



From the Chairman

The continuing approval that our Grand Tour Project has met with allows us to take another step forward. However this step can be taken only if the Magna Graecia Fellowship expands abroad. And so, to achieve this and avoid other difficulties with which we have met in the past, some decisions have been taken, based on the experience of the past five years and on the suggestions of some Friends of Magna Graecia:

1. Tour-meeting territory will be extended to cover the whole of Magna Graecia and Sicily.

Southern Italy is a vast area at the centre of the Mediterranean that has always been the destination of navigators, merchants, pilgrims and conquerors. Different histories, cultures and traditions have mingled here to create a region which is essentially uniform, despite its many different environmental and human aspects. Countless texts bear witness to its fascination: from the mythical voyage of Homer's Odyssey - which marks the transition from the Aegean to the Tyrrhenian Sea where the Hellenism of Magna Graecia flourished - to Goethe's romantic Voyage in Italy, which expresses the great attraction of the classical ruins discovered in the eighteenth century, an attraction which, with the Grand Tour, gave rise to Neo-Classicism.

With our tours of this region, we hope to launch a rediscovery of Classicism that can contribute to overcoming the present crisis of values in western civilisation. To this end, to mark the 250th anniversary of the first excavations at Pompeii, we shall launch a new promotional initiative in autumn '99, about which we shall inform you in due course.

2. New Committees will be formed

As you know, the Magna Graecia International Fellowship uses the collaboration of the Grand Tour Foundation Organising Committees to organise the tour programme and the meetings with local Friends of Magna Graecia. In order to extend the area covered

by the Tours, we have had to find local Rotarians who are willing to organise new Organising Committees. This year the Vesuvian Committee did an excellent job in organising the '98 Tour, and they take their place alongside those other Committees (Neapolitan, Swabian Castles and Salerno) who have worked with us in the past. Four new Committees are being formed: the Etna Committee (Eastern Sicily), the Bruzian Committee (Calabria) and the Phlegrean Committee (northern Campania) are ready to operate soon, and the Panourmus Committee (Western Sicily) will be ready next year.

3. Sharing the organisational work

To reduce our organisational load, which, with the current expansion, would become unsustainable, we ask for your collaboration too: from now on, it will be one of you who will ask us to organise a tour where and when you want. Of course we will give the group-leader the necessary collaboration to organise the tour-meeting. As group-leader, he will be responsible for getting together a group of at least 25 participants, with whom he will decide on the tour (itinerary, length and date). He will collect first the deposits from each participant, and then the full payment (which will be paid by the group-leader with a single banker's order) and will arrange for the group to arrive together so that there is only one transfer from the airport to the hotel (this to avoid the difficulties in the past with members of the group arriving individually, which complicates transfer and raises costs). In fact, these are all tasks which it is much easier for you to coordinate in your country than for us to do here.

With these new measures, our organisational work will be limited to agreeing to the programme of the tour-meeting (which will be drawn up by the Organising Committee) and so will be simplified. We will therefore be able to satisfy more than one request, to coordinate and put groups in contact with one another if they wish to visit the same area.

Heartfelt Thanks

We wish to thank most sincerely

- those Friends of Magna Graecia who, during the '98 tour-meeting, made a collection which they donated to the Grand Tour Foundation. This was precious in settling the outstanding bill at the Hotel Sakura which arose because of a misunderstanding about some extras.*
- Friend Juergen Neubaur who once again made a very generous contribution to the Foundation.*
- Friend Jos Macquoi who, in settling the balance of his bill, rounded off the sum generously.*
- Friend Eddy Lauwers for the significant portrait which hangs on the wall behind the Chairman's desk, making the room more beautiful.*
- Friend Wim van Gils for the most welcome and excellently produced video which humourously reproduces the friendly atmosphere of the '98 Tour.*

To facilitate the group-leader's work, we are preparing with the Committees a list of the most interesting places from which members can choose what they wish to include in the basic itinerary. By the end of March, we hope to reorganise and update our Internet site, where we will meanwhile put the itineraries and the list of potential places to visit. Of course, without our proposing a tour-meeting each year as we have done in the past, all this is on hold until we have some requests from you, requests which must arrive at least 6 months before your departure date.

4. Increasing membership

Those who have taken part in tour-meetings and have appreciated the Rotarian service and International Service carried out by the Magna Graecia Fellowship should offer the same opportunity spontaneously to their Rotarian friends. This seems to me to be a way of showing your appreciation and recognition of all that we have done for members in the past five years.

With this collaboration of Friends of Magna Graecia outside Italy we hope to increase the membership numbers.

From the Regions

During the round of "friendship visits" in autumn 1998 with Jean and my sister Luciana we realised yet again the validity of the Magna Graecia Fellowship when we were able to enjoy excellent and warm hospitality in our meetings with some members in the following regions:

HARZ (D1800). In a brief but very interesting tour of the area, with Angelika and Juergen Neubaur, Dorothee and Max Luedeke and Hans Malkmus as our affectionate guides, we were able to appreciate the old towns with their half-timbered houses and admire the remarkable Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbuettel.

ALSACE (D1680). Here with Suzette and Lauro Chiodetti we bettered our knowledge of a fine region of Europe with one day in Strasbourg and another at Ribeauvillé - where we presented the Magna Graecia Fellowship at a very pleasant meeting of Lauro's Club - and Orbey, where we visited the Chiodettis' originally-designed house which reveals the imagination of its genial owner-architect.

SWABIA (D.1830). At the invitation of the German "Friends of Magna Graecia" - Ulrich Adam, Bruno Gessele, Roland Guenter, Max Luedeke,

This is very necessary because at the present rate, the already slow increase of members risks coming to a halt, which would jeopardise the Fellowship's vitality.

This sharing of the organisational work is not a new idea. We spoke about these decisions during the '98 tour-meeting and again in autumn during the Swabia Tour and the meetings we had with Friends in northern Germany and France. To my great satisfaction, these new organisational criteria were approved by the Friends of Magna Graecia we met and can already be seen in the requests for new tour-meetings we have had and which Jean and I are planning with enthusiasm, given also the great interest shown by the new Organising Committees we have contacted. An interest, this, which makes us hope once again for a success.

Arrivederci in Magna Graecia or...in Sicily!

Giovanni Lazzàra

Hans Malkmus, Juergen Neubaur, Edgar Scherer, - we took part in the tour-meeting which was well-organised by our Vice-President Edgar Scherer, together with his extremely active wife, Sonja, and their son Jochen.

With members of the Friends of Magna Graecia from southern Italy, organised by Consalvo Ceci of Andria - Castelli Svevi Rotary Club, we were able to visit the places where the House of Hohenstaufen originated - a dynasty with so many connections with southern Italy. At the same time, the speeches at the meetings with the Swabian Clubs (Esslingen, Esslingen-Filder, Esslingen Neckarland, Schwaebisch Gmuend, Goepingen and Goepingen-Staufeland) showed us the desire - which we share - to strengthen the links between two European regions which moreover have cultural roots in common. And so this "return tour-meeting" (important, because we hope it will be the first of several), saw the confirmation of those friendly relations begun in the Magna Graecia Fellowship, relations which can contribute to understanding, and so to peace among nations. - the purpose of the 4th avenue of Rotary service!

PLEASE NOTE !

MG news

From this year, the newsletter will be mailed only to those on this updated members' list. Consequently, Rotarians who wish to be informed about future events of the Fellowship should fill in the form below, attach \$30 and mail as indicated above.

Internet Information about the Magna Graecia Fellowship can be found on Internet at

www.fastsite.net/magnagrecia

Organisation

IFMG Officers (mandate expires on 1st July 2000)*

Chairman *Giovanni Lazzàra, Piazzetta Mondragone 9, I-80132 Naples, Italy - Tel. Res. +081/403551 Fax. +081/764 2273
Vice-Chairman PDG Edgar Scherer, Keplerstr. 31, D-71134 Aidlingen, Germany Tel. Res./Bus. +07056/2367 Fax 14751
Secretary *Franco Clemente, P.zza del Plebiscito port. S.Francesco di Paola, 6/7, 80132 Napoli, Italy - Tel./Fax +081 7645105
Treasurer Giuseppe Saetta, Via Lucci, I-80044 Ottaviano, Italy Tel. +081/8278975

Regional Coordinators:

Germany: PDG Edgar Scherer (see above)
Holland: *Jac Houben, Heirweg 42,B - 3680 Maaseik, Belgium Tel. +89/568830 Fax +89/568821
Belgium: *Jos Macquoi, Gennepstraat 31,B - 3545 Halen, Belgium Tel. Res.: +013/33 3966 Fax +013/66 5228
France: Lauro Chiodetti, 2 Rue de la Graine-Champs, F-68370 Orbey, France Tel. + 89/712556 Fax 89/712205
USA Hal Moeller, 118 Hempstead Court, Madison, NJ 07940 USA Tel. Res. 201/377 4998 Fax 201/701 1959

Organising Committee Chairmen

Neapolitan Francesco Clemente (see Secretary)
Apulo-lucano Consalvo Ceci, V. Spinazzola, I 70031 Andria, Italy Tel. +0883/542662
Salerno Gianfranco Camisa, Viale dei Piooppi 331, I 80100 Salerno Tel. 089 753101
Vesuvian Angelandrea Casale, Via Vargas 12, I 80041 Boscoreale, Italy Tel - 081 8586417

Rotarians responsible for new organising committees:

Phlegrean: Luigi Salzano, via degli Oleandri 15, I 80078 Pozzuoli, Italy;
Etneo Ignazio Moncada, via Galatea 103, I 95024 Acireale, Italy
Panourmus Ignazio Caramanna, Piazza Ungheria 73, I 90141 Palermo, Italy
Bruzio Francesco Menichini, via Isonzo 44/d, I 87100 Cosenza, Italy

Annual Dues

In the last couple of years the Magna Graecia Fellowship has not asked members for the annual membership dues because individual members' dues were lost in the banks in currency exchange charges. We had great hopes in the advent of the euro, but unfortunately the banks continue to make high charges. In view of this, with the Magna Graecia Treasurer we have decided to ask for membership dues (which also cover printing and mailing costs) to be paid for two years at a time, starting with the current year 1998-99, and for all fees to be paid to your nearest Regional Coordinator who, subtracting his expenses, will send the remaining sum to the Treasurer. The annual membership fee has been raised to US\$15, as suggested by the Rotary Recreational and Vocational Fellowship Committee in Evanston.

Update of Members' Roster

Rotarians who wish to confirm their membership should fill in the form below, even if a similar form has already been completed in previous years, and send it, together with the membership fee to the Regional Coordinator (or, if there is not one for your country, to the Chairman). We can thus obtain a realistic update of members.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Rotarian:

Surname	First Name	Spouse's First Name
Language spoken	Classification	
Rotary Club	District	
Mailing Address	Country	
Phone: Res	Phone: Bus	Fax
E-Mail	Date	Signature

POST SCRIPT

I was very sorry to leave you without this newsletter for so long, but I had to stop it because on 22nd October 1998 I was delighted to receive a request from Jac Houben to collaborate in organising a tour-meeting in Sicily for 40 Rotarians. I set to work enthusiastically at once, because here was the opportunity to test the new division of responsibilities as described above. So I fixed 3 meetings with Sicilian clubs for the Dutch group and gave Jac the other information he asked me for.

Unfortunately, when Jac presented the programme with the price fixed by a Dutch travel agency, 30 of the 40 who had booked did not confirm their booking. From Jac's fax of 13th January, it would seem that this was because of the price: in fact, it is 32% higher than last year's tour-meeting, and will rise even further because of the services that Jac had not included such as, for example, the cost of the meetings with local Rotary clubs.

In his fax Jac seemed very upset and disappointed, and so I have asked the Friends of the two Sicilian Committees to propose other hotels with a basic price which, using the criteria we have always used, should be lower. Because the Dutch group had changed the dates and the itinerary, we must now change the arrangements already made. This will take time. I therefore ask our Dutch friends to give us a few days to work on this and then we will send them a proposal. In any case we will complete the work to fix the itinerary for this tour-meeting, so that it will be on offer next year. In this way, I hope to be able to satisfy their request, using the new formula.

Giovanni Lazzàra



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P.tta Mondragone, 9 - I 80132 Napoli, Italy

Member's Address

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