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On June 16th 1962 twinning deeds were signed between the European cities Colmar, Lucca, Schongau and Sint-Niklaas in the Alsatian town of Colmar.

On September 13th 1962, these multilateral agreements with the Bavarian town Schongau and the Flemish Sint-Niklaas were solemnly confirmed in the Tuscan city Lucca.

A few years later, the English Abingdon-on-Thames and Gorinchem in South Holland stepped into this special relationship.

Now in **2012**, 50 years (= half a century) have passed.

The undersigned Herman Cole (°1947 - Sint-Niklaas) took part in a first youth exchange in the framework of this *verzustering* in 1965 in Colmar. As a student translator-interpreter, he discovered Lucca in 1966. Since then, words as 'Europe' and 'twinning' really became part of his life. In 1969, he led the first youth delegation from Sint-Niklaas to Gorinchem, in 2001 he became Honorary Town Crier in Abingdon. He recently joined the traditional *Fronleichnam* procession in Schongau and held a conference on Sint-Niklaas and Saint Nicholas.

Madam,
Sir,

You live in a street that by her name recalls the past **50** years of European spirit. Herman Cole asks you therefore to participate in a small photographic electronic project. It is called

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The project aims to give a face to the 'twinning streets'. And starting from the area where the famous geographer Gerardus Mercator was born (1512-1594 °Rupelmonde), it wants to put twinning on the map. Temporarily. Because on **Europe Day may 9th 2013**, the site will be closed, in a festive way but irrevocably.

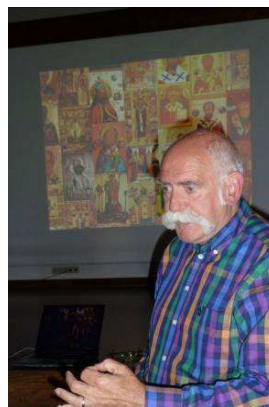


Foto Ursula Diesch

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Getting a place in the project doesn't cost much. No money, no efforts. You only have to send **-deadline july 31st 2012-** a number of digital photos* to herman@camera-50.eu. If you want to send the photos in a smooth way, then use www.wetransfer.com.

Which photos would I like you to drop into my mailbox?

1. The name plate of your street
2. A glimpse into your street
3. The facade of your house
4. The inhabitant(s)
5. The living room
6. The kitchen
7. The hobby room
8. possibly your professional activity
9. possibly your bedroom
10. possibly your garden
11. possibly your pet(s)
12. possibly an image of Saint Nicholas at less than 5 km from your front door

*Your pictures don't need to be 'Art'. The more people in the picture, the better it is. Please try not to exceed 1Mb per photo.

With **the pictures sent by participants** in Abingdon, Colmar, Lucca, Schongau and Sint-Niklaas, I want to create by mid-september 2012 a website that will bring a varied picture of the people behind #2 of the streets listed below. In some cases, I may also prefer another number. Gorinchem has no 'twinning streets'.

ABINGDON strasse	2		Schongau			
Abingdonstraat	2	Sint-Niklaas				
Via CITTÀ GEMELLE	2					Lucca
COLMAR er Strasse	1		Schongau			
Colmarstraat	2	Sint-Niklaas				
Avenue de l' EUROPE	2			Colmar		
Viale Europa	2					Lucca
GORINCHEM straat	2	Sint-Niklaas				
LUCCA Drive	2				Abingdon	
Rue de Lucca	2			Colmar		
Lucca-strasse	2		Schongau			
Luccastraat	2	Sint-Niklaas				
MERCATOR strasse	2		Schongau			
Mercatorstraat	2	Sint-Niklaas				
SCHONGAU Close	2				Abingdon	
Rue de Schongau	2			Colmar		
Schongaustraat	2	Sint-Niklaas				
SINT-NIKLAAS Close	2				Abingdon	
Rue de Sint-Niklaas	2			Colmar		
Sint-Niklaas-Strasse	2		Schongau			
VERZUSTERING slaan	2	Sint-Niklaas				

Due to a number of reasons, 'twinning streets' like Argentan Close in Abingdon, Rue de Hyde in Colmar and Gogoliner Strasse in Schongau have been left out.

Madam,
Sir,

I don't ask you for a big effort. I just expect to receive a few snapshots from your everyday life. And beyond that

- Your first name(s) and family name(s)
- Your birthday
- Your address
- Your e-mail address
- The date you came to live in the street.

Do not fear for your privacy: you exclusively forward things you want to show and tell. If you are not interested, would you please hand this request to one of your neighbours? Maybe they do want a place of honour in **www.camera-50.eu**.

For any further questions you can mail -from june 23rd onwards- to herman@camera-50.eu.

With many thanks for your cooperation and friendly greetings, I sign

Herman Cole (Sintur 9100 - Pasar)
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Sint-Niklaas, june 16th 2012



In 2012 viert Vlaanderen
500 jaar Mercator
www.mercator2012.be