



aachen
THE INTERNATIONAL
CHARLEMAGNE
PRIZE OF AACHEN



2009



Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi

In tribute to an outstanding example of civic involvement for a humane Europe of solidarity, for understanding among peoples, cultures and religions, and for a more peaceful and just world, the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen honours in 2009 the founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio, Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi.

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CIVIC INVOLVEMENT BEYOND BORDERS

Europe has lived in peace for more than half a century. European unification has made possible prosperity, created common ground and overcome antitheses. Within Europe, stability and predictability prevail to an extent that our grandparents would have considered inconceivable.

The European Union is now more than a political alliance of expedience or an economic community. It has become a continent of freedom and solidarity, of diversity of languages, cultures and regions.

This creates responsibility for the future. Europe must now fulfil its role vis-à-vis the rest of the world. The vision of a future Europe which is able to resolve possibly emerging crises and conflicts and which plays a leading role in fighting hunger and poverty is the goal of the best visionaries and thinkers of our continent.

One of these visionaries is Dr. Andrea Riccardi. The founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio with his lay Catholic movement numbering some 50,000 members has in more than 40 years repeatedly set examples of love for one's neighbour, peace, solidarity and human dignity. This is attested by his daily activity on behalf of the poor, homeless and sick, his political involvement and the humanitarian projects in Europe and above all in Africa.

His credo – "We must cause the passion for Europe and the unifying power existing among our European fellow-citizens to grow. This is not a vague passion. Being Europeans in the world is becoming a calling, a vocation" – especially in a time of international economic crisis, is a constant encouragement to the Europeans to take an active part in the shaping of a more peaceful and just world. For Europe lives primarily by those people who stand, by precept and concrete living example, for the European values in the EU and on the international level. The awarding of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen to Dr. Andrea Riccardi thus makes clear that civic involvement beyond the borders of one's own continent is particularly now of paramount importance.



Dr. Jürgen Linden
(Mayor)

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THE CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE WINNER OF 2009

PROF. DR. ANDREA RICCARDI



CITATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONFERRING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN IN HONOUR OF THE HISTORIAN AND FOUNDER OF THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO, PROFESSOR DR. ANDREA RICCARDI



The original Community of Six has grown in the recent past with breathtaking speed into a Union of 27 – a Union today comprising nearly the entire continent. But the broader the EU's reach and extent, the more sceptical seems to be the citizens' attitude towards it. And amidst integration in economic and monetary and social policy, amidst current enlargement strategies and other topics of day-to-day policy, the far more important questions facing United Europe – questions about its intellectual/spiritual and cultural roots, its fundamental values and its inner cohesion – have sometimes been eclipsed.

If however we want to gain the citizens' support for more integration of our continent, if we want them to join us on this journey, our pre-eminent aim must be for the people to see a Europe that in intellectual/spiritual, moral and political terms is worth building. In the EU we have at our disposal the material prerequisites needed to solve our economic and social problems. But the question whether we will win the future is most essentially a question about Europe's intellectual/spiritual state and its inner cohesion. This has to do primarily with non-material values – our understanding of human dignity and democracy, freedom and responsibility – and therefore also and always with the role of the civil society.

For Europe's life is not sustained by states or governments or institutions alone, but primarily by the willingness of its citizens to become involved in the community, to stand up and be counted, and to assume responsibility. Europe lives by people who stand, by precept and concrete living example, for European values in the EU and on the international level.

In tribute to his outstanding example of civic involvement for a humane Europe exemplifying solidarity inside and outside its borders, for understanding among peoples, cultures and religions, and for a more peaceful and just world, the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen honours in the year 2009 the Italian historian and founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio, Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi.

"We possess precious values with a wealth of freedom, faith, solidarity, culture and humaneness, which are important for the future of the world. We must not go astray, for then an important part of humaneness in today's world would be lost. Divided, however, we would be scattered and go astray and lose that which we stand for....United, as Europeans united in diversity, we will be a friendly and staunch force in today's world: a source of humaneness. We must cause the passion for Europe and the unifying power existing among our European fellow-citizens to grow. This is not a vague passion. Being Europeans in the world is becoming a calling, a vocation. In this our world even a few – and we are not so few – can have an impact on the future. Just as a few brought confusion and death to the whole world on 11 September 2001 by terrorism, a few or many with the dream of United Europe can offer many Europeans peace and ideals. That is the European humaneness that is able to build peace."

Whenever Andrea Riccardi describes his and his co-workers' guiding ideas, his words are also and always meant to encourage and urge the Europeans to act, calling on the strength of their cultural and intellectual/spiritual traditions to help shape a more peaceful and just world.

Andrea Riccardi was born on 16 January 1950 in Rome and spent some of his early years in Rimini. After studying law he specialized in contemporary and church history; since 1981 he has been active as a university teacher. After initially working at the University of Bari and at the Sapienza in Rome, today he holds a chair in contemporary history at the Università degli Studi



Roma Tre. Besides several hundred articles, numerous monographs on major topics covering the history of the church and Christianity in modern times attest to his multifaceted scholarly interest and profound knowledge of varying religious, cultural and political currents in the past and present. He is especially interested in the relations between the different religious spheres and in the question of the possibility of peaceful religious coexistence embracing diverse religious traditions, with particular regard to the Mediterranean region in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Riccardi has attracted great international attention chiefly as "spiritus rector" of the Community of Sant'Egidio, which he started while in high school in 1968 together with a few friends in Rome. In the last four decades this lay Catholic movement has grown into a worldwide network numbering (according to its own figures – there are no formal membership lists or identity documents) over 50,000 members actively involved in more than 70 countries on four continents; a not insignificant number of these are young recruits.

CITATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONFERRING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN IN HONOUR OF THE HISTORIAN AND FOUNDER OF THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO, PROF. DR. ANDREA RICCARDI

In addition to common prayer and the spread of the Gospel, the Community's volunteer workers have committed themselves to friendship with the poor, ecumenism, and service in the cause of peace. "In Rome alone, the volunteers care for 10,000 people – immigrants, homeless, drug addicts and the growing number of elderly persons and families whose income in high-priced Rome does not last until the end of the month. Sant'Egidio's centres provide them with a warm supper five times a week. They receive language instruction, professional legal advice [and] medical aid." (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 December 2007)

Internationally, the Community is especially active in caring for Aids victims in Africa. Tens of thousands of people in Africa receive care under the DREAM programme (Drug Resource Enhancement against Aids and Malnutrition) initiated by Sant'Egidio. Numerous other humanitarian projects providing emergency and disaster relief are illustrative of the lay Catholics' active involvement – primarily in Africa but also in South America and Southeast Asia.

By the beginning of the 90s at the latest, the world began to notice Riccardi and his co-workers. Thrust by aid transports and work on simple development projects into



the turmoil of the Mozambique war, they became mediators in the negotiations that resulted in a peace agreement ending a civil war that had lasted over one and a half decades. After more than two years of talks – conducted mainly at the seat of the Community, the old Sant'Egidio monastery in Rome's Trastevere district – the signing of the peace treaty on 4 October 1992 between the government in Maputo and the Renamo guerrillas became possible after Riccardi and other lay Catholic members were able to establish a basis of mutual trust between the belligerents. In recognition of this achievement the then UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali coined a phrase – the "Italian Formula" – in its way a unique mix of government and non-government activities in a mission to foster peace.

Their active involvement being thus reinforced, Riccardi and the Community of Sant'Egidio have since endeavoured to mediate "off the main diplomatic highways" in a number of the world's trouble spots – in Algeria and Burundi, in Guatemala and the Congo, in Uganda and Kosovo and numerous other crisis regions. "That Israeli government officials and Palestinian representatives meet under Sant'Egidio's roof has almost become

routine, likewise the candid dialogue between representatives of the factions attacking each other in Lebanon. But at least as detailed as the panel discussions are the many behind-the-scenes talks, whose fruits may not be visible for some years." (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 20 November 2008)

The activities of the "United Nations in Trastevere" (as the Community is sometimes called) on behalf of a worldwide abolition of the death penalty are also internationally recognized, as are the yearly "Meetings of Prayer for Peace" organized by Sant'Egidio. Inspired by the interreligious prayer gathering at Assisi initiated in



1986 by Pope John Paul II, the lay Catholics annually invite senior representatives of the world's religions, numerous political leaders as well as the general public to join together in peace days and prayer days in order, as Riccardi puts it, to "say in various languages and cultures that only through dialogue and open discussion with others is it possible to build up an authentic culture of life together, which is so vital for every society of today".

For their active commitment to peace and their enduring contribution to the interreligious and intercultural dialogue, Sant'Egidio and Andrea Riccardi have received many honours, including the World Methodist Peace Prize (1997) and UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi silver medallion (1999). Four years later the renowned news-magazine "Time" called the Italian a "European hero".

The Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen honours in the person of Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi a great European who in the best sense of loving and helping

one's neighbour places himself in the service of his fellow human beings, who with passionate dedication acts in the cause of understanding beyond all boundaries of creeds and nations, and who with the Community of Sant'Egidio renders a significant contribution to a more peaceful and just world. In his work of some 40 years, Andrea Riccardi has thus set an outstanding example of the European values of peace, solidarity and human dignity and, based thereon, active civic involvement for a better world.

"Aachen in the heart of Europe, rich in history and always a hub of encounter, will be the capital of peace and the symbol of the old and new European reality: dialogue, not confrontation." This guiding thought, formulated by Andrea Riccardi for the International Meeting of Prayer and Peace held in Aachen in 2003, is also to be the theme of the awarding of the Charlemagne Prize in 2009.





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TEXT OF THE CERTIFICATE

ON ASCENSION DAY, 21 MAY 2009,
IN THE CORONATION HALL OF THE AACHEN TOWN HALL,
THE FORMER IMPERIAL PALACE,
THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN WAS AWARDED TO THE
HISTORIAN AND FOUNDER OF THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO,

Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi,

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT FOR
A MORE PEACEFUL AND JUST WORLD.

INSCRIPTION ON THE MEDAL

CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE 2009

Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi

PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY



PROF. DR. ANDREA RICCARDI: HISTORIAN AND FOUNDER OF THE SANT'EGIDIO COMMUNITY

Andrea Riccardi, born in 1950 in Rome, holds the chair of contemporary history at the "Roma Tre" state university. He has published numerous historical works, mainly in the field of recent and contemporary church history. Thematic focal points have included papal history, relations between Christianity and other religions, and the coexistence of cultures.

Andrea Riccardi is internationally known as the founder of the Sant'Egidio Community, which originated in 1968 in Rome. While still a high-school student, living in a time of cultural and social upheaval, he gathered together young people who wanted to work together with him for change – with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other, as they put it back then. If you want to bring about real change – thus the conviction of Andrea Riccardi and his friends – you must begin with yourself.

Riccardi still gives a decisive impetus today to Sant'Egidio's wide-ranging activities, above all in working for peace, ecumenism, the interreligious dialogue and reaching out to the poor and the marginalized. Diplomacy and prayer, God's word and openness to the world, social involvement and solidarity with the poor – this is the substance of Sant'Egidio's engagement as shaped by Andrea Riccardi. Today the Community has some 60,000 members and is present in over 70 countries on four continents. Besides evangelization Sant'Egidio is active on behalf of socially marginalized poor people and carries out development aid projects. In Europe many Sant'Egidio members are helping to ensure older people a life in dignity and to keep them from being isolated. The Sant'Egidio Community's solidarity also extends to disabled people, Sinti and Roma (gypsies), foreigners, the homeless, prisoners, AIDS victims and children living in dire need. The members of Sant'Egidio are volunteers and their services are free. Andrea Riccardi was a mediator during the two-year peace negotiations in Rome that ended 16 years of civil war in Mozambique costing over a million lives. The signing of the peace agreement between the Maputo government and the RENAMO guerrillas on 4 October



1992 became possible after Riccardi and other Community members had established a basis of trust between the warring Mozambique factions. Peace in Mozambique has proved stable up to this day.

The Community of Sant'Egidio and Andrea Riccardi in particular maintain political contacts aimed at ending hostilities: these include initiatives in the Sudan, Burundi, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Albania, Uganda, Guatemala and Kosovo.

Following his first visit to Albania in 1988, Riccardi acted to help rebuild religious life there and, after the collapse of Communism, to foster cooperation between Catholics, Orthodox and Muslims. He also worked there to promote dialogue between the government and the opposition on the difficult road to democracy.



In 1998 Andrea Riccardi and the Community of Sant'Egidio launched an international campaign for a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty. More than five million signatures were collected. The initiative contributed decisively to the action taken by numerous states in recent years to abolish the death penalty and to the adoption on 18 December 2007 of a UN resolution for a worldwide moratorium on executions.

Riccardi focuses special interest on questions relating to people of different cultures and religions living together. He has been active on behalf of Islamic-Christian and Jewish-Christian encounters, which in 1991 resulted in a first meeting in Rome. Leading representatives of the Jewish community, Christendom and Islam gathered there after the end of the Gulf War. Another Islamic-Christian meeting took place in October 2001 in Rome. Various Jewish-Christian encounters were organized by the Community. In Rome and other European cities the Community joins together with Jewish groups in hosting annual commemorations of the Shoah.

The Assisi world prayer for peace to which Pope John Paul II invited representatives of the world's religions in 1986 shaped the continuing work of Andrea Riccardi and the Community of Sant'Egidio for dialogue. Since 1987 the Community has organized annual interreligious and ecumenical prayer gatherings held in the spirit of

this historic meeting. Hundreds of leaders of the world's religions and representatives of politics and society have taken part in them. These major interreligious meetings have also opened the door to dialogue between believers and non-believers. It is not possible to recall here all the milestones on this road, along which Andrea Riccardi has always provided important impetus. We will only mention the meetings held in Warsaw (1989), Bucharest (1998) during a time of great tension between Catholics and Orthodox, and Lisbon (2000) when the Portuguese Catholics addressed to the Jews a petition of forgiveness. The 2003 peace meeting took place in Aachen, the first German venue of the meeting. Pope Benedict XVI attended the opening of the meeting in Naples (2007). The thematic focal point there was the overcoming of violence and of religious and cultural conflicts.

Andrea Riccardi is convinced that Europe has special responsibility for solidarity with Africa, where in years past numerous Sant'Egidio communities have grown up in over 20 countries. The members of these communities act in the awareness that nobody is so poor that he or she cannot help others. They help children in the "Schools of Peace", prisoners, lepers, the homeless and street children.

With international aid Sant'Egidio has launched a programme to combat AIDS. Called the DREAM programme (Drug Resource Enhancement against AIDS and Malnutrition), it is being implemented in ten African countries. In 2004 it was awarded the Balzan Prize for Humanity, Peace and Brotherhood Among Peoples. A total of 65,000 persons currently participate in the programme. HIV-infected persons receive free antiretroviral therapy plus other medical aid and nursing care at home. A focal point of the programme is the prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child; as a result, some 7000 babies have been born healthy despite the diseased condition of their mothers. DREAM is one of the largest AIDS treatment and prevention programmes in Africa.

Besides DREAM, the Sant'Egidio Community organizes other humanitarian aid projects, most recently for war refugees in North Kivu and for the victims of natural disasters in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some years ago Riccardi initiated with Sant'Egidio the BRAVO! project (Birth Registration for All Versus Oblivion), which supports the official registration of minors in Burkina Faso and other west African countries. BRAVO! aims in this way to foster and better protect the rights of children who officially do not exist.





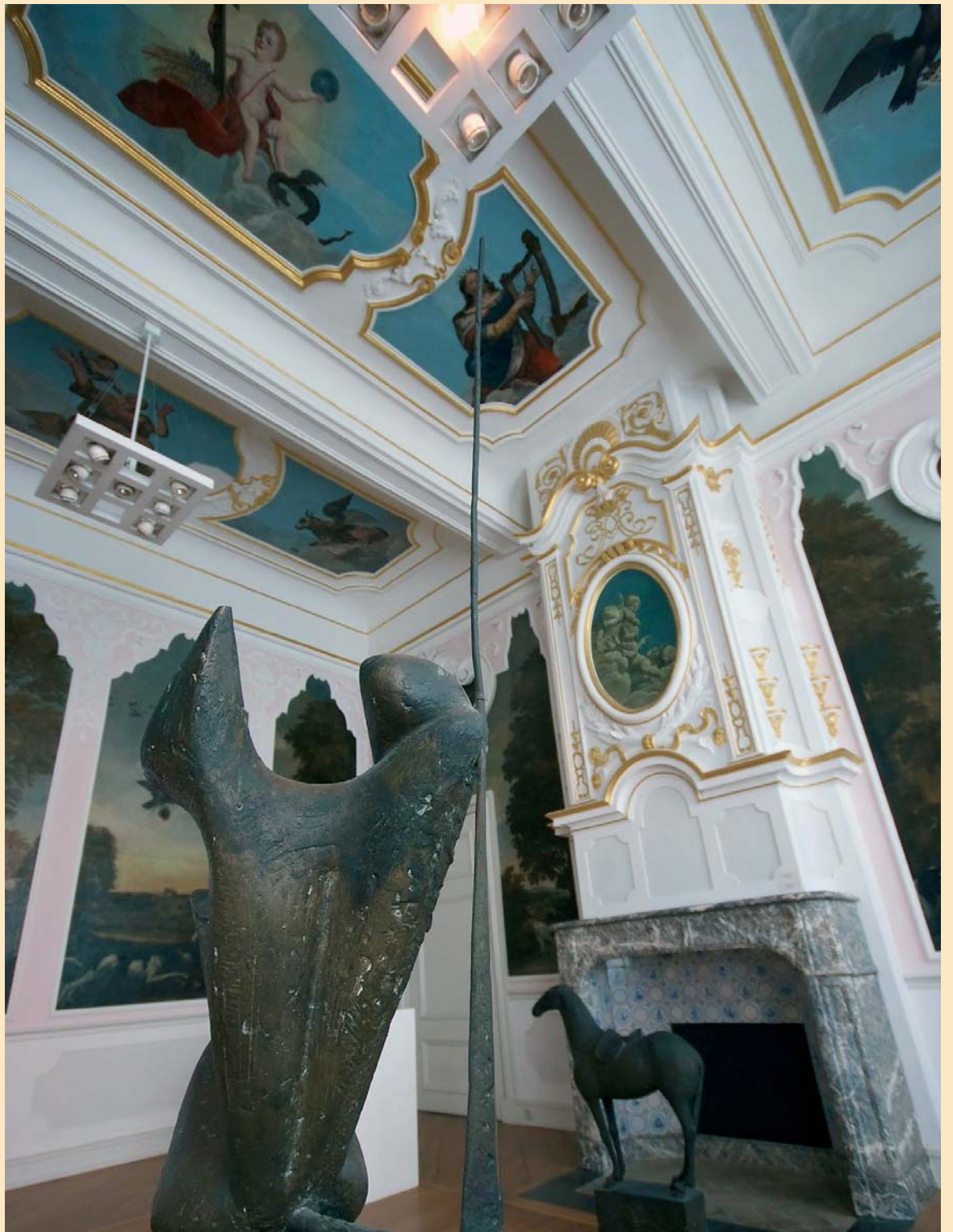
The Sant'Egidio Community has received various national and international awards, in particular for its work for peace. In 1997 Andrea Riccardi as Community founder was awarded the World Methodist Peace Prize. In 1999 in Tokyo he received the Niwano Peace Prize of the Niwano Peace Foundation. In Paris in the same year he was awarded UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi silver medallion. On 27 January 2000 UNESCO awarded the Sant'Egidio Community the 1999 Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize in recognition of its efforts to achieve ecumenical understanding among all religions and for its efforts on behalf of reconciliation in Algeria, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Yugoslavia, as well as for its contribution to mutual understanding and to overcoming religious, political and ethnic conflicts. In March 2000 the Archbishop of Canterbury presented to Andrea Riccardi the Gold Cross of Saint Augustine of Canterbury in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to international ecumenical relations. For Sant'Egidio's efforts based on practical Christianity lived on behalf of the marginalized and the poor, he received on 15 May 2001 the 13th Premi Internacional Catalunya.

Riccardi's numerous publications include the following recent titles.

In English: *Living Together* (New City, London, 2008). In German: *Salz der Erde, Licht der Welt. Glaubenszeugnis und Christenverfolgung im 20. Jahrhundert* (Freiburg 2002). *Recounts the martyrdom of thousands of Christians in the 20th century. Gott hat keine Angst – die Kraft des Evangeliums in einer Welt des Wandels* (Würzburg 2003). *Christianity's chances in a secular, globalized world. Der Präventivfriede – Hoffnungen und Gedanken in einer unruhigen Welt* (Würzburg 2005). *How Christians can contribute to peace in a world of wars and conflicts. Die Kunst des Zusammenlebens – Kulturen und Völker in der globalisierten Welt* (Würzburg 2008). *Ways of living together making possible dialogue between varying cultural, religious and political worlds.*



**“ART FROM NORTH-RHINE
WESTPHALIA”
IN THE FORMER IMPERIAL
ABBAY IN AACHEN-
KORNELIMÜNSTER**



A CITIZENS' PRIZE FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ON BEHALF OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION

PROF. DR. DR. WALTER EVERSHEIM

"We now take the liberty of presenting a proposal to establish an international prize to be awarded annually for the worthiest contribution in the service of West European understanding and common endeavour, and in the service of humanity and world peace. The contribution can be made in the literary, scientific-scholarly, economic, and political sectors." When over 50 years ago Dr. Kurt Pfeiffer presented this proposal "to the public in modest restraint", no one would probably have dared to predict that the International Charlemagne Prize would become the most important and renowned European award for distinguished service in the cause of Europe and European unification.

Let us go back to the time of the establishment of the Charlemagne Prize two generations ago and put ourselves in the situation of its initiators. The Second World War, unleashed by the German Reich, had resulted in widespread destruction in Europe. Aachen, the first German city to be liberated by the Allied forces, had not only been for weeks a site of war; it was also the only major city that was evacuated by force and pillaged. The people's material want, the disintegration of their social relationships and the world they lived and moved in, was compounded by moral disorientation of mind and spirit, leaving little room for forward-looking reconstruction.

BARBAROSSA CHANDELIER
AACHEN CATHEDRAL



The Aachen merchant Dr. Kurt Pfeiffer shared the widespread thirst for knowledge that prevailed after years of mental manipulation and indoctrination. This inspired him and his friends as early as 1946 to found a small literary society – the "Corona Legentium Aquensis" – with some of the city's prominent personalities. The society grew in importance and influence in Aachen, and with Pfeiffer's financial assistance it was able to put on exhibitions and lecture series with political leaders, scholars and creative artists from all over Europe. Stimulated by the discussions in the Corona, Pfeiffer began to wonder whether it was enough to provide a platform for new thoughts and ideas – whether an active effort with public impact should not be made to influence the East-West conflict, which, coming as it did after two world wars, was felt as a menace. Pfeiffer the businessman was looking for a way to influence the political process in Europe and participate in the peaceful shaping of the future while avoiding the protracted decision-making processes of political parties or parliaments.

In the winter of 1949, the conditions for launching a European policy initiative could not have been better. Efforts towards West European integration had been

plunged into a deep crisis when the British in September 1948 abandoned their negotiations with the French government on a common customs union and in November 1949 stopped the development of the Council of Europe into a European institution. The Americans thereupon called on French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman to take the lead in integrating West Germany into a supranational Europe. To this pointed encouragement there was for a long time no response from the French – a circumstance that left suitably fertile ground for European initiatives, especially as the advancing process of bloc-formation in Europe and the growing vehemence of the Cold War fueled fears of a new military conflict on the old Continent.

Kurt Pfeiffer obviously perceived the unique opportunity. He neatly timed his move to converge with the Christmas season and with the Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Pius XII; and at a meeting of the Corona on 19 December 1949, he publicly presented his idea of establishing an Aachen Prize for service in the cause of West European unification, world peace and humanity. His initiative met with an extremely favourable response – both in the press and on the part of important personalities. This encouraged him to mount a vigorous campaign for his plans.

Within a few days, Kurt Pfeiffer assembled high-ranking representatives from the city administration, the technical university, the Catholic church, municipal politics and the business community; and together they issued what was called the "Proclamation of Christmas 1949", which is still today the conceptual foundation of the Charlemagne Prize.

The city was represented by Mayor (Oberbürgermeister) Dr. Albert Maas, City Manager Albert Servais, and Bürgermeister Ludwig Kuhnen. They saw the Prize as a way to revive the city's half-forgotten European past and to focus the attention of European-minded people on Aachen again, thus making the name of the Imperial City known beyond its own walls. After all, Aachen was once the centre of the first European empire under Charlemagne, the venue of a number of major European peace congresses, for a long time a royal spa, and well known in consequence of the pilgrimages taking place every seven years to view its sacred relics – reason enough to be proud.

Pfeiffer himself proposed therefore to name the award the "Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen", thus building a bridge between European past and present. But "Charlemagne" was more than an eponym and a

promotional vehicle; for the founders who formed the nucleus of what would become the Charlemagne Prize Society, Charlemagne was a programme, an agenda.

The name of the most important Franconian king introduced the idea of the Christian Occident into the Proclamation. It is not clear whether Bishop Dr. Johannes Joseph van der Velden, who was in charge of the church and mausoleum of the "Father of Europe" (as Charlemagne was called in a contemporary document), was responsible for this, or whether it was for example the philosophy professor Dr. Peter Mennicken. The historical records are sketchy. At any rate, this "Occidental idea" was a dominant feature of the Proclamation issued at Christmas 1949 by the founders of the Charlemagne Prize, and it was repeatedly used thereafter as a theme with variations – initially in symbolic retrospect, looking back at the Carolingian empire as emblematic of a European empire and of unity in rules, values, language, currency, administration, religion and culture – but also looking forward as a model and programme for the task at hand: the economic and political unification of Europe.

The Proclamation's call for giving priority to economic unification as an urgently necessary preliminary step towards the integration of western Europe had long been part of Pfeiffer's thinking on European policy, and probably was vigorously supported in particular by the founders who represented the business community. Among these were the President of the Chamber of Commerce (and later Mayor of Aachen), Hermann Heusch; the head of the Vereinigte Glaswerke, Dr. Jean Louis Schrader; and the head of the Philips-Werke, Carel Nieuwenhuysen of the Netherlands.

Especially the participation of the two high-ranking foreign business representatives clearly reflects the aim envisaged by the Prize: to create upon the foundation of a large economic region, without borders or customs barriers, lasting peace in Europe. And it becomes evident that at its very inception the Charlemagne Prize was international both in its objectives and in the makeup of the group of its founding members.

It is not surprising that the Aachen textile manufacturer Erasmus Schlapp was also one of the founders of the Prize. Schlapp was chairman of the Europa-Union, which championed the idea of European unification.

Pfeiffer was also able to secure the support of Aachen's academic community for his initiative: three professors

– Rector Dr. Wilhelm Müller, Dr. Franz Krauß and Dr. Mennicken – signed the Proclamation. This meant that the representatives of the city's traditional Bildungsbürgertum, the educated classes, almost matched the number of entrepreneurs in the twelve-member group of founders.

The International Charlemagne Prize of the city of Aachen initiated by Kurt Pfeiffer was to have an impact on three levels:

1. On the European level:

Not only the Germans but also their European neighbours were to be inspired by the symbolism attaching to the annual award ceremonies and enlisted in the cause of West European integration. The Charlemagne Prize was to constitute a kind of European forum and an instrument to focus broad public attention on the state of efforts toward unification, supporting or exhorting as necessary. Thus the award was and is a symbol of the European will to unification and at the same time a means of conveying political messages.

2. On the national/federal level:

The Charlemagne Prize was the first political prize – albeit not a state prize – in the history of the fledgling Federal Republic of Germany. In contrast to the Weimar Republic, which was deficient in symbols, this award created ways and means of identification. It was also to help to lay the groundwork in Germany for a European consciousness based on international understanding.

3. On the municipal level:

Its border situation and its European history made the old imperial city peculiarly suited for a reconciling role reaching beyond all borders. In addition, the award ceremonies would put the city in the public eye and enhance Aachen's standing beyond its borders.

Just three months after the Proclamation was issued, the "Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen" was founded on 14 March 1950 and was responsible for all matters pertaining to the awarding of the Prize. Consisting of a certificate of honour, a medal and a cash award of 5,000 DM, the Prize was to be awarded annually to a person who had performed outstanding service for Europe.

The energy with which the founders got to work is shown by the fact that on Ascension Day in 1950, five months after the Proclamation was issued, the Prize

CHARLEMAGNE BUST IN THE CATHEDRAL TREASURE CHAMBER IN AACHEN



was conferred on Dr. Richard Count Coudenhove-Kalergi, the founder of the Pan-European Movement and a pioneer in the cause of European unification.

The first list of members of the Charlemagne Prize Society reads like a Who's Who of Aachen. It included about 100 personalities from business and church, from the university and the city administration.

Of special importance for the Charlemagne Prize is the Board of Directors of the Charlemagne Prize Society, which chooses the award-winners and which in terms of basic structure is still today virtually a reflection of the group of founders of 1949. The Society's first board of directors was identical with the signers of the 1949 Proclamation, and its first spokesman was Dr. Kurt Pfeiffer.

The first presentation of the Prize (to Count Coudenhove-Kalergi) in the Coronation Hall left a lasting impression. For the first time after the war, the Town Hall was the venue of an important municipal and European ceremony. Although the city was still marked by the ravages of war – the roof of the Town Hall was full of holes; the invited guests could look straight through it into the sky – the festive award ceremony attracted widespread attention. The positive media reaction at home and abroad accordingly inspired the Board of Directors to take an even bolder part in the process of European unification. The conferring of the Prize in 1952 on Italian Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi – in whose outer office Kurt Pfeiffer waited for a week in order to make the offer – was the international breakthrough for the award.

The political leaders of the fifties – Konrad Adenauer, Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet and many more – followed the Italian and were honoured in Aachen for their outstanding service on behalf of European unification. Thus the Prize gained political influence and international prestige. Charlemagne Prize laureate Paul Henri Spaak rightly commented in his speech of thanks in the Coronation Hall in 1957, "These are the most famous names in political postwar Europe."

Since the presentation to de Gasperi, the Prize has developed more and more into a pre-eminently political award. Accordingly, political leaders dominate the long list of award-winners, since it is the elected representatives of the state, ministers and presidents, who stand in the first rank of those who are actively engaged in the process of European unification and through whom, by means of the Charlemagne Prize, political influence can be brought to bear. On the other hand, the cultural

and intellectual/spiritual dimension of European unity also received its due emphasis, reflected in the choice of later award-winners such as Don Salvador de Madariaga, Frère Roger and György Konrád.

The Charlemagne Prize rapidly became the most renowned and sought-after award for special service in the cause of European unification. Aided also by its array of distinguished laureates, the Prize acquired in time its own special political and moral authority.

In 1962 it was not possible to award the Prize – for the second time in its history. To date there have been ten years in which it was not awarded.

The conferring of the Charlemagne Prize in 1963 on Sir Edward Heath, who would later become British Prime Minister, marked a turning-point in its history; for Heath represented not a member of the Community but a candidate-country. The British membership bid had in fact been vetoed by France a few days before, and this courageous gesture was meant as a signal in the direction of a future to be shared together.

A juncture of a different kind came in 1968, when the initiator and "father" of the Prize, Kurt Pfeiffer, turned over his post of spokesman of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors to Dr. Jean Louis Schrader, who was also one of the signers of the 1949 Proclamation. For his outstanding service, Dr. Pfeiffer was made a freeman of the city of Aachen. On that occasion he described the aims of his life's work as follows:

"The Charlemagne Prize acts in and on the future; enclosed in it, as it were, is an obligation, but the obligation is of the highest ethical content. It aims at the unforced, voluntary union of the peoples of Europe, in order to defend in newly acquired strength the highest earthly values and possessions – freedom, humanity and peace – and to safeguard the future of posterity."

Ever since then, this message of international understanding has been passed on from spokesman to spokesman; it is the decisive criterion in selecting a laureate.

Schrader carried on the substance of the work of the Charlemagne Prize's initiator. Also standing for continuity was the then Mayor Hermann Heusch, who was on the Board of Directors for over twenty years. As the city's First Citizen he presided in the Town Hall, where during the annual ceremonies he presented the awards.

NEWSPAPER MUSEUM AND AACHEN TOWN HALL



ELISEN SPRING
IN AACHEN

In the 70s and 80s, the awarding of the Prize to representatives of the emergent democracies in Greece and Spain was an important signal intended to strengthen the forces of democracy and to bring these states closer to the European Community. In 1981 the award went to Simone Veil, the first female laureate and the first president of the European Parliament, directly elected by the citizens of Europe.

In 1982 the Prize was conferred on H.M. the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, the first crowned head to be so honoured. The proposal for this award was submitted to the Board of Directors by the new spokesman, Consul Hugo Cadenbach, prompting Kurt Pfeiffer to remark, "We just elected you spokesman and the first thing you do is to present us with kings!" This quip by Cadenbach's fatherly friend was in fact kindly and favourably meant; and the proposal got the undivided endorsement of all the jurors.

For Hugo Cadenbach, being elected spokesman of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors after the unexpected death of Jean Louis Schrader in 1980 came as a surprise. But he quickly grew into his new role, especially aided in this by the valuable support of Mayor Kurt Malangré. The spokesman and the mayor worked and got on well together. This important condition for the successful work of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors has continued to be observed, as a kind of indispensable tradition, to the present day.

Dr. Kurt Pfeiffer, the initiator of the Charlemagne Prize, died on 30 January 1987. Right up to the end of his life, he actively participated in the development of the Prize, drafting inscriptions for the certificates and the medals.

His last nomination for the award, the former U.S. Secretary of State and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Henry Kissinger, meant for the Board spokesman both a legacy and a task. Pfeiffer had in mind a reaffirmation of the transatlantic ties, in view of the Atlantic community's decisive share in the protection of the states of western Europe.

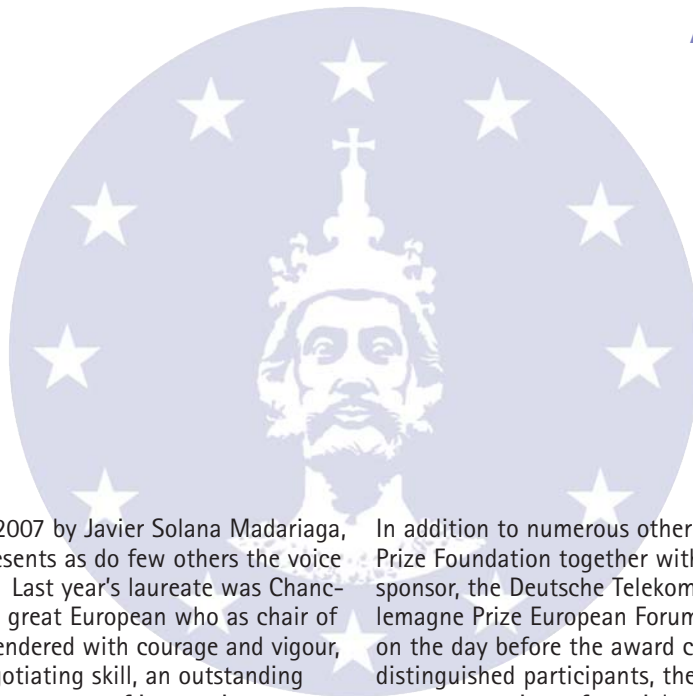
The controversy over this nomination provided the impetus for a critical review of the aims of the Charlemagne Prize. The Charlemagne Prize Society took the occasion to change the award's name to "Internationaler Karlspreis zu Aachen" ("zu" indicating location), thus stressing its character as an Aachen Bürgerpreis, a prize initiated and fostered by Aachen's citizens.

The upheavals in central and eastern Europe and the events of 1989 culminating in German reunification occasioned a further development of the Charlemagne Prize in the form of a declaration supplementing and updating the 1949 Proclamation. This joint "Declaration of the Aachen Town Council and the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen" of 14 November 1990 cited the historic importance of the year 1989 and called for "comprehensively joining" the European states together. Also emphasized was the importance of United Europe in the cause of reconciling North-South polarities and in safeguarding our natural resources – important new challenges which were not on the agenda in 1949 but which 40 years later were self-evident facts of life for politically active persons.

The awards of the 90s, conferred in particular on representatives of the countries of northern and central-eastern Europe, were accordingly focused entirely on the idea of "comprehensively joining" Europe together. On all of these laureates, coming as they did from countries not yet belonging to the European Union, were pinned hopes for European unification with the broadest possible reach. The honours were intended to give a positive signal encouraging the award-winners to lead their countries into the Union. At the same time the aim was to utilize the international repute of the Charlemagne Prize to strengthen the domestic position of the laureates and boost the standing of their countries.

The awarding of the International Charlemagne Prize to U.S. President Bill Clinton in the anniversary year 2000, fifty years after the first presentation, paid tribute to the representative of a nation that throughout five decades has always been a reliable partner of the free nations of Europe.

After the Charlemagne Prize went in 2002 for the first time in its history not to a person but to an object – the EURO, backed by the European Bank – the Board of Directors' subsequent choices honouring the Presidents of the European Convention and the European Parliament, as well as the Italian head of state Carlo Ciampi and the Luxembourg head of government Jean-Claude Juncker, set conspicuous signals for a deepening of the integration process and for a strengthening of the parliamentary and democratic substance of the Union.



They were followed in 2007 by Javier Solana Madariaga, a personality who represents as do few others the voice of Europe in the world. Last year's laureate was Chancellor Angela Merkel – a great European who as chair of the European Council rendered with courage and vigour, purposefulness and negotiating skill, an outstanding contribution to the advancement of integration.

Today, over fifty years after the signing of the Treaties of Rome, we are aware that a long stretch of the road to United Europe still lies ahead. A milestone on that road, be it noted, was reached five years ago: With the accession on 1 May 2004 of ten new EU member-states, postwar history, shaped by the Cold War and the partitioning of Europe, was finally laid to rest. The historical development leading to this comprehensive joining-together of the European family of nations is inseparably bound up with the personality and life work of Pope John Paul II. His pontificate, lasting over 25 years, will go down in history as an era in which the foundation was laid for an enduring order of peace and freedom, and for stability and prosperity for future generations on the entire continent. In tribute to an outstanding life work in the service of European understanding and common endeavour, in the service of humanity and world peace, it was therefore an honour for those responsible for awarding the Charlemagne Prize to confer on Pope John Paul II the Charlemagne Prize Extraordinary. The unique and truly extraordinary award ceremony took place on 24 March 2004 in Rome.

On Ascension Day 2009 the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen will be conferred on Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi, historian and founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio. The Board of Directors thus pays tribute to an outstanding exemplar of civic involvement for a humane Europe of solidarity, for understanding among peoples, cultures and religions, and for a more peaceful and just world.

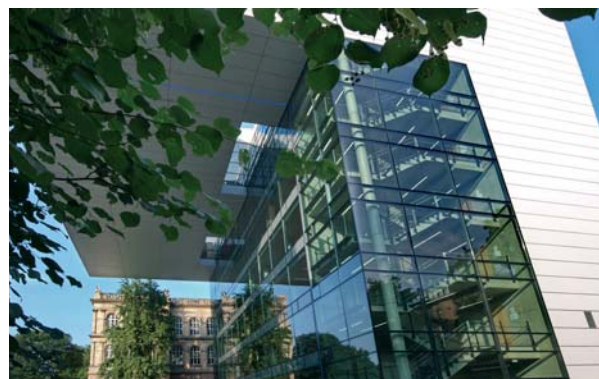
The Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors and the Society feel unalterably committed to carry on the work begun by Kurt Pfeiffer over five decades ago; for there is no alternative to international understanding and European integration. We are supported in this by the "Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen", initiated in 1997. Its membership includes European personalities representing business, politics and society – people who aim to ensure the independence of the Charlemagne Prize, to provide it with a network of European personalities and to give new impetus to the process of unification.

In addition to numerous other events, the Charlemagne Prize Foundation together with its partner and main sponsor, the Deutsche Telekom AG, organizes the "Charlemagne Prize European Forum in Aachen", taking place on the day before the award ceremonies. Featuring distinguished participants, these conferences accentuate perspectives of special relevance to the ongoing European debate. And with the awarding of the new "European Charlemagne Prize for Youth" initiated in 2008 jointly with the European Parliament, the idea initially presented by Kurt Pfeiffer to his literary society is being taken up and supplemented and enriched: Like the traditional Charlemagne Prize, the Charlemagne Youth Prize, which is being awarded for the second time in 2009, honours role models – in this case young people whose lives exemplify the community of Europeans, thus impressively carrying on the great work of unification.

In the last ten years the Foundation members have made great progress in their efforts to effectively support the Charlemagne Prize. The idea of European unity underlying the Charlemagne Prize has gained all the more impact by the circumstance that five European heads of state have honoured us by assuming the patronage of the Foundation. H.M. the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I; H.M. the King of the Belgians, Albert II; H.R.H. Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg; H.E. the President of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer; and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Horst Köhler, are thereby setting a conspicuous and perpetually visible signal for United Europe.

Professor Walter Eversheim, Dr.-Ing., Dr. h.c. mult., Dipl.-Wirt. Ing.
Spokesman of the Board of Directors of the Society for
the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen

SUPER C RWTH AACHEN



THE CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE LAUREATES



1950
RICHARD GRAF
COUDENHOVE-KALERGI
FOUNDER OF THE PAN-
EUROPE MOVEMENT



1951
PROF. DR.
HENDRIK BRUGMANS
RECTOR OF THE
EUROPEAN COLLEGE
IN BRUGES



1952
ALCIDE DE GASPERI
PRIME MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ITALY



1953
JEAN MONNET
PRESIDENT OF THE
HIGH AUTHORITY
OF THE EUROPEAN
COAL AND STEEL
COMMUNITY



1954
DR. KONRAD
ADENAUER
FEDERAL CHANCELLOR
OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY



1955
SIR WINSTON
CHURCHILL FORMER
PRIME MINISTER OF
GREAT BRITAIN,
SECRETARY GENERAL
OF NATO



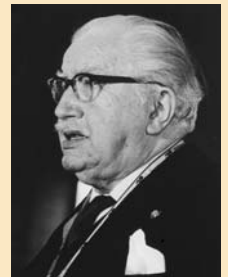
1957
PAUL HENRI SPAAK
SECRETARY
GENERAL OF NATO



1958
ROBERT SCHUMAN
PRESIDENT
OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



1959
GEORGE C. MARSHALL
FORMER SECRETARY OF
STATE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA



1960
DR. JOSEF BECH
HONORARY STATE
MINISTER, PRESIDENT
OF THE LUXEMBOURG
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES



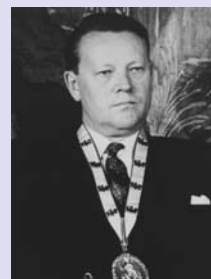
1961
PROF. DR.
WALTER HALLSTEIN
PRESIDENT OF THE
COMMISSION OF THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC
COMMUNITY



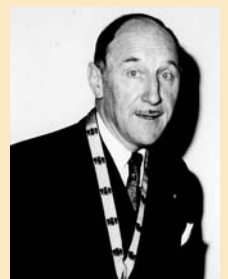
1963
THE RT. HON.
EDWARD HEATH,
M.B.E., M.P. BRITISH
LORD
PRIVY SEAL



1964
PROF. DR.
ANTONIO SEGNI
PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ITALY

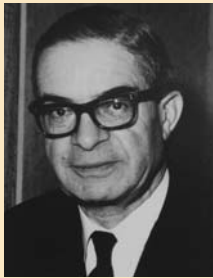


1966
JENS OTTO KRAG
PRIME MINISTER
OF THE KINGDOM
OF DENMARK



1967
JOSEPH LUNS
MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE KINGDOM OF
THE NETHERLANDS

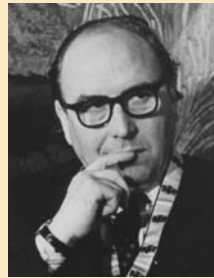
THE CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE LAUREATES



1969
**DIE KOMMISSION
 DER EUROPÄISCHEN
 GEMEINSCHAFTEN**
 REPRESENTED BY
JEAN REY, PRESIDENT
 OF THE EUROPEAN
 COMMISSION



1970
**FRANÇOIS SEYDOUX
 DE CLAUSONNE**
 FORMER FRENCH
 AMBASSADOR TO THE
 FEDERAL REPUBLIC
 OF GERMANY



1972
**THE RT. HON. ROY
 JENKINS, P.C., M.P.**
 POLITICIAN



1973
**DON SALVADOR
 DE MADARIAGA**
 PHILOSOPHER,
 SOCIOLOGIST, HISTORIAN



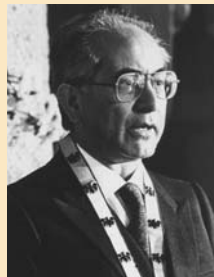
1976
LEO TINDEMANS
 PRIME MINISTER
 OF THE KINGDOM
 OF BELGIUM



1977
WALTER SCHEEL
 FEDERAL PRESIDENT
 OF THE
 FEDERAL REPUBLIC
 OF GERMANY



1978
**KONSTANTIN
 KARAMANLIS**
 PRIME MINISTER
 OF THE REPUBLIC
 OF GREECE



1979
EMILIO COLOMBO
 PRESIDENT OF
 THE EUROPEAN
 PARLIAMENT



1981
SIMONE VEIL
 PRESIDENT OF
 THE EUROPEAN
 PARLIAMENT



1982
**H.M. KING
 JUAN CARLOS I
 OF SPAIN**



1984
**PROF. DR.
 KARL CARSTENS**
 FEDERAL PRESIDENT
 OF THE FEDERAL
 REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



1986
**THE PEOPLE
 OF LUXEMBOURG**



1987
**PROF. DR.
 HENRY A. KISSINGER**
 FORMER SECRETARY OF
 STATE OF THE UNITED
 STATES OF AMERICA



1988
FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND
 PRESIDENT OF THE
 FRENCH REPUBLIC AND
DR. HELMUT KOHL
 FEDERAL CHANCELLOR
 OF THE FEDERAL
 REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



1989
FRÈRE ROGER
 FOUNDER OF
 THE COMMUNAUTÉ
 OF TAIZÉ

THE CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE LAUREATES



1990
DR. GYULA HORN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY



1991
VÁCLAV HAVEL
PRESIDENT OF THE
CZECH AND SLOVAK
FEDERAL REPUBLIC



1992
JACQUES DELORS
PRESIDENT OF THE
COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES



1993
FELIPE GONZÁLEZ
MÁRQUEZ PRIME
MINISTER
OF THE KINGDOM
OF SPAIN



1994
GRO HARLEM
BRUNDTLAND PRIME
MINISTER
OF THE KINGDOM
OF NORWAY



1995
DR. FRANZ
VRANITZKY FEDERAL
CHANCELLOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



1996
H.M. QUEEN
BEATRIX OF THE
NETHERLANDS



1997
PROF. DR.
ROMAN HERZOG
FEDERAL PRESIDENT
OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY



1998
PROF. DR.
BRONISLAW GEREMEK
FOREIGN MINISTER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
POLAND



1999
ANTHONY CHARLES
LYNTON BLAIR PRIME
MINISTER OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN
IRELAND



2000
WILLIAM JEFFERSON
CLINTON
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA



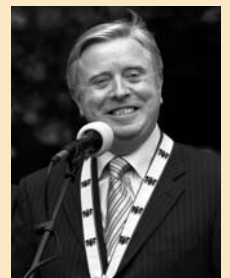
2001
GYÖRGY KONRÁD
PRESIDENT OF THE
ACADEMY OF ARTS
BERLIN, WRITER AND
SOCIOLOGIST



2002
DER EURO
REPRESENTED BY
WIM DUISENBERG,
PRESIDENT OF
THE ECB



2003
VALÉRY GISCARD
D'ESTAING
PRESIDENT
OF THE EUROPEAN
CONVENTION



2004
PAT COX
PRESIDENT
OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT

THE CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE LAUREATES

CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE
EXTRAORDINARY



2004
**HIS HOLINESS
POPE JOHN PAUL II**



2005
**DR. DR. CARLO
AZEGLIO CIAMPI**
PRESIDENT OF
THE STATE OF ITALY



2006
**DR. JEAN-CLAUDE
JUNCKER**
PRIME MINISTER
OF THE GRAND DUCHY
OF LUXEMBOURG



2007
**DR. JAVIER SOLANA
MADARIAGA**
HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
FOR THE COMMON
FOREIGN AND
SECURITY POLICY AND
SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



2008
DR. ANGELA MERKEL
FEDERAL CHANCELLOR
OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY



PROCLAMATION 1949

The city of Aachen, once the centre of the entire Western world, becoming thereafter a border town, has always been aware of the historical task of true border-existence: "To mediate and communicate, and to overcome boundaries". The inhabitants of our city were joined by blood-ties to the people of the neighbouring states, and in Aachen there have always been men of superior mind and vision, who in the face of all national parochialism and supposed interests have endeavoured to find the common and binding elements of the Occident and Western civilization.

DR. ALBERT MAAS
MAYOR

ALBERT SERVAIS
OBERSTADTDIREKTOR

After two world wars during which the effects of the border situation of our city were especially detrimental and in which the honest efforts of several generations to overcome imaginary national antitheses proved futile, our city, submerged in its own rubble, has striven for its right to survival. But with the broader perception deriving from its dreadful experience, it is more willing than ever actively to engage in the cause of Western unification, and that of economic unity as the indispensable preliminary stage.

DR. JOHANNES JOSEF VAN DER VELDEN
BISHOP OF AACHEN

PROF. DR. WILHELM MÜLLER
RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Since human progress has always been initiated by individual personalities of genius who despite all opposition totally dedicated themselves to their idea, it must indeed be useful and beneficial to point to these men as examples, and to urge emulation and realization of their ideas.

DR. KURT PFEIFFER
MERCHANT

A number of citizens of our city of Aachen, forever bound to it by birth or by fulfilment of their life vocation, have therefore decided to establish an International Prize of the city of Aachen which in memory of the great founder of Western culture is to be named the "Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen".

HERMANN HEUSCH
PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It will be awarded annually to deserving personalities who have fostered the idea of Western unification in political, economic and intellectual-spiritual regard.

DR. FRANZ KRAUSS
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

With the participation of the Mayor, the Oberstadtdirektor (chief executive official), the Bishop of Aachen, the Rector of the Technical University and eight other representatives of the business and intellectual life of our city, a Society has been founded which shall be the executive body implementing the tasks in connection with the awarding of the "Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen". This Society, which will speak and act on behalf of our great historic tradition and commitment, will in 1950 nominate an award-winner and after the election will announce his name to the public. It aims thereby not only to point in repeated admonition to the unresolved problem of European unification; it will also seek to indicate approaches to the practical solution of this urgent question. In so doing, it seeks the sympathetic cooperation not only of the citizenry of Aachen but the entire Western world.

LUDWIG KUHNEN
BÜRGERMEISTER

DR. PETER MENNICKEN
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

CAREL NIEUWENHUYSEN
COMPANY DIRECTOR

ERASMUS SCHLAPP
TEXTILE MANUFACTURER

DR. JEAN LOUIS SCHRADER
COMPANY
GENERAL DIRECTOR

Aachen, Christmas 1949

STATUE OF CHARLEMAGNE
DETAIL





DECLARATION OF THE AACHEN TOWN COUNCIL AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONFERRING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN

1990

In respect for the founders of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen and in recognition of the historic proclamation of 1949, the Aachen Town Council and the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen declare:

Like the founders of the Charlemagne Prize, we believe that the town of Aachen, by virtue of its age-long border situation, its history, and its current situation in the heart of Europe, has a special commitment to our continent's growing together, to the overcoming of borders and to the friendship of the peoples of Europe.

Given the developments in Germany and eastern Europe since 1989, a comprehensive form of joining together is no longer a utopian venture. In addition, a special role will accrue to Europe in the settlement of the North-South antithesis; and the problem of conserving our vital natural resources by the protection of the environment in Europe and our overpopulated earth will loom ever larger.

The town of Aachen and the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize therefore reaffirm their resolve to award, on Ascension Day in the historic Coronation Hall of the Aachen Town Hall, the

INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN

to personalities and to organizations fostering in a special way the aforementioned goals. The prizewinners will be selected by the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, an independent organization.

Aachen, 14 November 1990

Dr. Jürgen Linden
Mayor of the City of Aachen

Konsul Hugo Cadenbach
Spokesman of the Society for the
Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE CONFERRING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

DR. JÜRGEN LINDEN
Mayor of the City of Aachen

MSGR. HELMUT POQUÉ
Dean of the Cathedral

PROF. DR.-ING. ERNST SCHMACHTENBERG
Rector of the Aachen University of Technology (RWTH)

MEMBERS NAMED BY THE PARTIES REPRESENTED ON THE TOWN COUNCIL:

ARMIN LASCHET
Minister for Inter-Generation and Family Affairs, Women and Integration, State of North-Rhine Westphalia (CDU)

HEINER HÖFKEN
Parliamentary Leader of the SPD, Aachen City Council

HERMANN-JOSEF PILGRAM
Member of the Aachen City Council (Alliance 90/The Greens)

GEORG HELG
Member of the FDP

ELECTED MEMBERS:

PROF. DR.-ING. DR. H.C. MULT. DIPL.-WIRT. ING. WALTER EVERSHEIM
Spokesman of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors

PAUL NEETESON
General Delegate of the Compagnie de Saint Gobain for Germany and central Europe

DIETER PHILIPP
President of the Aachen Chamber of Crafts

IRENE SCHULTE-HILLEN
President of the German Foundation of Musical Life

MICHAEL WESTKAMP
Chairman of the Board, AachenMünchener AG

DIPL.-KFM. MICHAEL WIRTZ
Deputy Chairman of the Advisory Council, Dalli, Mäurer & Wirtz and Grünenthal firms

MEMBERS NAMED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

JOHANNA HOLZHAUER
journalist

WILHELM STAUDACHER
Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Rome office

MEMBERS DELEGATED BY THE FOUNDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN:

DR. MICHAEL JANSEN
Spokesman of the Executive Committee

WILHELM BONSE-GEUKING
Chairman of the Foundation Council

(AS OF APRIL 2009)



FOUNDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN - STATUTES -



FOUNDATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE

EXCERPTS FROM THE STATUTES

§ 2 PURPOSE OF THE FOUNDATION

1. The purpose of the Foundation is the promotion of the unification of Europe, understanding and communication among the states, the peoples, and the citizens, in particular also
 - the promotion of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen: its importance, its independent conferment, and the further development of its tradition,
 - the collection, preservation and study of the documents of the Charlemagne Prize awards, in an archive to be established for this purpose; and the founding of a scholarly library covering European topics,
 - cooperation and shared sponsorship in arranging programmes and events accompanying the award ceremonies of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, especially as relating to the person of the Charlemagne Prize awardee, his homeland and his activity in European politics and policy,
 - the organizing and holding of meetings and events promoting the European cause and instilling public awareness of Europe in the political, economic, scientific-academic, cultural and social sectors.
2. The Foundation pursues solely and directly public-service aims as defined in the relevant tax-relief laws.
3. The Foundation's activities are altruistic and not primarily for its own economic ends. Its funds may be used only for purposes in accordance with the statutes.

§ 5 ORGANS OF THE FOUNDATION

1. Organs of the Foundation are: the Executive Committee and the Foundation Council.
2. The Foundation has a management body.

§ 6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee consists of four persons.
2. The term of office is five years. Re-appointment is permissible.
The Executive Committee appoints its Spokesman and Deputy Spokesman itself.

§ 12 FOUNDATION SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

1. The Foundation Supervisory Authority is the Cologne Regional Administration; the highest Supervisory Authority is the Interior Ministry of North-Rhine-Westphalia.
2. The Supervisory Authority is to be informed upon request about the affairs of the Foundation at any time.
3. Information about changes in the make-up of the Executive Committee and of the Foundation Council, as well as the annual accounts and report of activities, are to be submitted automatically to the Foundation Supervisory Authority.

PREAMBLE

**PROCLAIMED IN 1949
BY CITIZENS OF AACHEN
AND SINCE 1950 AWARDED
TO GREAT EUROPEANS
IN SPIRIT AND IN DEED,
THE INTERNATIONAL
CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE
OF AACHEN
IS TO BE ENHANCED IN
ITS IMPORTANCE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING AND
THE LIFE TOGETHER OF
THE CITIZENS, PEOPLES,
NATIONS AND STATES IN
EUROPE; AND IS TO BE
FOSTERED SPIRITUALLY
AND MATERIALLY IN ALL
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC,
ACADEMIC-SCIENTIFIC,
INTELLECTUAL-CULTURAL
AND SOCIAL SECTORS AS
AN AROUSING AND
INSPIRING SIGNAL.**

**TO THIS END
THE UNDERSIGNED,
THE MAYOR OF THE
CITY OF AACHEN,
DR. JÜRGEN LINDEN,
AND THE FORMER
SPOKESMAN OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE
OF AACHEN,
CONSUL HUGO CADENBACH,
AACHEN,
HEREBY INITIATE THE
ESTABLISHING OF
THE FOUNDATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE
OF AACHEN WITH
HEADQUARTERS
IN AACHEN.**

4 DECEMBER 1997

PATRONS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OF THE FOUNDATION COUNCIL OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN



FOUNDATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE

PATRONS:

H.M. THE KING OF SPAIN JUAN CARLOS I
H.M. THE KING OF THE BELGIANS ALBERT II
H.R.H. GRAND DUKE HENRI OF LUXEMBOURG
H.E. DR. HEINZ FISCHER, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
DR. HORST KÖHLER, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

DR. ANDRÉ LEYSEN
Honorary Chairman of Agfa Gevaert N.V

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COUVEN MUSEUM
DER STADT AACHEN



(AS OF MAY 2009)

**CORONATION HALL,
AACHEN TOWN HALL**

ON ASCENSION DAY, 21 MAY 2009, IN THE CORONATION HALL OF THE AACHEN TOWN HALL, THE FORMER IMPERIAL PALACE, THE INTERNATIONAL CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE OF AACHEN WAS AWARDED TO THE HISTORIAN AND FOUNDER OF THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO, PROF. DR. ANDREA RICCARDI, IN TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF CIVIC INVOLVEMENT FOR A HUMANE EUROPE EXEMPLIFYING SOLIDARITY, FOR UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES, CULTURES AND RELIGIONS, AND FOR A MORE PEACEFUL AND JUST WORLD.



stadt aachen



**VIEW THROUGH THE
ROMAN PORTICO IN THE
COURTYARD**

PUBLISHED BY:

**THE MAYOR
PRESS OFFICE
FOUNDATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE
OF AACHEN**

Responsible:
Hans Poth

Editor:
Evelin Wölk M.A.

Artwork:
Jürgen Stehling

Photo credits:
Community of Sant'Egidio
(www.santegidio.org)
Andreas Herrmann

Translation:
George Williams

Production:
Druckerei Erdtmann

Published with the kind support
of Deutsche Telekom

Printed on: Antalis Aleo Silk