

# **Declaration of Glasgow**

*at the 32th International Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry on 10-13 Aug. 2016*

## ***The Future of Genealogy and Heraldry has already begun***



This 32th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences also marks the 45th anniversary of our Confédération Internationale de Généalogie et d'Héraldique (CIGH, founded on Nov. 13, 1971 in Brussels). Both the Congress and our world umbrella organization face, as single societies, the global challenge of identifying the future of organized genealogy and heraldry, nationally and internationally. It is clear that the internet plays an important role as a tool, but also as a threat for those who cannot adjust to circumstances today that differ from 45 years ago.

The next years will definitely set the course for generations in genealogy and heraldry because of the speed of developments and the rise of destructive elements in all areas. Our world organisation (CIGH) plays an important role for genealogical and heraldic sciences on the global stage. It is clear that we need both academic and popular structures to shape the future. We need to open our doors for the next generations of researchers and supporters. We need greater global cooperation, through international exchange that is carried on not only at the urging of the board, but simultaneously by the actions of the single-member organisations of the CIGH. For it is imperative that member organisations attract their own subscribers to the cause of cooperation. There is so much to learn from each other, and no language barriers should hold us back from doing that.

We as member societies should strive to develop the CIGH as a key forum for global exchange on genealogical and heraldic research. We must offer our members guidelines promoting professionalism and scientific research methodologies, as well as the continuous exchange of information among scholars and institutions the world over.

Today, the Anglo-American world creates the largest impact by providing mass data and the biggest genealogical events (e.g., "Who Do You Think You Are? – Live!" and RootsTech). The CIGH should adopt and embrace all such creative stimuli emanating from the various national and global protagonists to form – along with all of its members – a global programmatic visibility for the disciplines of genealogy and heraldry. Yet further, it should take responsibility for the behind-the-scenes coordination (and further encouragement) of these worthy efforts.

We, as single national organizations, play an important role for the future of genealogy and heraldry. We, as CIGH members, should use the next five years — until our 50th anniversary in 2021 — to strengthen our internal exchange of information, to intensify our cooperation, and to sharpen our programmatic work. *The future of genealogy and heraldry has already begun.*