

AN TUACHTARÁN CEARBHALL Ó DÁLAIGH

ag

BRONNADH SAORÁNACHT NA hÉIREANN MAR

CHOMHARTHA ONÓRA

ar

DR. TIËDE HERREMA AGUS ENGELINA ELISABETH BEAN HERREMA

IN ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN

11 a.m. 11 NOLLAIG, 1975.

CONFERRING OF IRISH CITIZENSHIP AS A TOKEN OF HONOUR

on

DR. TIËDE HERREMA AND MRS. ENGELINA ELISABETH HERREMA

AT ÁRAS AN UACHTARÁIN

BY AN TUACHTARÁN CEARBHALL Ó DÁLAIGH

11 a.m., 11 DECEMBER, 1975.

An searmanas so inniu, macasamhail phoblachtúil é, a Ambasadóir, den tsearmanas a bhí ann roinnt sheachtainí ó shin, nuair do bhronnais-se, thar ceann A Soilse an Ehanríon Juliana, suaitheantais ar an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, agus ar an gCoimisinéir Ó Gairbheith, mar Chinnire ar an nGarda Síochána, agus beart ba dh'eadh é sin go mba mhór ag muintir na hÉireann é.

In Éirinn anso againn-ne, níl de chomhartha onóra ann gur féidir leis an Stát é thabhairt uaidh ach saoránacht a dheonadh. Agus an deontas san, níl sé iontugtha ach amháin ar ráiteas údaráis ón Rialtas gur thug duine: "onóir shuntasach nó seirbhís oirearc don náisiún".

Is san Uachtarán atá an chumhacht dílisithe an deontas sin a dhéanamh, agus, go n-uige seo, níor baineadh feidhm as ach aon uair amháin; ach níor feidhmíodh ariamh é i gcás fear is a bhean-chéile.

An t-ainm "Herrema" is nath é anois in Éirinn, san ísiltír agus i dtíortha i bhfad i gcéin uathu; agus is é is ciall dó an bhuanseasmhacht, an fhortúlacht, agus an chomhthuisceint i gcás beirte gur lánúin thar lánúna iad ar leith.

Is é mo phribhléid-se an onóir seo, gurb í an onóir is aoirde in Éirinn, í a dheonadh don Dr. Tiëde Herrema agus dá chaoín-chéile; is saibhre-de an domhan mór go h-iomlán a dtréithe saoránachta féin.

To-day's ceremony is the republican counter-part, Mr. Ambassador, of the ceremony, some weeks ago at which, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Juliana, you bestowed decorations on our Minister for Justice and, on Commissioner Garvey, as leader of the Garda Síochána - a gesture which has been so much appreciated throughout Ireland.

In Ireland the only token of honour which the State can confer is a grant of citizenship. The grant is exercisable only on a citation by the Government that a person "has done signal honour or rendered distinguished service to the nation".

The power to make the grant, which is vested in the President, has been exercised only once before, and never before has it been exercised in respect of both husband and wife.

In Ireland, the Netherlands and far beyond the name "Herrema" is now a household word; it is a synonym for the tenacity, fortitude, and comprehension of two very special people.

It is my privilege to grant Dr. Tiede Herrema and his wife the highest honour Ireland can confer: they have enriched the whole world by their citizenship.

I would now like to be permitted to try to say a few additional words in Dutch.

LEAGAN GAEILGE DEN OLLANNAIS

Ar thug aon duine faoi deara an chosúlacht atá ón leathaghaidh - ach é níos óige is níos dathúla ar ndóigh - idir an Dr. Tiede Herrema agus portráidí den daonnachtaí mór Ollannach úd, Erasmus; agus, ar sonraíodh, má tá ann cruthúnas nua-aoiseach ar "bhua an duine inmheánaigh"* (an abairt atá mar achoimre ag Th. Quoniam ar bheatha Erasmus), is é, d'eile, (feicthear domsa) an Dr. Tiede Herrema.

Tá ann portráid sin Holbein sa Louvre agus níos suntasaí arís an ceann le Quentin Matsys (athfhoilsithe in Érasme Th. Quoniam). I dtaobh an chéad phortráid, tá roinnt chainte déanta ag Stefan Zweig atá le hábhar.

"Samhlaíonn sé gur as an gcloch a snóadh é, tá sé chomh socair sin- mar sin féin ar a bhreithniú níos géire.....tá laistigh den dealbh beatha an-ghníomhach, beocht intleachta go teann in éineacht, tuigtear do dhuine go bhfuil gach rud sa bhfear ar bís agus ag corraí, faoi lán-tuile do-thuisceana ciúinis."

Agus Bean Herrema, tharlódh gur ceann í do na fíoghair áille, muiníneacha, bhanúla a spréann go soilseach ó scuab ríthaitneamhach Vermeer. Sí "An Óigbhean Leis An Muinche Péarlaí" - (i mBerlin) - mo rogha féin.

Ach ar ndóigh ar bharr gach uile rud, bhí do mhuintir Herrema agus d'Éirinn, an dráma, a aithristear i mbéaloideas na hOllainne i scéal an ghasúirín a choinnigh, óna scuabadh ar siúl, lena mhéar, a bhuantseasmhacht is a thoil, na díogaí sin san Ollainn a chuireann riar ar shaol is ar shlí mhaireachtála.

Sé an Dr. Tiede Herrema an gasúirín sin, in aois fir dó, agus nach cuí gur as fráma le Vermeer a shiúilfeadh a bhean-chéile amach chun sonas a thabhairt dó choíche is go brách.

Beidh sibh beirt againne mar atá na sean-mháistirí Ollannacha faoi mhór-mheas luachmhar is chomh ionadúil sin in ár nDánlann Náisiúnta.

* "le triomphe de l'homme intérieur".

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF DUTCH

Has anyone noticed that in profile - younger, of course and more handsome - Dr. Tiede Herrema resembles the portraits of the great Dutch humanist, Erasmus; and, has it been observed that if there is a modern exponent of "the triumph of the interior man" (Th. Quoniam's phrase to summarise Erasmus's life) why, it is, (it seems to me) Dr. Tiede Herrema.

There is the Holbein portrait in the Louvre and more particularly the Quentin Matsys (reproduced in Th. Quoniam's Érasme). Of the former portrait, Stefan Zweig had some words to say which are in point:

"He looks as if he were carved out of stone so motionless is he; yet on closer inspection.....inside the statue there is a very active life, taut concentration of mental alertness; one realises that everything in the man is tense and vibrant, flooded with a mysterious stream of silence."

And Mrs. Herrema might be one of those calm beautiful confident feminine figures which radiate from the exquisite brush of Vermeer. I favour "Young Lady with a Pearl Necklace" - (in Berlin).

But of course behind all, for the Herremas and for Ireland, was the drama, which Dutch folklore recounts in the tale of the little boy who, with his finger, tenacity and will, kept the dykes, that in Holland order life and living, from being swept away.

That little boy, grown up, is Dr. Tiede Herrema; and how fitting his wife should step confidently out of a Vermeer frame to make him happy everafter.

We shall treasure you both as lovingly as the Dutch old masters who are so well represented in our National Gallery.