

**Legion d'Honneur Award to Jacques Combault on February 3, 2010
Post Ceremony and Diner with distinguished guests at LES DEUX MAGOTS
(On invitation of Simone & Jacques Mathivat and their daughter Catherine)**

Guests: Caroline & Philippe Boisvieux
Daniele & Jacques Combault
Doriane & Ludovic Combault
Olivier Combault
Teresa & Craig Finley (FEG)
Laurence Fouqueray (Architect)
Yumi & Alain Golay (Former Executive Director of IABSE)
Genevieve & Ladislav Paulik (Sogelerg & EEG)
Marie-Annick & Michel Placidi (Razel)
Annie & Bernard Raspaud (Former Technical Director of Bouygues)
Elisabeth & Claude Servant (Eiffage)
Rene Suter (Engineering School of Fribourg – Switzerland)
Rosemay (Les Deux Magots)

**Opening Speech by Simone Mathivat
(Translated from French by Kate Combault)**

Here we are, gathered together for this semi-private Assembly of the French branch of the Pontifs (Pontifical Circle of Bridge Experts), and their wives.

First of all, I would like to welcome Craig and Teresa Finley, representing the United States of America, and the Swiss Branch of our pontifical friends, Professor and Mrs. René and Gertrude Suter, as well as Alain and Yumi Golay whom we are very happy to have with us this evening.

At this time, I wish to honor you, dear Danièle, (feminine solidarity *oblige*), and, in order to respect parity, *pari* in Latin, I hereby present you with the “Big Legion d’Honor Red Scarf” on behalf and in the presence of the afore named Pontifs and under the patronage of the Minister of State, Jean-Louis Borloo who, by way of the Holy Spirit, just granted me the same title so that I could dub you this evening. As you all know of course, in the French democracy, only deputies and mayors are allowed to wear this honor in the form of a scarf and in “Blue –White – and Red.”

Catherine would say: “Mom, that’s great” as only two of us today have the honor of wearing red.

Consequently, I am going to solemnly request Elizabeth Servant to create a haute couture version of these flamboyant scarves.

Submissive and attentive Wives of these Wise Guys (not always easy to deal with, not always calm), with their FAMOUS BRIDGES (PRÉCONTRAINTS, POUSSÉS, LEVANT, À

HAUBANS, A AMES PLISSES, SUSPENDUS, EN LEGO IN DENMARK, EN ARC, EN ENCORBELLEMENT and other TECHNIQUE EXTRADOSSEE) so dear to our famous designer friend! That being said, naturally and because, the dye is cast (red), we hereby claim our status of SUPER DESERVING CHICKS!

Bravo to you, dear Super Chick Danièle, because it is particularly moving to see you and Jacques in matching colors this evening.

We are all proud of both of you and of what you represent. We warmly congratulate you by raising our glass on this memorable day, a “pre-stressed” token of our unshakeable fidelity and proof of our friendship.

P.S. Many of you will remember our ‘famous’ Congress in Versailles 1980-81 or ‘82 and of Danièle’s largesse when Professor Massonnet’s beloved raincoat, Burberry’s or not, disappeared. The poor Professor in a terrible snit—his mood was rarely cheerful even on a good day—recovered some sense of humor in your company, unable to resist your charm. Undisputed event planner, you’re not allowed to quit!

