

## Michel Teillard d'Eyry (1940-2022)

*Pier Felice degli Uberti*

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, Michel Teillard d'Eyry passed away in Riga. In life, it is rare to meet special people who leave an indelible mark forever, one of whom was Michel for me. Although we had both attended the 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences in Madrid in 1982, we did not have the opportunity to meet during that event because of the immense number of people in attendance, which is unmatched by today's congresses.

The real familiarity took place in 1998 at the XXIII International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences in Turin, at a time when he held the position of treasurer of the CIGH and when he joined with me the first Board of Directors of the newly formed International Academy of Genealogy - AIG.

For me, that was a really important Congress: at that time, the Italian Heraldic Genealogical Institute - IAGI – was born from a few years, and it had already done a such important work that it had already attracted the attention of 'the greats' in these matters at an international level. I was the IAGI secretary general, but I also participated in the



*Above, coat of arms of the Teillard d'Eyry family. Above, Pier Felice degli Uberti and Michel Teillard d'Eyry in Arras. Below, Marie France and Michel Teillard d'Eyry in Casale Monferrato*



Congress as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage of the Italian Republic (the organizing institution of the Congress), and in Turin, IAGI became member of the CIGH.

It was thanks to that Congress that we were able to get to know each other better and forge relationships that became more and more of a sincere and affectionate friendship between myself and Maria Loredana with him and Marie France.

The Turin Congress immediately led Michel to become President of the Confédération Internationale de Généalogie et d'Héraldique - CIGH, a position he held until the XXXI Congress in Oslo in 2014 where he was proclaimed Honorary President of the CIGH.

In 1998, he also became President of the Académie Internationale de Généalogie - AIG, a position he

held until the 12<sup>th</sup> Colloquium in Messina in 2021, when he was proclaimed Honorary President of the AIG.



*Above, Manuel Pardo de Vera y Diaz, RAHE President gives Michel Teillard d'Eyry, the Cruz de Merito granted to the FFG. Below, Maria Loredana Pinotti with Michel Teillard d'Eyry*

Immediately, between us, began a close collaboration that only ended, unfortunately, with his death.

Belonging to a noble family native to Auvergne, Michel Teillard d'Eyry, born in Plauzat on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1940, he married Marie France de Gérard de Langalerie on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1965. That was a true love marriage that lasted until her death on the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2021. From their union, two children were born: Anne Laure and Emmanuel.

Michel was also the founder of the Cercle généalogique de

l'Auvergne et du Velay, which he brought to great notoriety among French genealogical organisations, holding the position of President of Honour until his death.

In October 2016, from the Fédération Française de Généalogie - FFG, for which he had long been in charge of international relations, that he was awarded the prestigious Medal of Honour (one of the most important distinctions in the world) by its Vice-President at the time (and current President), Valérie Gautier.

As President, he led the CIGH to levels never reached before. In this way, the CIGH, founded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1971 by the Duke de la Force became the world's most important organization that brings together genealogical and heraldic institutions that have held international congresses, as well as the most important scientific institutions in a hundred countries around the world.

In 2008, he chose me as successor of Szabolcs de Vajay, the creator and founder of the CIGH Awards and Medals Commission. Together, we elevated it to such importance that it passed from being a private event within the Congresses, reserved only for the awardees and their families, to a prestigious public event that opens or closes the Congresses because of its importance.

During his presidency, the annual newsletters CIGH Bulletin and AIG Bulletin were born, which he also wanted me to take care of. Even to the point of handing over - for reasons of age - his position as president in 2014 to me to continue his programme.

His militancy in the AIG recognised him immediately as its president and during his tenure he chaired no fewer than 12 Colloquia, which were punctually held: in Moscow in 1999, in San Marino in 2001, in The Hague in 2003, in Paris in 2005, in Iasi in 2007, in Guimaraes in 2009, in Bologna in 2011, in



St. Petersburg in 2013, in Madrid in 2015, in Montreal in 2017, in Warsaw in 2019 and in Messina in 2021.

But behind these great achievements there was the merit of having been able to fight the envious, by



demonstrating the value of the AIG at a time when it was considered a useless institution, as the other academy thought it could include genealogical study in itself.

Today, after almost 40 years of dealing with the documentary sciences of history, my thoughts on the organizations dedicated to these studies have deeply changed: unfortunately, our subjects have a past linked to a user base of enthusiast *amateurs* and there are still few who boast that scientific background that can only be learnt at universities. Therefore, I believe that in order to have the élites of scholars, we must necessarily turn to the institutes and universities

*Michel Teillard d'Eyry and Pier Felice degli Uberti in Oslo 2014 in an unforgettable memory*

(although they still have many limitations).

During his long career, he obtained important world awards in our subjects, of which I will only mention a few: full member of the Instituto Internacional de Genealogia y Heraldica (Madrid); full member of the Institut International d'Études Généalogiques et d'Histoire des Familles (Dublin); corresponding member of the Istituto Araldico Genealogico Italiano (Bologna); honorary member of the Academia Costarricense de Ciencias Genealógicas; honorary member of the San Marino Heraldic Genealogical Institute (San Marino); corresponding academician of the Real Academia Matritense de Heráldica y Genealogía (Madrid); full member of the Société d'Histoire et de Généalogie à Moscou (Moscow). He was also an Academic Senator of the Studium - Academy of Casale and of Monferrato. As a descendant of the Marquis de Lafayette, he was a member of the prestigious Society of Cincinnati, was a member of the Commission for nobiliary proofs of the Association d'entraide de la noblesse française - ANF, and he was also a member of the Jockey Club of Paris.