

Communiqué

Concerning the awarding of the *Kairos Prize*, from the *Alfred Toepfer FVS, Stiftung* to the writer from Iceland: *Andri Snaer Magnason* on Sunday 28th February 2010, in Hamburg.

The hidden side of the Alfred Toepfer FVS Foundation.

Founded in 1931, this foundation is the rightful heir of the agribusiness empire created by Alfred Toepfer (1894 – 1993). It is not a foundation like all the others.

The Toepfer Foundation then called: *Foundation FVS*, was under the nazi period the only private foundation to work with and for the regime's propaganda in the countries occupied by Germany. As from 1933, Toepfer pledged alliance to the nazi party for the sake of the German destiny in Europe. : *"It is for Germany to invent a new Europe. The task to draw a new economic frame for the continent now falls to Germany. ("Bulletin from Toepfer House on the situation of the market. 2.1.1933).*

From 1936 to 1939, Alfred Toepfer was a sponsor ("Förderer") for the *S.S.* Within the nazi regime, Toepfer was an adamant defender, serving the Reich. Up to April 1945, he was part of the armament commission in the *State Ministry for armament* in charge of rationalizing and boosting the German warfare effort, with at his head, Albert Speer.

From 1942 to 1944, a Captain in the *Abwehr (German Military Intelligence)*, he actively took part in the economic looting in France through his purchasing bureau - '*Bureau du Capitaine Toepfer*'. In 1942, one of the three subsidiaries of Alfred Toepfer's Firma, set in '*annexed Poland*', derived substantial profits from delivering the lime, to cover up the dead bodies in the common graves, to the *SS Headquarters* of the *Lo'dz Ghetto*.

In Autumn 1942, Alfred Toepfer had suggested *Georg Leibbrandt* as the year laureate for the *Herder prize*, sponsored by his foundation. For unknown reasons from us another nazi dignitary was awarded the prize. Georg Leibbrandt, few months ago, had taken part in the '*Wannsee conference*'* (20 January 1942) on account of being Alfred Rosenberg's representative – (Rosenberg being the *Minister of the Reich for the occupied Eastern territories*). Leibbrandt was directly involved in the coordination of the mass executions of Jews in the USSR.

*Led by Reinhardt Heydrich, the participants to that conference, among whom Adolf Eichmann, had drawn out the programme of the '*ultimate outcome of the Jew issue*'.

His war aftermath : '*old comradeship*' In the fifties, Toepfer employed in his firm and his foundation two well-known war criminals, in whom he acknowledged '*economic skills*' in the agribusiness.

Hans-Joachim Riecke, a former *S.A.-Brigade-Führer* (brigadier general in the *S.A*), from 1941 to 1944 and at the "*Head of the agriculture and supplies scheme in the occupied Soviet Territories*". While in office he was one of those held responsible for the death from starvation and exhaustion of over two million civilians in the Soviet Union, together with the death of hundreds of thousands of Soviet war prisoners. From 1951 to 1986 he was highly

ranked in the Toepfer Firma as sales manager. In August 1986, Toepfer delivered a funeral oration in praise of the late Hans-Joachim Riecke.

Edmund Veesenmeyer, a former *SS-Brigade General* (Brigadier General in the S.S. Plenipotentiary Minister of the *Reich* in the German legation in Budapest he was Eichmann's right hand man in Budapest. Veesenmeyer was responsible for the deportation and ensuing death of over 900,000 Hungarian Jews in the extermination camps. In 1949, he was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for crime against humanity (reduced to 10 years in 1951 and then obtained the pardon the same year)

Toepfer also employed Kurt Haller, a former comrade of the *Abwehr services* in Paris. He was Veesenmeyer's assistant in Hungary. Haller held a post as a legal adviser with Toepfer's Firma until his death in 1961.

In the 60s and 70s, Toepfer supported both materially and financially Thies Christophersen, a former *S.S Fuehrer* (corporal) at Auschwitz. The same was to become the mastermind of the *Shoah* denial with his book '*The Auschwitz Lie*'. (1974).

In 2000, the present Toepfer Foundation whitewashes the Toepfer foundation's past. Following scandals during ceremonies of awards of *Toepfer Prizes* in Austria, France and Switzerland, those in the Toepfer's lineage were led to set up an international, independent, scientific commission of historians (1996-2000) – headed by Hans Mommsen, a German *Third Reich* specialist. As from 2000, the Foundation has loudly claimed its commission independence. However, all six members have been recruited, given salaries, paid expenses by the Foundation. The '*ultimate conclusions*' of the commission proclaim:

'Alfred Toepfer neither promoted the national-socialist party before 1933 nor was a warm defender of the national-socialist regime in the following twelve years. Toepfer was never tempted to join the nazi party and never shared the objectives or main goals of the nazi leaders. Racism and anti-Semitism were unfamiliar to him. A regular approbation of the [NdT: anti] Jews laws of the Third Reich or even any kind of personal responsibility in the "Holocaust" cannot be attributed to Alfred Toepfer. He did not derive any wealth/profits either from the dispossession of the Jews.'



Summer 1939 Rudolf Hess, (left)
"Deputy of the *Fuehrer*" with Alfred Toepfer (right)
during his one month stay at the *Kalkhorst castle*,
property of Toepfer, near Lübeck.

January 2007. Homage paid to the founding father as read on the invitation card to the first *Kairos Prize* 'concerning the 75th anniversary of the Toepfer Foundation'. The foundation explicitly worded out the meaning of the presence of the thousand guests at this celebration and the awarding of the Kairos Prize.

“Finally, this 75th anniversary of Toepfer Foundation, is the meeting point with its founder, his family and the common praised principles prevailing at the origin and all through the development of the foundation. One cannot think about a foundation if not through its patron. In the same way a work of art cannot exist without its creator. This programme aims at defining and exploiting the themes chosen by the patron together with the issues that Europe, nowadays, has to face, in an exemplary way and using modern methodology”.

Scandals continuations. In 2005, Ariane Mnouchkine first accepted the *Hanseatic Goethe Price* but eventually decided refuse it, announcing dramatically that the past of Toepfer “*was more than questionable*”. In 2008, the Toepfer foundation was to sponsor the French and German Academy, *OPUS XXI* (Avignon) dedicated to chamber and contemporary music. Under the reactions of the press, the organizers* decided to suppress the logo of the Toepfer Foundation from its publicity and to turn down its financial sponsoring

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Publications :

- La littérature de la défaite et de la collaboration. Gérard Loiseaux; Fayard,. 484 pages. 1995.
- Loiseaux Gérard : « *La culture française dans l' ' Europe nouvelle'* », communication au colloque « *La France et l'Allemagne dans la guerre* » in Frankreich und Deutschland im Krieg, Centre d'Etudes d'Histoire de la Défense et Institut Historique à Paris, en collaboration avec l'Institut für Zeitgeschichte, München et l'Institut d'Histoire du Temps présent, Paris. Bouvier Verlag. Bonn. 944 pages. 1999.
- Gérard Loiseaux : « *Littérature et guerre des mots* », communication in Actes du colloque *Littérature et Résistance*, Université Bar Ilan. 1996, publié aux Presses Universitaires de Reims sous le titre de Littérature et Résistance. 2000

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