

## NERVAL'S DIARY

*Le voyageur enthousiaste observe ...*

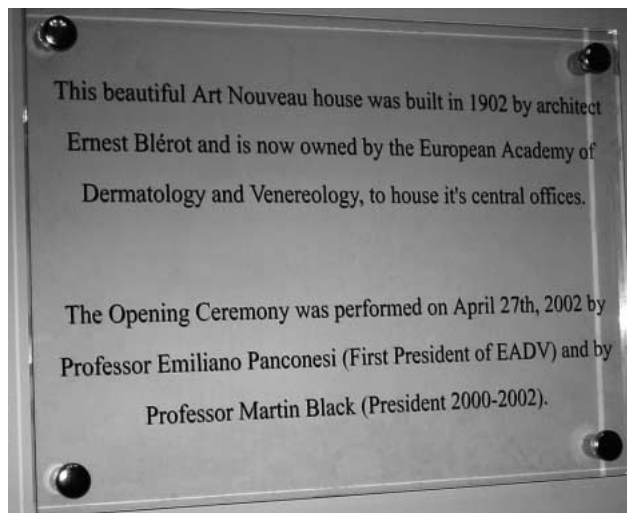
*Opening of the EADV House in Brussels  
Saturday April 27, 2002*

The European Academy is gaining in volume, in international standing in the field and recently in physical representation. A very nice house was bought in the heart of Brussels at a prestigious address: 38, avenue Général-de-Gaulle (please see for details of telephone, fax and E-mail below).

A pleasant site with an alley of trees and a large pond before the entrance, four floors high with two small alcoves one above the other, each with a tiny balcony on top (see the cover of the March 2002 issue of the *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology*, for a color picture).

Flags flying (European, Belgian and the Academy's), the EADV welcomed invited guests this Saturday afternoon, well over 150 people, from all corners of Europe, from Ireland to Malta, Cyprus, Belarus, the Ukraine and Turkey. A sizeable fold representing the miraculous spectrum of languages, cultures and nationalities, the pride and, alas, historically also the plague of the Old World. Our historical heritage, and especially so in medicine, includes Islam and stretches from the Pillars of Hercules to beyond Jerusalem to the heights of the Hindukush. Size alone does not confer quality and we have some way to go before we can match the American Academy, but in the next generation at the latest, English will be commanded by all young clinicians and researchers, and we will be a formidable counterpart.

Emiliano Panconesi of Florence, the president of the EADV's first meeting in Florence 15 years ago, delivered an introductory oration and formally declared the premises open; both the outgoing president Martin M. Black and the incoming, Jean-Hilaire Saurat, were present, as well as other past presidents. The Royal Belgian Society gave a small present in form of a framed old Belgian bank note with the portrait of Victor Horta, star architect of Art Nouveau in Brussels and friend of Ernest Blérot, who built the EADV House. A very thoughtful gesture. As a joint gift, the Austrian and Hungarian Societies presented a life-size bust of Moriz Kaposi, *Jewish, Hungarian and Austrian in one*, a role model for the international European dermatologist of the future.



**Fig. 1.** Memorial plaque in the entrance hallway of the EADV Building commemorating the occasion and the name of the hoc tempore president (copyright: DR. Raimo Suhonen).



**Fig. 2.** Hallway of the new seat of the EADV, from left Jean-Hilaire Saurat, president-elect, the bust of Moriz Kaposi donated on this occasion, and Karl Holubar, president of the ESHDV (copyright: Dr. Raimo Suhonen).

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The afternoon reception was followed by a bus tour through Art Nouveau Brussels, familiarizing the guests with architectural treasures of the city, with Victor Horta and the Boulevard Louise, the Place Royale with Godefroid Bouillon on horseback and the Grand and Petit Sablons, the seat of the European Commission etc.

In the evening, a gala dinner took place in the historical premises of *Concert Noble* serving as a magnificent venue (built during the period of time when the Low Countries were Austrian in the settecento – Jaques Delescluse, now treasurer of the EADV and vice-president of the Royal Belgian Society, called it a 'lucky period'). There, the president Martin M. Black honored several distinguished former presidents and congress presidents of the EADV with memorial plaques to specially mark this day.

A historical occasion, a fine location, a delicious dinner – a splendid evening altogether.

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*à bientôt,*

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