



Editorial

Dear and esteemed Notable Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen!

As every year, please find enclosed, together with an invitation to take part in the 44nd General Assembly of BierConvent International e.V. also a copy of your favorite BCI INFO 2012. Please don't take it amiss that the BCI INFO arrives with a delay this time. Most of the reports contributed by yourselves has already appeared on the BCI website; thus, those of you who regularly access the website already are well acquainted with what's going on at the BCI. This issue has been expanded by adding a report penned by Klaus Hagedorn the Chapter Consul for Baden-Wuerttemberg—recalling the encounter with the Pope, Benedict XVI.

And this year definitely as well, we have a number of events to recall and review. May I be permitted to reflect a bit on the Friendship Meeting we held in Marienbad. As the saying goes in Bohemia, "Where beer is brewed, they have it good". (And please note, it sounds much better in Czech.) At Chodovar Brewery we were able to find out in hands-on fashion that this not only is a successful beer brewer but that its beer tastes well at the stylish local restaurant and that for those desirous of an even greater challenge there even is a curative beer bath therapy.

The General Meeting was held in the historical premises of Pilsner Urquell Brewery that celebrated the 175th anniversary this year. The carefully prepared, extensive Sunday agenda of our meeting had to lose ground in competition with the night broadcast of the Champions League Bayern Munich vs. Chelsea soccer match that—having ended in an unexpected defeat of the Bayern team—has resulted, quite understandably, in spoiling the mood of many. There even was betting on the outcome of the match among the BCI members. May it serve as a sort of consolation to all those disappointed fans of this German team that one half of the moneys invested

in the bets has already been directed to a Marienbad kindergarten for disabled children, in the form of a sponsor donation. On this occasion I would like to turn your attention to the report on our Valencia meeting this year, penned in an extremely nice fashion for our website by Ms. Emöke Röhner, a new BCI Board member.

At the time of drawing up the agenda for our meeting in Spain we faced the decision whether to pay a visit to the large-sized Heineken Brewery or the Tyrís Microbrewery there. It gives me pleasure to be able to state that based on the participants' favorable reactions, we made the right choice. This novel approach to choosing the sites to visit as a group within the framework of BCI's regular meetings has stemmed from your specific comments.

As you are well aware, it was the so-called big brands that often gained supremacy in the foregoing years. However, following the various BCI meetings it was yourselves, the BCI members, who somehow tended to bemoan this. „Isn't it true that all those pipes, pumps, monitors etc. are always the same everywhere? And the sightseeing routes, museums? They also offer nothing new. We want to put an end to this, too.”

This is why, for this year's meetings, we've already chosen smaller-sized but the more interesting and creative operations, such as Chodovar in the Czech Republic or Tyrís in Valencia, Spain. In all these breweries we've also met terrific people radiating the love of beermaking and great humbleness vis-à-vis the profession. This applied to maltsters and brewers as much as to owners of these companies. And it is our intention to carry on along these lines which by the way, take us back to BCI's founding ideas. Hence, during the forthcoming visit to Stockholm we shall pay a visit to the highly inspirational environment of MONKS Brewery.

Our reflections on the past year also have sad moments to consider. On behalf of the entire Board, may I be allowed at this point to express our thanks due to all those who attended in person in paying the last tribute and saying the last farewell to BCI Honorary President, Dr. Fritz Schur, whom we shall remember forever.

However, life has to get over those painful moments and carry on. This also applies to the BCI.

As I am sure you know, our enthronement ceremonies expanded our ranks by two Notables last year, Mr. Helmut Bräuninger and Mr. Wolfgang Fecklist. And, hence, it is pleasant news to all of us that we already have received applications for admission from eight new candidates. We expect therefore that next year's enthronements will be substantially more numerous than was the case this year.

Let me also mention the new quality of our BCI Info yearbook which we indent to deliver to you first time via the internet this year. I am pleased that toward the end of the year, we have succeeded in launching the BCI website with enhanced functionality.

We progressed in stepwise fashion, were unable initially to avoid certain difficulties and mishaps, but that has to be taken in its stride as an integral part of the creative process. The important thing is that presently, everything is so arranged and adjusted as to make our website a permanent and tireless mediator between our membership, Senate, and Board.

Now you all can enjoy the opportunity of reading at your leisure the news from our BCI Chapters including their meetings and events etc., but first of all you may yourselves take part in contributing

these news and updates. And this is a progressive change indeed.

Many of you keep your distance from the internet still. But believe me, it is worthwhile to shed and overcome your fears and concerns. Because virtually, there is nothing that can go wrong here. To the contrary, we shall welcome any contribution you care to forward to us. Sending a photo, dropping a few lines of text, penning a commentary... All this can easily be sent to me or to any Board member by e-mail, and we shall take pains to do all that is necessary to have your contribution published.

Your observation or comment, your insight or information would thus benefit and inspire us all. The more you write, the more interesting and colorful our website will be, making it more attractive for us to access and read what's to be found there. In brief, the website we shall have will reflect our efforts put into it. And I trust our website is going to be highly successful.

At the very end, may I be allowed one minor organizational remark. You are soon to receive a new Members' list for next year. Should you find out that any of your particulars have changed, would you please let us know of such by e-mail or ordinary mail. The deadline for editing the List is end of March, 2013.

I am looking forward to new meetings and new encounters brimming with inspiration, goodwill and congeniality.

Thank you for your attention.

Stanislav Procházka, President

Please visit your favorite websites www.bierconvent.com

Visiting the pope in 2008 / The Vatican

Dear friends, dear Notables and guests:

The news surprising to all of us, that His Holiness Pope Benedict resigns for reasons of old age and poor health, was totally unexpected even for those who are conversant with the goings on at the Vatican. May I take this opportunity to recall the wonderful trip to Rome for an audience with the Holy Father.

The members of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Chapter and their guests enjoyed unforgettable hours in Rome. In hindsight, and having regard to the current situation, it was a god-send for us to be able to experience this, independently from anybody's denominational affiliation.



On behalf of BierConvent and especially, of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Chapter, I have taken the liberty of congratulating Monsignore Gänswein, now Archbishop, on the occasion of his elevation to this important church office.

I will post some photos from this trip to Rome on our website. I would imagine that this minute selection may also enhance the repute of BierConvent.

Warm greetings to the participants in that trip as well as to those who were not there.

*Yours Klaus Hagedorn
Chapter Consul, Baden-Wuerttemberg*

Carriage ride in the Rems Valley (Chapter Baden-Württemberg)



Our horse-drawn carriages



Mr. Sadev and Andreas Rothacker

Lothar Schaaf invited us for the 2nd Beer & Wine Ride on 15.09.2012 in a horse-drawn carriage.

In magnificent weather our Notables, that is, those of the Baden-Wuerttemberg Chapter, with their consorts plus some guests, met at the „Krebenstüble“ in Stetten/Remstaql, in the wine country—which we dubbed the „Land of Beer“.

As always in expectation of enjoyment, a cheek kiss left and a cheek kiss right for our charming ladies, and the event was on.

Four carriages, each drawn by a horse team of the cold blooded variety, well fed, strong and of best quality grooming, took us through the vineyards of the lovely hill country, right to a beer tent erected in front of a forest hunting lodge.

In my capacity of a supporter of small-sized, middle-class breweries I selected four such breweries or rather, their beer brands for our open tasting and evaluating session:

– Distelhäuser, Distelhausen

– Kaiser, Geislingen
– Neumarkter Lammsbräu, Neumarkt
– Rossknecht, their specialty beers being presented by Messrs. Kumpf of Kaiser and by Andy Rothacker. The outcome of the evaluations is attached.

After that, feeling a bit like having wings to fly, we returned to the Krebenstüble in expectation of a fine buffet dinner including a marvellous spit roast suckling pig.

On this occasion, Andy Rothacker had a special beer brand brewed, of an alcohol content of 6.9 %. Then the beer barrel was tapped at the Krebenstüble, to be enjoyed with the suckling pig roast and the refreshments.

A CD with the best pictures has been put together at your disposal, and can be ordered should you feel you'll enjoy the photos.

My „Thank You“ is due to Lothar Schaaf as well as to all the jolly good fellows who participated in this truly gorgeous event.

K. Hagedorn, Landeskonsul



Welcome address by L. C. K. Hagedorn



Karl Stahl with the ladies

Country Chapter Switzerland-Liechtenstein

The Chapter Consul's report

The Switzerland-Liechtenstein Chapter holds an annual friendship meeting for its members each year. In 2012 our trip brought us to the neighboring Vorarlberg.

On June 21 through 24 we explored this exciting and culturally rich little country. On Thursday, our 24 Notables with their spouses, friends and guests gathered at Geniesserhotel Gams in Bezau in the Bregenzerwald. We felt very well cared for there.



On Friday morning we took the bus to Mohren Brewery at Dornbirn. The restaurant and brewery are now managed by Heinz Huber who is the sixth generation of the brewer's family. The 2011 beer production was 220,300 hl while in 1784 it had been



A visit to the Rolls Royce Museum



Snapshots from the Mohren Brewery

a mere 300 beer pails. A retired master brewer took us through the brewery. During the beer tasting which followed we were able to taste four different beer brands, out of the 12 varieties offered. And to avoid the alcohol getting to our heads too quickly, there was a hearty beer roast for lunch at the cellar.

Then we went to the Rolls Royce Museum maintained by the Vonier family. Love and passion for the British Empire and especially the carmaker Rolls Royce were the source that eventually yielded the world's largest collection of Rolls Royce cars. With Johannes Vonier as our guide we were able to admire the luxury cars parked there tightly packed, enjoying his comments on the cars' special features and their illustrious owners. A traditional afternoon tea rounded off the visit.

Dinner was served at the Mangold restaurant in Lochau. A Michelin star and 16 points in the Gault Millau restaurant guide promised an excellent gourmet dinner. Our expectations were met in full.

On Saturday we were joined in Feldkirch by Mag. Albert Ruetz, Vorarlberg's forefront art and culture connoisseur. Our tour of Feldkirch started at the Town Hall. Aided by frescoes on the front of the town hall Mag. Ruetz told us about the town's development and its relationship to Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Subsequent walk took us through the historic old town of Feldkirch with its arcades and historical buildings.

On Saturday afternoon we listened with delight to Beethoven's late works E flat major Op. 127, B-flat major Op. 130 including a great fugue, and Op. 133 performed by Belcea Quartet. An excellent dinner in the historical Adler Schwarzenberg Inn rounded off this successful day.



On a tour of the historic town of Feldkirch

This was the end of our 2012 annual get-together, an outing that hopefully we shall long remember.

The Switzerland-Liechtenstein Chapter members meet once a year for an outing. Geographically we operate in a rather narrowly defined area and the event as well as the invitations thereto are directed primarily to our members. This year we shall visit the Toscana. Urs Rechsteiner will act as organizer of the event. And we are 'sold out' already.

The contacts among individual members of the Switzerland-Liechtenstein Chapter are very good. Thus, various member turnouts tend to meet repeatedly on different occasions. They also follow Arnold Bretscher's yearly invitations in the fall to the Wallis Music Festival, which he generously supports financially. This is a mode of operations that has proven useful for the Switzerland-Liechtenstein Chapter.

*Heinrich Auwärter,
Country Consul*

92nd International Friendship Meeting at Mariánské Lázně / Marienbad (Czech Republic) on May 17 through 20, 2012

In 2011, at the time when the Board together with Notable Joseph Strasser were engaged in elaborating the agenda of our Friendship Meetings for 2012, the decision was taken to convene a meeting at Cracow (Poland). However, having received the information that the program of expanding the country's infrastructure in expectation of the European Soccer Championships has been delayed, we have deferred our visit to Poland until 2013.

The venue of our 92nd Friendship Meeting became Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad), one of the three towns constituting the so-called spa triangle (Carlsbad, Marienbad and Franzensbad) in



western Bohemia. Most of the 75 participants arrived by car having



made use of the excellent freeway connections available. Accom-



Hotel Esplanade, Marienbad



3

modation at the convenient Esplanade Hotel marked a promising beginning of the event.

Chodová Planá – a place completely unknown to most of us. A small town 15 km away from Marienbad, made famous since recently thanks to its Chodovar Brewery. Here we were made welcome by the brewery's co-owner, Mr. Jiří Plevka, Jr. (jointly with Notable Hans Georg Gmachl). (Photo 1)

Mr. Plevka invited us to visit the brewery; the tour began by tasting beer rising directly from a fountain within the brewery's courtyard. (Foto 2)

Clearly, the participants were enjoying themselves. (Foto 3 – Tour of the brewery)

A section of what used to be cellars hewn in granite rock (remnants of medieval ore mining) became the brewery's „Rock restaurant“. We had an enjoyable evening there.



4

The boiling process takes place here: small-sized but maintained with love



5

The fermentation room – this is where the carbohydrates are converted to alcohol



The beer keg was tapped by the three most competent professionals present: Mr. Jiří Plevka assisted by Alejandro Jimenez and Hans Georg Gmachl.

6

We arrived back at the hotel in a most cheerful mood.

The Friday morning agenda focused on sightseeing of Count Metternich's castle, Kynžvart (Königswart).

Cups of coffee for some of us while waiting for the tour to begin. (Foto 7)

Festive enthronement took place at the Community Casino featuring a lovely Art Nouveau style. (Foto 8) Magnificent accompaniment reminding of a New Year's concert was provided by the spa's Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Director Martin Peschlik. (Foto 9)

Helmut Bräuninger's enthronement ceremony took place at Marienbad; the Laudatio was presented by Notable Professor Horst Wurm, the Chapter Consul. (Foto 10)

The 43rd Regular General Meeting was held in the historical hall of Pilsner Urquell Brewery. (Photos 11 and 12)

When the meeting closed the participants moved over to the original lager cellars of historical fame, to taste the original Pilsner Urquell. (Foto 13)

On Saturday night the BCI organizers lost to the final match of Champions League: the Bayern München team confronted Chelsea and, thus, watching television prevailed over any other agenda. (Foto 14) One half of the receipts from the stakes went to Marienbad's Kindergarten for Handicapped Children.



7



13

50% Charity	Bay - Chelsea
Wendelin	5:4
Wendelin	2:1
Wendelin	3:1
Wendelin	0:1
Wendelin	2:1
Wendelin	0:20
Wendelin	1:00
Wendelin	2:0
Wendelin	6:4
Wendelin	1:0
Wendelin	2:1
Wendelin	3:1
Wendelin	2:10
Wendelin	3:1
Wendelin	0:1
Wendelin	1:0
Wendelin	2:1
Wendelin	3:0
Wendelin	1:2
Wendelin	0:1
Wendelin	6:5
Wendelin	0:0

14



8



9



10



11



12

93rd International Friendship Meeting in Valencia (Spain)

On Wednesday, **26 September** at noontime, several Notables with their guests embarked on the flight from Zurich to Valencia. Having landed on time we were given a cheerful welcome at the airport by Luzia, Team Strasser, and our President's spouse Monika. After a brief ride we reached our Hotel, "The Westin Valencia" where we were able to enjoy a welcome drink and refreshments. The orange juice I had there was my best ever. Valencia is well known for its plantations of orange trees all around the city, an economic factor of importance to the region, with their fruits an important export item.



We moved to our rooms which we found to be nice, with beer tumblers on which the date and place of our meeting were inscribed. Heartfelt thanks are due at this very point to Notable W. Geissler-Sahm and his spouse for these courtesies which are being repeatedly extended to us. At 7 pm we have set out for dinner. The venue was the "Coloniades" restaurant: what formerly was a variety store has been refurbished with plenty of imagination and love to become as dining room with just several tables in-between shelves and wine racks, with appetizing regional dishes. Here we had our first foretaste of Valencia's cuisine and wine juice. One specialty after another was heaped on the tables, and in obedience to the good Spanish custom we dined for hours.

The Board has met on Thursday, **27 September** at noontime and remained in session for three hours. As soon as the meeting was over we were able to welcome the new arrivals. A total of 45 persons have met at 5 pm for "just a glass of beer" on the hotel terrace where the participants were addressed and made welcome by our President, Mr. S. Procházka. Subsequently, we drove to downtown which we then explored on foot. We have visited the beautiful gothic cathedral, took a walk in the historic old downtown



area, and viewed the well-preserved city gates and magnificent town palaces. There were four groups of which each made a stop on their way at a little "taberna", where we were offered drinks and a bit to eat to quash the "excruciating

hunger” which tormented us. From then on it went further through narrow lanes which impressed us with their clean and tidy aspect. In the old town you may encounter buildings of the most variegated styles reflecting the periods of reign of Goths, Maurs, Romans, and Spaniards.



Around 7 pm we arrived at “Sagardi” restaurant know far and wide for its meat specialities. The pub was packed to the last chair, and most of the patrons were local people. Appetizers and T-bone steaks (prepared on a huge grill within the guest area) were responsible for some of us having to resign on negotiating the return journey to the hotel by walking.

Friday, **28 September** turned out to begin as a bleak day with rainfall. It was our good fortune that we had a bus trip on our agenda. After an opulent breakfast we boarded our conveyance and were brought to

“modern Valencia”, the “city of science and art”. Most impressive were the dominant constructions built designed Calatrava, a native son of the city, which bear testimony to magnificent artistry. The market hall, built to art nouveau style, was our



next objective—fascinating both as a structure and as what it contains. Regional specialities, delicacies, and the best of fruits and vegetables enchanted the eye as well as the palate as we were also able to taste many of them. Such a market hall would I wish to have somewhere near where I live!





Then already, our tour took us to the Thyris micro brewery. We were made welcome by the owner himself, Mr. Gonzalez Abia Diaz who accompanied us in small groups through his kingdom. The brewery turns out six sorts of beer, using very simple means, just for local consumption, with a staff of five. We were invited to partake of a light lunch with beer from the brewery. After two hours and many thanks we left our host to return to the hotel and make ready for the enthronement ceremony.

The “Palacio de la Exposition” is situated just a few meters away from the Westlin Valencia. The splendorous building was erected on the occasion of a fair held in 1909, and features wonderful murals, color windows and wide staircases—as if designed and set up precisely for our festive enthronement.



At 17.45h the Notables and guests have assembled at the “Salon Noble”. A quartet played classical Spanish music, the Notables were called by name, and the President’s welcome address opened the ceremony. The oration was held by Gonzalez Abia Diaz of the Thyris Brewery.

There was only one single enthronement candidate



whose Laudatio speech was presented by Senator of Honor, Otto-Ernst Prehn.

The enthronement was accompanied by the quartet playing diverse pieces of music and was concluded by the President’s closing speech. After having submitted to the inevitable group photo with the new Notable, all the participants enjoyed an aperitif while preparations for a festive dinner were in progress at the ceremonial hall.

Beautifully appointed tables had a most inviting aspect, and there was a magnificent, celebratory menu. The surprise came when late at night we were about to retire to our places of abode. Deluges of rain turned the streets to ankle-deep lakes and there was no way out but either to wait it out until the foul weather should recede or to walk barefoot. There was a lot of laughter and wet but eventually, we were able in cheerful frame of mind to arrive at the hotel.



On Saturday, **29 September** as we woke up we were greeted by blue skies and caressive sunshine. Business comes before pleasure—under this banner we have convened for a presentation of our new website by Board member Andreas Rothacker. Well, yes indeed... it was Andy who did the work, but those who listened attentively were able to glean valuable tips from his presentation on how to visit and utilize

the internet website of the BCI. And that was it, and more was to come. The panoramic drive to the harbor, where “Alinghi’s” victory was celebrated, to the Formula 1 racetrack and finally, to the Albufera Natural Preserve could begin. We left the city and were driven via Palmar up to the lakeshore. There was a small meadow at the lakeside which served as our base. From there, we were rowed across the water expanse in two boats. This was a sunny day, the flying fish and the frogs kept leaping out of the water; the boat trip took one hour. At the “base of operations” we took refreshments—fine beer it was—and they we set out to continue our tour in the direction toward the “Duna” restaurant—one highlight meeting another in succession. There a giant canvas tent at the dunes of the Valencia golf course took us in. Yesterday’s storm left two ships stranded in the shallows, abreast of the blowing wind. They were the day’s greatest attraction.

The ride to hotel did not take long and we were able either to rest or to take a stroll in the downtown area. Unfortunately, most of the shops were closed—the siesta prevailed.

To take our leave from Valencia we have met at the “Vertical” restaurant, situated atop the highest hill and featuring a spectacular view of the city.



While enjoying our appetizers we were watching the sunset. This was a veritable Sundowner indeed. Subsequently, we had an excellent dinner and no one was keen on getting back to the hotel too soon. The time approached to say goodbye.

On Sunday, **30 September** we betook ourselves on our return journey. Toward all the different compass points and for various distances, but with one thing in common: the joy and pleasure deriving from four days of our care-free sojourn in Valencia.

Autumnal reunion in Tokyo • Japan Chapter

The Japanese Chapter of BierConvent International had a delightful luncheon meeting on November 25, 2012, to welcome our new member, Dr. Koichi Matsuzawa and his wife Keiko, at “Antibes” Grill & Bar, renowned for Mediterranean cuisine. Our Honorary Senator, Notable Ted Suzuki and his wife Masako made a special trip to Tokyo from Osaka to join the Notables and their ladies. Vice President, Notable Seinosuke Kuraku, and Senator, Notable Takashi Tsuji were also present.

Front row: from left to right, Seinosuke Kuraku, Masako Suzuki, Dr. Koichi Matsuzawa, Keiko Matsuzawa, Tomoyuki Suzuki, Kaori Kimura (Iwaki).

Middle row: Noriko Tsuji, Sonoko Yamaoka, Kuniaki Kuni, Tadako Kuni, Keiichi Isono, Tatsuko Miki, Hikaru Kawamura. *Back row:* Kenzo Yanagi, Takashi Tsuji, Hirofumi Miki and Katsuhiro Nakagawa.

It was a beautiful Sunday; the air was crisp and gingko tree leaves were in bright yellow. In the afternoon, the party had a tour of recently renovated Grand Tokyo Station, originally built in 1914.

All in all, a joyful occasion to renew our friendship of BierConvent International.

Chapter Consul Hiro Miki



End-of-year party / Advent celebration by BCI Bavaria

The 35th Regulars' Table held on 5.12.2012

An interesting year packed with change and variety should indeed culminate in an adequate end-of-year event. This—according to what Chapter Consul Professor Horst Wurm has indicated in his invitation letter—amounts to a fine, agreeable advent evening event without Jingle Bells or Santa Claus but in great style, with a lot of fun and also delving a bit to greater depths.

A defined program, guests, food and drink—but also allowing time for discussions and contacts with old and especially, new friends. Simply Bavarian, and that's it! 44 participants, Notables, members and guests of whom 23 were new guests who visited us for the first time attended the get-together event held at the Maximiliansstüberl of Hofbräukeller in Haidhausen on the outskirts of Munich. A worthy setting for a long evening in which the sturdiest participants did not switch off the lights until midnight.

For a few die-hards the evening had begun with a

glass of mulled wine at a delicatessen kiosk in front of the HB-Keller, to guard against pre-Christmas chill. Then, punctually at 7 PM the host and inn-keeper of nationwide fame, Gunther Steinberg bid Professor Wurm and his guests welcome in his house, with wishes of bon apétit and a lot of fun.

That was the starting signal for Pauli Knoll, the famous zither soloist of Bad Aibling, with his "Stub'nmusi" orchestra to provide the acoustic setting for much of the evening.

But he was also allowed a break sometimes. At the beginning, Professor Wurm welcomed the guests and took stock of the highlights of the past regulars' evenings (such as those at Weißenstephan, Kaltenberg, Salzburg, Iberlbühne Munich as well as the numerous prominent speakers). Unfailingly, he also mentioned what constitutes the two cornerstones of the Bavarian regulars' tables: our ladies, and at least the basics of the Bavarian language.

In addition to the members and guests, of course. After his roll call of welcome and introductions of new guests who hopefully, will continue to stay with



The event took place in Maximiliansstüberl



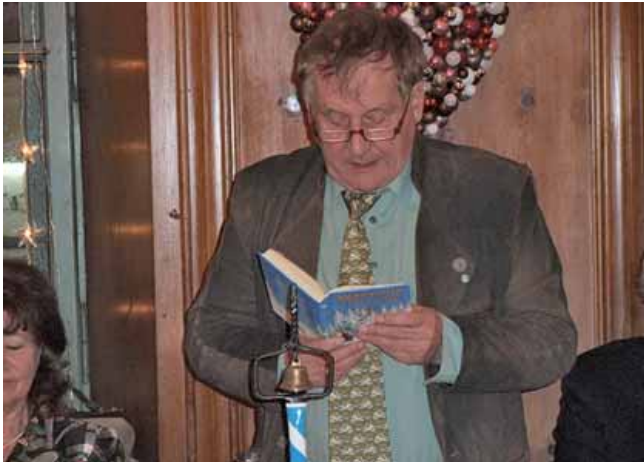
Prof. Wurm welcoming the guests



Mr. Steinberg and Prof. Wurm



The zither soloist Pauli Knoll



Prof. Dr. mult. Helmut Zöpfl

the Bavaria Chapter in the New Year as well, it was time for our star guest, Prof. Dr. mult. Helmut Zöpfl, to take the floor.

To introduce him in Bavaria would mean "taking coal to Newcastle": Or is there anyone who does not know his poems: „Geh weiter, Zeit, bleib steh'n!"

(„Go on, time, stay put!"), a title that since long ago has become a catch-phrase. To all strangers it should be clear that the following applies: his position of Professor of School Education of long standing at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich; his Teacher of the Year 2010 Award, and his many honorary doctorates. He is much more widely known however as the most widely read writer and poet who writes in dialect, with countless poems and stories, from which he recited excerpts to the audience. Stories full of heart, understanding and wit, with a bit of Christmas and naturally, also a showing of the Bavarian character.

Oh stop please, Christmas is still here:

This is how all the participants experienced the world first performance taking the form of a BCI gingerbread present.

Conclusion: Everything was perfect!

So what remains to be said?

All participants agree: „This is how it should be going on in 2013, too!"

Lower Saxony Chapter 2012

"A good word is above the best gift"
(Benedikt Nursia)

The Lower Saxonians can stoutly resist storms and gales, and this has allowed them to successfully survive the year 2012.

The sickness rate among our members was particularly high last year, also due to the age profile. Of course, we are continually recruiting new members. But they cannot be won over just like shaking down apples from a tree. According to our experience, today's young men prefer to drink cocktails and "colored" beers, rather than the normal beer so much appreciated by all of us.

On 18 January we have celebrated the 90th birthday of our esteemed Notable Heinz Adolf Kleinschmidt, a famous architect. He is the oldest member of our beer brotherhood worldwide. On 28 November we were invited to take part in the celebrations of the 86th birthday of Werner Staude, our Chapter Consul. He has been with the CI since 1970 and thus his membership is the second longest in our beer fraternity. In February we were caught unawares by the sudden death of our Notable Heinz Nagel, a BCI member since 1976. His lively manner made him one of the most popular members of our beer brotherhood.

Internationally we recall with pleasure the 92nd and 93rd Friendship Meetings in Marienbad and Valencia.



Our thanks go to the organizers, President Stanislav Procházka and Notable Joseph Strasser.

We now conduct most of our regular meetings at the Central-Hotel Kaiserhof Hannover, which is operated by Notable Hermann Rueter. Other venues can of course be chosen on any suitable occasion.

The dates of our regular round-tables can be found on the BCI website www.bierconvent.com. Guests are always welcome at our meetings. Prior notification with the Chapter Consul is desired.

May I convey our best wishes to all the Notables of our international beer fraternity and their families.

Heartfelt beery greetings,

Manfred Lindenberg, Chapter Consul

Our forthcoming international Friendship Meetings an overview

The dates of our Friendship meetings have been set so that everyone can make note of these dates in his/her diary.

94th international Friendship Meeting 09–12 May 2013 Stockholm, SWITZERLAND

The BCI members have visited a number of places over the years but Stockholm is a venue yet to be visited. Thus we would like to make this very royal city, boasting of a rich history, to the object of our exploratory efforts in the spring next year. There we shall enjoy the city's drawn-out days, also getting a taste of its beer specialties. The first three photos are of Stockholm, to remind you to set aside the dates in good time so as to be able to attend the friendship meeting.



95th international Friendship Meeting 26–29 September 2013 Cracow, POLAND

It wasn't easy to pick the right dates for the autumn meeting, but hopefully, it will turn out well this time. Poland, in analogy to Sweden, has never yet been the destination of any of our friendship meetings. Cracow was the residential city of Poland's royalty and remains to be the true heart of the country.

96th international Friendship Meeting 08–11 May 2014 Basel, SWITZERLAND

Our 96th friendship meeting will take place in Basel. What's interesting on Basel is that it's situated within the 'Three Countries' Corner connecting Switzerland, Germany and France. The city was founded as far back as in the 1st century B.C. and offers quite a number of interesting sights. The last photo comes from Basel, so that you can get a glimpse of the city.



Publisher: BierConvent e. V., Brauerhaus, Oskar-von-Miller-Ring 1, 80333 München (Germany)
S. Procházka, President BCI, Strunkovská 1421/7, 153 00 Praha 5, Czech Republic, Tel.: +420-257810720
Paul J. Greineder, Geschäftsführer Pharmos Natur - Green Luxury GmbH, Hechenrainer Str. 14,
82449 Uffing am Staffelsee, Germany, Tel.: +49-8846 9213 0