

# The Benelux Herald

NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

Year 3 Edition 1

January A.D. 2016

## A happy and blessed 2016!

### From the Intendant -General's desk



I wish you all a very, very happy, prosperous, healthy, and truly blessed 2016.

### Appendant Orders 19 March A.D. 2016 Breda

#### Schola Palatine Conclave No.509

The meeting will take place in the morning; expected time 10.30h-12.00h. During this meeting the new appointees to the Divisional Sepulchre Guard will be commissioned and invested. After the meeting a sandwich lunch will be served (for those who booked).

#### Conferment of the Orders of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and of Saint John the Evangelist.

The meeting will take place in the afternoon; expected time 14.00h-16.00h. During this meeting the new members of the RCC will be received into these Orders, obtaining full membership of our Order. After the meeting we will enjoy drinks and dinner.

All Worthy Knights Companion –who are not yet- a Brother Knight of Saint John the Evangelist, mark this date in your diaries! All Brother Knights of Saint John the Evangelist you are most welcome to attend and observe this beautiful and impressive ceremony.

Summons for these meetings will be sent to you in due time.

The venue will be the Amrâth Hotel Brabant in Breda (rooms available!)

<http://www.amrathhotels.nl/brabant>

### Constantine the Great in Amsterdam

from our reporter P.Kt. Frans

An exposition of numerous artifacts, treasures and artwork from the era of Constantine the Great is being held in the 'Nieuwe Kerk' in Amsterdam until 7 February.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. Rome, the capital of the Empire, transformed from a multi religion city littered with temples and colossal statues, to the Christian religious and papal city full of churches with the emblem of the cross. Christianity grew in a short time from a small religious minority to Rome's dominant religion, with a great influence on daily life in the city and the whole Roman world. Even until today! In the first centuries A.D. Rome was a multicultural melting pot of religions; worshipping a variety of deities the most popular being: Isis, Dionysus, Mithras, and Jupiter Dolichenus. Christianity was on the rise! It started as an imported cult, brought to Rome by immigrants from Palestine, gaining more and more followers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century in the provinces of the empire, especially in the eastern part. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century in most cities the Christians began to grow into a majority. To the average Roman, the belief in a God that suffered the cruel and shameful death on the cross (crucifixion) must have seemed absurd. The Christian teachings moreover taught 'strange' matters like: 'Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you' (Luke 6:27), 'But many that are first shall be last; and the last first' (Mark 10:31), 'Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth' (Matthew 5:5). This was in fact an inverse of the social fabric of antiquity. Constantine most likely at first directed his prayers to Jupiter and Sol Invictus, after having a vision in 310 A.D. (this most probably was a sun halo).

In 312 A.D. on the evening preceding the battle with Maxentius, Constantine had another vision, in which was revealed that he would prevail if he openly would declare his support to the

Christian belief of the unknown god only to be charged with: 'in hoc signo vinces'. He then ordered to surmount his imperial standard with XP and to emblazon the shields of his troops with that same emblem. The next day on 28 October 312 A.D. Constantine did defeat Maxentius in a battle at the Milvian bridge near Rome. Maxentius drowned in the Tiber during that battle... From that day on Constantine openly supported the Christian faith and the growth of its followers, and promulgated the Christianity. The effects became very visible in daily life, and in a short span of time monumental churches were built. Constantine now the Augustus, became the patron of Christianity and ruled as the Hand of God, with the sole purpose of uniting the Western and Eastern Empire under one ruler and one religion. In 321 A.D. the first law regarding the Sunday's rest was passed, and defeating his co-emperor Licinius in 324 A.D. the Christian revolution accelerated even more. Magnificent churches were built, e.g. Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Church of Nativity (324-337 A.D.)



And a new morality based on the Christian teachings regarding the poor and decrepit emerged. 324 A.D. marks the founding of Constantinople and in 325 A.D. the first council of Nicea took

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place. The subsequent growth of the complex religion Christianity is, was truly miraculous. It literally took centuries to form a widely accepted definition of the tri-une God, the salvation and redemption of man by the death of Christ, and the promise of resurrection. And finally Christianity became a binding element in the social fabric of the pluriformous Roman Empire. The principles of equality of man (disregarding gender, race, and social status) stressing responsibility towards society offered an acceptable alternative to a struggling class driven society. At his deathbed in 337 A.D. Constantine was baptised fully embracing Christianity.

Now we have the opportunity to marvel at a number of treasures from an era that gave us this great legacy. The exhibition in the 'Nieuwe Kerk' a must see!

<http://www.nieuwekerk.nl/nl/#/nl/tentoonstellingen/>



## Yearbook 2016

All members attending the Annual Assembly of Divisional Conclave have gotten a printed copy of the Divisional Yearbook.

The conclaves' recorders were supplied with a minimal amount just to see that the principal officers of the conclaves and the to be installed new Knights will receive a printed copy. The recorders will have a digital copy to dispense to all members of their respective conclaves. If you crave a copy please ask your conclave recorder.

## Saint Philip Conclave

The planning and preliminary preparations to form, consecrate, and constitute a new conclave in our Division are underway.

At our Annual Divisional meeting our R.III.Int-Gen. Alasdair announced that it is his wish to form, consecrate, and constitute a new conclave (working the English language) to cater for: Royal Arch Companions in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the Knights Companion living near to Luxemburg in Germany, France and the south of Belgium. In order to hold that festive event a lot of water has yet to pass under the bridge, the timeline stretching well over a year (and maybe as long as two years). A number of Knights have already expressed their wish to take part as founder. I hereby call upon any member (already or soon in possession of the Appendant Orders!) wishing to be a founder to make himself known by e-mail to the organising recorder via the e-mail of the divisional registry.

## Found 'on the internet'

This section holds a number of links to snippets of information. It may be a YouTube film, Wikipedia item, or something else. Enjoy clicking and browsing.



### YouTube

Constantine the Great

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIxE332XQqA>

Dr. Charles Hedrick

'Christianity before Constantine'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB3bQkxqP\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB3bQkxqP_g)

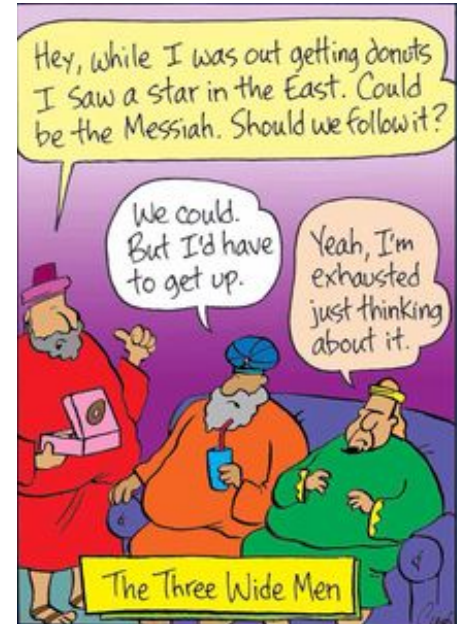
### New Advent

Constantine the Great

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04295c.htm>

## Humour

### The Three Wide Men



## Colofon

The Benelux Herald is the Divisional Newsletter published for all members of the Order and Division.

Divisional Recorder

Hermen W. Huiskamp

Valkenweg 125

NL-7331 HG Apeldoorn

[divisional.recorder@rcc-benelux.info](mailto:divisional.recorder@rcc-benelux.info)