

TWINNING

The idea of twinning was already in the air in the wider World when a proposal to encourage Lyceum Clubs to form twinning arrangements was adopted at the Auckland Congress in 1983.

After the Second World War in the fifties it had been decided within the framework of a new French-German conciliation to establish closer exchanges between neighbors in an attempt to foster mutual understanding. It was thus that in Europe relations between numerous towns in different countries developed through social and cultural exchanges; the twinning of towns was born. At the Auckland Congress the Lyceum Association adopted this idea of encouraging the rapprochement of numerous Clubs with differing cultures and languages, often geographically distant from each other: was this not a basic tenet of the IALC? By the end of the Congress the Amsterdam Club had forged links with the Auckland Club.

1984 heralded a sudden flowering: France was the pioneer with Paris and Athens; followed by Germany and Switzerland with Stuttgart and Basel, Cologne and St Gallen; then Zurich and Munich, Constance and Lucerne, Geneva and Dijon, Lausanne and Fontainebleau in 1985. Italy opened Florence to Switzerland in the 1990s: Florence with Geneva, and Florence with Dijon. The impetus continued in the following years: Orleans twinned with La Chaux de Fonds in 1986; Groningen in the Netherlands joined up with Aix la Chapelle in 1988; Constance with Limoges; 'little' Troyes united with 'grand' Berlin in 1990.

It can thus be seen that in less than eight years a dozen European Clubs overran their borders, opening up to other cultures, other languages. An interesting initiative of Switzerland's at that time to conclude a provisional twinning limited to two years between Clubs in order to be able to get to know better their compatriots in the Tessin District, the Swiss Romande and German Switzerland, all with different languages, and develop a deeper cohesiveness within Switzerland. Could this plan be adopted by the vast countries of the Southern hemisphere where the problem of cohesiveness is not language but geographical distance? The latter was nevertheless not an obstacle to the twinning of Perth in Australia with Cyprus.

After a hiatus at the beginning of the nineties, a revival can be seen which intensified in more recent years: let us mention in 2008 Turku, Finland with Cologne, and in 2009 Amsterdam, the Netherlands with Bretagne Nord, and Caen, France with Rhein-Main and Paris with Philadelphia, USA and with Basel, Switzerland.

Let us hope that this renewal continuous in future years as a sign of the good health and openness of our Lyceum Clubs.

TWINNING WORLDWIDE

Current survey:

Australia	Perth – Cyprus
Austria	-
Cyprus	Cyprus - Perth
Finland	Turku – Köln/Cologne (2008)
France	Bordeaux – Neuchâtel Bretagne Nord – Amsterdam (2009)

Caen – Rhein Main (Frankfurt) (2009)
 Fontainebleau – Lausanne
 Orléans – La Chaux-de-Fonds
 Paris – Philadelphia (2008)
 Paris – Basel (2009)
 St Barthélemy – Stockholm
 Troyes – Berlin

Germany Aachen/Aix la Chapelle – Groningen (1988)
 Berlin – Troyes (1990)
 Berlin- Florence (2002)
 Hamburg – Stockholm (2004)
 Karlsruhe – Biel/Bienne
 Köln/Cologne – St Gallen (1984)
 Köln/Cologne – Turku (2008)
 Konstanz/Constance – Luzern (1989)
 Konstanz/Constance – Limoges (2004)
 München/Munich – Zürich
 München/Munich – Bern
 Rhein Main – Caen (2009)
 Stuttgart – Basel (1984)

Greece -

Italy Florence – Berlin
 Genua - Lugano

Netherlands Amsterdam – Bretagne Nord (2009)
 Groningen – Aachen/Aix la Chapelle (1988)

New Zealand -
 Portugal -
 Russia -
 Scotland -

Sweden Stockholm – Hamburg (2004)
 Stockholm – St Barthélemy

Switzerland Basel – Paris (2009)
 Basel – Stuttgart (1984)
 Berne – München/Munich
 Biel/Bienne - Karlsruhe
 La Chaux-de-Fonds – Orléans
 Lausanne – Fontainebleau
 Lugano - Genua
 Luzern – Konstanz/Constance
 St Gallen – Köln/Cologne (1984)
 Zurich – München/Munich

USA Philadelphia - Paris