



Because the World Should not Forget

Originally printed in Schleswig-Holstein e-paper. Translated by Franz Neff. ~ Editor

Time will heal, but should time forget too!

Davenport

Charles Stuehmer wasn't quite nineteen years old, from *Hemmerwurth* in Schleswig-Holstein, when he was on the way to America to find a better way of life. He ended up in Davenport, Iowa, making furniture and starting a family. But right away the Civil War began. The same for Hans Christian Horstmann, born 1825 in *Schierensee*, who immigrated to America in 1852 through New Orleans to Davenport to start a blacksmith shop. A few years later he joined the war in America approximately 7000 kilometers from the place where he grew up.

They started a new life in American and got pulled into world history

The same fate awaited Ferdinand Koch. He was also a freedom fighter in Schleswig-Holstein against Denmark. Later, he also immigrated to America and was pulled right into the Civil War front lines. The world played him again.

These men and their stories have been documented because of Kory Darnell's engagement.



Darnell grew up in the flat to rolling lands of Iowa where the only breaks of endless cornfields are the fences in between. John Wayne grew up in this area too. Germany is as far away from here, like the moon from our planet. Darnell, himself, was never in military service, but never-the-less, he was still very interested in the lives of these men and to not let them be forgotten. We owe our respect to them. Darnell asked himself, "If I don't care, then who is going to?" The 58-year-old is president of the Davenport Schuetzenpark Gilde. Its history began way back in the nineteenth century. He is also one of the founding members of the German American Heritage Center in Davenport. Kory Darnell is considered the American with the German conscience.

It all began about twenty years ago when Darnell started to gather information about German immigrants who left their traces a long time ago. Through archives and the Davenport City Cemetery he discovered the three men who were

buried there. In the early 20th Century, Davenport was considered to be the city on the Mississippi most German in the Midwest. Many first newcomers from Germany stayed at the Germania Inn, now the current Heritage Center and Museum. From here, many moved west to Nebraska and north to Wisconsin.

Darnell is standing in the little chapel in the cemetery telling us how the undertaker worked out of here. Today, its purpose is the archive for the German men, like Charles Stuehmer, age 27, residence of Davenport, native of Germany, enlisted April 25, 1861 as Fourth Sergeant, mustered May 14, 1861.

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ASHHS Headquarters

The **ASHHS Goal** is preserving and promoting the heritage of Schleswig-Holstein in the USA. We encourage cultural exchange, family research, study of the languages and dialects of Schleswig-Holstein, conferences and other programs pursuant to the above objectives.

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Deadlines for Submissions

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Aug 10 for Sep/Oct Issue
Oct 10 for Nov/Dec Issue

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Schuetzen Park: A forgotten piece of history restored

by Alma Gaul



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It's been more than 20 years since a small group of history-minded people discovered an overgrown, formerly German park on the grounds of a nursing home in west Davenport and began efforts to restore it.

The park was created in the 1870s by the Schuetzen Verein, or German shooting association, and it had been a hot spot for German socializing for 50 years. But by 1995, the grounds had long since been sold, the land overgrown and the buildings that included an inn, shooting hall, roller coaster and

music pavilion, all but gone.

All but one.

The one building that remained from the days when the area attracted literally thousands of people for fun and entertainment was a concrete street car pavilion, the place where riders of the Tri-City Railway got on and off the trolley, said Kory Darnall, the leader of efforts to restore the park.

But it was in sad shape.

It was filled with silt and trash, small trees were growing from the roof, a pickup truck was smashed into one side and satanic symbols had been scrawled on some walls, Darnall, of Davenport, said.

Darnall helped establish the

Schuetzen Park Gilde, a nonprofit organization to care for the park, and today — after a multi-year effort in which the restoration project was tackled in phases as money was raised — the pavilion is finally complete.

A celebration is planned for 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the park, 700 Waverly Road, next to the Good Samaritan Nursing Center.

But if it rains and organizers have to cancel the German band and the brats and sauerkraut, they still want people to know the pavilion work is finished.

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***An ASHHS Membership
Makes a Great Gift!***

You will find the application on the back cover.



From the President

By Franz Neff



Join Us in Celebration ASHHS 30th Anniversary 27 - 30 September 2019

Details to Come

Moin moin !

After the last quarterly meeting in November, we are heading into our 30th year organized as ASHHS. Some of you have helped for many years and events, and we fondly remember those who are no longer with us. I extend my gratitude to all of you, and we always welcome new ideas, stories, and contributions to remember heritage and culture.

The dates for the international conference are planned for September 27 – 30 in the Quad City's area. The exact location is to be determined. Hopefully that will work for our visitors from outside the United States.

Looking forward to a great new year!

Your President
Franz Neff



Calendar

ASHHS Quarterly Meeting February 17, 2019

The American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS) quarterly meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Sunday, February 17, 2019, at the Walcott American Legion, 121 W. Bryant St., Walcott, Iowa.

Marcie Siegel traveled on some of the rivers in Germany by boat. She will be presenting a travelogue of that trip, RIVERS OF GERMANY. After the travelogue, Franz and Sam will be playing some lively Karnival music. Karnival is a pre-lenten celebration in Germany. Come and join the fun!

Light refreshments will be provided. The program is free and open to the public. The American Legion Hall is handicap accessible. For more information, call Mary Ann Muller 563-284-6640 or e-mail leemarmul@aol.com.

New Email Address

The ASHHS office now has a new email address. please make note of it.
It is: ashhswalcott@gmail.com

Werner Edwin Zarnikow: An ASHHS Farewell

Originally printed by Bentley Funeral Home, Durant Iowa.



~ ASHHS has not always recognized members who have passed although we are honored to celebrate their life. If you want us to honor a member, please contact editor at danielwholst@gmail.com

Werner Edwin Zarnikow was born May 13, 1924 in Gorlitz, Germany, the son of the late Edwin and Anna (Rausch) Zarnikow. He passed peacefully from this life on Friday, October 12, 2018 at Lutheran Living in Muscatine, Iowa having lived to the age of 94.

After immigrating to the United States as a very young child, he was raised in Buffalo, New York and grew up speaking German at home. He graduated from Buffalo's Technical High School, a school that drew students from across the city. After high school, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World

War II. He progressed through the various level of flight training at bases across the U.S. and became a copilot flying four-engine B-24 bombers.

In January 1945, he shipped to England on the ocean liner the Queen Mary that had been converted into a troop ship during the war. Before the war ended in Europe, he flew 15 missions bombing various targets in Europe and Germany, including a low-level mission to drop supplies to paratroopers in Belgium. He and the flight crew were twice awarded the Air Medal. He later served in the Iowa National Guard.

After the war he attended Iowa State College (now Iowa State University) where he met Ruby Risser, a farm girl from Bedford, Iowa. The city boy married the farm girl on December 20, 1947 in Ames, Iowa. Ruby predeceased him on March 30, 2007 after almost 60 years of marriage.

Their marriage was blessed with 5 children: Marie (Zarnikow) and Mark Latta of Muscatine, IA, Carolyn (Zarnikow) Hettinga (deceased), Margie (Zarnikow) and Al Taylor of Urbandale, IA, Eric and Barbara Zarnikow of Buffalo Grove, IL and Ellen (Zarnikow) Zirwes (deceased). His grandchildren include grandsons: Daniel Hill, Kevin Bauer, C. Mark Latta and Zane Latta, great-grandchildren Jay and Luke Bauer, Tami Adams, Georgia and Cleo Latta and great-great grandsons: Casper and Braum Adams.

After his graduation from Iowa State University with a degree in architecture, he practiced his

profession for over 40 years with positions in Tennessee, Iowa, California, and Arizona and he also worked in France. He was the first person in his family to attend college. He was a long-time member, Director and Officer of the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) a professional organization of architects, contractors, building product representatives and specifiers. In 1983, he was elected as a Fellow of CSI, the equivalent of the Hall of Fame for his profession.

Throughout his life he was an active volunteer in many different organizations and his church. He traveled extensively in the U.S. and around the world and until the age of 93 regularly attended an exercise class and visited patients at a hospital in Davenport.

He lived life to the fullest and in 2015 completed an autobiography entitled — "It Was a Grand Life!" He kept his sense of humor, even after a bad fall on the ice forced him to move to a nursing home. He always loved deep conversations and loved to discuss and debate current world topics. He was perfectly willing to take either side of a debate, just to keep it going.

His children remark that at 94 years old—"our Dad still had more friends than we do! He was quite simply—a good man".

The History of *Gasthof Krey*: The Bredenbek Inn

By Hans-Werner Hamann (edited and revised by editor)

Overcome by travelers heeding the call of the Roman empire, the innkeeper at Bethlehem was forced to house Mary and Joseph in the Manger. Meanwhile, travelers and caravans from Rome transported goods and culture through the Bavarian inn at *Partenkirchen*. Yet even now, inns of many varieties still welcome travelers seeking the cultural crossroads of many towns.

In 1775, the *Cronsborg* estate built a windmill and a countryside restaurant in Bredenbek. Five years later and according to its baptismal records, the church of Bovenau housed Hinrich Christian Buck and his wife Catharina Margaretha nee Tank at the inn when their daughter was born on April 30, 1780. Other baptismal entries document at least four other hosts, or *Kroeger* in Low German, for the same inn. Later in 1803, the first Danish census reported the widow Magdalena Hedwig Schlueter as the inn's *Krug-Wirthin* or innkeeper.

On May 1, 1835, Hans Christian Krey from *Schinkel* in the district of *Eckernförde* bought the inn and the mill from the Miller Jochim Friedrich Vorbeck and not the estate of *Cronsborg*. The bill of sale for the inn included a distillery and brewery as well as a dwelling with a barn and a grocery store and bakery. By June 3, 1835, Hans Christian Krey and his wife Dorothea nee Woehlk welcomed their newborn son Georg Friedrich. Hans and Dorothea operated the inn until May 1, 1861, when their youngest son Heinrich Diedrich,



Gasthof Krey in 1907

born October 8, 1845, assumed ownership and operation of the country inn.

The young Heinrich Krey remained the miller and leased the inn and grocery to his sister's husband Adolf Nehlsen who remained a tenant of the Inn until 1904. On May 1, 1907, Heinrich Krey shared his possessions between his sons Ernst and Gustav Krey.

Ernst Krey inherited the restaurant. In 1909, he married Margaretha (Grete) Moeller, and in 1911, Heinrich, their first son was born. Ernst died in September of 1930 at the age of 51, and his son Heinrich took over the restaurant at only 19 years old. Even though he wasn't yet 21, he was granted a license to drink. His mother, Grete, ran the restaurant for him during this difficult time following Ernst's death.

World War II began on September 1, 1939 when Germany invaded Poland. Three years later Heinrich was conscripted as a

soldier. Once again Grete had to run the business alone through difficult times. Unfortunately, the inn burned down following a bombing run on August 26, 1944. But reconstruction began immediately. The stable was rebuilt first to provide shelter for the animals during winter. Thankfully, Heinrich returned from the war healthy and was able to join his mother at the inn.

Heinrich Krey married Anne-Else nee Stave on January 30, 1948. His mother, Margaretha, moved into the old house. During this time, Heinrich and his family welcomed and housed many refugee families who had lost their homes in East Germany.

The new hall was inaugurated by Christmas of 1948. Heinrich Krey loved farming, and Anne-Else loved her guests and gladly welcomed them with warmth and friendship.

Continued on next page

Gasthof Krey

Continued from previous page.



Gasthof Krey circa the 1950s

Welcoming and hosting her many guest filled Anne-Else's heart and soul with much joy. Heinrich and Anne-Else renamed the inn the *Gasthof* (Guest house) *Krey*.

Heinrich and Anne-Else had three children, none of whom wanted to continue the inn. In 1976, *Gasthof Krey* was leased to Horst and Kaethe Stelke for six years. Afterwards, Ruth and Frank Martin became the new tenants in 1982.

Heinrich Krey sold the *Gasthof* to the Martins who continued to operate it as *Gasthof Krey*. Frank Martin died in May 2017. His wife Ruth was looking for a buyer for the Inn. Her husband wanted her to receive the *Gasthof* but the City of Bredenebek acquired the inn and leased it out.

At the new year reception in January 2018, Sevin Topalogu was introduced as the new tenant of the inn. She changed the name to *Adelfes*

and converted it to a Greek restaurant. *Adelfes* means sisters in English. The restaurant opened in May 2018, and she runs it with her sister and two other women.

As of this writing, the restaurant has two reviews (both very positive) on Yelp. It remains busy and reservations are recommended. The coleslaw, meat, and house red wine are particularly recommended.

Like most inns, *Adelfes* has adapted to the times, resisted wars, and prospered with new owners. Name notwithstanding, the inn remains what it was always meant to be: a place for people to come together and celebrate life with friendship and food.

Visit Adelfes at
<https://adelfes.jimdosite.com/>

Also on Facebook



Adelfes (2018)

The World Should not Forget

~ Continued from page 1

Understanding the connection back in history, look at 1861-1865. The country was split during the Civil War, north to south. The end of the war saw up to 700,000 dead soldiers. Many were members of local organizations. From New York State alone, ten regiments of Germans were counted to take part. Well over 200,000 German-Americans were volunteers in Union regiments. The first officer who died in action from Scott County, Iowa was Lieutenant Colonel Augustus Wentz who fell in battle on November 7, 1861 in

Belmont, Missouri.

Cory Darnell is of German heritage. His mother told him that as a child he took extreme interest in his heritage. At sixteen his parents finally let him explore Germany, and he now speaks German well. When Darnell started restoring the cemetery, it was in bad shape. Stones were down, and ground hogs had burrowed throughout. As he explains standing in the middle of the city cemetery, to the left is Tappa's Steakhouse and River Drive on the right. "How can that be?" he asks

himself. These men have done so much for us and for America; They founded organizations and started businesses. The first symphony orchestra building of Davenport still exists today, many other landmarks maybe almost forgotten. Tough to understand the world sometimes, Darnell comments.

Walking and driving through Davenport today reminds us of the heritage from these immigrants.

Together with other folks Darnell raised the means to restore respect for the cemetery and its history: not

just for Germans but people from Hungary and Great Britain among others. However, 90 percent are of German descent. And 70 percent of those are from Schleswig-Holstein. The City of Davenport and local organizations are helping to contribute, along with many volunteers. But very little interest is coming from Germany itself.

A stone was reset for Peter Bode, born 1820 in Garding, Schleswig-Holstein. He came to America at the age of 30 and opened a farm tool store on the corner of Second & Harrison streets (one of the first businesses). Peter also fought in the Civil War for the freedom of all people. He passed away in 1899 and had five children. Darnell placed a red, white & blue flag on his grave for remembering, but spoke in English this time.

Commemorative peace appeal

Memorial day in Germany remembers the lives lost to wars and tyranny. The national memorial day is held two Sundays before Advent, this year on November 18, 2018.

The call for tolerance and peace is emphasized in many locations and the official speaking event is the Landtag Plenarsaal Bundestag. Schleswig-Holstein invites several personalities to Kiel: the Bishop Stephen Hesse and the Landtag's President Klaus Schlier. Thilo Mandelkow, a teacher from Soederbarup, also gave his thoughts about the memorial day.



Gravesite of Ferdinand Koch

Meet ASHHS Members Lee & Mary Ann Muller

~ By Lee and Mary Ann Muller, Walcott, Iowa



Lee and Mary Ann (Storjohann) Muller joined the ASHHS community in 1992. Lee served as president of ASHHS from 2003 – 2004 and is a current parliamentarian. Mary Ann serves ASHHS in the role of publicity and public relations.

Lee was born on September 16, 1929 in Walcott, Iowa followed by his future wife a few miles away when Stockton, Iowa welcomed Mary Ann on November 17, 1932. They currently reside in Walcott.

Mary Ann graduated from DeWitt High School, and Lee graduated from Davenport. After school, Lee worked at the Farmer's Elevator (River Valley Corp) in Walcott and retired as its manager after 41 years. Mary Ann worked as a secretary at Red Jacket Pumps (Marley Pump Company) for 36 years. They entered and have been enjoying

retirement since 1994.

Their life together has found enjoyment with dancing, playing cards, and volunteering for various community organizations. But above all, their family brings them the most joy. Married in July 4, 1987, they have two daughters Suzanne Winkler and Sharon VanDeWalle (married to Verne). They have been blessed with three grandchildren: Mark VanDeWalle (married to Karen), Madeline Clemons (married to Chase), and Anna Winkler. And one great grandchild in Nancy VanDeWalle.

They are grateful to ASHHS for the many opportunities bestowed upon them. ASHHS helped learn much more about family genealogy. They have sung in the German choir. Mary Ann and Lee also opened their home to Annemarie Jensen who visited Walcott from Schleswig-Holstein to teach *Plattdeutsch* (Low German). Having Annmarie in their home helped them learn and practice Low German which they have gladly used when welcoming German visitors into their home.

They have travelled to Germany with ASHHS for Platt Konferences and was able to visit their overseas relatives. And while home, both Lee and Mary Ann have attended Platt conferences on this side of the pond.

Lee and Mary Ann fondly remember when Walcott joined Bredenbek together as sister cities.

In 1996, Glenn and Norma Sievers stopped at the *Gasthof Krey* in Bredenbek and later commented to its mayor Hans-Werner Hamann that Bredenbek was quite comparable to Walcott, and the rest is history.

Bredenbek citizens visited Walcott in 1997 for the Walcott Day celebration where they signed the Sister City Partnership. Dieter and Marlene Krey stayed with the Mullers, and they all became close friends. The Mullers have visited them in Germany, and they traveled to Arizona to visit the Mullers during the winter. Dieter grew up with Hans Gudogast more famously known as Eric Braeden the actor from *The Young and the Restless* and ninety-four other Hollywood credits.

During that Arizona visit, Eric invited all of them to visit him in California. He welcomed them into his home and at the studio for *The Young and the Restless*. Eric sponsored their stay at the Rivera Country Club and gave them all a memorable experience. In fact, Eric also visited Walcott for the sister city ceremony.

Lee and Mary Ann wish to thank their late friends Dieter and Marlene and especially Glenn for stopping in Bredenbek and making all this possible. But most of all, they give their utmost thanks to ASHHS. *Du hes dat goot mook* (You have made that good).

Enchanting Southern Germany Trip

Jens and Judy Rehder are organizing their fourth trip to southern Germany from September 16 to October 1, 2019. The cost is estimated to be \$3200 per person excluding airfare. For more information contact them at: judyandjens@yahoo.com or 309-781-8319 (Jens) or 309-781-8316 (Judy)

ASHHS Supports Community, Thanks Phil Roberts

~ Editor



Christkindlmarkt Returns!

Let the band play on. Returning to the Quad Cities after a ten-year hiatus, The Davenport Christkindlmarkt, hosted by the Freight House Farmer's Market, played to its many festive crowds from December 8 – 9.



Warm Food and Drink!

While a live band played festive music to lift the spirits of the crowds browsing the many stalls, ASHHS provided warm mulled cider (*kinderpunsch*) to soften the bite of frigid weather.



Giving Thanks!

On November 18 at the annual meeting, ASHHS President Franz Neff presents former newsletter editor Phil Roberts with a monetary gift in thanks to his years of service. Thank You Phil.

Schuetzen Park

~ Continued from page 3

They also want to thank all who have contributed either with money or in-kind contributions, and they want to invite the public to visit anytime from dawn to dusk, Darnall said.

Overall, the project cost about \$29,000, he said.

The pavilion was constructed in 1911 with a \$1,000 bequest from Davenport brewer Henry Koehler, the owner of the Independent Malting Co.

It is 21-feet by 15-feet and made of poured concrete in the Egyptian Revival architectural style that was popular in that period.

The first and most important phase of restoration consisted of replacing the roof, Darnall said.

A masonry company removed the old roof material and installed a new layer of concrete as well as a protective seal coating.

The second phase repaired ceiling support beams and resurfaced the outside walls.

The final phase restored the ceiling, or underside of the roof, that is decorated with circles. This portion also included installation of colored lights around the eaves, replicating a look from years ago, and the recreation of a 20-foot bench by members of the Davenport West High School welding class.

In addition to the pavilion restoration, the *gilde* has done a substantial amount of work elsewhere in the park over the years.

This has included the building of walking trails, a shelter with an indoor kitchen, a pond, a stage, outdoor toilets and a Bavarian-style religious shrine. Members also have cleared out invasive plants and planted desired flowers and trees and installed signs.

And working with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, volunteers raised money to buy and piece back together portions of the park's original 23 acres. Six wooded acres are owned by Good Samaritan, which supports the *gilde* in the area's preservation, while the *gilde* has purchased 15 acres. The boundaries do not exactly match the old boundaries, but the area is contiguous woodland.

Schleswig-Holstein: Historical Tidbits

The *Kaiserliche Marine* (Imperial German Navy) commissioned the SMS Augusta Victoria Schleswig-Holstein in 1908. Built by the *Germaniawerft* in Kiel in 1905, it was the final battleship built by the Imperial Navy.

Surviving (but not unscathed) World War One guarding the mouth of Elbe River, the navy decommissioned it in late 1917 due to its perceived obsolescence. However, in 1920, it was recommissioned under the terms of the *Treaty of Versailles*. By 1935, it was converted into a training vessel for naval cadets.

Yet life remained throughout her steel frames, and from hull to stern, she sought again the honor of service in battle.

The SMS Schleswig-Holstein sailed to the Free City of Danzig (now Gdańsk, Poland) for a "ceremonial" visit in August of 1939. However, on September 1, Germany began its invasion of Poland, and on that day, the SMS Schleswig-Holstein has the preeminent honor of firing the first shots of World War Two at the Polish fortress of *Westerplatte*. Eight days later, the fortress fell to German forces.

Ultimately disabled by the Royal Air Force on December 18, 1944, the Soviets eventually salvaged her and used her for target practice. Her bell now resides at Military History Museum of the Bundeswehr in Dresden.



Henry Kissinger turns 95

This is offered solely for its historical perspective. No political statement of any variety is implied. ~ Editor

**Speech by Federal President
Frank-Walter Steinmeier
at the dinner in honour of Henry
A. Kissinger on the
occasion of his 95th birthday
Schloss Bellevue, 12 June 2018**

We have come together to honour Henry Kissinger, the great thinker and architect of global policy. Most of you here in this room will be aware that the Federal President invites outstanding individuals to Schloss Bellevue from time to time to pay tribute to them and their achievements. Today, it is almost the other way around. We, and indeed our country, are honoured, dear Mr Kissinger, that you have come to be with us this evening! After all, when Heinz Alfred Kissinger, the Jewish boy from Furth, had to leave Germany with his parents in 1938 at the age of 15, it was absolutely unimaginable that he would one day do a German Head of State the honour of receiving him here on his 95th birthday.

Back then, just a few hundred metres from here, the man who aimed to destroy European Jews was at the helm. A topography of terror unfolded in this city and all across Europe.

A massive endeavour by the allied States ultimately brought an end to this heinous insanity. Here at the heart of Berlin where we have gathered this evening, the

final battles were played out. And I know one needs to be careful with such lofty words, but, my friend Henry Kissinger, I feel our gathering here this evening is truly a historic moment. After all, we are honouring a friend of Germany. Being able to say this was not something that could be taken for granted 70 years ago and this speaks volumes about our country's good fortune and about the long journey that we have embarked upon since those dark days.

You returned to Germany for the first time on 25 November 1944 wearing the very uniform that other Germans such as Klaus Mann or Marlene Dietrich wore in the fight against National Socialism. You were pleased when on this day you were able to write to your parents from "Somewhere in Germany:" "So I am back where I wanted to be. I think of the cruelty and the barbarism those people showed out there in the ruins when they were on top. And then I feel proud and happy to be able to enter here as a free American soldier."

You went on to live the rest of your life serving the United States of America to whom you owed your life and your freedom. You continued to live the ideals in whose name the Nazis had been fought: the fight for freedom and democracy and the fight for a world order based on the peaceful balancing-out of interests.

Initially, you did so in almost "old European" fashion, namely as a scholar. Your experience in the formative years was motivation

enough to place the geopolitical thinking and action of leading statesmen at the heart of your research. One book was dedicated to the problem of peace at the Congress of Vienna, that defining moment of world diplomacy. The volume you penned truly set new standards. Its title "A world restored" is one that could also be used to cover everything you went on to do. After all, your life's work is defined by the conviction that history really can be shaped, that the world can be set to rights and so maintained by responsible leaders but just as easily destroyed by the irresponsible.

Unlike you, Leo Tolstoy believed statesmen remain without any real influence on history. Nevertheless, he wrote one of the greatest novels world literature has to offer about the period leading up to the Congress of Vienna giving it the simplest yet most universal title: War and Peace. That is indeed ultimately what is at stake time and again in international politics.

War and peace: there are but a few other scholars who took such trouble to analyse the meaning of this fundamental dichotomy. You examined war and peace from the historical perspective and distilled the lessons of the past for the present. And like but a few others you stood with government responsibility on your shoulders and faced the very real task, what is more not only once, of taking or preparing decisions about war and peace.

Continued on next page

***See a listing of the items
ASHHS has for sale on
the inside of the back cover***

Henry Kissinger

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I know of no other thinker of our time who plunged so deeply into the daily grind of politics. And I know of no other political office-bearer of our time who, with such capacity for reflection and analytical clarity, explored the opportunities, constraints but also limits of foreign policy action. Who in the midst of day-to-day challenges always had his eye on the bigger picture. Who was able to put himself in the position of his opposite number, to recognise his angle on reality and see the limits which even the strongest have to respect if unavoidable conflicts are to remain manageable and not spiral out of control.

An intellectual yourself, you cherished time with other critical intellectuals, for example the publisher Siegfried Unseld. He came one day to the White House with the Swiss writer Max Frisch where you were working as national security advisor to President Nixon.

Shortly afterwards, Max Frisch published his thoughts in a report showing both his fascination and his reservation. He wrote *inter alia*: “Those taking decisions or advising on decisions affecting millions of people cannot afford subsequent doubts about whether the decision was the right one; the decision is taken, you have to wait it out. [...] I understand more and more why Henry A. Kissinger has his hands in his trouser pockets as much as possible; the

responsibility he shoulders bears no relation to the person who wears a suit like us.”

And then, as Frisch recalls, Kissinger says he prefers responsibility to paralysis.

What a sentence! And one so rarely heard from those who consider any form of power to be suspect and who consider staying out of things to be a laudable moral quality.



Those assuming responsibility cannot expect to do everything right. Those taking action are exposed to risks, make mistakes. They cannot expect to be applauded by all.

That was always especially true for the leading nation of the western Alliance: for the United States. What is certain is that, even under Henry Kissinger, America was neither willing nor able to

solve the problems of the world single-handedly. But to this day it also holds true that the world will not solve its problems without America and most probably also not against America.

Particularly this realisation makes it so difficult to give a reasonable and responsible reaction from our side of the Atlantic to the turmoil emerging at this time from Washington.

After all, it is not a matter, as it was on occasion in the past, of differences of opinion on political matters - albeit also on important political matters. Rather, and this is something we all sense, something quite fundamental is at stake.

And I fear that while America no longer sees an intrinsic link between a cooperative international order and its own legitimate interests, while the United States sees the world more as an arena where it is “every man for himself”, the world is not going to move closer to peace, and while this situation persists, doubt is cast on the alliance

of the West. After all, the West is only more than a compass point if the world is more than a boxing ring.

And even though, Henry Kissinger, you were and remain the great realist amongst foreign-policy makers, the cool analyst of diverging interests, for me there was one element you, despite all the challenges and contradictions, have always embodied: namely,

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the unique “normative project of the West”. It is my ardent hope that enough people on both sides of the Atlantic keep hold of this aspiration.

Nevertheless, in our disquiet, we cannot simply languish in lamentation. We need to invest in this connection reaching across the Atlantic - especially now. On Sunday, I will fly to Los Angeles to open the Thomas Mann House. A new venue for transatlantic debate, for exchange, for working on the foundations of what keeps the West together: namely, the future of democracy. And where would be better suited than the house from which Thomas Mann campaigned so passionately both for Germany’s democratic rebirth and for the partnership with America?

There is no such thing as an inescapable necessity in history. We politicians always have the freedom to act, to change the run of things or at least to wield influence. That, my dear Henry, is and always has been your firm conviction. You once said: “there is a margin between necessity and accident, in which the statesman by perseverance and intuition must choose and thereby shape the destiny of his people”.

With your vast knowledge of the world and its history, you are also able to use your sound judgement to provide orientation when new problems appear on the horizon. I myself, you can be sure, Henry, benefited time and again - in countless meetings and talks which we had or from the many essays and books of yours which I was fortunate enough to read. What they expressed was always twofold: your immense power of judgement and your practical good sense. And, I am certain, the two have influenced generations of politicians active in foreign affairs and shown them the way forward.

However, you never stood still, never hunkered down in the trenches of old ideological axioms. And what applies first and foremost to your experienced foreign policy angle on the world, also holds true for all that is new.

As the most recent example of your inexhaustible curiosity, I discovered an article you have just published in “Atlantic”: “How the Enlightenment Ends”.

There you consider the possible impact of the most recent advances in artificial intelligence, that is, their impact on society and politics. As ever, you place even the very latest developments in

their historical context. This essay once again shows just how much your thinking owes to the values of the Enlightenment.

You insist that the voices of philosophers and ethicists urgently need to be heard when it comes to artificial intelligence technology. Otherwise, you fear the moral and intellectual achievements of the Enlightenment could be squandered. And this wonderful new essay closes with a typical Kissinger sentence which expresses American pragmatism in old European dialectics: “This much is certain : If we do not start this effort soon, before long we shall discover that we started too late.”

I must draw to a close. On 29 January 1973, your friend Siegfried Unseld sent you a telegram to congratulate you on concluding the peace negotiations in Paris: “My warm congratulations on your immense contribution to peace- Stop - Don’t give up - Stop – History will use the words of Shakespeare: This was a man.”

I couldn’t put it better myself. He is a man. And what a man.

Happy Birthday!

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