

## Finely Formulated Machinations from Europe by Marc De Coninck

From **Alessandro Santi** of **Teste Dure #258** (Hard Heads!) of Italy comes the bad news that they have had to postpone their March meeting in Prato because of the corona virus, but plans are still underway for the European convention in Italy 2021, including trips in Florence and Prato.

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Since the last ITJ, the corona pandemic has reached its peak and the Covid-19 virus is now gradually on the way back in Europe and other countries in the world, thanks to sometimes harsh lockdown measures.

History repeats itself. The Covid-19 virus reminds us of the pandemic of the Spanish flu in 1918-1919, causing tens of millions of people to die. Fortunately, medical science has improved enormously so that the number of fatalities today will be far less than in those years. I can imagine how Stan and Babe must have felt after the closing of the film studios, maybe wearing face masks and thinking that the apocalypse was near.

But Covid-19 not only demanded human fatalities but also claimed victims in the event business and many Sons saw their plans of meeting old friends again during some kind of event shattered or at least postponed. The international Sons of the Desert convention in **Providence**, Rhode Island was postponed by organiser Cliff Sawyer until August 2021. For more information go to [2020lhconvention.com](https://2020lhconvention.com). The European convention that was scheduled to take place in July 2021 in **Italy** was cancelled because the organisers didn't want to take the risk in a period that doesn't allow anyone to involve in big projects in the near future. The plan is to have Ireland host the 2023 European convention and Italy in 2025. In **The Netherlands** the Sondagz, or the Dutch convention as organising tent The Jitterbugs calls it, has been cancelled and postponed until October 2021. The mini-convention in Millingen by The Bohemian Girl Tent, which was also taking place in October, has been postponed until the last weekend of March 2021. Now The Movies, the oldest theatre in Amsterdam (since 1912) and home to **The Perfect Day Tent**, may have to close due to coronavirus restrictions. Visit <https://www.perfectdaytent.amsterdam/> for more information and a petition to sign.

I sincerely hope that all this can go through without any detours and that by then there will be a vaccine available.

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Since the beginning of this year we have been facing an invisible enemy. The corona virus has changed our way of life and we had to adapt to it. And so we did. Tent meetings have now resumed timidly in accordance with social distancing and the wearing of a face mask and it seems to be working. So, life goes on and we have to make the best of it. And despite the lengthy standstill of social and cultural life there is still movement in the world of Sons of the Desert.

Let us start in **Italy**. Seventy years ago Stan and Ollie visited Italy from June 22 till June 26, 1950 before shooting "Atoll K" in France. Plans to celebrate this joyful event were countered by the corona virus forcing the government to install a curfew but our Italian brothers are determined to have a real celebration at the end of the year (*photo right has Stan and Babe arriving at Rome's Termini Station to help promote "Atoll K" in a picture discovered and shared on Facebook in December 2019 by Giuseppe Cassetti*).

See also on the back page the 15 September comings off of Italy's **Blotto Oasis #306**



**The Intra-Tent Journal #178 - Fall 2020**



## Uncoasted As We Are by Flip Lauer

GS **Dave Kirwan**, VS **Roger Krob** & **Busy Bodies Oasis #60** Superior, WI & Duluth, MN. started their 36<sup>th</sup> year with thoughts of meeting again soon (*photos back page*). In December, **Dan, Adele, Gary & Jean Krusz** joined a delightful Google meeting of the **Teste Dure (Block-Heads)** Tent of Prato, Italy, with GS **Alessandro Santi**, wife **Francesca No-ci** and their 4 year old daughter **Alice**.

To end this column, **congratulations** are in order for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Teste Dure** Tent in Italy and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Them Thar Hills** Tent in The Netherlands.

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