



W. Thiel/Trick

TO Dr h.c. MAURITS ANNE LIEFTINCK ON HIS 80th BIRTHDAY

Dear Maus,

On February 4, 1970 you put your signature on the Invitation Circular that the three of us were to send out to the Dutch odonatologists, inviting them to an informal meeting to take place in Utrecht, on March 7 of the same year. None of us could have dreamt then that this "First Colloquium of Dutch Dragonfly Workers" was to inspire the birth of our "dragonfly family". It took but 19 months after that date for SIO to be formally constituted in Ghent and within hardly a decade it was destined to become the largest specialized entomological society, with membership in over 60 countries throughout the globe.

As you know, one of the very first moves of the Society, within the first 10 minutes of its existence, right there in Ghent, was to award you the MEMBERSHIP OF HONOUR. At the same time, your first formal service to the Society was your suggestion to set up an ABSTRACTING SERVICE through Odonatologica. We cannot recollect now which of these two motions was passed first, but we can certainly assure you that both of them are considered by the odonatologists throughout the world among the most fortunate and fitting motions ever passed by SIO.

Unfortunately you were unable to attend the celebrations of the Tenth Anniversary of SIO in Chur, where you were elected, in absentia, the first HONORARY PRESIDENT of the Society. You cannot know, therefore, that you were not elected technically unanimously, with 100% of votes. The record of the three official Minutes Recorders shows that the number of votes cast in favour of your election was almost twice as high as that of the members present. Since the voting took place by means of raising hands, the Minutes Recorders were happy that human beings do not possess more than a pair of these organs. . .

Sixty-two years have elapsed since the publication of your first odonatological note, sixty-two years of most illustrious and far-reaching scientific work, but also sixty-two years of your continuous help to and guidance of dragonfly students of all nominations and of innumerable nationalities. Without your help and warm concern neither the International Odonatological Society, nor this or any other of its periodicals and services could have hoped to reach the level they enjoy at present.

However, dear Maus, it is neither the long years of your service to odonatology, nor even your unparalleled experience and the unsurpassed quality and quantity of your scientific opus, but rather your warm and ever concerned human approach to fellow workers, your understanding of and responding to our scientific and other problems that has won the hearts of the universal SIO family. In the present world, where the personal interests of an individual so often prevail above those of the "community", your legendary readiness to help everybody, any time, in any matter, in spite of your chronic shortage of time, is unique.

Yes, in spite of its size and technical structure, the International Odonatological Society is a "family of friends" rather than a formal hierarchical society. It is YOUR FAMILY, and as such it wants to offer you this small "bouquet" of our works – in celebration of the 80th birthday of our "father" and teacher, our doyen, guru, maestro, Meister, sensei, starshina – or whatever you are called in the 50 languages of SIO!

It is technically impossible that everybody would contribute to this booklet scientifically. Those who did, did so on behalf of all the others as well. Therefore, this little volume should bring you the warmest feelings of all of us. We hope you will enjoy reading it, and we are sure you will understand also the unspoken message it brings you:

*Many happy returns, to stay with us and
among us for many more years to come!*

Yours ever,

Bastiaan and Dirk

B. KIAUTA¹ and D.C. GEIJSKES²

¹ Department of Animal Cytogenetics and Cytotaxonomy
University of Utrecht, Padualaan 8,
3584 CH Utrecht, The Netherlands

² Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie
Raamsteeg 2, Postbus 9517,
2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands