

Exhibition

Ben Somsen [P396] and his wife Hannie Stroes [P397] from Eibergen exhibit from November 6, 2009 to January 2, 2010 in the Public Library, Grotestraat 58 in Eibergen.

Ben is the maker of our beautiful family film: Somsen Panorama and he has had a considerable number of splendid exhibitions of his photographs. His wife Hannie who, after a period of poor health, has recovered completely has picked up her paintbrush again and is painting again with the greatest pleasure.

Together Ben and Hannie have exhibited before but that this joint exhibition could be realised pleases us very much indeed. It is the clearest sign that they are both doing very well.

Should you live in The Achterhoek or visit this beautiful region a visit to the exhibition is certainly worthwhile.

Opening hours: Mo: 13.30 – 20.00.
Tue: 10.00 - 12.00. Wed: 13.30 – 17.30. Fri: 13.30 – 20.00. Sat: 10.00 – 12.30.

Johan Somsen



Worries in our board

In our board we are a little worried about a number of American Somsens who are much behind with their donations. Where initially we had a large group of American Somsens who received our family magazine, this group has gradually decreased over the years.

When people are behind with their annual donations we do not immediately stop mailing Somsen Horizon and the Somsen Newsletter. First we send a few reminders but when there is no response we feel compelled to stop mailing however much we regret this.

But unfortunately now the number of English issues of both Somsen Horizon and the Somsen Newsletter has become dramatically small. It has dropped below fifty. When this trend continues we will arrive at a point where we have to seriously consider whether it is sensible to go on like this and invest so much work and costs in translating and in the lay-out of our publications.

On the other hand we are also very grateful to a number of Somsens on the other side of the pond who are extremely generous with their annual donations. And we also know there are quite a few diehards we sure want to cherish. How many American Somsens and their relatives did not come over to Holland and visit our latest reunion in 2007?

Therefore this small article should in the first place be interpreted as an appeal not to forget to continue your annual donations and also, wherever possible, to urge other family members in your circle to register as a supporter. So, do you know Somsens or people related to our family or do you have children who are not yet supporters of our family foundation: try to make them join us. Or give your children a year's (or more) membership as a present for Christmas. The readers of our magazine will be grateful to you for this.

Johan Somsen [1089] chairman



Somsen

Newsletter 2

October 2009

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The Somsen weekend in IJzerlo

Message of our chairman



Johan Somsen [1089]

With some pride I can welcome you in this second edition of the Somsen Newsletter. As you may know we publish our family magazine Somsen Horizon around the month of May. In addition you receive a Somsen newsletter around the month of October and around the month of May every year. In this way we have more contact moments and it reduces the amount of work that has to be invested in a second edition of Somsen Horizon.

From experience we know that there is always enough to be related about all kind of events in our family. Therefore you should not feel inhibited to send in a contribution for the Newsletters or Somsen Horizon. You know the recipe: the story does not have to be polished – we gladly edit it for you. Pictures are always welcome of course. We also appreciate newspaper cuttings about a Somsen family member very much. Or maybe you know a special, possibly a naughty, story about a member in your branch of the family which is already very old. By publishing it it can be snatched away from oblivion.

Copy for the Newsletter of January can be sent in before January 1, 2010 and for the next Somsen Horizon you have still time to April 1, 2010.

Now that I have started with a request I might just as well add another one. Our genealogist, Dick Somsen from Zwolle, acquits himself of his task outstandingly. Should we keep it that way in the future then it our great desire that a young Somsen steps forward who is prepared, together with Dick, to lose him or herself into the work of a genealogist. Fortunately Dick is still brisk enough to keep going for years but still we have to try to guarantee continuity. Think with us and join us!

In September a Somsen delegation accompanied a couple of American Somsens, Lois McEvoy and her daughter Vicki from Texas, on a roundtrip on the Amterdam canals in Marnix Somsen's boat. A detailed report by Lois will be published in Somsen Horizon 23. Thus there are many more exciting events of which we will keep you informed at a later date.

With Christmas and the turn of the year not so far away I have to keep myself in check not to send you my seasons greetings yet, but I do wish that you will also receive our family publications in the New Year. With your assistance it is even possible that there will be even more Somsens that receive them than this year. Johan Somsen [1089] chairman

Message of our treasurer

Lichtenvoorde, October 2009

Dear contributor, supporter,

It is time again to donate your yearly donation for the SOMSEN FOUNDATION for the year 2010. For only then you will receive the new magazine and Newsletters of our foundation and you sure won't miss them.

We do need your yearly dues to continue our work for the Somsen Foundation. Therefore we kindly ask you to transfer your donation for 2010 to Mrs Marieke Edwards – Jager Gerlings. The minimum amount is \$ 20. We appreciate a higher donation very much.

Would you please mention your name and P number (individual family number) and the year for which the donation is meant? You will find the P-number on the envelope.

Bank affairs USA
Mrs Marieke Edwards - Jager Gerlings [725]
920 East Bay Dr. NE # 3D301, Olympia
WA. 98506 – 1222, USA

TREASURER SOMSEN FOUNDATION, Esstraat 22, 7131 CT Lichtenvoorde.
Many thanks in advance, Jan van Daatselaar [P679]

The Somsen weekend in IJzerlo

by Harry Somsen [146]

The 12th Somsen weekend in IJzerlo from 21 to 23 August 2009 can again be called successful. At the end of the week a number of Somsens came to the campsite "t Hoftijzer" with tent or caravan to spend the weekend together with many other Somsens.

Friday night the board meeting took place at the home of Jan van Daatselaar in Lichtenvoorde. We looked back on the last edition of Somsen Horizon, the new website with a photo album and we made plans for the weekend itself and for the next issue of Somsen Horizon. As there are more and more Somsens who hand in their contributions for our publications, preferably with pictures, it is easier for us to publish our magazine. So send in your stories when you think they could be interesting for our family members. This made it easier for us to publish the first newsletter and also the second one.



The Somsens round the tree.

The weather was perfect which largely contributed to a very pleasant stay in IJzerlo. We made a lot of cycling tours in the environment and some of us paid visits to local Somsens. On Saturday afternoon we were to gather together at the Japikshuis where we were welcomed by Mr Smith and Mr Veerbeek who showed us the Somsen tree, which we could examine and admire.

The tree was inspected from every angle and we found that it had been well taken care of. After having presented the family with flowers and a bottle of Dutch gin everybody present brought out a toast on the growth of the tree, on the distant ancestors and on their offspring.



In the early evening Brunsveld, our caterer, provided us with an abundant barbecue.

The barbecue on the sunny terrace at the back of the farmhouse was perfect. Since quite a number of Somsens stayed at the campsite it was safe to have another drink.

Many stories were told again and also the family history was brought back to memory. With great satisfaction we can look back on this weekend and we hope we can welcome many visitors next year.



The Somsen terrace at the campsite at Hoftijzer.