

TRAVELS WITH USULUSS - PROLOGUE

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Albertus Innocentus and I am a retired Rotterdam Pilot.

Soon after my retirement I emigrated to Primelin, a tranquil hamlet at the western extremity of Bretagne with the love of my life, the Scottish Martha Immaculata. After many happy years, disaster struck when she was diagnosed with Alzheimer. We have always travelled a lot and when her condition deteriorated in such a way that going to hotels and restaurants became impossible, I purchased a camper, a French "Pilote", bien sûr.

We have been on the road most of the time during her last 2 years and this did her well, playing lots of music which somehow has an incredible positive influence on Alzheimer sufferers. After she passed away, I started a Gypsy life with the Pilote, traveling everywhere between the North Cape and Cape Sounion as both an escape and therapy with my new travel companion; Dr. Xantippe Maximillia Usuluss,



she is the undisputed commander in chief of Martha's vast collection of 134 Spheniscidae, commonly known as Penguins. As her name indicates she is a distant relative of the Godfather of all voyageurs, Ulysses, whose perilous travels have been described so beautifully in the epic poem "Odyssey", written by Homer well over 2800 years ago.

Needless to say, this makes her an excellent companion to travel with. Usuluss' and Ulysses' voyages have a lot in common as I am discovering more and more caused by her adventurous and heroic nature. A second reason why she makes a such a very suitable travel companion is that she has studied cultural anthropology and has become an authority in this field, giving her a deep insight into

the peculiar, even often bizarre behaviour of animals, especially humans.

She obtained her doctorate in this field with her brilliant dissertation about the similarities and differentiations of the reproduction rituals between the Spheniscidae (Penguins) and the Ursus Maritimus (Polar bears) called "Poles Apart".



I have added a picture of her surrounded by her humble servants. As you might notice, her flock is not complete as some had gone fishing and others are escaping the harsh winter by visiting their family in a milder climate, the Spheniscus Mendiculus, commonly known as the Galapagos penguins who reside right on the equator.

I have been writing about her adventures and misadventures and would like to share these with you. I am doing this in the English and French language because there are also readers in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, mainly simple folk who are ignorant of the Dutch language, let alone French.

Our first voyage was in a southerly direction with an undetermined destination, as our motto is "No plans, just options".

To be continued...
Albertus Innocentus