



Christian Den Fjerdes Laug 70 år

Monday December 17th the Guild celebrated its 70 years anniversary with a reception in Duus' Winecellar. It was a very festive and memorable day where His Royal Majesty King Christian The Fourth himself visited the Guild. He arrived ceremonially in a magnificent coach from the royal stables drawn by two gorgeous horses.

A great number of members were present and they witnessed the King being received by chief benchner Niels Voss Hansen while the Guild troubadour Per Iversen blew the lure.

In his speech the King praised the Guild for having initiated more than 25,000 members - from Aalborg and from other places all over the world - through the past 70 years.

Later on "Sigurds Fodvarmere" - a famous local jazz band - played. After the King said hello to

the guests and was then allowed to withdraw and change clothes. He reappeared a little later as Peter Tage, for many years the Guilds chief benchner.



Fotos: Jens Morten



His Royal Majesty King Christian The Fourth in the shape of former chief bencher Peter Tage was guest of honour at the Guild's 70 years anniversary reception.

New Year-Greetings from the Board

At the annual Guild meeting the February 29th 2012 everything went according to plan, except that 10 seconds into the procedure the loudspeaker system broke down, causing great annoyance - especially among the members seated in the "green room" - and making it extremely difficult for the chief bencher to speak loud enough for all to hear him.

The years Prize of Honour was presented to Vagn Thomsen for his great work for TV Aalborg and for the Aalborg Pensioner's Orchestra. It was the 50th time this prize was presented and the very first recipient of the prize, captain Vilhelm Pedersen, was present at the 2012 Guild meeting. He got his prize those many years ago for having escorted 13 imperial penguins from the Antarctica to Aalborg Zoo. Now he got a diploma, a hipflask with inscription and a "Laugsbitter".

The annual Prize of Initiative went to Peter Moore, a young man doing a lot of good work for "Kirkens Korshær" (Dan Church Social).

Before the initiations took place the youngest member of the Board, Peter Hermansen, was attired in the Guild's red gown. Peter Hermansen is chief of marketing at VisitAalborg. With his entry into the Board, the average age of the Board members has decreased by almost 20%.

In the past year Preben Busekist retired from the Board. The chief bencher thanked Preben Busekist for the great work he had done for the Guild in the 16 years he had been a member of the Board. He had been the Guild's historian and for the last many years he had been the Guild's "press attaché" and delivered news from the Guild to the media. He was also the editor of "Laugs-Tidende" which he with his journalistic flair has made into a pleasant and easily readable publication.

The Guild's cooperation with our branch in Oslo is "still going strong". On the June 4th more than 100 Norwegians - 17 of them with the purpose of being initiated - visited Aalborg. The initiation was as usual very friendly and jolly and the chief bencher recommends that all members - for whom it is possible to be present in Duus' - to attend whenever initiations of Norwegians from our Oslo branch take place.



On October 23rd we travelled to Oslo and performed an initiation there - and this too was absolutely succesful.

Because 2012 was the 100 years anniversary of the Rebild celebrations the Guild had initiations on both the 3rd and the 4th of July. On the 4th of July the American head speaker, the actor Keith Carradine, was initiated. He is a great grandchild of Max Henius, the founder of the Rebild celebrations. So is the Danish writer Suzanne Brøgger, who was also initiated. Later during the tent-luncheon in Rebild, the chief bencher presented these two and the "lord mayor for one day", Curtis LeRoy Hansen, with respectively the Guild's tie and scarf.

Wednesday December 5th the annual donations from the foundation was celebrated in Duus' Wine cellar. As usual the cellar was filled with happy legacy receivers and followers.

Monday December 17th the Guild celebrated its 70 years anniversary. See the photos from that day here in "Laugs-Tidende".

I want to express my sincere thanks to our members and partners for their help and support in 2012 - and many thanks also to the Board for their help and support as well.

Kind regards

Niels Voss Hansen

Chief Bencher

80,000 DKK donated by the foundation

A number of social, humanitarian and cultural organisations received a “pat on the shoulder” from Christian The Fourth’s Guild’s Foundation at the annual distribution. The Foundation each year supports social, humanitarian and cultural activities in Aalborg municipality with special regard to the voluntary and unpaid work for the lesser privileged groups in society.

- The financial crisis is also felt in the Foundation. We use the proceeds from our capital and the amount decreases from year to year. But we can still donate about 80,000 DKK in 2012. We would want to donate much more - both bigger portions but also to more recipients. But our economical possibilities are limited, said chairman of the Foundation, former mayor Kaj Kjær at the distribution.

It is the 15th year the foundation donates legacies. As usual it takes place in Duus’ Vinkjelder in Jens Bang’s Stenhus in Aalborg, which also is domicile for Christian The Fourth’s Guild.

This year not less than 31 organisations received support - ranging from clubs whose members knit blankets for poor children in India to handicap organisations and cultural initiatives.



Aalborg Male Voice Choir, who each year gives many concerts in residential homes for elderly people and in activity centers, were among the recipients. Here Poul Knudsen (left) receives a cheque from Kaj Kjær.

Aalborg Forsvars- og Garnisonsmuseum (Aalborg Defence and Garrison Museum) also got a donation which will enable it to transfer an exhibition about WW 2 and the German occupation from a school in Aalborg to the museum on Skydebanevej in Aalborg. The exhibition will still be used for educational purposes. Aalborg Pensioner’s Orchestra were also among those who received a donation from Christian The Fourth’s Foundation.

Appreciation of quick intervention

- It is most admirable that somebody immediately takes action when somebody else is in danger - instead of just ignoring the problem.

Thus were the words of chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen when he the November 14th on behalf of the Guild presented a cheque and

a bottle of “Laugsbitter” to Maria Bitsch - a young woman who some weeks earlier helped a jogger who had just been attacked by two fierce fighter dogs.

Maria Bitsch was - with her husband and her son, her little sister and her parents - invited to the Guild’s lounge in Jens Bangs Stenhus where she received her reward.

Maria Bitsch will never forget the morning when she - driving on Anders Borks Vej in Aalborg - saw the two dogs attack the jogger. She used the car’s horn but that didn’t stop the dogs. Then she opened a door and the jogger got into the car but so did one of the dogs still with its teeth in the poor mans leg. Then both dogs came into the car and Maria Bitsch grabbed the childrens auto chair and used it to hit the dogs and at last they lost their grip and left the car without having injured Maria.



Long distance initiation confirmed

In 2009 the Guild received a touching letter from Mr. Keith Hallam, Virginia Beach, USA, where he asked if his wife, Mrs. Isabella Hallam, could be initiated in Christian The Fourth's Guild. Mrs. Hallam comes from a Danish family in Northern Jutland and the spouses were friends of Denmark and had previously visited Aalborg. Unfortunately was Keith Hallam not able to travel to Aalborg because of age and health problems. It was decided to make an exception and initiate Mrs. Hallam without her being present.

Mr. Hallam sent photos from the following celebration in Virginia with the ceremonious presentation of the key to the "secret passage" and the Guild's laws, and a meal of red sausages, Danish beer and Aalborg aquavit.

Regrettably Mr. Hallam passed away shortly after the initiation. But in June 2012 Mrs. Isabella Hallam visited her Danish family and it was arranged that she could visit Jens Bangs Stenhus accompanied by her Danish relatives.

On this occasion she was once again initiated into the Guild. She was seated in Duus' wine cellar, she was walked around the Guild's tree and she was happy as well as pleased to discover that the



Guild clerk Henrik Jensen in the Guild lounge with Mrs. Isabella Hallam

key that was sent to her in 2009 really could give her access to the wine cellar through the "secret passage". Mrs. Hallam expressed great satisfaction with the re-initiation and returned to USA with pleasant memories from her visit to Aalborg.

Donation of Good Spirit Prize to college students

For the 23rd time the Guild in December 2012 heightened the spirit of a group of students - one in each of Aalborg's colleges. They got the Guild's Prize of Good Spirit. The colleges select among their students one who "by his/her good mood, happy disposition and positive attitude is instrumental in spreading good spirit and good friendship and thus inspire teachers and fellow students to act in a positive and more enjoyable way".

- It is not because of diligence and skill - but it is very desirable if they can be combined, said chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen, when he presented one of this year's Prize of Good Spirit. It was to Mathias Schröder who is a student at Nørresundby Gymnasium (= college).

At the other colleges the prize - which consists of a diploma and a modest cheque - was presented



by the school in connection with the celebrations at the final school day of the year.

The chief bencher said at the presentation at Nørresundby Gymnasium, that the cheque ought to be used for not too serious a purpose. The applause from the audience seemed to indicate that the hint was taken.

The ambassador from Thailand visits the Guild

Christian The Fourth's Guild is now such a famous tourist attraction that the ambassador to Denmark from Thailand and the first secretary from the embassy travelled from Copenhagen to Aalborg with the sole purpose of being initiated into the Guild. They even came directly from a visit to Greenland with a quick change of flights in Copenhagen.

Ambassador Payawat Niyomrerk and first secretary Pornpan Jankrajang knew the history of the Guild from general consul Ib Thomsen, Hvide Sande, who himself was initiated years ago and who this time was present as a spectator.

- I have heard so much about Christian The Fourth's Guild that I wanted to be part of it, declared the ambassador, before the initiation took place, where he in the beginning had to sit with an empty glass while the benchers - according to tradition - cared for their own "thirst first". After the initiation - and still following tradition - he was served red sausages, beer and potato juice - as Aalborg aquavit is affectionately called in the Guild.



The ambassador from Thailand together with chief bencher Niels Voss Hansen and vice chief bencher Kaj Handberg

On the same occasion were 14 participants from UNMILPOC (United Nations Military Police Course) at Aalborg barracks initiated. That's another tradition that participants on the international courses from military police are initiated. This year there were participants from eight different countries.



Guild Meeting 2013

Wednesday the 27th of February 2013 at 7.00 p.m. in Duus' Vinkjælder in Jens Bangs Stenhus (booking of table directly to Duus' Vinkjælder, telephone +45 98 12 50 56).

Subscription for 2013

For members paying annually the rates are: 100 DKK, 110 NOK, 125 SEK, 12 GBP, 20 USD, el-ler 14 EUR.

Lifelong membership

You can get a lifelong membership of the Guild by paying 600 DKK, 650 NOK, 750 SEK, 70 GBP, 120 USD or 100 EUR.

New lifelong members will receive a special letter of welcome, signed by the chief bencher and the

treasurer, and their names will be entered into the Guild's "Golden Book".

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Change of address: Directly to the Guild or by the website. Members who have not yet signed up for the Newsletter are requested to do so on the website.