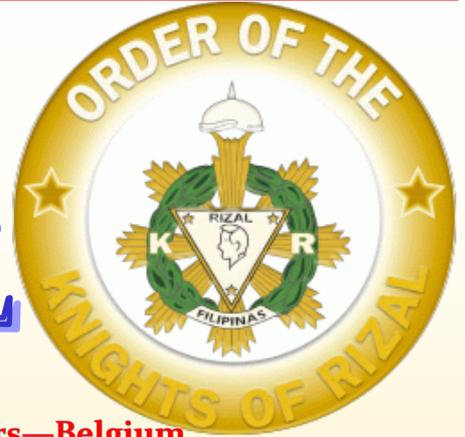


# Newsletter Knights of RIZAL



**Diamond Chapter Antwerp—Flanders—Belgium**

**Issue 32**

**Volume 5**

**September 2012**

*SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST*

- **Introduction**
- **Report PIC Bruges**
- **Rizal Travelling Museum**
- **Rizal Birthday Commemoration**
- **Trip to Heidelberg - Kristoff Mortier**
- **European appointments**
- **Announcements**
- **Calendar**
- **Board coordinates & members**



**Knights of Rizal - Diamond Chapter - Jan. 2012**

## **Introduction**

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

*Dear friends of our organization,*

*This year's summer is almost coming to an end. Hopefully each one of you has a lot of good memories of the past months and could enjoy a nice period, either in Belgium or elsewhere.*

*Before we start looking forward to the multiple festivities later this year and early 2013, now is a good moment to give an overview of the many Rizal related activities that took place last June.*

*On Sunday, June 10, the Philippine Independence Day was celebrated in Brussels. One week later, it was the turn of Bruges to receive an overwhelming number of Filipinos and sympathizers in the beautiful belfry.*

*In the meantime, on Saturday, June 16, The Rizal Traveling Museum, with replicas of Rizal's clothes, was officially opened in the Philippine Embassy in Brussels. During this occasion a trailer of a new Rizal documentary was shown. In the evening, a gala dinner in the Best Western County House rounded off this unforgettable day. The exhibition was to be admired further on Monday and Tuesday.*

*On June 19, inevitably for the knights, Rizal's birthday was commemorated, again in the Brus-*

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Statue of J. RIZAL in  
Puerto Princesa -  
Palawan**

(Continued from page 1)

sels Embassy. Together with the ambassador the many knights present had the privilege to watch, in premiere, the just finished final version of the documentary 'Jose - Rizal the first Hero'. This first run happened simultaneously in Manila and in Brussels. After the flower laying in the garden and some well appreciated Filipino food, people had a last chance to see the items of the Rizal Traveling Museum and/or talk to the designer, actor or director.

More detailed reports about these events can be found on the following pages. If someone of the knights had a nice journey in the Philippines or in one of the places where Rizal was active, please do not hesitate to let us know your experience so that you can share it with all our readers through this newsletter.

But let us not forget the several activities that lay in front of us, organized by our own chapter or by other befriended Filipino organizations. As already announced in our previous issue, Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 'Vriendschap voor de Filippijnen' of Sir Dominiek and Lady Leah will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a friendship BBQ in Knokke. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be the Oath taking ceremony for the newly nominated Region and Area Commanders and their respective Deputies. This is a European wide event that will give you a unique occasion to meet fellow brother knights from outside Belgium. I am sure you marked Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> on the calendar for our BBQ and Rizal Quiz in De Schuur, Kruibeke. Seen the success of the latest edition it is recommended to reserve timely!!!. A tombola will be held and who knows, it might be your lucky day. More news is to following in the coming weeks. For those who cannot be present at one or more of the previous festivities, on Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>, Cadaatan is organizing their 11<sup>th</sup> winter BBQ in Kortemark. Sir Guy Waterloos will be more than happy to welcome you there.

As a closing message of this introduction I am proud to announce the enforcement of our board by adding Sir Danny Vandenberg, KOR, as an additional member. Congrats Sir Danny.

Hope to see you all soon.

Sir Paul Verloo, KCR  
Chapter Commander 2011-2013  
Diamond Chapter – Antwerp - Belgium

NOM  
Board 2010-2012

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Sir Tony Guansing, KGOR, Regional Commander for Europe  
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Sir Ronny Felix, KCR, Archivist, Editor newsletter  
Sir Danny Vandenberg, KOR

## PIC Bruges 2012

# 114th Commemoration of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence

Organized by the **Council of Filipino Associations in Flanders - Kultura Maharlika** with the cooperation of the **Philippine Embassy & its Consulates** and **Philippine Community in Belgium and Luxembourg**.

This year the venue was the classified medieval building of the Belfry right in the middle of the historical centre of Bruges.

As usual the several cultural acts on the program filled up the whole day, starting with a Eucharistic mass in the morning, after lunch followed by a parade, in which also some knights of the Diamond Chapter participated besides groups showing typical Filipino Costumes. Other knights and their families were actively involved in the organization itself. Singing and dancing act as well as a variety show completed the afternoon after Ambassador Victoria S. Bataclan read the message from the President Benigno Aquino



III.

Also John Ablaza and Giovanni Vicente together with their host Sir Lucien Spittaël paid a visit.

Several food stands and colorful booths from divers Filipino organizations together with the performances on the stage could provide the huge number of visitors coming from all over Belgium and Luxembourg enough to make it a most enjoy-

able day.

Congratulations Minabelle Siason and the whole team.

People who regret missing the event this time for whatever reason, can follow our newsletter announcements next year in order to be able to be part of the 115<sup>th</sup> Philippine Independence Celebration in Bruges.



Sir Paul Verloo.

# Rizal Travelling Museum

## Documentary: 'Rizal - The First Hero

*Philippine Embassy Brussels*

**16 – 19 June 2012**

On Saturday 16 June a unique exhibition was officially opened in the Philippine Embassy in Brussels by the H.E. Ambassador Victoria S. Bataclan, assisted by Sir Dominiek Segaert, outgoing Area Commander for Belgium, and Sir Tony Guansing, outgoing Regional Commander for Europe. For the first time in Europe, Mr. John Ablaza – designer – was showing some of Rizal's clothes replica, like his overcoat, used in a new Rizal documentary. Even a small part of an original garment was on display.

Many knights turned up, not only to see the artifacts, but also to hear the story behind the documentary by the producer Mr. Jourdan Sebastian and the actor who played Dr. Jose Rizal, Mr. Giovanni Vicente. A sneak preview of the film was shown, but this was only growing our curiosity to see the full version which was to be seen a few days later, at the occasion of Rizal's birthday celebrations, on June 19.



**Ribbon-cutting ceremony with H.E. Ambassador Victoria S. Bataclan**



**Sir Dominiek Segaert, Mr Jourdan Sebastian (producer) and Mr Giovanni Vicente (actor)**

We can only welcome these initiatives of these young Filipinos because it proves that the national hero is not forgotten but still admired intensively. For every screening that is bought, there will be 4 public schools in the Philippines where

the 45 minutes during documentary film will be shown for free. In this way the story of this remarkable man can be spread not only by narration but also in an appealing visual way, not only to children but to everyone interested. Almost all aspects in his life are touched in a comprehensive way so that the movie is an excellent starting point to learn more details about his many talents.

No successful day is complete without a good meal. Therefore we moved to the Best Western County House Hotel for a delicious gala buffet together with our 4 honorable guests. Indeed also Ms. Frances Espinosa (Maestro Filipino) was there to

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)



promote the Traveling Museum in combination of the projection of the documentary.

As a nice souvenir and in further support of their efforts, black T-shirts with 'Jose Rizal The First Hero' printing were sold in

different sizes so that everybody could find the right fit. The complete stock went out the door in no time.



After a few of our ladies were showing some of Mr. Ablaza's gowns in real



catwalk style, some of us could not resist wearing the t-shirt for the traditional group picture of the knights.

Anxiously waiting to see the final cut of the film, we went home, tired but satisfied after a long afternoon and evening.

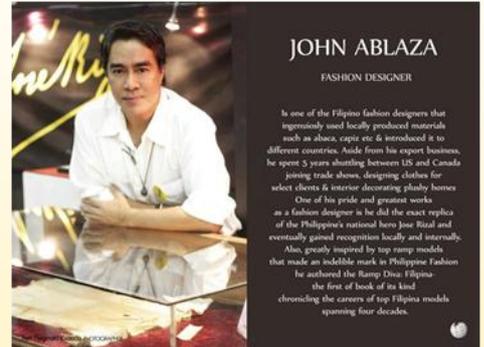
Sir Paul Verloo

# Rizal's birthday commemoration

19 June 2012 - Philippine Embassy Brussels

On Tuesday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 or 151 years after the birth of the Philippine National Hero, his lofty ideas are still actual and appealing to the younger Filipino generation. As this is one of the main objectives of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, we were very delighted to have the privilege of viewing the latest documentary film in world premiere, together with H.E. Victoria S. Bataclan, Philippine Ambassador, the producer, Jourdan Sebastian and the main actor, Giovanni Vicente. The final edition just arrived by courier one day before. Also present was John Ablaza, a famous fashion designer, who made exact replicas of Rizal's clothes which were used in the movie. Several of these garments were on exhibition since the opening on the Saturday before and could be admired till that evening. (See separate article)

After the viewing, the ambassador was so much impressed that she proposed to have another projection for an assembly of European assigned Philippine ambassadors who were planned to meet in Brussels a few days later, in order to promote this worthwhile initiative. And with success, more viewings will follow in several other European countries. Many many thanks to the Belgian Area Council, chaired by Sir Dominiek for realizing this unique event, to the ambassador and the embassy personnel for the use of their venue, their logistical help, their practical input and personal support but also to the host families, Sir Lucien Spittaël and Sir Danny Vandenbogaerde, and all others who made this all possible. Without their well-appreciated collaboration none of this would have been possible.



But before that anxiously awaited documentary was shown, the different Belgian Knights of Rizal chapters, Aalst, Brussels, Charleroi and the Kababaihang Rizalistas honored Rizal each in their own way. The ladies of the Diamond chapter enacted and sang the Maria Clara song, dressed in Filipino fashion.



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)



*Because of the nice weather, the obligatory flower layer could take place at the Rizal statue in the garden of the Embassy.*

*And that was not all happening that day.*

*Mrs. Bataclan also officially opened the Rizal Library at the first floor, by cutting the tricolor ribbon*



*The day ended as usual by socializing with the other guests while enjoying delicious food prepared by the Rizalistas. Once more it is proven that the ideals of Rizal are still very much alive and its values are worthwhile to be spread around and tough to the upcoming generations*

*worldwide.*

*No better way to show that it was a satisfying day than to look to the happy faces of our 4 honored guests.*

*Sir Paul Verloo*



# In Rizal's footsteps in Heidelberg and Wilhelmsfeld.

Sir Kristoff Mortier

**One of our Kights, Sir Kristoff Mortier, KOR, went on vacation to Germany last August. He visited some places where José Rizal stayed. This is his report about his trip.**

The last weekend of July we had a great time together with Sir Danny and his family at Madeline's and Sir Lucien's place. It was really a great afternoon. Even I already read some books and did quite some research on the World Wide Web where I found some great info on the website from the Chapter in Heidelberg-Wilhelmsfeld – they have a flyer posted on their website of the places to visit – besides all that Sir Lucien provided me with some extra info and addresses.

Rizal arrived in Heidelberg on February 3, 1886, from April on he moved to Wilhelmsfeld where he stayed with the family of Pastor Karl Ulmer. At the end of June he returned to Heidelberg. Begin August he left Heidelberg for Leipzig and Berlin.

So with all this information we left Gent for Heidelberg. It took us about five-hour to do the 515 km. The first day starts a little foggy but after breakfast the sun breaks thru and we're ready to step into Rizal's footsteps in Heidelberg. Since our hotel is closer to Wilhelmsfeld then to Heidelberg we decide to visit the village of Wilhelmsfeld first. Driving thru the city we suddenly see a signpost marked "Rizal-Park" pointing to the left. It's quite amazing to be here. Nowadays we travel around the world without thinking too much about it, I mean it's so normal to get on a plane and fly to the Philippines and back. But in the 19<sup>th</sup> century ...



The statue of Rizal in the centre, surrounded by the people who left an impression on him, his friends on the left hand side, Pastor Karl Ulmer and Prof. Ferdinand Blumentritt. On the right hand side the professors he worked for,

Prof. Becker (Heidelberg) and Prof. Virchow (Berlin).

Prof. Caedo in Manila made the statue of dr. Jose Rizal in 1978. The eight elements surrounding the statue symbolize the 7107 islands of the Philippines.

After spending quite some time here and taking loads of pictures we went to look for the house of Pastor Ulmer.

Rizal met Pastor Ulmer during his walks on the famous Philosophenweg in Heidelberg. The Pastor invited dr. Rizal to stay with him and his family here in Wilhelmsfeld. Dr. Rizal accepted the offer of the professor because it was cheaper than staying in a boarding house in Heidelberg and it would give him the opportunity to practice his German.

Even it's a twelve kilometer hike thru the forest dr. Rizal continued attending his classes at the University of Heidelberg during his stay in Wilhelmsfeld.



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

A marker in front of the house gives the visitor some info about our hero of the Philippines. But you know what ... the street is called the José-Rizal-straße. During his stay he also wrote the last chapters of the "Noli me Tangere" which he would publish in Berlin later on.



From Wilhelmsfeld we drive towards Heidelberg. Heidelberg is a rather big city but we're only interested in what is called "Heidelberg Altstadt" or the historical center of the city, situated next to the Neckar River. The Neckar River and the beautiful flowers on the rivers banks inspired Rizal to write the poem "A las flores de Heidelberg" or "To the flowers of Heidelberg" (April 22, 1886).



16, Karlstraße



12, Grabengasse



12, Grabengasse

The first place where Dr. Rizal stayed the first few weeks of his stay in Heidelberg is located in the 16, Karlstraße. Apparently the marker has disappeared years ago according to my source ... now the house serves for the "Theologisches Seminar". From here he moved to the Universitäts Platz because it was closer to the University. It took us some time to reach the second location, not because of the distance, it's on walking distance but we have to get thru the Hauptstraße. This is the main street

of "Heidelberg Altstadt", you can also say it's the street with all stores ... and of course also shoe stores ... And ladies and shoes ... The Universitäts Platz and the 12, Grabengasse is easy to find, now it's a bookstore from "Lehmann". The marker is placed on the first floor of the store. The boarding house is located just in front of the University and of the entrance of the old "Aula" of the University. The University of Heidelberg is one of the oldest universities in Europe, at the time Dr. Rizal was there; the university celebrated its fifth centennial. The "Aula" is still as Rizal saw it and it absolutely worth visiting. With a combi-ticket we visited besides the old "Aula" also the student prison or Studentenkärzer. The "Aula" is still the way Dr. Rizal saw it. Together with visiting the Aula we visited also the Studentenkärzer. This is kind of a prison for the students that were arrested for smaller crimes. Sometimes the students celebrated too much and made too much noise in the streets or were a bit too wild and they had to spend a few days in the Studentenkärzer. But if you read the markings they left on the walls they really didn't seem to mind spending some time there. One wrote that he had a really great time and will come back for sure! They simply continued partying once they were inside. At that time only the boys had the right to higher



studies. Women were not yet allowed to follow classes at the university. One drawing on the wall got our attention ... see for yourself ...



Dr. Rizal did not only study while he stayed in Heidelberg but he also worked there as an ophthalmologist in the "Augenklinik" of Prof. Dr. Otto Becker. Professor Dr. Otto Becker was the Director of the University Eye Clinic. The clinic is to be found at the 20, Berghheimerstrasse.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)



The favorite spot of Rizal was the Philosophenweg, the place where he met Pastor Ulmer who invited him to stay with him and his family. It's definitely also my favorite spot in Heidelberg. It overlooks "das Alt Stadt" and the view is breath taking.

One of the buildings that dominate the view of Heidelberg is undoubtedly "das Schloß" or the castle. The castle was already owned by the city since the owners left it somewhere beginning the 19<sup>th</sup> century. But inside the castle the biggest wine barrel can be found. It's really huge, very huge. You can walk around it and even go stand on top of it. You feel very small when you stand in front of it. Dr. Rizal talks about this barrel in his writings to prof. Blumentritt. Talking about prof. Blumentritt: Dr. Rizal and prof. Blumentritt didn't know each other yet at the time he was staying in Heidelberg.



It was Pastor Ulmer who introduced him to prof. Blumentritt. Rizal wrote his first letter to the Professor from the 11, Obere Neckarstrasse in Heidelberg. He sent him a book on Arithmetic and Blumentritt replied and send him two books in return.

In the 235, Hauptstraße we also planned to visit the Völkerkundemuseum, there should be some Philippine artifacts, books, etc. present but apparently the museum was closed until September 16. Summer vacation ... I don't really get it but so we have a reason to come back right ...

We didn't really visit the places where dr. Rizal went, stayed and worked in the chronological order. Heidelberg has so much to offer that I'm sure we will pay it another visit in the near future. And I would like also to thank Sir Lucien Spittaels for all the information he provided in addition to what I already had.

NON OMNIS MORIAR

Sir Kristoff Mortier, KOR

# European Appointments

THE RIZALIAN YEAR 2012-2014

Brother knights,

Below are the appointed officers for

## Europe region:

**Regional commander**                      *SIR RODOLFO NOLLAS*

**Deputy Regional Commander**      *SIR ANGEL PALOMAR*

## Area Commander for:

**Czech Republic**                              *SIR NOUBIKKO ULANDAY*

**Germany**                                        *SIR CELSO LACUNA*

**Spain**    *SIR FEDERICO S. AGUILAR*

**United Kingdom and Ireland**            *SIR ALFONSO TAGUIANG*

*Deputy for UK and Ireland*      *SIR CHARLES GABIOLA*

**Belgium**                                        *SIR ALBERT AREVALO*

*Deputy for Belgium*                *SIR PAUL VERLOO*

**France**    *SIR JUN OABEL*

*Deputy for France*                      *SIR MARVIN SANTIAGO*

*Congratulations to all of you my brother knights. Hope to see you in the future.*

*Fraternally Yours,*

*SIR ARNOLD L. MONTERO*

*Administrative Officer*

*The Turn-Over and Oath taking Ceremonies will take place at the Best Western County House Hotel, Heldensquare 2-4, Square des Heros, 1180 Brussels (Ukkel) on October 13 at 18:00. Everybody is cordially invited to take part in these ceremonies and to join for the diner afterwards.*



*Reservation and payment upfront is necessary however. Please confirm your participation to Sir Tony Guansing, outgoing Regional Commander for Europe, no later than 6th of October. For the diner a contribution of 50,00 Euro is asked, to be transferred to account no.*

*IBAN BE56 7010 1292 6988, BIC CODE AXABBE22 of Knights of Rizal.*

*With reference REC Turn-Over and Oath Taking in Brussels.*

*Your attendance will only be confirmed upon receipt of your payment.*

*Do not miss this unique occasion to meet brother knights from the other European chapters and to fraternize with them. For some it will be a nice change to get acquainted with knights from other European countries, for others it might be a welcome opportunity to meet them again.*

*Fraternal greetings,*

*Sir Paul Verloo*

# KORTEMARK

OC 'DE KOUTER'  
Ichtegemstraat 2A

Zondag 4 november  
Sunday November 4 2012

Deuren open 11 u 30  
Entrance from 11.30 am



11de

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**CIRCO DAPARRO**



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## CALENDAR

- ◆ *September 23rd: 10 Years Friendship for the Philippines*
  - ◆ *Oath taking ceremony for newly appointed Region and Area Commander*
  - ◆ *October 27th: Activity in “De Schuur” - Kruibeke*
  - ◆ *December 30th: Rizal Day*
  - ◆ *January 26th 2013: 13th Chartering Anniversary Diamond Chapter—De Watermeulen—Kruibeke*
- 

## NEXT NEWSLETTER

*Our next Newsletter will be published in November or December 2012.*

*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!*

*Please send suggestions, articles (also from the OTHER BELGIAN CHAPTERS) to the Chapter Commander.*

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## THE BOARD OF DIAMOND CHAPTER

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## THE MEMBERS

### MEMBERS (UPDATE SINCE Jan. 2011)

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Sir Frank VAN OVERLOOP, KOR

Sir Marc WOUTERS, KR

Sir Gert MEEUWSEN, KOR

Sir Hugo SPEELMANS, KOR

Sir Rudy LUYCKX, KOR

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Sir Daniël ARKESTEYN, KR

Sir Manuel DUCHESNE, KR

Sir Thomas ROMAN (Hon. Member)

Sir Fr. BAGO, KR (Hon. Member)

Sir H.E. Christian MEERSCHMAN, KCR (Ambassador of the Kingdom of  
Belgium in Manila – Philippines – July 3, 2010)

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