



**“You need at least two good reasons to do something. One good reason is not enough, this is my way of life”**

I had at least 3 good reasons to decide to organize this celebration:

- Fifty years of Cincotta Shipping Agency as can you see from our invitation card
- My first fifty years, as I am in fact, in my fifty first year of life
- My twenty fifth wedding anniversary which will fall in the next days.

Dear ladies, gentlemen and friends,  
It is a great pleasure to see so many people at our celebration which is under the banner of humor, and for this I thank all of you who are here and I would also like to greet all those who could not be present tonight.

The decision of this celebration is somehow connected with the “1997 Italian budget”. When we took this decision we knew nothing about it. In fact, WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO. We hope in the future, God forgives, while the government humbles us with retroactive effect, we doubt whether some set of rules are legitimate.

However if we could survive for fifty years, we will try to survive again.

I thank you now because surely I'll not celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

First of all: because I have no intention to work for a further 25 years.

Secondly: because I really hope that if, as I wish, the Cincotta Shipping can live for such a long time, I sincerely hope, I repeat, that someone else will run it.

Something unconscious in my father's life, which honors his memory, drives my actions: " RUN THE BLOCKADE", this is the command which was received by his vessel, being loaded with crude oil, and anchored in Brazil at the start of the World War Two.

This is also the title of the book where the history of the tanker "Frisco" is told, when after running the blockade and having reached the port of destination safe and sound, all the crew, including my father, were awarded the war cross.

Later on, during another military raid, my father, at the command of a ship was sank and wounded.

And also on this occasion he succeeded to run the blockade, in fact he survived in spite of a 5cm bullet which pierced his lung and which was found in his calf 20 years later.

This inability put a stop to his sailor's career but he started immediately something in connection with the sea.

Thus, the Cincotta Shipping Agency was established during the summer of 1946 in Cagliari, well known to my father, since he first arrived here when he was sixteen in 1931, with a vessel under the command and ownership of his father, named Vincenzo like me. This was a sailing ship of 600 tons with three masts and it was named "Giuseppe".

He succeeded, though in maintaining his Aeolian origins, to take roots in this wonderful Sardinia, running again the blockade, getting over the rejection which a foreigner of a new land might cause, just like a transplant of a foreign body.

Therefore, I, unknowingly, because these considerations were made afterwards, have always had the impulse to “RUN THE BLOCKADE”, a type of reaction to repeat, as the psychologists say, but to reach new targets more psychological than material.

If I had studied more the science of navigation, and less other kinds of calculations perhaps I would have understood earlier that in navigation, as in life, the shortest way connecting two points is not a straight line but a curved one.

I believed in the shipping business, which I kept alive, whilst still a student, due to my father’s disability, which had grown still more acute, and risked closing the Company but which I re-launched when I finished my studies.

I did believe, as I believe now, in the Porto Canale, maybe because hope is the last to die, and my friend Achille Sirchia, may witness that I was one of the first to establish an industrial activity alongside the quay, at least on paper, in 1968 when instead of taking part in the students protest, I had the presumption to become an industrialist.

But surely I made some mistakes, either because I didn’t become an industrialist, or because I didn’t follow the profession of engineer at least in the traditional way.

And for this reason I have here my friend Giacomo Mameli who enthalls with his “mania” to do the accounts (WEEKLY PROGRAM ON LOCAL TV VIDEOLINA TITLED “FACCIAMO I CONTI” from reporter Giacomo Mameli): I do not always succeed, and I hope he can teach me something.

I have also the pleasure to have Franco Putzolu with me tonight, who in my opinion is the real STAR of this celebration. He fascinates me because of his humor and irony which says it would be wonderful to face life’s happenings and finally learn NOT TO RUN THE BLOCKADE because sooner or later we shall be defeated.

Finally I have here my children Cinzia and Gianmarco and my wife, who if is still with me after 25 years of marriage, which we will celebrate in 10 days time, she must have found something good in me, even if I continue to repeat that I am not suitable for marriage.

We always worked together splitting duties and results: of course everything which went ok was due to her, whilst everything which went wrong, obviously was my fault.

-Cagliari 18<sup>th</sup> December 1996.

Vincenzo Cincotta