



Bulletin of the International Association *of Lyceum Clubs*

www.lyceumclub.org

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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

While writing this editorial the year 2012 is already two months old. I hope and wish that you all made a good start in the New Year.

International Bulletin celebrates its 20th Anniversary

As you notice this Bulletin is the 40th Newsletter. This means that exactly 20 years ago in 1992 the first Bulletin was published. A very memorable moment! Congratulations and a huge thank you to the (co-)editors and all the members who are helping to make each International Bulletin very attractive and tempting to read!

BCI meeting 2012 in Lausanne

The International Board is busy preparing the BCI meeting, which will be held from 3-5 June in Lausanne, just before the beginning of the Cultural Meeting. In July, my last year as International President will begin. At the International Council Meeting held during the triennial International Congress in Perth in May 2013, elections will be held for the positions of International President and the Vice-Presidents of the Northern and the Southern Hemispheres. The BCI members (=Federation Presidents of the 17 Lyceum countries) will be informed this June about the procedures for these elections.

Cultural Meeting 2012 Lausanne, Bern and Geneva from 5-8 June

The Lyceum Club of Switzerland will be hosting the Cultural Meeting 2012 from 5-8 June. The very interesting program organized by the Lyceum Clubs of Bern, Geneva and Lausanne, all celebrating their centenary, has already attracted more than 125 members from abroad to participate in the event, and promises to be a very interesting visit. In addition, many Swiss members will participate in this special event.

Centenaries/Anniversaries

This year the Lyceum Clubs of Melbourne, Lausanne, Bern and Geneva will celebrate their centenary. The Lyceum Club of Biel / Bienne will celebrate its 80th anniversary. The celebration in Melbourne coincides with the triennial Conference organized by the Australian Association of Lyceum Clubs from 14–17 May. Last November the Turku Lyceum Club celebrated its 40th anniversary, while the International Lyceum Club of Bretagne had its 30th anniversary in October. The Philadelphia Club (USA) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in August 2012. We congratulate the Clubs with these impressive milestones!

International Website

You all will have been informed by your Federation President about our development of a new website with easier access and multiple functions. This is our response to the future, to the changing communication between members and people in general. By the time you read this, the new website will be launched. This is only the beginning of the constantly changing ways by which we can reach and inform our members, especially the younger ones—not to mention our potential members! Please take a look at the new website and let us know what you think of it, and when you have suggestions for even better access and information to the members we will be happy to learn about it.

It is wonderful to know that more and more Club websites are being inaugurated. In Germany all the Clubs have their own website now. In the meantime the International Lyceum Club of Groningen is on-line as well. The Philadelphia Club has hired a designer to construct a web-site platform with easy access and update capabilities; the target launch date is March 15, 2012.

Twinning

For the first time, Lyceum Clubs of the Southern Hemisphere have twinned. The Lyceum Club of Tauranga, New Zealand, and the Club of Brisbane, Australia, announced their twinning. The complete list of the Clubs which have ties with other Clubs you can find on the international website of the IALC.

Lyceum Logo and Badge

In the past there have been some misunderstandings about who designed the Lyceum logo. The history of the Helsinki Lyceum Club was completed by the Club and thorough searches were also made in the IALC Archives in Zurich, resulting in the position being made clear. Mrs Ellinor Ivalo, a former member of the Helsinki Lyceum Club, is the designer of our beautiful and unique logo and badge.

Read this and more in this issue of the International Bulletin, where you will also find the first information about the next triennial International Congress in May 2013 in Perth, West Australia, and the contributions of the different Clubs! As always it is well worth reading!

Eltje Brill-Meijer
IALC President

INTERNATIONAL CONGRES PERTH

IALC Triennial Congress in Perth, 4 -14 Mai 2013

The Unique Australia theme of the IALC Congress epitomizes the experience those who attend the Congress in Perth may expect to have in Australia and New Zealand. The rugged beauty and fascinating histories that pre-date European settlement of little more than 200 years ago, combine with modern cities to ensure a trip to the lands down under will be memorable.

Congress plans are progressing well. Perth is a wonderful city on the Swan River with a wide range of accommodation to suit every budget. The excellent public transport system means that in their free time participants are able to use local buses, trains and ferries to visit city sites (free transport zone) as well as Fremantle and the beaches which are less than 30 minutes from the city centre. Participants will also have the pleasure of attending a dinner at the home of a Perth Lyceum member.

Australia is such a big country when one realizes that the whole of Europe would fit inside the Australian coastline. Other Australian and New Zealand Lyceum Clubs want to make the Congress in Perth extra special. A number of members have offered to host overseas Lyceum members and their accompanying persons in their homes for several days either before or after the Congress to allow visitors to experience Australian hospitality. Also Lyceum Clubs are providing a list of suggested activities in their area.

There are special types of airfares that could provide cost savings. An “open jaw” fare means arriving in one city and flying out of another for the same return airfare. For example Congress participants may travel directly to the Congress in Perth and visit other parts of Australia and New Zealand afterwards or arrive in April or earlier in the east and finish with the Congress in Perth in the west. One of the low cost airlines provides very special fares including 23 kilogram luggage allowance if booked from overseas. These fares mean that the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru, rainforests and all major cities are more readily accessible.

More details will be available to Federation Presidents at the BCI meeting in Lausanne and posted on the IALC website. We look forward to welcoming you to the Southern Hemisphere in 2013.

Shirley King

IALC Vice President (Southern Hemisphere)

LYCEUM LOGO HISTORY



Mrs Ellinor Ivalo

The history of the Lyceum badge and its logo is related in its entirety in the book on the history of the International Lyceum Club of Helsinki (2010, ISBN 978-952-92-8214-2). The publication, in Finnish and Swedish, is written by the recent Secretary of the Club, Mrs. Aulikki Sauramo.

On 24 May 1932, only three weeks after the founding of the Helsinki Club, Board member Mrs. Ellinor Ivalo accepted the commission to design the badge. However, more urgent matters delayed the planning. Only in the spring of 1942 did Mrs. Ivalo present the first sketches for a club badge, followed by a few sketches in March 1943. New suggestions

were again presented in the autumn of 1943. The Board selection of a jury was then followed by a long silence for a decade or so concerning the badge project. In early 1952, the board took up the question of the club badge again, and the decision was made to have a competition for a badge design. An announcement was posted on the notice board of the club premises, inviting members to design a badge for the Club. The posting included the following conditions:

The badge should be fastened as a brooch; the design should be suitable for a stamp; the material should be gold, silver, tombak (brass) and, in addition, enamel. The stamp should be made of a different material.

The competition designs should be signed with a pseudonym and the designer's name provided in a closed envelope.

Mrs. Ellinor Ivalo had been entrusted with outlining the invitation to the competition. She was assisted by Mr. J. Hurme, Rector of the School for Goldsmiths at the Central School for Arts and Crafts. The aim was that he would also function later as an expert.

There is no documentation as to whether the competition actually ever took place.

Quite unexpectedly, as Mrs. Aulikki Sauramo writes in her book, a proposal by the Lyceum Clubs of Athens and Rome to choose a badge is mentioned in the minutes of the 13th International Congress of the IALC in Bern (27 May–1 June, 1956). The International President at that time expressed the regret of the members that there was no common shared international badge, saying that the Clubs had been asked for suggestions. During the meeting the designs received were circulated amongst the delegates, who were asked to give their opinion. The Finnish design was chosen. It was made by Mrs. Ellinor Ivalo, a member of the ILC Helsinki, and was drawn as a letter L within two circles of gold.



The Bureau Central International (BCI) minutes of 8 September 1957 tell us that Mrs. Ellinor Ivalo created the design of the badge for free and suggested making it in silver, with the capital letter L in gold. However, the general wish was for a gold-plated badge. At that time there were proposals from manufacturers in Florence, Italy and Le Locle, Switzerland; the Florence manufacturer was chosen. The price of the badge at that time was around 3 Swiss Francs. The BCI minutes of 2 September 1958 reveal that 5000 badges were ordered and 3000 were already sold. In February 1958, the Bulletin of the Swiss Lyceum Clubs was decorated with the new Logo for the first time.

There are two kinds of badges: silver and gold. New members receive the silver badge with the Lyceum L in gold on blue enamel within two circles of silver. To celebrate 25 years of membership the gold badge with two circles of gold is awarded.

In the past, there have been differing opinions about who designed the Lyceum badge/logo. After the publication of the history of the Helsinki Lyceum Club in 2010, and after a thorough search in the archives of the IALC in Zurich which revealed the original sketches of Mrs. Ellinor Ivalo, the matter was finalized. From now on the name of Mrs. Ellinor Ivalo will always be linked to the design of the beautiful and unique badge and logo of our international organization!

Cristina Oprecht-Mosca
International Archivist

Eltje Brill-Meijer
International President

MUSIC COMPETITION IN LAUSANNE

38th International Music Competition

Chamber music Ensembles • from duo to quintet

Lausanne / Switzerland October 24-28 2012

Information : www.concours.lyceumclub.ch
concours.lyceum@bluewin.ch

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

AUSTRALIA

A Conference, a Centenary and a Congress.

The AALC is expecting a busy time between now and May 2013. We will be hosting the AALC Conference in Melbourne in May 2012, and will have involvement in the IALC Congress in Perth in May 2013. We will welcome Lyceum Club Members from all other Clubs to either or both events.

We are delighted that the IALC President, Eltje Brill-Meijer, will be attending the Australian Conference in Melbourne this year, and plans are far advanced for the period May 14 -17. The theme is “Multicultural Melbourne” and this has been extended to embrace Melbourne’s role as a centre of culture, with speakers on Art and Food, Fashion and History, and a panel discussion on Multiculturalism. The Conference will commence with a Cocktail party in the Melbourne Lyceum Club on the first evening. This will be followed by two days of talks and meetings to take place at the historic Melbourne Town Hall. In the evening there will be home hospitality for all interstate and overseas visitors on Tuesday May 15, and a Gala Dinner on Wednesday May 16. We have an all day excursion out of Melbourne to visit two historic towns and a Gallery Exhibition on Thursday May 17. Members from Lyceum Clubs in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, the Karrakatta Club in Perth and from some New Zealand Clubs have already registered to attend.

At the same time the Lyceum Club in Melbourne is celebrating its Centenary, and numerous activities are planned during the year commencing with the launch at Government House in March of the Centenary History. Other events include Concerts, Dinners, Lunches, debates, speakers and a Cabaret. The Centenary celebrations conclude with a Gala Cocktail Party in November.

In 2013 in Perth, Western Australia, the IALC Congress will take place between May 4 and May 14. The theme is “Uniquely Australian - Ancient Land – Contemporary Cultures”. There is to be a pre-Congress Tour to an historic town north of Perth, which was the site of the first European settlement in Western Australia. The Congress and Meetings will take place in central Perth, the capital city of Western Australia. This will involve speakers and workshops, a Welcome Party, home hospitality and a Gala Dinner. Western Australia is famous for its beaches and red desert, and its vast open spaces, and is truly a memorable place to visit. We are hoping that Lyceum Members from all over the world will visit Australia at this time.

CYPRUS

September: Back to work with the Board meeting and the customary priest's blessings for a successful outcome of the Lyceum activities.

November: A photo exhibition entitled "Join us for a Tour to our Home Town Famagusta" was organized. It was a great success with many visitors from all over Cyprus!

December: Our President Claire Angelides and Board member Soula Hadjikoumi were honored on Volunteer's Day for their services.

A group of our members visited St Barnabas school for children with special needs, offering sweets, toys and a cheque.

January: New Year's celebrations with the Lyceum members and friends. We shared the traditional Lucky Coin cake for good luck!

The program included a speech on St Basil the Great, followed by a musical afternoon and a lottery. On January 31st, Greek Letters Day, and 82nd anniversary of our Lyceum we honored Nicos Orphanides, a prose writer, a poet and a publisher of magazines of literature.

February: A very sad day for our lyceum, our Vice President Julia Toumazis, the kind caring lady and painter, passed away aged 93. She had been a member of the lyceum for sixty years, and had supervised the painting lessons every Saturday afternoon for ten years. The President and Board members attended the last farewell. She will be fondly remembered.

We held our 9th annual general meeting and election process.

February 12th: Memorial service for the lyceum Benefactors, Presidents and Board members.

FINLAND

ILC Turku has cherished traditions this season. Our national epic Kalevala has inspired artists throughout the years. We listened to Kalevala poetry and got acquainted with the creation of Kalevala jewelry.

Prepared according to archeological findings, Kalevala jewelry has been the most popular choice among Finnish women – and men – for 75 years. Men have in fact worn jewelry longer than trousers. Jewelry tells the story of our people's long history. Of people who for some inexplicable reason decided to stay here in the cold and dark. Maybe they arrived in springtime, when the sun did not set at all or just momentarily hid itself behind the horizon. It was easy to stay then, and when autumn eventually arrived, people did not realize to leave in time and it was hard to find a proper path among the snow banks. Fur animals were plenty, which solved any dressing problems. Jewelry did not keep anyone warm in the freezing cold, though.

We celebrated some younger history, when our club had its 40th birthday in November, 2011. Our celebration was attended, in addition to our own members, by international president Eltje Brill-Meyer, our friends from ILC Cologne and guests from ILC Helsinki. Especially wonderful was the fact that in attendance were many founding members despite their high age. The evening was trilingual with guests speaking Finnish, Swedish and German. If someone did not have the courage to rely on one's skills in foreign languages, a couple of glasses of wine were a big help.

FRANCE

Created by Mrs. Jeannette Le Lous, the International Lyceum Club of Burgundy was “baptized” on 6th November 1979, attended by Mrs. René Giscard d’Estaing, International President, becoming the fifth club of the French Federation of International Lyceum Clubs founded in 1963.

Impregnated with the very warm personality of the Founding President, Constance Smedley, members of the Burgundy Club strengthened the concepts of friendship, mutual trust and support, and inter-club meetings both national and international. In 1982 the Burgundy Club twinned with the Geneva Club in Switzerland and this liaison will celebrate its 30th anniversary in Geneva this autumn.

A few important dates are remembered in our club:

1985: the BCI meeting was held in Dijon

1994: the first European Cultural days were held in Beaune along with the Baroque Music Festival

2007: we were pleased to host our friends attending the International Congress in Lyon

2009: we celebrated our 30th anniversary

The arts, literature, philosophy, economics, industry, crafts, science, religion, travel inspired most of our lectures, tours and dinner debates, and in Paris and elsewhere major exhibitions and museums. In February 2011, with a lyrical concert organized in partnership with the International Rotary Club, we helped to fund the studies of a young musical talent and continue to follow her progress.

Just like our club, the “Gold Coast” is a land of contrasts and is distinguished by its diversity of flavours, colours, and especially its emblematic vineyards which ensure that Burgundy is indeed a land blessed by the gods. Its many vineyards, the renown of its wines and the notion of “clos” inherited from the Middle Ages, explain the diversity of the nectar.

If Dijon was awarded the label of City of Art and History in 2008, thus having its cultural heritage and its 100 hectares of protected areas (gardens, mansions, squares) recognized, it is enrolled today in a process of nomination for “Wine Region of Burgundy” as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. If “conviviality” and “lifestyle” are inseparable from the notion of Burgundy, “friendship” and “sharing” belong to the Burgundy Club where you will always be warmly received with delicacies and enthusiasm, for its 118 members are already mobilized to welcome the 50th General Assembly of the French Federation from 8th to 10th October 2013.

GERMANY

The German Federation of International Lyceum Clubs comprises clubs in nine different German cities. One of them is the LC in Constance, founded in 1949 by Ms Elsa Behrend. Ms Behrend had been president of the Dresden club up until 1937, when the Lyceum Clubs were declared illegal. After the end of WW II and her flight to the town of Constance, she could not forget the ideas that Constance Smedley had implemented many years before. This was the beginning of a new club in her new home town, Constance.

At the beginning of 2011 we said farewell to Ms Renate Kromer in a festive ceremony. She had been president of the Constance club for many years as well as president of the German federation from 2002 to 2005. Ms Ingrid Heinl was elected her successor after becoming a member

the club in 2009. Before that she had been active for many years in local politics. Thus she can look back on a rich experience in matters of local administration. Ms Rosemarie Rolitz is at her side as vice president, a member of long standing with a wealth of experience in this function.

The programme year 2011 was a rich one for the Constance club. One of the highlights was a visit to the Picasso exhibition in the Zurich Art House. Other items included interesting and well-frequented afternoon conferences. In September 2011, a party of twenty members went on a visit to their partner club in Hamburg. The members of the two clubs went on a two-hour boat trip on the Alster, the big lake within the city of Hamburg, in wonderful weather. The guests had another interesting afternoon visiting the International Maritime Museum in the new harbour city on the River Elbe and an evening at the Opera (George Bizet's Carmen). Intensive talks permitted the exchange of experiences concerning the activities of their relative clubs, which also served to further existing friendships. The next meeting of the two clubs will take place in Constance. In May 2012 the LC of Lucerne, Switzerland, will visit our club.

NETHERLANDS

At the station on June 21st, 2011, board members of Lyceum Club Nijmegen were waiting for eleven members of twinning club Frankfort. How would the welcome be? As soon as the train showed up it was all waves, hugs and smiles!

Up they went together to the nearby hotel 'Mercure', where the guests would stay.

Next morning was a festive encounter with Lyceum Club Nijmegen members which had gathered enthusiastically at 'De Rozenhof' to see their guest a warm welcome. Also the President of the IALC had entered an appearance. Warm words of welcome, what joy.

In the afternoon all went by bus to the 'Netherlands Open Air Museum' near Arnhem: a 44 hectares park including antique houses, farms and factories from different parts of the Netherlands, clothing and jewellery of all historical periods. A beautiful dinner at 'De Rozenhof' concluded this day.

Next day the guests were picked up by the little 'Sun Train' (it runs by sun energy, unique in The Netherlands) to be taken to the 'Valkhof Museum'. Luncheon was offered at cultural centre 'De Lindenberg' with a beautiful view at the Waal river. The Federal President honoured this occasion by her presence and stayed the rest of the day and evening. After luncheon during a city walk the party visited the historical Town Hall. Afterwards a visit was brought to city brewery 'De Hemel' where tea was served and liquor distillation was demonstrated. All returned happily by 'Sun Train' to the hotel

In the evening because of the rain this unique train was used again to be taken to the Concert Hall 'De Vereeniging' where a delicious fare well dinner had been organised accompanied by beautiful words, hugs and even tears. All in all a successful Twinning event!

NEW ZEALAND

Morrinsville Lyceum Club is the youngest of the ten clubs in New Zealand and would be made up of the youngest members in the Federation. The following is their report presented at our last half-yearly Federation meeting:

'This has been a productive year for our Club. Membership stands at approximately 200 and we seem to be attracting three odd new member most months.

Morrinsville has a new Art Gallery and both our Choir and Painting circles have been involved there with their August Arts Festival. This is in addition to our annual Painting Exhibition held in our rooms in October each year.

All of our circles continue to be well attended with the exception of Bridge which struggles some nights and it is the only circle that allows men (usually husbands) to make up table numbers. Our rooms are very popular with different groups wishing to hire them though we are careful about what the people are needing the rooms for.

Our President, Carole Greenville's Term of office finishes in October and Sharyn Fabish will take over the Presidency. Sharyn will be the youngest President we have had for a long time and we are looking forward to her leadership. It was great to host Mrs Shirley King for a short visit for her to attend our Mah Jong afternoon tea, the Evening Circle dinner, and our committee Meeting. She was also taken for short tramps in the Kaimais and visited our new Art Gallery.

This month (September) we celebrate our 45th Birthday and are pleased to inform that the club is in good hand, health wise and financially."

The New Zealand Lyceum Hold their next Federation Meeting in March 2012.

PORTUGAL

The International Lyceum club Of Lisbon has decided to write up a visit to the Champalimaud investigation centre.

Antonio Sommer Champalimaud, a very important Portuguese entrepreneur, willed a donation of 5 million euros to be used in a foundation aimed at developing biomedical research, particularly in the areas of neuroscience and cancer. This foundation was created in 2004 under the name of Foundation Champalimaud which created the Champalimaud Investigation centre.

The Investigation center was inaugurated in October 2011 and is located in Lisbon, on the Tagus river side, near the Belem Tower. This landmark complex of great beauty was designed by the Goan architect Charles Corrêa. The whole complex has been built, in the most appropriate and one of the noblest zones of the town, which puts it, side by side, with the heroic events performed by the Portuguese people at the time of world discoveries and the course of the multidisciplinary scientific research and transnational biomedicine.

This centre offers the best conditions and the most up to date technologies to its users, potentiating the execution of scientific aims. It comprises two buildings disposed in such a way that permits free access between them.

In building A, the diagnosis and treatment areas are situated in the lower level, whilst the upper level is reserved for research laboratories and administrative services. In the heart of this building there is a tropical garden with a pergola that makes a connection between nature and life. Building B comprises an auditorium and a restaurant zone, with the upper level destined for the Foundation offices. A very elegant glass bridge connects the two buildings.

These two buildings are placed in a way that creates a pedestrian lane of 125 meters ascending to the river, which symbolizes the way to the "unknown".

RUSSIA

The International Lyceum Club of Moscow; as usual, organized many cultural events for the year 2011-12.

We visited the old building of the Bolshoi Theatre; we celebrated the birthday of the well known artist Feodor Shaliapin with music and singing; we visited the famous Museum of Alexander Pushkin in Golizyno; we visited the exhibition of interesting objects retrieved from the Russian and French armies after the patriotic war in Russia in 1812, held in the State History Museum in Moscow.

We were delighted to have an exclusive visit round the film studio “Mosfilm”; we travelled on a historical tram from the house of the well known Russian writer M. Bulgakov round the garden ring and parks and ponds in the centre of our city; we attended a performance of Prokofiev’s ballet “Cinderella” at the Stanislavsky and Nemi-rovich-Danchenko Theatre. As a Christmas celebration all our members gathered for a festive dinner with music in the Palace of Ekaterina in Moscow, followed by a horse sleigh ride through the Ismailovo Park.

SWITZERLAND

The Lyceum of Locarno is going to celebrate its 20th birthday in two years time. It regularly increased and starting with 30 members reached the number of 80 and more that participate and enjoy following their tastes all the activities organized by the Lyceum.

Art, especially painting, has always been one of the most important and favourite interests of the Club. In fact, in order to celebrate the 10th year of foundation, we offered the restoration of one of the frescos, in very bad conditions, of the staircase in the “Castello Visconteo” in Locarno.

During the last two years, the Committee has devoted its attention especially to the artists who were born or who have lived in the Italian part of Switzerland.

We visited the exhibitions of Marianne Werefkin, a Russian painter who lived for a long time in Ascona where she became a member of the intellectual movement of “Monte Verità”.

Such naturalistic and artistic movement was well known at the beginning of the 20th century all over Europe.

We also appreciated Ignaz Epper, a painter, who gave his house and his artistic production together with his wife’s sculptures to a Foundation directing the Museum and also organizing exhibitions of other painters.

In 2010 in Ascona this Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary with three beautiful exhibitions in three different places we visited guided by the trustee.

Also Rolf Gerard, a centenary painter who lives in Ascona and owns a house devoted to his works, has raised our enthusiasm as well as Richard Seewald with his “Enchanted Garden”.

Richard Seewald has taken care of the Foundation of Monte Verità and its museum for many years. Last spring we dedicated our attention to Alberto Giacometti, a well known artist all over Europe. At first with the visit to the exhibition of his last sculptures in Maga Museum in Gallarate and later on with two days ‘trip to his beloved Val Bregaglia.

Now we are waiting for various exhibitions of the complete works of Filippo Franzoni whose grand-niece Mrs. Pia Belli, a member of our Club has been the trustee of his Foundation. This painter is still one of the most beloved and well known in Locarno where this year, the century of his death will be celebrated.

UNITED KINGDOM

“We’re a’ Jock Tamson’s Bairns” was the title of our first talk this session. This was the reply of Reverend John Thomson, minister of historic Duddingston Church in Edinburgh, to a visitor who remarked on the variety in the congregation – rich and poor, high-ranking and ‘ordinary’. “They may be varied,” he is reputed to have said, “but they’re a’ (all) Jock Tamson’s bairns (children)”. This saying has come to be used when we wish to emphasize our equality: no matter who we are, we are all equal in the eyes of the law.

Scots are to have a referendum in 2014 to decide whether Scotland should remain part of the United Kingdom. Consequently we are thinking more about our history and culture these days than we normally do. Yet one aspect of our life as a nation has been an international one, as many Scots have emigrated and made significant contributions to the lives of the countries in which they have settled; indeed, many have become more famous there than in their homeland. One of our members drew our attention to a recent book called ‘The Tsar’s Doctor’, by Mary McGrigor. Sir James Wylie was born in Kincardine on the Firth of Forth, where he was fascinated by the ships docking there and grew up wanting to go to sea. After studying medicine in Edinburgh University he did go to sea – as far as Russia, where he was appointed as surgeon to an Infantry Regiment. Later two Tsars trusted his skills enough to make him their doctor. His main claim to fame is that he was ‘inseparably connected with the creation of the healthcare system in the Russian Army and Navy and with the training of military surgeons’. There is a statue in his honour in St.Petersburg; perhaps our Russian friends know of him.

UNITED STATES

During 2011, I served as club representative for our Philadelphia club. However, after spending time with members of our sister club in Paris, who had invited us, I decided to run for president. I thank the wonderful women of the Paris club for their grace, helpfulness and, most of all, their inspiration.

Getting to know those women and engaging in activities together made for a wonderful trip. One highlight was the concert held in Camel House, where the owner explained that camels were parked during the 1900 Universal Exhibition. The house has a connection to the United States because the wife of the owner, our host’s grandfather, was brought up in New Orleans. Furthermore, his ancestors took part in our Revolutionary War. We learned that while Benjamin Franklin was ambassador to France he lived there in Passy, where, on rue Franklin, his statue overlooks the traffic. Franklin lived in Philadelphia but spent years abroad making friendships that became alliances between our country and Europe.

At home, on a day trip into center city Philadelphia, we enjoyed the hospitality of a member who lives on Rittenhouse Square, one of many parks planned by Benjamin Franklin. An elegant tea was followed by a tour conducted by a very personable, enthusiastic student of the world famous Curtis Institute. With the building of the student dormitory, they now have a sense of community. We closed the day with a beautiful student concert.

I am proud to be helming the club during its 10th anniversary year. We are updating our statutes and will launch a website on March 15. We continue to have our monthly film circle and book circles. Of course, one goal is to increase membership. We follow the Lyceum mission and hope for more international opportunities to engage with women who strive for it too.



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