



Factsheet - InBev-Baillet Latour Fund

“Support Belgian excellence on an international scale.”

Collaboration between the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund and the International Polar Foundation

Since 2007, the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund has sponsored with great enthusiasm scientific research in the polar environment at the initiative of the International Polar Foundation (IPF). This support is reflected both in the purchase of spearhead equipment and in Fellowships in the field and in the communication of the work to the public.

The InBev-Baillet Latour Fund supports the mission of the IPF in various ways. It has financed the purchase of equipment used for laboratory operations in the field in the vicinity of the Princess Elisabeth Antarctica station. The support also includes the funding of the production of a general-interest film accessible to the general public, retracing the story of the building of the station, the purpose being to draw on some of its elements to describe its special features, and its challenges. In addition, the Fund has signed an agreement aimed to support and promote scientific research in the Antarctic. In this context, the Fund has created the "InBev-Baillet Latour Antarctic Fellowship", a scholarship worth €150,000, which is awarded every two years.

Creation of the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund

Alfred de Baillet Latour created the InBev-Baillet Latour Fund in 1974. In the twilight of his life, the shareholder and administrator of the Artois Breweries, started thinking about his succession. Having no direct heir, he was also the last representative of the prestigious Baillet Latour family. A true philanthropist, he decides to bequeath his brewery shares to a foundation still to be created. In a simple letter dated February 14, 1974, he unveils his plans:

"The association shall financially reward and encourage accomplishments of high human value in the social, cultural, scientific, artistic, technical, sporting, educational or philanthropic fields, in the form of prizes, scholarships, trips, grants, or any other form of recognition, and have no political, trade union, philosophical or religious affiliations."

One month later, in April 1974, the foundation was created and in 1979 it really took off with the award of the first Health Prize. Alfred de Baillet Latour was to witness only one of the Foundation's initiatives, as he died in 1980.

Evolution and criteria of the Fund

The biennial award of the Health Prize, the first in a long series of initiatives, would mark the first two decades of its history. Initially the Foundation's only activity, over the years it has gained an international reputation.

The year 1999 marks an important turning point. The planned initial public offering of the brewery and the more dynamic and dividend generous policy associated with it, leads the Foundation to consider other projects. This paves the way for new initiatives in the fields of training, conservation of Belgium's heritage in all its forms, and the Olympic spirit.

The major concern resides primarily in the well-being of humanity: the purpose is to reward or promote human achievements, the prime criterion being "the challenge of doing what others deem impossible".

Finally, while all supported projects are clearly internationally oriented - philanthropy is by nature universal - the final parameter taken into account by the Fund reflects a certain 'belgitude': the projects are first of all Belgian initiatives aimed at attracting international recognition rapidly, if not immediately.

Today these different criteria are the cornerstones of a clear strategy that ensures sustained consistency in the choices made by the Foundation. As such, one can at present easily distinguish four major sectors on which the InBev-Baillet Latour focuses its initiatives: Clinical research, Training, Belgian Heritage, and the Olympic spirit.

Contact

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