



# The Dutch Burgher Union

*Newsletter – June 2007*

## CONTENTS

Presidents Message

Fun time at the DBU

Life Membership  
*Mr Vernon Muller*

Welfare & Christoffelsz  
Child Education Fund

Burgher Paintings

DBU beginnings

Reminiscing...past  
President – *Justice  
Percy Colin-Thomé*

Karaoke Night

## President's Message

Dear Member,

A function to celebrate the National Day of the Netherlands was hosted by the Ambassador of the Netherlands, H.E.Reynout van Dijk and Mrs Ingrid van Dijk-de Bloeme, at the DBU premises on Saturday 5th May, 2007.

A large gathering of distinguished guests were present to enjoy an informal get-together of friends of the Netherlands who this year, not only occupied our hall downstairs but were able to enjoy the ambience of the newly refurbished upstairs lounge.

As is to be expected, a choice selection of eats including traditional herrings and cheese were served to the guests while a lively band kept the party swinging with the latest in pop music. The highlight of

the evening was when the Ambassador let his hair down and joined the band to entertain the guests on his harmonica!

We have now completed the survey of the existing buildings of St. Nikolaas' Home. Our architect Christine Wallbeoff has commenced the design work of the building, for approval by the SNH Buildings Sub-Committee. The toilets will be upgraded and a few more added in close proximity to the rooms and dormitories. I shall keep you informed of our progress.

With all good wishes,

*Kem Martenstyn*  
President



## Fun time at the DBU!

Wasn't it a real fun night on 30<sup>th</sup> May? Those of you who attended the "Bombay Mere Hai" theme night will agree with me that it was one of the best we've had. From the rich silk sarees of various hues which were draped on the windows of the hall, to the table décor of shiny brass pots and lamps covered with garlands of frangipani; from the fabulous Indian outfits so many of you wore to the delicious spread of freshly cooked Indian food straight off the fire onto the plates – it was truly super. Congratulations indeed to the Entertainment Committee led by the President, Kem Martenstyn, for a job well done.

The winners of the Baila competition were Mr & Mrs Seneviratne who won a weekend for two package at Hotel Suisse in Kandy. This generous prize was provided by Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, through the kind courtesy of Mr Sanjeev Gardiner and Mrs Mavis Gardiner. So, thank you GFH and the Gardiner family for your on-going support (including a further prize at our next event) which is very much appreciated.

The winners of the "Best Dressed Indian Lady and Gent" were Beverley Labrooy and Dorian Gray, who looked like an Indian Princess and a Maharajah (gold turban and all!).

It was nice to see the "young ones" participate, and young Rolando stole a few hearts for sure, as did the lovely young Chantal, and Ornella in their trendy Indian outfits.

A hilarious game was played enthusiastically by the men, and their gyrations and facial expressions whilst they tried to reach the winning post kept everyone in stitches!

These monthly events are proving to be so popular, that we find it hard to fit in everyone who wants tickets! We did try to have more tables last month, but found they obstructed the dancing space, and so, if you want to attend this month's event, please make sure you make your table reservations early so as not to be disappointed. We want to make sure that there is plenty of space for dancing and fun for everyone and so we have to limit the number of tickets sold, unfortunately.

Thank you to those of you who sent in contributions to the newsletter – keep them rolling in. We'd like to have more interesting anecdotes and articles pertaining to our Dutch Burgher community in particular. Finally, a very big thank you to David Colin-Thomé for the marvellous job in formatting our E-newsletter.

Cheers!  
Anne-Marie Kellar  
Secretary

## Vernon Muller awarded Honorary Life Membership

In appreciation of his long and loyal services to the DBU, Mr Vernon Muller was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Union by the President and General Committee. Mr Muller served as Secretary for a total of 23 years, including an unbroken spell from 1979 - 1999. He also concurrently held the post of Deputy President for five years and two terms as an Ex-Officio member.

Mr Muller is the Honorary Consul for Liberia in Sri Lanka. We thank him for his services and wish him good luck and good health in the future ■



## Welfare beneficiaries & A.E. Christoffelsz Child Education Fund

On Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007, the Welfare Beneficiaries Committee comprising Mrs Wilma Chapman and Mrs Fleur Mack met and disbursed funds to 26 beneficiaries out of 30 on the list, with four beneficiaries not being present, presumably due to the inclement weather.

Additionally, funds were also disbursed to 48 children under the A.E. Christoffelsz Child Educational Fund, from a list of 51 out of which 11 new applicants were interviewed and approved for payment.

One parent requested that her eldest son who had completed his A/L be sponsored for a computer class. It is with great pleasure that I report that Mrs Chapman has already found a sponsor for this boy as her son has volunteered to do so.

It was also agreed to offer support to another lady (Mrs Pate) who was very short of money as her husband needed to be hospitalized. She was paid a sum of Rs. 1,500 from the Forgotten Peoples Fund.

We once again invite any members, either ladies or gents, who are interested in the welfare work of the DBU – please join our Sub-Committee and be of assistance to the less advantaged members of our community ■ *Contributed by Fleur Mack*

## Paintings by Burghers

We are happy to inform you that, with the kind permission of the owners, we are now proud to display a few reproductions of some paintings which were exhibited at

the Burgher Art Exhibition held a couple of years back. Some are displayed in the Bar Lounge upstairs and some in the main Hall below. It is hoped, in due course, to add more to those already displayed. The framed re-prints were donated by Mr Stephen LaBrooy ■



*Painting by Michael Anthonisz*



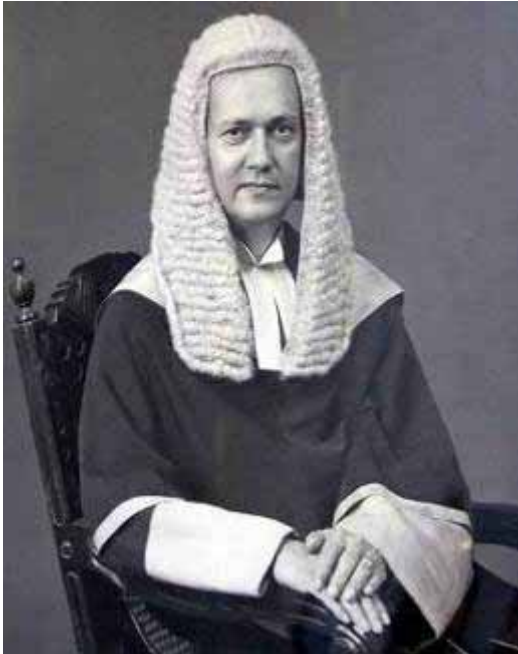
*Painting by George de Niese*



*Painting by Bertha Jansz*



## Reminiscing...past President Hon. Justice Percy Colin-Thomé



*By Anthea Muller*

Percy hailed from a distinguished Dutch Burgher family in Galle and served the Dutch Burgher Union as President for 10 long years from 1978 to 1988.

It was here that our association with Percy grew and blossomed, for Vernon and I worked alongside with him for the progress and development of the Union and the welfare of the hapless segment of our community.

It was a sheer delight to work with Percy for he always respected another's view, and his sound judgment on all matters was highly valued and respected by all of us who had the proud privilege of holding office under his leadership.

When I first ventured out as a career girl, I have vivid and happy memories of the many Gilbert and Sullivan Operas Percy and I took part in as we were both

members of Colombo Singers and Percy always took a leading role as he was hugely talented.

Percy was a unique personality, a strict disciplinarian in his legal career, but on the other hand absolutely witty at social gatherings when with a sparkle in his eye, he related many an anecdote to keep his friends in fits of laughter. Percy was modest, unassuming and charming and never lost the common touch, although he reached the top rung in his career and always had time to listen to another's difficulties.

On a few occasions our family spent memorable and relaxing vacations in Nuwara Eliya with Percy and his charming wife Moira, and the camaraderie and companionship Percy shared with us will never be forgotten.

Percy was a devoted husband to his wife Moira and a proud Father of his three charming sons.

Percy is one of those Dutch Burghers whom we should be all very proud of, as he was a distinguished Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, who no doubt brought fame to the entire Burgher community ■

### OUR SYMPATHIES

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to David, Rodney and other members of their families on the sad loss of their mother, Mrs Therese Martenstyn.



*Hon'ble F.C. Loos, first  
President of the DBU  
1908-1911*



*R.G. Anthonisz, President  
of the DBU 1916-1929*

## How the Dutch Burgher Union came into being

*Extract from the DBU Journal Vol 1 No 1*

- The present movement was initiated by an informal meeting held at the Lindsay Lecture Hall, Bambalapitiya, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1907, at which a large number of both ladies and gentlemen were present. The proceedings commenced by Mr H. van Cuylenburg being called to the chair. Mr R.G. Anthonisz gave a brief explanation of the objects of the meeting. At the conclusion of his address the following resolution was moved by Mr Horace de Kretser: "That this meeting is of opinion that a Union of the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon, with the object of promoting the moral, social and intellectual well-being of the community, was very desirable". This was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Mr J.E. Christoffelsz proposed that the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, may be appointed a Committee to frame rules, enroll members and carry out the preliminary arrangements for the formation of such a Union, viz. Drs L.A. Prins and Andreas Nell, and Messrs. F.J.T. Foenander, E.A. vanderStraaten, G.E. Leembruggen, R.G. Anthonisz, C. Speldewinde, Horace de Kretser, F.H. de Vos, R.A. Brohier jr., Allan Drieberge, P.H. Ebell, Edgar Schokman, W.B. Toussaint, Colin Kriekenbeek, H.P. Beling, Lloyd Siebel, W.S. Christoffelsz, Sam de Heer, C. Albrecht and W.E.V. de Rooy.
- The first meeting of the Committee took place on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1907.
- Meetings were also held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1907 and 4<sup>th</sup> January 1908 respectively, at which further details were discussed, and the rules which were to form the Constitution of the Union were framed and considered.
- The General Inaugural Meeting of the Union took place at the Pettah Library Hall, on Saturday, the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1908, at which a large gathering of members was present.
- The Hon'ble Mr F.C. Loos proposed that Dr van Dort take the chair. This was seconded by Mr E. de Kretser and carried unanimously.



- The Secretary, Mr. R.G. Anthonisz read the Notice convening the Meeting. The Report and the Constitution were unanimously adopted.
- The Chairman proposed that the Hon. Mr F.C. Loos be elected President of the Union. This was seconded by Mr R.G. Anthonisz and carried unanimously.
- Mr Arthur Alvis then moved the election of an Honorary Secretary. He said: "A duty has been entrusted to me, and that is that I suggest to you the name of the gentleman who is considered the fittest person to be our Secretary. I may say the wish is endorsed by each and every one present. I refer to our friend Mr R.G. Anthonisz. We have on our roll 268 members. I think that out of that number 267 will agree with me in seconding this motion with acclamation. I have pleasure in asking Mr Anthonisz to act as Secretary." The motion was seconded by Mr Edwin Joseph and carried unanimously.
- The Rev. J.A. Spaar moved the election of Honorary Treasurer and proposed the name of Mr Sam De Heer. This was seconded by Mr H.P. Beling and unanimously carried.
- A Committee, consisting of 45 members, was then elected, of which 15 were members residing at outstations.
- The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Mr Hector van Cuylenburg and seconded by Mr Allan Driberg.



## Birthday Greetings!

We wish all our members celebrating their birthdays in June,  
good health and happiness.

Ms June Boyagoda, Mrs Myfanwy de Silva, Miss Natalie de Niese, Mrs Denise de Alwis, Mrs Larna Foenander, Mrs Mystica Flamer-Caldera, Mrs Marie Ganesh, Mrs Rozanne Hemdev, Ms Averille Juriansz, Mrs Jennifer Kelaart, Mrs Coralie LaBrooy, Ms Maryann Wijeyesekera; Messrs Monte Holsinger, Bernard Holsinger, Godfrey de Kretser, Clinton de Kretser, Dr Malcolm Jansze, Michael Martenstyn, Reggie Poulier, Christopher Prins, Maurice Raymond, George White, Ronald Bakelmun, Brian Forbes, Graham Hatch, Graham Marshall, Kees Hoogeveen & Tony de Livera.

We also warmly welcome the following member who joined in May 2007...

**Member by Invitation:** Alston Joachim



# Karaoke Night

with



## Dallas Kelaart

Wednesday  
 27th June 2007  
 commencing at 8.00pm

A grand mix of ever-greens and current pop music to suit a range of singing styles with the latest audio visual equipment to draw out the latent talents in you! So join in and sing to your heart's content! What is known as Karaoke today was popularised in Japan in 1970. After becoming popular in Japan, Karaoke then spread to the East and South East Asia during the 1980s. *Note – there will also be the usual music for dancing as always.*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for the best Karaoke singer will be a dinner voucher for two at the *Sea Spray Restaurant* courtesy of Galle Face Hotel



**Menu**

Vegetables and egg noodles

Steamed rice

Szechuan chicken with dry chillie and nuts

Thai style fish with ginger & spring onions

Kankun with garlic


Fried Chinese cabbage in oyster sauce

Chillie paste

Dessert

**All this for just Rs 550**

**DRESS** – Costumes of Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines



Prizes will be given to the best dressed Lady and Gentleman

**PLEASE NOTE THAT  
 TICKETS MUST BE  
 PURCHASED FROM THE  
 DBU OFFICE BEFORE  
 MONDAY 25TH JUNE 007**