



Confédération Internationale de Généalogie et d'Héraldique International Confederation for Genealogy and Heraldry

Bologna 30th June 2019.

2019 MORAL REPORT

On October 4, 2018 in Arras, during the XXXIII International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, I was re-elected president of CIGH, which, for me, is an acknowledgment and approval of the way I have been managing CIGH since 2014 (when I was elected president) at the end of the nomination process. Today, given that we have to work together for another 4 years, we must ask ourselves questions that will provide safe answers for the future.

CIGH is an organization created in 1971, or in a world completely different from ours and no longer in existence; our Founders were mostly people who were involved in our studies as amateurs (although open to all the congress traditional disciplines) rather than scholars in search of new ways and collaborations with new disciplines (as the most part of participants in contemporary congresses, although limited to the knowledge of a specific sector).

If you read about the evolution of Congress acts during these years, you will see that my assertions are based on documented facts.

I believe that CIGH was born so that the congress organizing associations could have their own organization that would allow a more open biennial meeting than what was, at the time, taking place within the Bureau of Congresses. However, if we examine the work that has been done by CIGH until the arrival of Michel Teillard d'Eyry, we can easily see that these changes were just on paper, without any innovative impulse groundbreaking momentum. I still remember that in the 1990s, the participants in the Congresses usually began their directive work specifically as a CIGH delegate, and then, after years, perhaps enroll in the AIH, then considered the Olympus of *Cursus Honorum* for a scholar of these disciplines; AIG had not been created yet.

The first Congress I attended was in Madrid (1982). After that, I never witnessed a Congress of such magnitude and importance again, both because of the high number

of conferences (not all of which could be read), and because of the high status of participating state authorities, first of all, Juan Carlos I.

Today the Congresses are no longer like that; the reality is that the interest in these disciplines has changed. We are witnessing a myriad of international events happening regularly worldwide. Furthermore, technological advances have expanded with such magnitude that one can participate to these events virtually.

It is never taken into consideration that the Congresses are not a business, but a cost to the organization, while world heraldry and genealogy are a business that can offer great profits for those who invest in this activity.

So, what answer can CIGH give to member organizations?

What can we do today with an organization that will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021?

The answer is calling together an assembly that proposes to modify some points of the statute; i.e., I think it is an absolute necessity to have a referent (a Vice-President) for *the whole world* (we have associations in 5 continents) who directs the work on the continents assigned to him/her, where he/she acts as a true point of reference for those who need to contact us. Another important point is participation in the work of CIGH (which today takes place both in the Colloquia and in the Congress).

In the past, the members of the Board of Directors were present, as they were true world authorities of these studies, although they rarely (or in some cases never) participated in the meetings.

Today, statutory modifications specify that only those who have participated in at least one meeting in 4 years have the possibility of being re-elected. I hope it won't be long before we can hold meetings by videoconference, which would give participants the possibility of being present virtually. Finally, I have a suggestion for a new general secretary (as Dr. **Stanislaw Dumin** is about to leave his position because I would like to propose him for the role of Vice President of Russia and Asia): for years, I have been following **Dirk Weissleder**, a very active voice in direct contact with the German world, as well as a tireless traveler in all parts of the world for genealogy-related matters, who asked me to be of help to CIGH in some capacity. So, last year, I suggested he should be a member of the Board of Directors.

Now, it looks like the position of General Secretary will be vacant.

I think that Dirk Weissleder would be the right choice, because of his forceful personality.

On 28th August it was announced that Europe will also have its *Rootstech* (the American annual event that brings together 30,000 people) and the first edition of Rootstech in Europe will take place in London from 24th to 26th October 2019.

It is good to know that Dirk is our representative at Rootstech 2019 in London. He will for sure explain to us the vast amount of work that has been performed by this

event that is coming to Europe and that could represent a drastic change of direction in our studies.

Since October 2018, CIGH has supported, by granting its patronage, a large number of Congresses, Colloquia, Conferences, Conferences and Meetings, many in Italy, but also throughout Europe, performing the role of general secretary.

This year, the *2019 CIGH Bulletin* will be issued at the end of October, because I want to report on all International Colloquia, specifically: those of Genealogy (AIG), Araldica (AIH), Nobility (RAHE-ICOC-FSI- IIGH) and the XXI Reunión Americana de Genealogía.

I suppose 2020 will be a most important year for our studies, because will have the **XXXIV International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences in Madrid** from 14th to 17th October with the title: *“Estructuras sociales y su manifestación en la Genealogía y la Heráldica”*.

The XXXIV International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences has as Honorary Presidente H.M. Don Felipe VI, King of Spain and as President S.A.R. Don Pedro de Borbón Dos Sicilias y Orleans, Duke of Calabria.

I would like to stress that many members of the Honorary Committee of this Congress are part of the Board of Directors of CIGH: Manuel Pardo de Vera y Díaz, President of the Real Asociación de Hidalgos de España (who is the vice-president of CIGH), Manuel Ladrón de Guevara i Isasa, is President of the Organizing Committee, is Counsellor of CIGH, then Michel Teillard d’Eyry, President of International Academy of Genealogy AIG and Honorary President of CIGH, Faustino Menéndez Pidal de Navascués, Honorary Director of the Real Academia de la Historia (who was in the past President of CIGH), Pier Felice degli Uberti, President of the CIGH, some representatives of Associations members of CIGH has Eduardo Pardo de Guevara y Valdés, President of Instituto Internacional de Genealogía y Heráldica, Ernesto Fernández-Xesta y Vázquez, Director of the Real Academia Matritense de Heráldica y Genealogía and Robert D. Watt, President of International Academy of Heraldry - AIH.

I like to repeat what I wrote last year: “For the first time in our history, in order to maintain real contact with members of the CIGH, during my presidency I also called Ordinary General Meetings during the Heraldry and Genealogy Colloquies, and I consider myself satisfied with the results. A cooperative relationship with universities was also initiated in order to organise conventions, and sponsorship was granted for numerous events in Italy, San Marino, Spain, Germany, Belgium, France, USA and South America. There are 7 historic CIGH Awards to be distributed to the Congress, and 2 Extraordinary Awards linked to the Historical Awards have been added. The *CIGH Bulletin* also continued its publications, providing a vision of what is happening al over the world.

From my contacts I learned that associations in different parts of the world have different characteristics and there are few dynamic ones that base their interactions on the web; unfortunately, many are “clubs” of amateurs who think they know the truth from all points of view. A characteristic common to all associations is the lack of members from the new generations, in other words *Millennials*, and this is without doubt because our traditional approach cannot be understood by generations who have had a different cultural education”...

So we have to find new more modern ways to involve more people.

PIER FELICE DEGLI UBERTI
PRESIDENT