

Declaration of Maastricht

from the 30th International Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry on Sep. 24-28, 2012

We strengthen the world organization!



This week we meet in Maastricht for 30th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences in the oldest city in the Netherlands. The Congress is not only the world's largest forum of genealogy and heraldry, but also the meeting place of the interested world family, especially the Confédération Internationale de Généalogie et d'Héraldique (CIGH) as well as the two academies (Académie Internationale d'Héraldique, AIH; Académie Internationale de généalogie, AIG). Currently, a total of 67 organizations from 40 countries are represented on four continents in the CIGH, all united in a world organization for genealogy and heraldry. We think that this 30th International convention in this cosmopolitan European city signals the start of a special friendship and international cooperation. We call upon all participants to support the World Association of CIGH in both word and deed and to increase the exchange of information between national associations and their representatives.

The CIGH, at the international level, becomes a crucial bridge between genealogy and heraldry. The World Association of CIGH should be the means by which the activities of the national member associations are publicized and promoted at other conventions and symposia. Starting in Maastricht, this 41st Year of CIGH, we set the following as the goals of this international exchange:

- to promote a balance between genealogy and heraldry,
- to strengthen international cooperation and the World Federation,
- to emphasize the unifying quality of the World Federation,
- to preserve of the cultural heritage of the family and their genealogy,
- to emphasize the importance of family internationally,
- to find other people interested and to attract new members for the CIGH,
- to inspire young people both nationally and internationally for genealogy and heraldry,
- to develop new ideas and implement them,
- to create a substantive renewal within the world organization and direct their attention to the future.

We, as genealogic and heraldic experts within the CIGH take care for family. Therefore, we also see ourselves as part of the "genealogical heraldic world family" and individually as a "distant relative".

Maastricht, Sep. 25, 2012

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