

Sir,

Dr. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky in his comment “How historians remove stains” blatantly misrepresents our foundation’s efforts over many years to face its difficult past and to shed light on Alfred Toepfer’s dealings with the Nazi regime.

Even the most superficial glance at our website will reveal that no one at this foundation today is attempting “to launder the past” or to “deny”, “trivialize” or “explain away” any aspect of the Holocaust whatsoever. This foundation has helped publish significant research on the prosecution and murder of the Jewish population in Hamburg, (“Die Verfolgung und Ermordung der Hamburger Juden 1933 – 1945, Geschichte. Zeugnis. Erinnerung”, ed. by Beate Meyer, Hamburg 2006), aims to provide full transparency about its own history and deeply and with no reservations regrets the involvement of its founder Alfred Toepfer with the Nazi regime. It has taken every effort to confront its past and to draw consequences from it. Over the years it has been a trusted partner to the Jewish community in Hamburg on a number of projects and supported a wide range of independent historical research and programmes of remembrance.

The insinuation that this foundation has funded scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge or research elsewhere to influence the way history is written or to “remove stains” borders on the absurd.

Ansgar Wimmer
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