

simonsen
20 years young

Dynasty Update 2004



Dear Readers !

Another year has passed and I have now turned the "point of no return", as I was 67 years young in April.

That is the age when you are normally retiring in Denmark.

But not I. I am still continuing to work as work has become an important part of my life, and as I can healthwise still cope with the challenges I am exposed to, I keep going.

Even I have got some hobbies, it would be difficult to find so many hobbies that they can replace the good time I spend in business and not least the joy and satisfaction I am getting from my work.

All of those of my friends, who are retired now – and they are many – keep telling me that they have never before been so busy in their lives. This might be because they really didn't work hard when they were still "working".

Their statements about how busy they are also frightens me as I definitely don't want to be that busy when I go on pension, so why not keep working as I do now when I don't feel overworked and can work as I want it at my own pace, and still get paid a "reasonable" wage ?

The peace in the world has not improved. Unfortunately. Peace in the Middle East I think can be completely forgotten and it will also take "some time" to have things stabilised in Iraq, just to mention 2 of the hot-spots of the world. Not to mention the disaster in Darfur – how can people treat each other like this, killing women and children and chasing poor people away from the little they have.

May I add that we have sent a nice donation to these poor people via Red Cross and may I encourage you to do the same. We have all got so much, and must therefore as human beings living together on this fantastic planet support each other.

Some of the good news is that agreements have been reached between the European Union and various overseas countries, easing their export of among other things meat and sugar to Europe. It was about time, to put it mildly.

The European Union is still battling with far too high subsidies to the farmers, but certain moves have been made to change things in a better direction, meaning better conditions for underdeveloped countries to sell their products to Europe.

The problem within the European Union is that far too many farmers are depending on these subsidies from their governments and the European Union.

Some of these groups of farmers, especially in the southern part of Europe, can be pretty violent, and therefore, the politicians have a lot of respect (read: fear) for these farmer organisations which of course also consist of voters when that day comes, so in many cases these farmers are treated with velvet gloves, unfortunately without the famous iron fist inside the gloves.

The global heating is also waiting outside our doors obviously. That's frightening. Some so-called experts say that in Europe we must expect the water levels to increase dramatically over the next many years.

Anyway, it has always been dangerous to live, but still life is fantastic.

What should we do without it ?

The Simonsen Way

Service, quality, innovation, trustworthiness
and humour

To be superior to everybody else
by

Always doing more than expected

Mission: A world of refractories for the primary aluminium industry
Vision: To be the chosen suppliers of all materials for cathode linings
Rule: Never to be involved in any production

Values – “The Simonsen way”

- Service
- Information
- Quality
- Joy
- Positivity
- Innovation
- Trustworthiness
- Seriousness
- Do it now and do it properly
- Always aim higher
- To be better than everybody else
- To be qualified suppliers for all technologies
- Solve possible complaints fast and satisfactorily

1984 - 2004

20

YEARS IN BUSINESS

It is hard to understand that it is 20 years ago we started our own company on the 1st December 1984.

These 20 years have given me, Klaus and Morten so much excitement, joy and satisfaction that you won't believe it.

As a friend of mine once said: "You can't put a price tag on freedom". And he was right, but really free you will never be.

We have always had to consider the clients, the suppliers, the bank, the auditors, the tax-man etc. etc. so there has been, and still is a lot of pressure - what is of course normal in business.

We have been free in the sense that we could and can make decisions ourselves and don't have to go to the management, which is ourselves, or to the board - which is also ourselves - for approval of any decision made, and that is freedom.

No internal political decisions have to be made. We make the decisions and that's it.

We don't have to consider what anyone might think about our decisions in our company. However, all 3 of us always try to synchronize all decisions so that they can be accepted by all 3 of us.

Not that we all always agree but generally we do, and then we back each other up and that's where the family feeling and "COHESION" comes into the picture.

It has been fantastic to see over the years how we have been able to absorb as well Susanne (Klaus' wife) and Marianna (Morten's wife) into our organisation, without any problems at all.

Therefore, today we have an excellent organisation headed by the 6 family members plus 8 very dedicated staff members.

In any business there are "ups and downs" and of course also in our company, but generally we have been very successful so the idea behind our philosophy of starting the company and then exclusively serve the world wide aluminium industry has been a very good one.

I hope that the company will keep growing to become even bigger and healthier over the years and as our aim is to include new products into our product-line at least every second year, I think we cannot avoid being even more successful.

One of the reasons for the success over the past 6-7 years is our close connection to China where we have slowly established an outstanding network and there is no doubt in my mind that more and more products to be included in the "Simonsen-package" will be supplied out of China in the years to come.

We guarantee you that we shall keep serving you with first-class products and give you an outstanding service also in the future irrespective the nature of the products and their origin.

In connection with the gradual take-over of the management by the younger generation, Klaus and Morten have formulated a new "recipe" for our company philosophy, which you can read on the previous page.

The 2004 Envelope



Lions sleep a lot. Approximately 20 hours a day, and when you find them sleeping in the wilderness you can move pretty close, and we did – frightening close, but this male kept sleeping, didn't even blink, in a very relaxed position.

But don't be mistaken – when awake the lion is a killing machine.

Photographed in the Okavango Delta in October 2004.

The 2004 Christmas Card

This year's Christmas card shows one of the most elegant of the African antelopes, the **Impala**, which is elegant, fast and which can outrun a chasing lion.

I could not resist these 2 curious female Impalas – can you? Sometimes I wonder who is watching who in the wilderness?



The Front Page



During my trip to Africa in October I was very lucky to take a close-up photo of the white-headed fish eagle. An impressive and beautiful bird.

This bird has a fantastic sight and therefore a good overview of what happens plus it is fast and efficient.

Could one make some parallels to our company with this bird? I hope (think) so -

The 20 Years Anniversary Tie

This year I have chosen a striped tie as stripes seem to be "in" these days. The animal on the tie is an Impala, the animal described above which one sees all the time when driving around on the African savanna and bush. This year it is 10 years ago we started sending you a tie as a Christmas present. Do you have them all? You can see them on the photo. It seems as if I am getting more classic in choosing the pattern of the ties, but I still hope you find them nice and worth wearing.



As our company has its 20 years anniversary on December 1 we have decided this year to send a special gift to our female business associates, namely 2 star candle sticks with 2 enclosed candles, which we hope you will use as decoration for the coming Christmas holidays. You may also be able to use them on other occasions. These candle sticks are designed by the world famous silversmith company Georg Jensen in Copenhagen.

OUR STAFF

People come – and people go



Since last year our financial Manager Henrik Lavesen has left us and has been replaced by a lady, Mrs. **Lisbeth Fredholm**.

Lisbeth is now our book-keeper and she does her job perfectly. A very good “swap”.

Lisbeth@simonsen-as.dk

Also my secretary Karen Margrethe Jensen has left us. Karen got divorced earlier this year and therefore wanted to move from our city what she did during this spring.



Then we had to look for another secretary for myself and as from 1st August 04 we employed Mrs. **Hanne Hunnerup**, who is very skilled, and who has already got well acquainted with our procedures, but what is more important also with our other ladies in the company, with whom she gets along very well.

Hanne.h@simonsen-as.dk

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to our good friend and employee, **Neal Wai-Poi**.

Living in Melbourne, Australia was a little too far for an employment in Denmark so we parted as the good friends we still are.

THE FAMILY (AND MY DOG)

Practically no changes at all in our daily life since last year.

Tove and I live next door to Morten, Marianna, Laura and Olivia. This gives us a lot of daily contact not least with the 2 girls.

As our house and garden obviously is a perfect playing ground, also in Frederik's and Nikolaj's opinion (Klaus and Susanne's 2 sons) all 4 of them often meet here and “hassle” their grandmother, who always serves them food, sweets, juice etc. etc. plus she plays cards with them so everyone seems to have a great time.

It is very strange that as soon as the grandchildren see their grandmother they get very, very hungry !

Not that they don't get food at home, but their grandmother must do something to them and their appetites – I don't know what.

I still remember the very nice hours I spent as a boy with my grandparents. These were the days that one never forgets, and we also hope that our grandchildren remember what we have done for them when they grow up and that they in their turn will do the same for their grandchildren.

Olivia has started in 0 grade, which is the grade just below 1st grade and she is very proud.

Nikolaj has started in 1st grade, **Laura** in 2nd grade and **Frederik** in 5th grade and last but not least **Sara** is the 8th grade. So all the grandchildren are busy with their schools and sports and many other activities.

Especially Sara is busy with her horse “Cheval”. He is very popular and recently she won 3 local jumping competitions - not bad and the entire family was very proud.

Concerning **Sally**, my best friend, she is also doing very well, and we make several daily walks.



She has started listening somewhat more to my commands, and that was also about time, according to Tove....

We have a fence around our garden bordering a forest and Sally jumps the fence as easy as nothing. And unfortunately she does it often.

She has her best friend too and that's Monik, Morten and Marianna's dog, and they play together all the time as there are no fences between our gardens (the American way).

Both dogs accommodate themselves in both our homes, and are treated as the dog of the house.

Mille is a wonderful and quiet Labrador (also) belonging to Klaus. We have the pleasure to look after her when Klaus and his family is travelling and that is always a great pleasure.

However, it is a kind of a special experience when I am walking all 3 dogs.

BURTON GMBH, Germany

Several years ago we **simonsen** introduced large shaped **alubar 1100** Barrier Blocks from Burton. Using these large shapes means less time for installation - especially when you also make use of our **octopus vacuum lifter** – 40

as well as much fewer joints meaning less penetration.

Burton has invested heavily in new production equipment like new robots to reduce the production costs.

These large shaped blocks have really become popular and more and more smelter start using these super blocks.

We show you below some photos from the newest part of the Burton plant producing the super blocks.





MOSCONI, Italy

End September, I paid a visit to Mosconi. Mosconi - our good and loyal suppliers since the start of our company - are constantly improving their production. The buildings are being renovated, their perlite expansion equipment has been upgraded. Their pressing facility has been computerized. I think it is one of the cleanest and most organized plants for production of insulating refractories, I have ever seen.

Mosconi is absolutely in line with larger companies like Burton and LIRR, which have the same high standards.

I saw some of the bricks produced for one of our clients, and a quality like the brick we/you get from Mosconi are outstanding and no-one can beat us quality- and tolerance wise.

Have a look at the pallet, I photographed. All bricks on this pallet are absolutely superb.

It makes our days brighter and life easier when we have such partners.



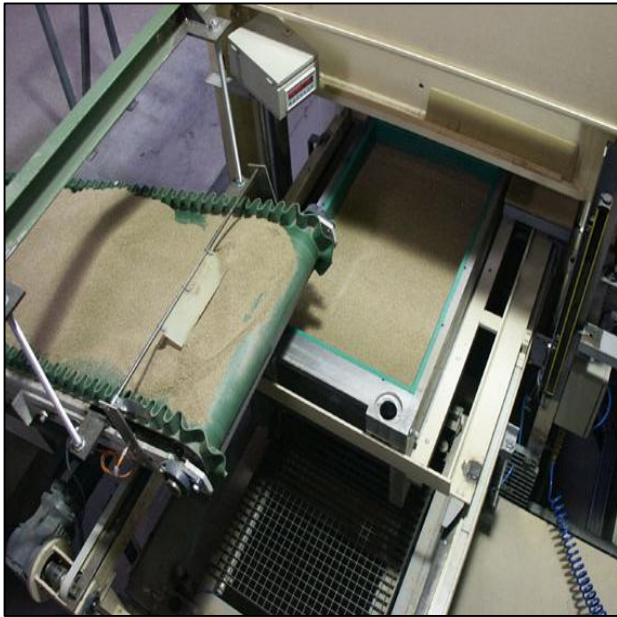
TECHNO-PHYSIK ENGINEERING GMBH, Germany

The heavy vermiculite boards **prolite 2000** produced by Techno-Physik are now being manufactured in a brand-new plant in accordance with the newest technology in Austria.

On the reverse side you will see some photos from the production in this entirely new plant showing parts of the pressing process.

The quality is of course up to the highest standards, and so is the quality control, testing and packing.

You are welcome to come and see this new plant.



LIRR, China

LIRR, yes what can I say but LIRR is a supplier who is something of their own. We are getting more and more orders and have become very successful selling their bricks / blocks all over the world.

Also the combi blocks produced by LIRR are selling in larger and larger quantities to more and more smelters.

I don't believe that any other producer of such silicon carbide materials in China can reach the technical level of LIRR, even some try to.

Many other silicon carbide producers have tried to copy us over the past years, as copying is pretty normal in China.

Another Luoyang producer even has called their blocks SIC 75 which is probably the closest you can come to a product name without violating any laws.

However, be warned against any copyist of silicon carbide products.

Paper is grateful and others can promise the world everything, but to deliver what has become today's international standards qualitywise, quality controlwise, packingwise etc. etc. is definitely a different story plus it takes a long time to get things in place logistically with Chinese companies, so you might face problems concerning delivery in time, maintenance of quality and having the paperwork in place which is very essential these days, so be warned of copyists.

Also for your information some 8 to 10 other copyists in China have stopped producing silicon carbide within the last year, as things were not as easy as they thought they were.

Remember: Nothing beats quality, reliability and service, and that we guarantee to supply you at any time, and if some of your pots suddenly fail we also supply you within a minimum of time.

Dealing with LIRR - [simonsen](#) you are dealing with what is probably the world's largest producer of silicon carbide products today.

Being outstanding suppliers we have now proved since 1997, and that is still some years of experience.

Agreement between JILIN CARBON CO., Changchun, LIRR and SIMONSEN (LISIM)

During a visit to Beijing in July a contract between Jilin Carbon Co., LIRR and us was signed for the exclusive representation of the graphitic carbon cathode blocks plus sidewall blocks produced by Jilin Carbon Co. in Changchun.

After the signing of the contract a photo was taken of the 3 persons signing the contract: Myself, Dr. **Li Hongxia**, LIRR and Mr. **Jiang Baitao**, Jilin Carbon Co.

For your information **LISIM** is the name of the company that will be operating in Shanghai on LIRR's and our behalf for sourcing products from China into the world market for sales by **simonsen** for to the worldwide primary aluminium industry.

This company is headed by Professor **Ruan Bo** from LIRR.



CATHODE BLOCKS

For more than 1 year we have been working intensively with **JILIN CARBON CO.** JILIN and their affiliate, **CHANGCHUN** Branch in Changchun in the Jilin Province in the northeastern part of China to assist in bringing their production of cathode- & sidewall blocks up to international standards when it comes to quality, quality control, production process control, machining and packing.

It has been a hectic year with many visits to this new supplier of ours.

Changchun and we have been assisted in our efforts by

Professor Mark P. Taylor
Director, Light Metals Research Centre
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019, Auckland
New Zealand

and by

Mr. Koichiro Mashio
4-8-10, Ebara
Shinagawa-Ku
Tokyo 142-0063
Japan



A cooperation that has been a very interesting experience for all 4 parties i.e. **Changchun**, **simonsen**, Professor **Mark P, Taylor** and Mr. **Koichiro Mashio**.

New machining equipment has been installed and new test procedures have been introduced.

Changchun's production capacity is approx 15,000 metric tonnes per annum.

Changchun will at the start of our cooperation produce only graphitic cathode blocks in the 3 qualities:

CCB-3

CCB-5 and

CCB-10

(ccb means changchun cathode blocks)

meaning semi graphitic blocks with respectively 30% and 50% graphite and a 100% graphitic block.

We estimate that 70% of the worlds smelters today use semi graphitic blocks so why not try to get a foothold in these smelters ?

Changchun's production also includes electrically and gas calcined sidewall blocks.

These sidewall blocks are called:

ECB

(electrically calcined changchun blocks) and

GCB

(gas calcined changchun blocks)

That means that in the future it is entirely up to our clients to decide whether COMBI-blocks consisting of **sicateg 75** blocks should be glued to either electrically or gas calcined sidewall blocks as Changchun will be the supplier of the ECB or GCB qualities. The "combi-blocks" are produced by LIRR glueing the **sicateg 75** to the Changchun blocks.

PACKING OF CATHODE BLOCKS

Below you will see 3 photos of the packing of the Changchun cathode blocks. This packing is up to international standards.



Special information and data-sheets etc. will be distributed before the end of this year to all smelters when all the testing has been completed by SINTEF, Norway, and U.O.A., New Zealand.

MEETING WITH SINOSTEEL CORPORATION, BEIJING

Less than a year ago, LIRR's mother company in Beijing, previously China Iron & Steel, now SINOSTEEL Corporation got a new president, **Mr. Tianwen Huang**.

During a visit to Beijing on 16th September, I was invited to meet Mr. Huang and discuss the corporation among LIRR, SINOSTEEL, LISIM and *simonsen*.

I had a very interesting talk with my Chinese friends about the future and our future cooperation.

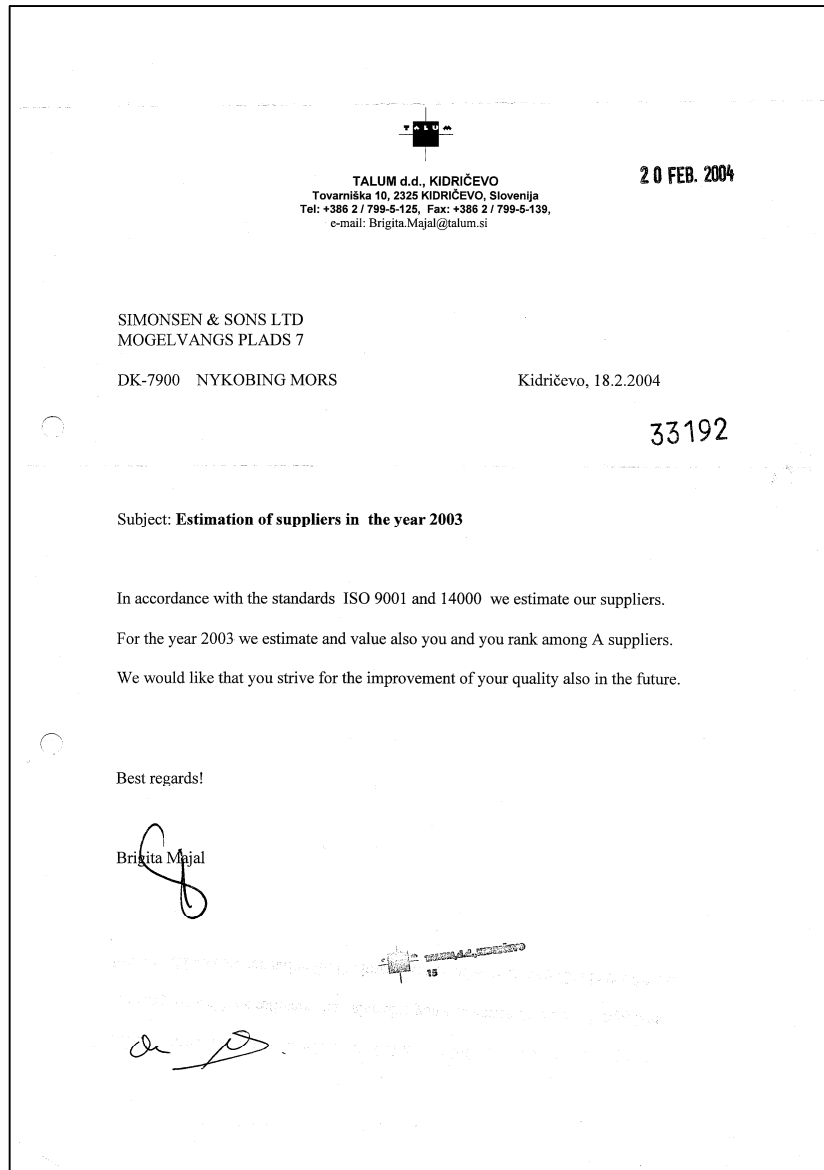
We are very proud of having such a strong partner in China as SINOSTEEL. A company that has an annual turnover of around 5 billion US\$.

So when anyone deals with *simonsen*, it is not only *simonsen*, *simonsen* and LIRR, no, it is also SINOSTEEL, who stands behind us, and that is a very strong and potent partner for us to have, and we appreciate the cooperation, we have with this company and their affiliate LIRR in Luoyang.



ESTIMATION OF SUPPLIERS

From our longtime friends at TALUM, Kidrocevo, Slovenia we received in February this year the following letter:



DS/EN ISO 9901:2000

The ISO approval we got about one year ago has been controlled – according to the rules – several times this year, and we have only got a few deviations during 2004, which clearly indicates that our entire staff are working according to the ISO-standards for our company.

This should not be that difficult either as the system has been laid out in accordance with the way we have always been operating. But anyway –

APPROVAL

We have for many years tried to become accepted and approved suppliers to the Aluminium Pechiney designed furnaces.

Last year we came a big step forward in that respect concerning our **alubar 1100** barrier bricks as this quality was approved for all types of AP designed pots – from AP18 to AP50.

Parallely, this approval implies that **alubar 1100** will be listed in PECHINEY technology specifications as a recommended couple product/supplier for the PECHINEY projects for BRO application, namely AP30 technology pots but also AP18, AP22, AP50..., assuming there is no quality problems during any deliveries. But, as soon as there is a major quality problem, the product/supplier will lose its approval.

So far there has not been one single problem.

MOST WELCOME COMMENTS

We have been so fortunate over the years to receive very many and kind comments to our DYNASTY UPDATE and its contents, a publication which obviously is something of its own as not many companies make the efforts to write such a magazine. I don't know about anyone else.

This year we received the 2 following comments in writing.

I wish to thank these people for taking the time to write to me, and for their kind remarks about humanity, which is very essential to me.

E-mail from Morris Vaz, Snr Development Engineer of Dubal Aluminium Company Ltd, Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 17.01.03:

"Dear Jorgen

Let me start by wishing you and the entire Simonsen family a very happy 2004!

I received your customary "very personalised" year-end package complete with personalised card, the Dynasty Update and lovely silk tie, but I only had the opportunity to read the Dynasty Update when I got back. I did send an acknowledgement and my Christmas wishes before I left off around Christmas time, but I write now to comment on the Dynasty Update.

May I, sir, take my hat off to you for your editorial (page 3-4) and for the super humanitarian that you are. It's not often that people, let alone a businessman, thinks as a human being so globally and of mankind in general, irrespective of nationality, race or religion. Most live in their own cocoons, without a care of what's happening around them. The world's problems are not his to shoulder after all. There are a few gems like you!

I salute you sir!"

E-mail from Rudi Meyer, Specialist Buyer-Raw Materials, Bayside Aluminium, South Africa on 21.01.03:

"Dear Jorgen,

The long awaited Dynasty Update 2003 arrived on my desk yesterday and I really enjoyed reading the entire update last night. Thank you also for the tie, which came with it. Congratulations on the ISO accreditation. This must make you all very proud.

Having read the Update, there can be no doubt that there are lots of exciting things happening in your lives and that there is never a dull moment.

You have built up a very professional and dynamic company, and I feel privileged to be associated with it.

Regards

Rudi

MARKING OF BAGS

We have now for several years been supplying our **sicabond** mortar, **sicacast** SiC castable and **sicaram** SiC ramming material together with our **sicatec** silicon carbide bricks/blocks.

We found recently that these bags needed an improvement and a face-lift on the outside, and therefore, we have decided to use only 1 type of bag for all the 3 products.

Before we used 1 plastic bag, which was then put into an outer a waterproof type of jutebag.

The new bag that is very strong and also 100% waterproof and always contains 25 kilos only.

The marking of the bags has been changed according to the below photos.



As it appears from the face of the bags the instructions for use are placed inside the bags.

COMPETITION

Over the last few years we have seen a steady increase in energy- and raw material prices, important ingredients for the production of any refractories.

We have also seen an instantly increasing pressure from practically all clients to get lower and lower prices because of the larges quantities being negotiated due to among other things the large mergers taking place these years in the aluminium industry.

Fortunately, all the smelter groups seem to be doing very well, but definitely the same cannot be said about the suppliers to the industry.

I have personally never before met such a pressure from the industry since I started in this business on the 1st April 1961. More than 43 years in the refractory business.

In the past it was realized that in any deal both parties should have an acceptable profit and be happy after the conclusion of a deal as everyone has to make a living.

This attitude obviously is not existing today. The old saying: "Live and let live" is still valid but not really practised.

It is unbelievable that all suppliers are squeezed as much as it is the case, considering that electricity, oil, coal, raw materials, sea-freights, yes anything is going up and then there is still such a strong demand for reduced prices. Some clients have even asked us to accept contracts with reduced prices over a longer (several years) period.

For some time now many suppliers have accepted the tough conditions, even the suppliers of refractories are also requested by the smelters' technical people to provide more and more tests of the finished product which means that the suppliers must invest in testing equipment + more costs for the people doing the testing, and still the price has to go down.

Anyone, with just the slightest understanding of business will understand that things cannot go on like this forever.

The smelters are taking risks these days with this purchasing strategy, and some day they may have problems in first of all to be able to buy the materials needed for their plants production, and secondly to get the expected testing and service requested by their technical departments.

Our philosophy has always been never to accept neither the highest nor the lowest freight-rates, for example, but to find a good compromise between the steamship companies and us.

Such agreements have had the effect that our containers are practically never being shortshipped which is often the case these days.

Those who squeeze the steamship companies freightwise will always be the ones who get their goods onboard last, if at all.

How can anyone expect to get delivery in time, high quality products, good packing, good service, relatively long payment terms and still get so low prices that the survival of certain producers might be doubtful ?

No, dear friends, nothing is as it was, but as it is now, changes will come, and I just can't wait to see what is going to happen.

May I again refer to the below "The lowest Tenderer". It is still very actual.

"The Lowest Tenderer"

"It's unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money - that's all. When you pay too little you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought for. The common law of business prohibits paying a little and getting a lot - it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest tenderer it is well to add something for the risk you run, and if you do that, you will have enough to pay for something better."

John Ruskin (1819 - 1900)

Finally, I shall add to the above the contents of an e-mail received from a good friend who is also in the refractory business, with whom we had discussed a cooperation, a cooperation that could not be decided very promptly and my friend wrote back to me:

"Jorgen, with the suicidal prices that are taking place from suppliers to the aluminium industry, it continues to be one of the areas of that a great deal is promised but nothing ever actually arrives at a sensible price, the buyers are the main players in the market and the exporters will one day get caught out."

A tough statement – but absolutely correct.

ALUMINIUM PRICES

ALUMINIUM PRICES STRONG UNTIL 2005

Prices for aluminium have fortunately been stable for a long time and it is foreseen that they will remain at the present level until first half of 2005 according to the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics (Abare).

Obviously, there is a strong demand from east European countries plus a strong demand from as well US and Asia and these factors have helped to keep the price at a relatively high level for a long time – around + USD 1700 this year and about 1610 per metric tonne next year as foreseen with the rates seen falling during the second half of 2005.

There is also an expectation that the market could tighten further in the second half of this year.

There is also an expectation that many consumers will face difficulties in finding reasonable quantities of metal in the coming months as most European producers are fully booked.

Also the integrated aluminium groups are experiencing good internal demand from their rolling and extrusion mills.

So all in all the forecast looks pretty bright and one must hope that the expected worldwide economic upswing will take effect so that the demand goes up and prices remain stable at a relatively high level.

Due to lack of energy in China many newly built Chinese smelters have not started producing yet, as they have the difficulties with as well energy as alumina supplies, and therefore, the demand in China will probably remain high for some time and it is estimated to rise 14 percent this year and 7 percent next year.

The total worldwide production could rise 4 % both this year and also next year to touch 30 million tonnes.

According to Metal Bulletin's 3rd May 04 issue they write:

EU ACCESSION SEES EUROPEAN ALUMINIUM PREMIUMS STABLE

BY MIKE COOPER

London - European aluminium premiums appear to have stabilised before the entry of ten new countries into the European Union on May 1, though the price correction on the LME towards the end of last month has left consumers feeling nervous.

Strong buying interest from Eastern Europe pushed premiums for duty-unpaid material higher in recent weeks, though this demand is starting to wane as the May 1 deadline passed and the price stabilized.

European and Russian metal has also gained from high US and Asian demand, where premiums are higher.

"Consumers are uncertain about the market the price correction on the LME (on April 21). They are unsure whether to wait for lower price numbers or to fix premiums now and secure metal for their plants", said one trader.

Three- month aluminium fell to \$1,700 per tonne from \$1,825 largely on fund liquidation on April 21. In addition, some consumers were adopting a wait-and-see approach ahead of the EU accession.

Despite this, physical demand remains strong at lower LME prices, and trade sources suggest the market could tighten further in the second half of the year.

“Many consumers will face difficulties finding reasonable quantities of metal, particularly billets and slabs, in the coming months as most producers in Europe are fully booked. The integrated aluminium groups are experiencing good internal demand from their rolling and extrusion mills,” the trader said.

Demand from Eastern European countries has been slower last week, as in many cases it will be too late to ship metal to these countries before they join the duty-paid zone on May. “The drawdown of LME stocks began to slow and there has been a degree of restocking,” said Ingrid Sternby, base metals analyst at Barclays Capital Research.

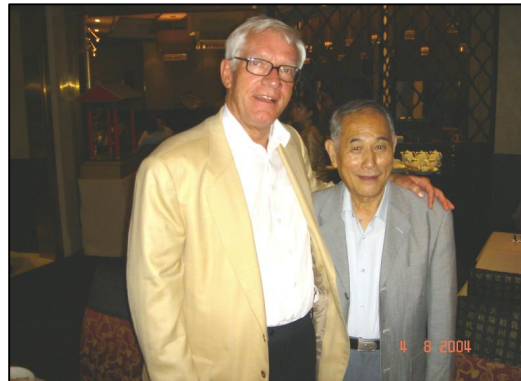
MEETINGS

During a visit to Beijing in July (one visit out of many this year) I had the pleasure to participate in a meeting where among others also a long-time friend

Professor Yao Shihuan

GAMI Guiyang Aluminium-Magnesium Design & Research Institute, Guiyang participated.

Mr. Yao is still going strong even he is 77 years young. Fit and sharp – an elderly real Chinese gentleman.



CHANGCHUN MEETING

During the past year I had several meetings in Changchun. During the latest meeting in Changchun I took this photo of some of my friends from this company namely:



Mr. Liu, moulding shop manager, Jilin Carbon Changchun Plant

Mr. Zhang, vice general manager, Jilin Carbon

Mr. Shao, plant vice general manager, Jilin Carbon Changchun plant

Mr. Ding, chief engineer, Jilin Carbon Changchun plant

Mr. Chen, technical department manager, Jilin Carbon Changchun plant

Mr. Cai, administration dept. manager, Jilin Carbon Changchun plant

It was a great pleasure for me to see the Chinese and the Danish flags arranged together in the meeting room.

VISIT TO BRAZIL



During a visit this spring to Brazil, Morten had a photo of the participants in a dinner in São Paulo.

From CBA

Ing. **Agenor Almeida**

Junior, responsible for process in potroom 120 KA

Morten Simonsen, and

again from CBA

Ing. **Elias S. Castro Neto**

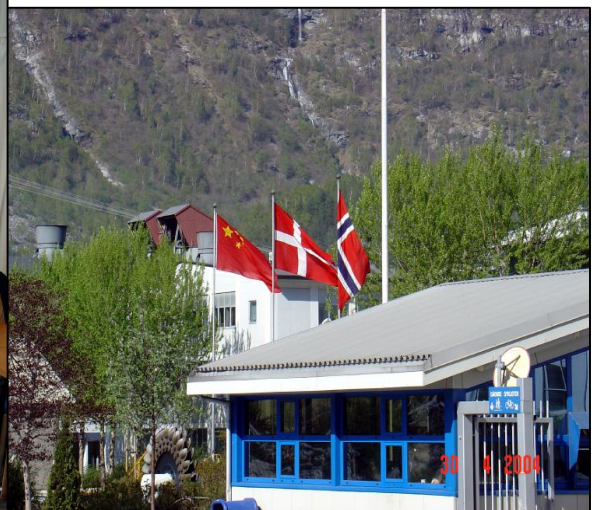
responsible for process for all potrooms.

ANNUAL MEETING WITH HYDRO, NORWAY

Every year in the spring we have a technical meeting with HYDRO at one of their 5 plants in Norway. This year Professor Zhao Junguo from LIRR, Luoyang, Klaus and I had our meeting with Hydro at their Aardal Smelter.

It is always a very interesting day – also this year.

In the meeting participated the persons shown on the below photo:



Zhao Junguo, Svein Kåre Sund, Oddvar Johan Øyre, Myself, Ellen Stray, Alf Harry Bådsvik and Stanislaw Jarek

Hydro has by the way the very nice habit to flag the flags from the nations visiting them, and therefore, we could watch the Chinese, the Danish and the Norwegian flags at the Plant entrance as shown above.

VISIT TO ALCAN STEG, VALAIS, SWITZERLAND

For many, many years I have been visiting the former Alusuisse smelter in Steg in Switzerland. Now this smelter is part of the Alcan group after Alcan's acquisition of Alusuisse. I used to go there every year in December and so I shall also in December this year.



During my latest visit I took a photo of my friends from Steg, namely **Arthur Rüesch**, Plant Manager, **Jörg Mathieu**, Anode Bake manager, his wife and **Fridolin Nater**, Purchasing and Administration.

Fridolin has retired around mid this year, what I deeply regret, but that is the backside of the coin when you have been in business for so many years and got so many friends, some day they go out of business and my business world loses something valuable every time this happens.

VISITING DUBAL

On Sunday, 3rd October 04 Morten and I had a meeting in Dubai with some of our friends from DUBAL, whom you will see from the below photo:



Mr. Ahmed M. Al Mulla, Myself, Dr. Nader Mohamed, Morten and Mr. Abdulaziz Ahmed Abdul Aziz

TMS 2004 CHARLOTTE, VA, USA

This year's TMS was generally the same as the past many years. You meet a lot of old friends and have a very good time.

We always participate and have very interesting meetings giving us the opportunity to meet a lot of people in one place, and that is great.

Obviously, the exhibition is shrinking. Understandable. Who can afford to have people in the stands for a long time instead of them being active in other fields.

Well, that is a question of "taste" and how you want to run your business and not least how to spend your money.

We don't participate in exhibitions etc. That's time consuming and far too expensive. We can spend our money in better ways, we believe.



On my departure from Charlotte I saw something I have never seen before.

A transit hall with rocking chairs.

Amazing. These Americans !

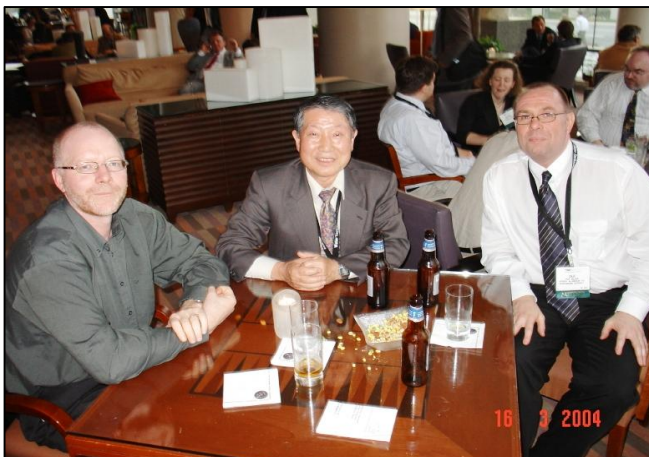
But what a good idea.

I took this photo before I took off.

Isn't it a different photo from a transit hall ?

MEETINGS DURING THE TMS IN CHARLOTTE

As mentioned before we always meet many good friends at the TMS meeting and have a very good time.



Here are some of them:

Egil Skybakmoen, SINTEF, Trondheim,
Norway

Koichiro Mashio, MASHIO ASCS LTD.Tokyo,
Japan

Ole-Jakob Siljan, HYDRO, Research Centre,
Porsgrunn,
Norway

Vitaliy Yakovlev, Chief of the Department for new projects, RusAL

Alexey, Interpreter, RusAL

Andrey Bezushenko, Representative Cometals, Moscow (our agents)

Mikhail Toyberman, Manager for Alumina and Carbon Products, Cometals, NJ, USA

Morten and Klaus



Antonio Bodini and **Paolo Mosconi**, Mosconi, Italy and **Koichiro Mashio**.
(Mashio is on many photos – isn't he?)

Carlos Gueiros, BARRANDA COM. INT. LTDA.
our Brazilian agent.
Morten and Klaus



TMS DINNERS

During TMS there are many dinners, the food is good and it is such a lot of fun – never boring !



This photo shows:

Carlos Gueiros at the bottom end of the table – **Magnus Valsson**, Nordural – **Morten** - the waitress – **Axel Jansen**, Nordural – **Klaus**



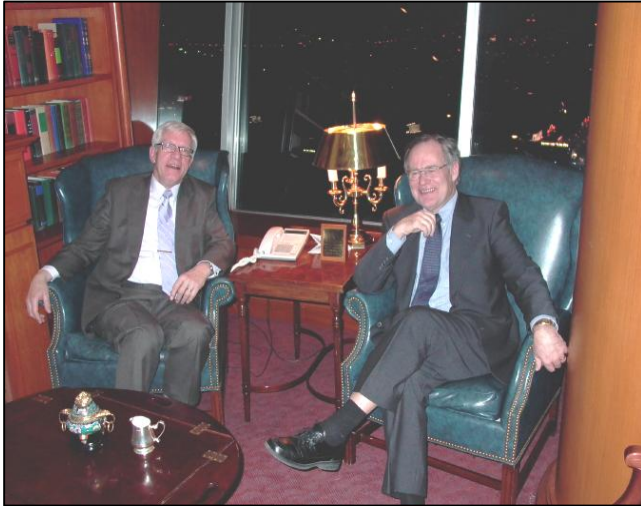
Myself, **Bojan Zigman** from Talum and **Willy Kristensen** from Nordural



Zlatko Cus and **Brane Kozuh**
Talum, Slovenia

THE DANISH EMBASSY, BEIJING

For a long time we have had a very good and close cooperation with the Danish Embassy in Beijing. We have got a lot of support, not only business wise, but also in other areas where we needed embassy assistance.



I personally have got a very good relationship to the ambassador **Ole Lønsmann Poulsen** who now unfortunately leaves China to become the Danish Ambassador to Sweden.

During a visit earlier this year we met at the “Capital Club” in Beijing (some of my Danish friends of which some are working in China are shareholders in that Club).

On the photo you will see the Ambassador and myself.

OLD FRIENDS

On the 1st April 1954 I started as a trainee in a shipping company in Randers. The first day I met **Christen Verner** whom you see on the photo below at a table together with me.

This photo was taken on exactly the day when it was 50 years ago Christen and I met the first time, namely 1st April 2004.

Christen “brought me up” in shipping and taught me a lot and thus helped to give me a good background for my future life in shipping and business generally.

Over the past 50 years Christen has always been involved in shipping from the companies I worked for, as Christen is reliable and gives us an outstanding service plus he is a good friend of our family.

Christen lost his wife last year but is still working, and believe me, our ladies in the shipping department appreciates Christen very much, and we still do business with this long-time friend.

It is not common with such long business- & personal relationships.



ALBA SPONSORSHIPS

During end 2003 we accepted to sponsor The ALBA FAMILY DAY and also to become a Gold Sponsor to the ARABAL Conference in Bahrain on the 19th to 21st April 2004.

Under the patronage of
HH Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

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**Critical Issues
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19th - 21st April 2004
Kingdom of Bahrain

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simonsen^s are worldwide suppliers to the primary aluminium industry of the following first-class products to electrolytic furnaces:

insulite 1900 and insulite 2000	Calcium Silicate Boards
vermilite 2000	Light Vermiculite Boards
prolite super	Heavy Vermiculite Boards
msb-450, msb-575 and msb AW-500	Insulating Perlite Bricks
alubar 1100, alubar 1600S and alubar 2000	Barrier Bricks
sicaterc 75	Silicon Carbide Blocks
sicabond, sicacast	Silicon Carbide Mortars, Castables and
sicaram and sicapowder	Ramming Paste

and to anode bake furnaces:

twenty-3, twenty-5 and twenty-6	Insulating Firebricks
jai-130	Insulating Firebricks
perial 44, perial 46 and perial 60	Fluewall Bricks

Miscellaneous:

octopus	Vacuum Lifting Aggregate
mixer SM125	Mixer

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DINING IN CHINA

Many or most of my many dinners in China take place in Szechuan restaurants. Szechuan food is the very spicy food that tastes absolutely wonderful.

In the restaurants you get a special tea.

First the cups are filled with a special blend of dried flowers (I think(!) namely the Tea.

Then a waiter pours hot water into the cup.

The strange thing about this hot water pot is that it has a loooooong spout.

How the young people manage always to make the jet hit the relatively small cup is a good question, but I never saw any of the waiters fail so far.



SAFETY HAT

In July I visited LIRR in Luoyang.

I noticed that some of the workers had changed their normal hard hats with a kind of a straw-safety-hat.

That doesn't sound right, but it is a safety hat for summer usage.

It is reinforced on the inside.

Interesting, isn't it ?

WANG, WANG, WANG, MYSELF, WANG and WANG

Yes , it is correct.

During one of my visits to China this Year I was photographed with 5 persons who were all named Wang.

Wang is like Zhang a pretty common name in China, but I found it a funny coincidence that there were 5 Wangs in the party.



AUSTRALIAN-DANISH WEDDING

Some of you might have heard that our Danish Crown Prince Frederik has married a Tasmanian Beauty, Mary.

Funny that some day we shall have a Queen Mary in Denmark.

This wedding was really something that one doesn't experience every day, and I believe with the more modern young Royal couple such a similar event will never take place in the same manner.

You see all these elderly men at all these wedding occasions (read: celebrations) with their beautiful uniforms originating from another time than today's modern Denmark and all their "decorations" which should not be part of today's life. It has to be changed.

I show 3 photos from the wedding.

Notice all the Australian and Danish flags.



Notice this photo with Frederik and Mary, and the 2 lifeguards at right and left.

One of them could have been me as I served at the Royal Lifeguard from 1958 to 1959.

These were the days when Denmark had a real strong defense

I celebrated my sixtieth birthday seven years ago.

On that occasion I had rented a Manor House for the party dating back to the 16th century, where we had dinner in the “banqueting hall”.

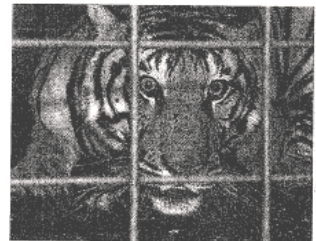
The rooms and the tables were decorated by a good friend of mine, Jan Munch who was also the person, who was responsible for all the decorations at the Fredensborg Castle wedding dinner when Frederik and Mary got married.

Also the Manager at the Sallingsund Færgekro, Jens Peter Skov, whom many of you know, was called by the Danish Court together with 17 local waiters to assist in serving all the guests at the same wedding dinner.

APPLE OF THE TIGER'S EYE

It is unreal which Pets people keep, and where they keep them nowadays.

Please read the below article from Financial Times speaking for itself.



Big cats could be on the prowl near you, says Jenny Wiggins.

New Yorkers are not entirely unfamiliar with tigers. There are eight live, healthy tigers in the Bronx zoo, and one stuffed Siberian tiger in the American Museum of Natural History. Subway riders with imagination and a penchant for poetry have even contemplated tigers underground, after William Blake's poem appeared in subway trains as part of the city's "poetry in motion" programme: *Tiger, tiger, burning bright! In the forests of the night...*

It is, however, fair to say that most New Yorkers were more than a little surprised when they discovered that a two-year-old Bengal tiger was living among them in an apartment block in Harlem.

The tiger - who shared the apartment with a 5ft-long (1,5m) alligator - was tranquillised and taken away by police after being left to its own devices by its owner, who had gone to a hospital in search of help for some tiger bites.

There are many New York legends about alligators - just over two years ago one was dragged out of a lake in Central Park - but the tiger, it appears, is a first for the city.

Asked whether tiger rescues were a common occupational hazard, a police officer said: "In New York City? In a domesticated apartment? Not that I'm aware of in a long, long time."

ELEPHANTS

As you know I have a weakness for animals and elephants in particular. The elephant is a most fascinating animal and I cannot wait to go to South Africa in October where I shall get the opportunity to see a lot of elephants. Exiting, exiting.

However, fortunately also others than the South Africans treat their wild animals very well.

Read the article on the reverse side from the HERALD TRIBUNE from Sri Lanka. Very good reading and praise to these people, who so unselfishly take time and spend money on the animals. That cannot be praised enough.

Aging elephants busy after retirement

Pinnawela, Sri Lanka: Elephants at Sri Lanka's "old folks' home for jumbos" may have reached retirement age, but they still have to earn their keep - which means giving rides to tourists and posing for pictures.

But the pachyderms like it that way, according to Alison Milner, 25, project manager of the Millennium Elephant Foundation which operates the non-profit facility in the verdant village of Pinnawela.

"They need the exercise," said Milner, an Australian who has been here for a year managing the four-year-old foundation, which also nurses injured elephants and provides mobile veterinary clinics for other jumbos in the region.



Pinnawela, 90 kilometres from Colombo, has become one of the palm-fringed island's top tourist attractions, thanks to the world's first elephant orphanage set up by the government in 1973 to look after young elephants found abandoned or orphaned in the wild.

Many holidaymakers travel here to see the island's parentless pachyderms frolic in rivers and roly-poly babies be bottle-fed.

They also visit the Millennium Elephant Foundation that survives on private donations and draws young volunteers from Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States, among others.

The volunteers help with "jumbo chores", starting with a morning bath for the elephantine grandmas and grandpas. They also help the giants recover from injuries and "bed sores" from illtreatment and poor care.

And they pay a jumbo fee for the privilege - up to US\$2,700 for a three-month stint that includes lodging and food. The organization says the money raised helps finance its elephant welfare activities.

Among the six elephants at the centre that are in the in 50s and 60s is one that has starred in over 40 local movies. Retired from the bright lights, the elephant known as Lakshmi now poses for tourists and takes people on ambles along a picturesque stream.

Visitors can help feed the elephants, go on rides or even take an "elephant shower." The less adventurous can just sit back and enjoy the scene.

The foundation says it aims not only to help aging pachyderms but to promote conservation of elephants in Sri Lanka and around the world.

Half a century ago, authorities estimate there were some 7,500 elephants in Sri Lanka's jungles. But last year they calculated the number in the wild had fallen to between 2,500 and 3,500, with a further 180 domesticated.

Their numbers are falling because Sri Lanka's human population has grown, with a large portion of the jungles where the elephants live having been cut down.

An estimated 120 elephants annually meet violent deaths at the hands of farmers or villagers.

Many are shot for trampling on crops or raiding villages.

Some 50 to 60 people are killed each year by marauding elephants which barge into villages in search of food and water during droughts. But the foundation does not forget those farmers whose crops are ruined - volunteers help run a "peace paper project" with a company that recycles elephant dung to make exotic paper, with the proceeds benefiting the farmers.

All the volunteers have a different motivation.

Australian Suzanne Moelands, 23, wants to become a mahout. Traditionally men, mahouts sit on the elephant's neck and direct the animal by their voice and by the use of an "ankus" - a long stick with a sharp point.

Then there is Saleem Haddae, a 20-year-old Jordanian who is researching conservation and helping with fundraising to protect the endangered species which is venerated as a sacred animal in mainly Buddhist Sri Lanka.

Amy McGregor, 20, a student at London's Veterinary College, said she was researching how domesticated elephants can catch tuberculosis from people, usually their mahouts.

She was scrubbing an elephant soaking in a stream and was about to give a pedicure to the luxuriating jumbo - with the help of several colleagues, of course.

THE ELEPHANT WHISPERER

Last year I told you about my elephant experience in The Thula Thula Private Game Reserve in Zululand, Natal, where I met Lawrence Anthony and his French wife Francoise for the first time.

Since then Lawrence has been awarded the prestigious Earth Trustee Humanitarian Award at the United Nations Nations on Earth Day 20 march 2004.

Presented the Earth Society for Peace, Justice and Care of Earth, Lawrence became the first South African to be accorded this accolade.

Previous winners include the former vice president of America Al Gore, Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberto Menchu, the Trees for Life and the Green Peace Organisation.

During his stay in New York Lawrence will make a formal submission to the United Nations, proposing that Zoos and Wildlife Parks be declared illegitimate targets of war and that they be accorded the same status as hospitals and schools in battle zones.

That is one of the best ideas I have heard of for many, many years considering all the smaller or larger wars going on all the time. Think among other things of the gorillas in Uganda who are also extremely exposed to extinction due to fighting.



Lawrence with two of his Baghdad Zoo charges who survived the ravages of the Iraq war due to his timely intervention to initiate food and shelter.

As informed last year Lawrence Anthony was the first non-warrior to enter Baghdad during the start of the war in an attempt to save the animals of the Baghdad Zoo.

Lawrence stated after his first visit to the Baghdad Zoo:

"Our first impression of the Zoo was ruin and desolation, traumatised and starving animals in cages, who had survived through bombings and attacks in the middle of the Zoo. The Zoo was the prey of looters stealing the animals for diverse purposes, as the picture of the birds in cage at the black market".

Lawrence and his assistant Brendan with the help of the coalition army and Zoo staff fought and had these looters arrested.

See the below pictures of the animals upon Lawrence's and Brendan's first inspection:



Not one animal dies after the South Africans arrival. This initiative in the Baghdad Zoo is ongoing with Brendan being the Zoo's Operations Manager.

Below some photos showing some of the saved and re-established animals after this successful operation:



AN ELEPHANTASTIC BABY ELEPHANT

During Tove's and my visit to Africa in October we again visited the Thula Thula Private Game Reserve and again we met Lawrence and Francoise, and spent some wonderful days there.

Next to their own house situated in some distance from the lodge they were now housing a baby elephant, Thula, and wasn't she wonderful ?

The reason for this baby elephant being close to their home is the following:

End September one of the elephants in the elephant herd in Thula Thula gave birth to a baby. Unfortunately, when she was born she fell so unfortunately that she could not get onto her legs.

The entire herd (read: family) stood around the baby for 36 hours trying some 60 to 70 times to help her to get on her legs, but in vain, the legs wouldn't carry her.

This incident was of course discovered by Lawrence and his rangers. They were also watching how the elephants moved around the baby laying on the ground to protect her against the sun, and the elephants were also moving as the sun was moving during the day to give her full protection at any time.

The elephants themselves did not get either water or food during these 36 hours. These elephants have very strong family ties among them.

After a "conference" the elephants decided to leave the baby and her mother, at least for a while to get food and water. The elephant's mother was then left alone with the baby lying on the ground and the mother was of course also thirsty and hungry.

Lawrence then decided to try to get the mother away from the baby in an attempt to try to save the baby elephant that would otherwise be lost, being unable to move, meaning that she could not be fed by the mother's milk which the baby could no reach being unable to stand.

Lawrence enticed the mother away from the baby with food after having given the mother a barrel of water that she drunk in one go.

Then 2 rangers came with a bakkie - a small lorry - and these 2 men succeeded (probably because they were afraid of the mother coming back) in lifting the 100 kilos heavy baby onto the bakkie. And then they drove off to Lawrence's house, where it took 4 men to get the baby down from the bakkie.

She was installed in a neighbouring small house where the rangers used to sleep. Next to their bed is placed 2 foam mattresses on which Thula - as she was named - now sleeps when she sleeps at night or needs a nap during the day.

After the herd left Thula on the ground she got some sunburn on her left ear which is now being treated just like the wounds she has got on her body and one wound on the left side of her head, caused when the elephants tried to get her on her legs and she then fell back on the ground.

Due to the sunburn on the ear her best friend, a black man, is walking around with her every time she is out wearing a colourful golf umbrella only to protect her sunburnt ear.

There is someone around Thula every hour during day and night. She is never left alone and she seems to be in pretty good shape, and she wants contact all the time what we felt when we visited her and made a walk with her. She keeps touching us with her trunk and pushing us as when she pushes her mother's breast to get milk out of her.

You might know that elephants are very sociable animals and keep touching each others all the day when they are together.

There are always 2 vets ready to show up any time day or night if something suddenly gets wrong with Thula, what they do free of charge.

There are not many other people in the world who protect their animals like the Africans and especially the South Africans.

Tove and I had an **elephantastic** time with Thula who is absolutely adorable, sweet, cute and whatever you might put of superlatives on a baby animal.

Tove especially became very good friends with Thula what the below photos clearly show:



**"The gesture of a nation and its moral standards
can be judged by the way its animals are treated."**

Mahatma Gandhi

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Many good and positive things can be said about the Chinese, what we know by experience.

However, for many Chinese producers and exporters the English language can be a very tricky one, but at least the Chinese producers try and do their best to translate their Chinese into English but that is not always good enough.

In a Danish paper I saw earlier this year a translation of an instruction for use for a remote controlled toy car. This instruction follows as well in Chinese as English. Enjoy yourself.

安全规则/ Safe rule

- 1.禁止3岁以下的儿童使用;
- 2.玩耍时注意, 你的手指、头发、衣服等不要碰及车轮, 以免被损伤;
- 3.车子在行驶时不要用手抓它;
- 4.不要让遥控器和车子靠近任何热源(如电炉、燃气炉旁或强烈的阳光下);
- 5.不要在危险的场所玩(如马路、陡坡等);
- 6.不要让车子湿水, 不要在下雨天露天下使用;
- 7.不要在沙地上玩;
- 8.禁止儿童拆卸遥控器和车子;
- 9.如果车子摔破了, 应经过成人检查或专业人员维修后方可继续使用。



1. prohibition against 3 years old below of child usage;
2. play attention, you of finger, hair, clothes...etc. don't touch and car wheel, in order to prevent quilt harm;
3. car while driving not want to by hand grasp it;
4. don't let the remote control close to any fire with car original;(such as electric stove, stove beside or mightiness of sunlight bottom)
5. not want the place in danger to play;(such as street, steep slope...etc.)
6. don't let the wet water of car, and not want under the rainy day is open-air usage;
7. not want on the sand ground to play;
8. forbid the child to tear open the remote control with the car;
9. if the car dash to pieceded, and should pass by the per son check or profession personnel maintain the rear can continue to use.

BEWARE OF CAMERAS

Nowadays many producers are obviously very scared of being "nailed" because of clients not handling their equipment perfectly.

However, one would think there is a limit but there obviously isn't.

Please read the below about the warnings that various camera producers issue. Incredible, isn't it ?

Beware of Camera

by John Owens

Proceed at your own risk. Don't say we didn't warn you!

IF YOU THINK PHOTOGRAPHY is a thoughtful and intelligent pursuit, you obviously haven't been reading your camera manuals. While the camera makers believe we have the capacity to set white balance on a digital camera and use second-curtain sync on an SLR, their lawyers are convinced that we're the most accident-prone dunderheads this side of Wile E. Coyote. How else can we explain this entry in the Fujifilm FinePix S7000 owner's manual: "Never attempt to take pictures while in motion....This can result in you falling down or being involved in a traffic accident."

It's a sad commentary on the state of our culture and our product-liability laws that manufacturers have to go on record with such warnings. Obviously, a simple "use common sense" or "don't do anything that's far off the stupidity scale" isn't enough. Instead, the manuals have to anticipate - and advise against - all possible ways of screwing up with the camera.

Virtually every camera manual has pages of dangers, warnings, and cautions. What's the difference? To quote the Samsung Digimax V4 manual:

DANGER! "indicates an imminently hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury." (Using the camera near explosive gases merits a DANGER.)

WARNING! "indicates a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury." (Sounds a lot like a DANGER, but it's more along the lines of overheating the camera and batteries.)

CAUTION! "indicates a potentially hazardous situation, which, if not avoided, may result in a minor or moderate injury." For example, touching the flash after using it continuously: "It may cause burns."

Olympus publishes a 74-page "Digital Camera Safety Precautions" book in six languages; the English section alone is 11 pages.

Many of us are so inured to inane advisories that we skip past the precautions. This means we miss such important points as "Never try to recharge an alkaline battery or toss one into a fire." Other common caveats (and consequences) include: don't point the lens directly at the sun (blindness); don't flash people or animals in the eyes at less than one meter (more blindness); don't let kids or animals play with the camera (choking on batteries and small parts); and watch out for those explosive gases.

Of course, in today's world, where every good idea is pushed to the point of absurdity, there are also warnings that, well, speak for themselves. Below are some favourites.

It's all in the owner's manual

Which is more frightening: what could happen to us and our cameras, or what lawyers seem to think we're capable of doing?



"Placing the camera strap around your neck could result in strangulation." (Nikon Coolpix 4500)











"Do not fire the flash at vehicle operators. It may cause a distraction or temporary blindness, which may lead to an accident." (Minolta Maxxum 3)



"Do not expose the camera and batteries to excessive heat such as sunshine or fire." (Kodak DCS 2Pro 14n)



"Do not use the camera in the bathroom or shower." (Fujifilm FinePix S7000)

-  "Avoid contact with garbage, mud, sand, dust, water, toxic gases, or salts. These could cause a camera break-down." (Pentax *ist D)
-  "Do not allow liquids to enter the interior. The camera has not been waterproofed." (Canon PowerShot S30)
-  "Do not store the camera in a closet with mothballs or in an area where chemicals are handled." (Pentax ZX-5n)
-  "Do not touch any metal part of the camera during a thunderstorm. This can cause an electric shock due to induced current from the lightning discharge." (Fujifilm FinePix S7000)
-  "Do not spray insecticides or volatile chemicals onto the camera." (Panasonic DMC-FZ10PP)
-  "Stop operating the equipment immediately if it emits smoke or noxious fumes." (Canon PowerShot S30)
-  "The rim of the lenshood can cause injury. Take care not to accidentally strike anyone with the camera when the lenshood is attached." (Minolta DiIMAGE 7i)
-  "Do not drop the camera." (Pentax ZX-5n)

Use caution when reading this magazine. If a paper cut should result, immediately seek legal...oops, I mean medical...assistance.

LUNAR LANDING

On July 20, 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Modulse, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon. His first words after stepping on the moon, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," were televised to Earth and heard by millions. But just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark: "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet Cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either the Russian or American space programs. Over the years many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "good luck Mr. Gorsky" statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July, 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year old question to Armstrong.

This time he finally responded. Mr. Gorsky had died and so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

In 1938 when he was a kid in a small Midwest town, he was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit a fly ball, which landed in his neighbour's yard by the bedroom windows. His neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Gorsky. As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky. "Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

This is a true story.

A FEW JOKES AND GROOKS

- ☺ How about this for an ideal well-matched married couple? He snores and she is deaf.
- ☺ When a man opens the door of his car for his wife, you can be sure of one thing: either the car is new or his wife is.
- ☺ At the pearly gates:
A priest and a permanently drunken bus driver from the same village arrive at the pearly gates and both request entry to heaven. Says St. Peter to the priest, "You wait two years", and to the bus driver, "You go straight in." The priest protests, "How come? I have been preaching every Sunday for so many years - and he is nothing but a drunken bus driver." St. Peter replies, "Listen, when you preached, they all slept, but when he drove, they all prayed like crazy."
- ☺ Three partners, a communist, a socialist and a capitalist, joined hands in a mining venture and made US\$150 million profit.
The communist partner filed a tax return, declared all income, claimed all deductions and paid all profits to the government.
The socialist partner filed his tax return, paid all profits and retained 10% for research and development.
The capitalist partner filed a tax return, declared all his income, claimed all the deductions and applied for a refund.
- ☺ A group of Australian tourists was being guided through an ancient palace in India. The guide explained, "This place is 500 years old. Not a stone in it has been touched, nothing altered, nothing changed or replaced in all those years." "Well," said one woman dryly, "they must have the same landlord as I have."
- ☺ A golfer brought a guest on the golf course for a game. The guest placed the ball on the tee, took a swing and completely missed the ball. He took a second swing and again he missed. On the third swing he duffed and the ball trickled 20 yards off the tee. The guest looked at the host and said, "you know something; this is a difficult course."
- ☺ A taxpayer sent a short note to the tax department, saying that 12 years ago he had cheated on his income tax and he had not been able to sleep since then. He enclosed \$100/- and added: "If I'm still unable to sleep, I will send the balance."

Some **Piet Hein** grooks:

THE ETERNAL TWINS

Taking fun
As simply fun
and earnestness
in earnest
shows how thoroughly
thou none
of the two
discernest

LIVING IS -

Living is
a thing you do
now or never -
which do you?

FREEDOM

Freedom means
you're free to do
just whatever
pleases you;
- if, of course
that is to say,
what you please
is what you may.

This was our 2004 Dynasty Update.

I hope you have enjoyed the reading – and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year with health and good humour and make sure that you take good care of yourselves, your families and friends.

It's dangerous out there!

Sincerely yours,

Jorgen Simonsen