

MES DAMES, MESSIEURS, MES AMIS.

Pour la première fois tous réunis pour le dîner, au nom du Bureau de la Fondation de la Hannistique et de l'Héraldique, aussi au nom de ma femme et moi-même je voudrais bien vous saluer officiellement et vous souhaiter les bienvenus.

Nous espérons que vous seriez contents de notre organisation du congrès. Nous aurions tant à discuter, tant à visiter, tant à réjouir que certainement il nous manquera du temps pendant les cinq jours et quatre nuits.

A ce moment déjà, il nous faut vous donner deux avis nécessaires: Notre premier avis sera à jamais oublier l'horaire et à payer strictement attention aux temps indiqués pour le départ du bateau!

Le second avis sera à ne chercher à prendre part au programme entier: laissez notamment passer une fois quelques événements - ils en seront tant que vous auriez à choisir ce que vous intéresse spécialement. Vous n'auriez qu'un coup d'oeil de tout ce que notre pays vous offrirait un autre jour pendant des vacances.

Et n'oubliez pas: nous sommes en congrès, c'est-à-dire: il faut travailler!

Nous sommes heureux que nous avons réussi à trouver les moyens et pour travailler en congrès, et pour se réjouir un peu sans perte de temps d'un aller-et-retour pour les hôtels et restaurants.

AVANT de vous donc souhaiter un bon voyage, un bon congrès ET bon appétit

Here is the recipe for organizing a congress like this one!

1. Find a wife who begins to oppose and wants to play a waiting game.
2. Take a sheet of paper and type a rough outline.
3. Forget for one and a half year all other hobby-work but working on organisation.
4. Hold on to a very strict time and planning-schedule.
5. Buy lots of paper and envelopes.
6. Find the money for supplying to the poor financial contribute you'll get from future congressists.
7. Make a promoting schedule for almost one year.
8. Make a list of details to be looked after (in our case the list has mounted up to 2847 items!).
9. Send out your invitations to participate in such a congress and find out that you'll be favoured with 25 % more than you ever would have thought over.
10. And then ask for assistance, (not among flagfriends who are too busy with their hobby!) for financial aid, for material aid and so on.

And finally you'll find first of all your wife happy and willingly to assist, and after all a big company critically waiting for things that will come and weighing the worth of it in relation to the money they've paid for it!

Allocution par le bourgenestree de Zaanstad le 16 avril 1975 à la maison de ville

Dames en Heren,

Het doet mij bijzonder veel genoegen u hier bij de aanvang van het 6de wereld-congrès voor banistiek welkom te mogen heten namens het gemeentebestuur van Zaanstad. U allen, die aan dit buitengewone congres deelneemt, bent geïnteresseerd in banistiek en heraldiek. Het is dan ook niet gerade trots dat ik nu tegen u zeg, dat ik dankzij de samenvoeging van de seven Zaangemeenten tot Zaanstad iets meer op de hoogte ben gekomen van dese materie.

Zaanstad is a very young municipality. As a matter of fact this city is only 16 month old. It has been founded by a special law in parliament during the course of 1973 and the city as such started on 1 January 1974. We have had special elections in October 1973: in these elections of all the inhabitants of 7 former cities, which were going to establish the new city of Zaanstad, the new municipality board was elected. This board wanted to show everybody that it intended to work very effectively to what has to be done in the first place: it was really surprising, that already in the second meeting of that board it decided to have built a new municipal hall and it allowed to start the building of such hall one day later, on 15 January 1974. The first pile in the soil here underneath was brought in by the burgomaster, myself, and we made an agreement with the builder, that this hall would be ready within 12 months after that. We exactly succeeded: 15 January 1975 the builder handed over his building. Our municipal architect is responsible for the architectural outfit of it.

Owing to the costs it has been totally pre-fabricated, but it does not make the impression that this is a very cheap building: as a matter of fact it is ! We moved over into this hall in the course of February. We have about 300 men of administration working here, and among them the burgomaster, town clerk and 6 aldermen (full time). In a month from now, 14 May, the provincial governor of North-Holland will open officially this building, so formally from the 15th of May we have our new townhall.

Zoals ik al gezegd heb vind ik de onderwerpen van uw belangstelling bijzonder gespecialiseerd. En zoals altijd is het ook hier gebrek aan kennis dat ik aan die zaken voorbij moet gaan.

I'm very sorry we can't show you at this moment our new flag - parce que cette nouveau drapeau sera hissé par le commissaire de la reine au moment de l'ouverture pour la première fois et ce n'est que à ce moment qu'il sera permis pour tout le monde de voir notre nouveau drapeau. Nevertheless we are proud that the man who has had very much to do with the designing of this flag, Mr. Sierksma, is the organizer of your conference in our country and I think there is some connection with the fact that you are here now.

Even if I cannot show you the flag now I can tell you that it is very close related to the shipping. It is a flag which is related to such one which already was used by skippers sailing over the oceans in the 17th century. They were under the high protection of the lordship of Zaanen. WE are very grateful to Mr. Sierksma that he took the main and centuries design of that Zaanen-flag as a basic design for the new flag of our new city.

You have received the picture of the coat-of arms of Zaanstad. It has

two whales symbolizing the whale fishery about 2-300 years ago from this place where you are standing now and its surroundings. There was a very important whale fishery industry going out on the old Zuyderzee which was at that time still open to the oceans without that famous IJsselmeerdike of nowadays, and from there they went out and tried to land the whales. The whale fishery was the start of the oldest industry we have in Zaanstad and this industry has always been the most important means of subsistence for the people along the river Zaan.

You also know that we had about 6-800 windmills some 300 years ago in this area. We couldn't maintain altogether: a lot of people had a lot of fun during these 300 years because so many of these mills liked to be burnt down in one way or another. In our history we always meet burning mills.

It was a very good idea to have this congress excursion on board of a ship and I congratulate the organizers with the idea to do it in that way. In the name of the municipality of Zaanstad I hope that these days for the whole of your company, Mr. chairman, will be very nice and very successful. And I hope that you'll have a very good time in our country. I'd like to express my great admiration for everything which your federation does in promoting the banneristic art all over the world. From this situation I'd like to use the opportunity, Mr. Whitney Smith, to offer to you a small present: this very first specimen of the of the table gonfalon of Zaanstad. I hope that it will be a reminder of a successful congress in our country, starting from here and returning to our harbour Zaanstad.

Au nom des congressistes CA. Whitney Smith; secrétaire-général de la FIAV:

Mijnheer de burgemeester, volgens het protocol moet ik u bedanken in uw eigen taal. Ik scham mij, uw taal niet te beheersen. In ieder geval zijn deze woorden al naar, dan het voor gasten in uw land gebruikelijk is!

I'd like to say further in my own language that I'm sure the opportunity to be here in the Netherlands, to see this magnificent building, has been fore told in the whales in your coat-of-arms: we are only at the beginning of a whale of a good time!

Et enfin je crois que si peut-être le temps fait un peu froid votre bienvenue est chaleureux, et si en Hollande les pays sont bas nos esprits et nos standards sont très élevés. Dank u wel.

