geweest) om mij de eerste lessen in Latijn te geven en hij bleef bij ons in huis. Na ongeveer vijf maanden overleed hij, na bijna zijn eigen dood voorspeld te hebben toen hij nog in goede gezondheid was. Ik herinner me dat ik naar Manila kwam met mijn vader na de geboorte van het derde meisje na mij (Trinidad), en het was op 6 juni 1868. Wij gingen aan boord van een casco, (04) een zeer zware boot. Ik had nog nooit de overtocht van het meer van La Laguna bewust meegeemaakt en de eerste keer dat het gebeurde heb ik de hele nacht besteed in de buurt van de catig, (04) de grandeur van het vloeibare element bewonderend, de rust van de nacht, terwijl op hetzelfde

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emotions that I felt at every step on the banks of the Pasig (that a few years later would be the witness of my grief), in Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, Manila, Santa Ana, where we visited my eldest sister (Saturnina) who was at that time a boarding student at La Concordia. (05) I returned to my town and I stayed in it until 1870, the first year that marked my separation from my family.

This is what I remember of those times that figure in the forefront of my life like the dawn of the day. Alas, when shall the night come to shelter me so that I may rest in deep slumber? God knows it! In the meantime, now that I'm in the spring of life, separated from the beings whom I love the most in the world, now that sad, I write these pages... let us leave Providence to act, and let us give time to time, awaiting from the will of God the future, good or bad, so that with this I may succeed to expiate my sins.

8 Dulambayan, (06) Sta. Cruz, Manila, 11 September 1878.

(01) P. Jacinto was the first pen name used by Rizal in his writings. His other pen names were Laong-Laan and Dimas Alang.

(02) Filipinos, Spaniards, and Chinese venerated the Virgin of Antipolo since Spanish colonial days. The month of May is the time of pilgrimage to her shrine. She is also called Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, the patron saint of travelers. One legend says her image saved from shipwreck the crew of a ship that bore her from Acapulco to Manila many years ago.

(03) The name of Diana, goddess of the moon and of hunting.

(04) Casco is a Philippine river craft, made of wood, used for passengers and freight. The catig is the vessel's outriggers made of bamboo canes.

(05) A well-known boarding school for girls, the Sisters of Charity administered La Concordia College. It was founded in 1868 by Margarita Roxas de Ayala, a wealthy Fili-

moment een bijgelovige angst van mij bezit nam toen ik een waterslang zag die zich rond de bamboe stokken van de drijver slingerde. Met welk een vreugde zag ik de zonsopgang, voor de eerste keer zag ik hoe de lichtgevende stralen schenen, een schitterende inspanning producerend op de gegolfde oppervlakte van het grote meer. Met welk een vreugde sprak ik met mijn vader want ik had nog geen enkel woord geslaakt tijdens de nacht. Daarna gingen we naar Antipolo. Ik ga stoppen om de zoetste emoties te verhalen die ik voelde bij elke stap op de oevers van Pasig (dat een paar jaar later de getuige van mijn verdriet zou worden), in Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, Manilla, Santa Ana, waar we mijn oudste zus (Saturnina) bezochten die op dat moment een internaatstudent bij La Concordia was. (05) Ik keerde terug naar mijn stad en ik verbleef er tot 1870, het eerste jaar dat gekenmerkt werd door mijn scheiding van mijn familie.

Dit is wat ik me herinner van die momenten dat een rol speelden in de voorhoede van mijn leven zoals het aanbreken van de dag. Ach, wanneer zal de nacht komen om me onderdak te geven zodat ik kan rusten in een diepe slaap? God weet het! In de tussentijd, nu ik, in de lente van het leven, gescheiden ben van de wezens van wie ik het meeste houd in de wereld, nu dit gezegd zijnde, schrijf ik deze pagina's... Laten wij de Voorzienigheid zijn taak laten doen en laat ons de tijd geven, volgens de wil van God de toekomst af te wachten, goed of slecht, zodat ik erin kan slagen om te boeten voor mijn zonden.

8 Dulambayan, (06) Sta. Cruz, Manilla, 11 september 1878.

(01) P. Jacinto was het eerste pseudoniem gebruikt door Rizal in zijn geschriften. Zijn andere schuilnamen waren Laong-Laan en Dimas Alang.

(02) Filipino's, Spanjaarden en Chinezen vereerden de Maagd van Antipolo sinds de Spaanse koloniale tijd. De maand mei is de tijd van de bedevaart naar haar heiligdom. Ze wordt ook wel "Onze Lieve Vrouw van Vrede en Goede Reis" genoemd, de patroonheilige van de reizigers. Een legende zegt dat haar beeld de bemanning van een schip gered heeft van een schipbreuk tijdens een tocht van Acapulco naar Manila vele jaren geleden.

(03) De naam van Diana, de godin van de maan en van de

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pino woman, who gave her country home called *La Concordia* in Sta Ana, Manila to the school and hence its popular designation. Its official name is *Colegio de la Immaculada Concepcion*.

(06) Rizal Avenue, named for the national hero, absorbed this old street. At that point its name was dropped.

jacht.

(04) Casco is een Filippijnse rivierboot, gemaakt van hout, gebruikt voor passagiers en vracht. De catig is de drijver of steunpoten van het schip, gemaakt van bamboe.

(05) Een bekende kostschool voor meisjes, de Zusters van Liefde bestuurden *La Concordia College*. Het werd opgericht in 1868 door Margarita Roxas de Ayala, een rijke Filippijnse vrouw die haar landhuis, genaamd *La Concordia* in Santa Ana, Manilla aan de school schonk en vandaar ook de populaire benaming. De officiële naam is *Colegio de la Concepcion Immaculada*.

(06) Rizal Avenue, genoemd naar de nationale held, absorbeerde deze oude straat. Op dat moment liet men de naam vallen.

CALENDAR

- - **March 27** – *Meeting Philippine Independence Day – Philippine Chaplaincy Brussels*
- - **April 14-16** – *Sir Emmanuel Franco Calairo, KCR (Past Chapter Commander KOR Magpuri Chapter – Dasmarinas – Dean College Liberal Arts – De La Salle University) ON VISIT IN BELGIUM*
- - **April 16** – 8 p.m. – *Geel – The Singing Ambassadors in Concert*
- - **April 24** – 5.30 p.m. – *Dinner for a cause & PhilBel language Quiz – Seamen's Club Antwerp*
- - **June 13** – *Philippine Independence Day – Brussels*
- - **June 19** – *Musical-Play Calamba Joe (Life Rizal) – Cultural Centre Scharpoord – Knokke*
- - **July** – *meeting Supreme Council & Supreme Commander Manila – Conferment ceremony to KGOR Sir Dominiek Segaert – dubbing KR and exaltation to KCR Ambassador Belgium His Excellency Christian Meerschman*
- - **Oct. 10** – *8th Anniversary Friendship for the Philippines – Knokke-Heist*
- - **Nov. 13** – *Dinner for a cause – Venue De Schuur – Kruibeke – Lecture The Blumentritt Correspondence by Sir Lucien Spittaet, KGOR*
- - **Dec. 30** – *Rizal Day*
- - **Jan. 29 – 11th** *Chartering Anniversary – Salons De Watermeulen - Kruibeke*
- - **April 30** – *Rizal Quiz – Barbecue – Venue De Schuur - Kruibeke*

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our next Newsletter will be published in April 2010.

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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