

Dr. Henry Jarecki: Acceptance of Order of Merit, Officer's Cross

November 17, 2016

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Opening Thanks:

It is a great honor to receive this award from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Joachim Gauck, a leader honored by Germany for transforming his experiences with totalitarianism into support for freedom, human rights, and democracy. Thank you, Minister Bauer and Mayor Würzner, for presenting it to me. Thanks also to Rektor Eitel for his thoughtful welcome. Let me also thank two special individuals who have played a prominent role in this award: the former Consul General of Germany to New York, Busso von Alvensleben, who is here with us tonight, and the current Consul General of Germany to New York, Brita Wagener.

I am of course thrilled to have so many friends and members of my family here with me at this special event, including my sons Andrew, Tom, and Nick and my grandsons Alexander and Tyler. Most of all, I acknowledge my wife, Gloria. It was on this very day in 1957 that the lovely Gloria Friedland became my wife. After 59 years of marriage, I think she deserves her own award!

Symmetry:

This is a very personal moment for me. When I look at my life, I see that it has been defined by one thing: the desire to make unruly things symmetrical, to smooth over the bumps of life, and to identify and align the parts that do not fit.

This is how I made sense of the events that first took me away from Germany and have now brought me back, accepting an award in this most distinguished Alte Aula.

Over 75 years ago, I had to flee in fear from this very country that is now presenting me with this great honor. The Hitler regime had come to power less than three months before my birth, gaining strength by finding scapegoats for the troubles of the German people that were caused by World War I and the peace treaty, and from the ensuing inflation and depression. The Nazis alleged that the country's defeat, hunger, and chaos were due to traitors and to Jews, whom they called foreigners despite the fact that they had been in Germany ever since the Romans drove them here in the 70th year of the Christian Era. My family, which could trace itself back for generations, was unwilling to believe that this land of Goethe and Heine could be governed by a nativist group of criminals: "Surely they can't mean us," my family said. But they did.

We didn't believe it until we had all been arrested and stripped of almost everything we owned. Only then did we flee, first to England and then to America. America welcomed us, as it usually does welcome refugees, despite the occasional internal bigot. This rescue and welcome gave us the opportunity to transform ourselves into hard-working patriots.

The Nazis had forced us out of Germany but they couldn't force the German out of us. We held on to our roots. We held on to some of the language, especially after we heard our parents lapse into German when telling each other secrets. "Aber nicht vor den Kindern." Our father taught us skat and told us about Heidelberg, where he had studied before going to the front in the First World War.

Unlike some of our fellow refugees, we made sense of what had happened not by rejecting Germany but by re-engaging with it as soon as we possibly could. In fact, my brother and I returned to Heidelberg in 1951 to pursue the same medical studies as our father had.

Doing so was our way of re-assuming our character as Germans. Philipp Schwartz, the Frankfurt professor of pathology who fled to Zurich in 1933 and rescued over 1,000 dismissed German scholars, years later said of his work: "We committed ourselves to represent the true spirit of the German nation to the world."

This re-engagement, which brought my past and present into alignment, is the reason for my award today. In seeking to make the different parts of my life fit, I have engaged actively with both the city of Heidelberg and the city of New York. I have looked for ways to further strengthen the U.S.-Germany relationship. And I have felt perfectly at home in both places, perhaps, as my wife and closest friends would say, just a bit more exuberantly in Germany, like the eighteen-year-old I was when I found myself in my lost homeland.

Refugees:

My U.S.-German outlook, as well as my own personal experience as both a refugee and an academic, give me a unique perspective on what is happening in Germany today and have brought me to a new initiative, about which I will tell you in a few minutes.

Germany finds itself at the center of a new refugee crisis, and this time the country is courageously doing what it can to help. There were 60 million people displaced after the Second World War, 2½% of the world's then-prevailing population. Today, there are 65 million refugees among the world's 7 billion people, less than 1%. The proportion makes today's situation sound better than it is, however. After World War

II, most refugees were resettled within a few years. Today, a refugee's average stay in a camp is over 15 years.

During both times, refugees (we called ourselves "refs") remained controversial. Some people think of them only as weak, poor, and burdensome. Others think they are smart opportunists or terrorists just waiting for the chance to become violent or, at the very least, take our jobs.

We need an alternative narrative. I propose this: Germany's new incoming refugees are smart, strong, ambitious, and young. Our support of them now will yield great results for Germany into the future.

Throughout history, such refugee flows have always been with us. The world has in fact made the best of them; it has come to use them like an accelerated form of Darwinian natural selection. Faced with the turmoil and xenophobia that is a never-ending part of our flawed psyches and world, only the strongest and smartest, the most resilient and the hardest workers, are able to re-establish themselves. The philosopher Lin-Manuel Miranda, speaking of Alexander Hamilton, said it well: "Immigrants get the job done."

Their youth is part of their strength. Over two-thirds of them are below the age of 33. Germany's rapidly aging population makes these migrants just the people Germany needs for its future. They are, moreover, ambitious, smart, and anxious to learn.

Commitment to Heidelberg:

My own life serves as an example of the accelerated natural selection premise.

As I mentioned before, Heidelberg readily welcomed me and my family and gave me an education that made me thrive. We have done what we could to reciprocate. Soon after he came to office, I asked the Mayor what I could do to express my gratitude. He suggested that I help to develop a dilapidated rail yard into a science campus that would attract talent from all over the world.

Over the past few years and through the Max Jarecki Foundation, Tony and I have worked with a dedicated team to develop a whole new part of the city – the Bahnstadt. I thank Mayor Würzner, his chief of staff Nicole Huber, Giles Hemmings, who manages the Max Jarecki Foundation, Tobias Wellensiek, who is not only our legal advisor but also the son of my friend of 60 years Jobst Wellensiek, and city officials who have helped make our Bahnstadt project a reality – including Mr. Mevius, Mr. Dietz, and Mrs. Friedrich – for their help. The Bahnstadt is one of the greenest developments in this country, with full access to new technologies, and within minutes of Heidelberg's preeminent educational institutions. This project is a

great example of Heidelberg's successful integration of tradition and innovation, science and business, the past and the future. As the British writer G.K. Chesterton said, "Tradition means not that the living are dead; it means that the dead come alive."

I am fortunate to have had an outstanding team facilitating our efforts. This team has been led by the talented Tony Detre, who took the ideas proposed by the Mayor and helped to make them a reality. I simply could not have done this work without him.

Today, I would like to make several new commitments to the city and the university and to undertake a new partnership with the state.

Earlier today, we dedicated a new creativity-oriented adventure playground in the Emmertsgrund, a part of the city in which many families of modest means live, many of them from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

Just as Mayor Würzner repeatedly looks for new ways for us to help our city, Rektor Eitel finds new ways for us to collaborate in the development of the university. He started by taking me to see the dilapidated Anatomy building and asked me to help restore it. He now asks for help in refurbishing the University's Max Weber House, an important part of Heidelberg's recent intellectual history. I point out to my many American guests that this university, my alma mater, founded in 1386, is the oldest university in Germany. It is indeed one of the oldest in the world. It, too, owes its existence to refugees: it was the Great Schism of 1378 that made it possible for Heidelberg, a small city at the time, to gain its own university. Two popes were elected that year – one in Avignon by the French, and one in Rome by the Italians. When Germany supported Rome and not France, German students and teachers in Paris were thrown out, becoming (yes, we see this again) academic refugees. This led to the founding of the university, bringing to full circle its willingness to take in today's refugees.

Scholar Rescue:

This brings me quite neatly to my final topic of the evening: a scholar rescue partnership I wish to create with the state of Baden-Württemberg.

My own scholar rescue work started in 2002. Drawing upon my own background as an academic and a former refugee, I joined together with several other trustees of New York's Institute of International Education, or IIE, to form a new entity that would respond to what seemed like an ever-present need to rescue persecuted scholars. With IIE's long history of this work in mind, and with the blessing of IIE's President, Dr. Allan Goodman, who is here with us tonight, we formed the Scholar Rescue Fund.

Over the past 14 years, IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund has saved the lives and work of nearly 700 professors from 56 countries, placing them in over 350 safe haven universities in more than 40 countries around the world, including Germany. It was this work that led us, last year, to partner with the Philipp Schwartz Initiative, fostered by Foreign Minister Steinmeier and managed by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation with federal resources. I am pleased to see its Director-General, Dr. Enno Aufderheide, and Director of Strategy, Dr. Barbara Sheldon, here with us tonight. This program enables German universities to host threatened scholars from around the world, thus further emphasizing Germany's role and status as a safe haven country.

As evidenced by the history of the University of Heidelberg, this is a very old story. From the burning of the great library of Alexandria, scholars have fled persecution to safe havens, bringing their knowledge and skills with them and greatly enriching academic life in their new homes. The sack of Constantinople in the year 1204 caused its best scholars to flee from Turkey to Europe, and is said to have produced the European Renaissance. More recently, the U.S. benefitted greatly from scientists and scholars expelled by the Nazis, as did the Turkish higher education system, which was rebuilt in the 1930s and 1940s by over 1,000 German scholars. As collaborators of the Scholar Rescue Fund for the past 10 years, Jordan's Prince Talal and Princess Ghida valiantly made their country into a safe haven for Iraqi scholars, welcoming hundreds of talented academics into their universities. And now Germany has stepped up to help.

The need today is very great. Scholars around the world are facing fresh repression and conflict. More scholars are fleeing Iraq and Syria, a new crisis looms in Turkey, and increasing threats to academics have emerged in countries as diverse as Bangladesh and Ethiopia.

Today, I would like to tell you about developing a new partnership. Over the past few weeks, several colleagues and I have met with Theresia Bauer, Minister of Science, Research and Art for the state of Baden-Württemberg, of which Heidelberg is a part. We have discussed an innovative idea to add to Germany's current scholar rescue efforts by joining together SRF, private funds, and the state of Baden-Württemberg. We are happy to have the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung as a partner who, with the Ministry, will support a new group of persecuted academics to be placed specifically in this state. The supervisory board of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung just decided last week to join the program. I am happy to welcome the Executive Director, Christoph Dahl, today.

While the details of such a unique multi-lateral partnership remain to be confirmed, and we all look forward to guidance from our friends at the Humboldt Foundation, I

can say a few things. First, this very much follows in the tradition of Baden-Württemberg, under Minister Bauer, showing leadership on such issues, most recently with a new program to provide scholarships to refugee students. Second, such a new program makes best use of SRF's power to find and vet persecuted academics from any country and every field. Third, it shows both the power and promise of private philanthropy to bring different groups together to find creative solutions to urgent problems. It is just this type of collaborative thinking that we need in our interconnected world.

What we see now as a refugee problem may well become an even greater deluge in the near future as climate change devastates ever more of our planet, and technology enables tyrants to maintain power more cruelly.

We live on a tiny ball spinning through a largely empty space. And if we don't share this small world that we inhabit, it will be its end. Building walls is futile; equally bad, they put the people on each side into prisons, no matter how prettily they are wall-papered.

We in the so-called first world are, with our ferocious energy consumption, deeply implicated in the changes we see today, and the greater ones we will see tomorrow. More and more people will come to us, dragging their young children across the seas and the mountains to come to a place they don't know a continent away. We should feel deeply honored, but we must live up to it. If we don't, the liberties they hope we have will be lost to us all.

“Giess Wasser zur Suppe und heiss alle willkommen” (“Add water to the soup and make everyone welcome”), is an old German folk saying. Those ancestors well understood that a meal cannot be enjoyed, a peace not maintained, and one's own not protected without sharing and compromise. It is a bit of German folk wisdom that has survived all imperializing regimes and their detriments.

Once again, I thank you for the great honor of this award and commit myself, in the spirit of true and authentic partnership, to do this critical and urgent work together.

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RHEIN-NECKAR-ZEITUNG

Henry Jarecki receives Order of Merit

What Jarecki's story can teach Germans about their dealings with refugees.

BY MICHA HÖRNLE
NOVEMBER 19, 2016

HEIDELBERG — Henry Jarecki is probably one of the most unusual people to have been awarded the Order of Merit in Heidelberg. Even more unusual was what he said at the award ceremony on Thursday evening. Because Jarecki drew a not so bold parallel between his life and that of a refugee nowadays—and gave a “courageous talk,” which included: The Nazis taking everything from his Jewish family, which came from Stettin, in 1937, and the family fleeing with four-year-old Henry, first to England, then to America, where Heinrich became Henry.

But at the age of 18, Henry, with his brother Richard, came back to Germany: They studied medicine in Heidelberg—and were among the first US students after the war, as University Rektor Bernhard Eitel stated. Since then Jarecki has maintained the connection to his old and new homelands—he even has dual nationalities.

Heidelberg owes much to the 83-year-old Jarecki: He was among the first who believed in the Bahnstadt. When others were still skeptical about the new, booming district, he invested 60 million euros in the largest research building there, “SkyLabs,” which will soon be supplemented by SkyAngle. This entrepreneurial thinking impressed Mayor Eckart Würzner: “We need people like you who are so brave. And so you set a milestone not only in the Bahnstadt, but also one for Heidelberg as a science city.”

Henry Jarecki, however, has long been committed to his “second” homeland of Heidelberg: For over 25 years he has been an ambassador to the city abroad as a member of Heidelberg Club International. For this reason, he received “the highest distinction an ordinary citizen can receive” (Science Minister Theresia Bauer): the Order of Merit, First Class. Theodor Heuss received the honor in the year Henry Jarecki began his studies in Heidelberg: 1951.

What no one said: The beginnings of the Jareckis in the USA were quite modest; the eight-year-old Henry even sold newspapers. But the family worked hard: Father Max Jarecki, who had also studied medicine in Heidelberg in 1914, opened his own practice in Asbury Park (New Jersey); his two sons started their academic careers in Heidelberg—where Henry Jarecki also founded the jazz cellar “Cave 54”—but had their greatest success in the USA: Henry was very successful as a psychiatrist, then moved into the precious metal business. His brother, on the other hand: With his wife Carol, he frequently broke the banks of casinos in San Remo: Not because they were cheating, but because they discovered that due to deficiencies in the mechanics of the roulette

wheel, a system for legitimate gains could be developed. The young have-nots made their way through to diligence and cleverness.

And that was what he wanted to give to the Germans in his speech in the Great Hall: What was possible then for refugees in the USA can still be possible in Germany today: "The refugees who come here today are smart, strong and young. If we support them properly today, this will bring great results for Germany in the future."

Jarecki does not leave it at only trite words: He founded with the state of Baden-Württemberg a fund to support persecuted scientists of all disciplines by giving them scholarships here. Here, too, he was able to look at his own experiences: The bleeding of many scientists who fled Nazi Germany was a great blessing for the US. It is actually almost unnecessary to remember that the Ruperto Carola owes its existence and its rebirth in the 18th century especially to refugees.

About integration, Jarecki also taught the occasionally somewhat disheartened Germans a lesson: He is, of course, an American patriot, without forgetting his German roots, and no bitterness for the land he had once had to leave. As he said so eloquently about his family: "The Nazis forced us out of Germany but they couldn't force the German out of us."



Henry Jarecki (middle) received the Federal Cross from the hands of Lord Mayor Eckart Würzner and the Baden-Württemberg Minister of Science, Theresia Bauer, in the Old Auditorium of the University.

RHEIN-NECKAR-ZEITUNG

Jarecki donation: A huge gift for the Emmertsgrund

Henry Jarecki donated €100,000 for the expansion of the adventure playground "Kinderbaustelle"

NOVEMBER 19, 2016

HEIDELBERG — For the children from the Emmertsgrund it was an important day, and so the students of the elementary school danced: Thanks to a generous donation from the Max Jarecki Foundation of 100,000 euros, "their" adventure playground above the Emmertsgrundpassage, the "Kinderbaustelle," situated in the middle of natural terrain, will be expanded to become even more attractive.

In the past the entire area could only be used during the summer, and was moreover not immune to rainy weather for lack of shelters. Now, says Joachim Ritter, head of the Emmertsgrund Children's and Youth Center, "we will have an adventure playground that is unrivaled in northern Baden-Württemberg." Through the donation they will upgrade the Kinderbaustelle and extend the play season with weather protection.

The improved infrastructure—water and electricity connections as well as a network of paths—offers more possibilities, according to Ritter, who welcomed numerous guests to the official donation ceremony at the children and youth center "Harlem" in Emmertsgrund. For example, the children can look forward to a low-ropes course.

Although not completely barrier-free, the new low-barrier design of the square will give families with baby carriages or wheelchair users the opportunity to access the site—which had previously been impossible. Ritter hopes that everything will be finished by spring 2018.

The American entrepreneur and psychiatrist Henry G. Jarecki, who made the donation through the Max Jarecki Foundation named after his father, expressed his conviction in his English-German speech that progress and innovation are made possible by investing in organizations and people with great potential.

The idea of upgrading the adventure playground in the Emmertsgrund immediately found favor with him. For him, it is particularly important with this playground to invest in children with modest financial resources: Many have backgrounds as migrants and refugees, said Jarecki, who is often associated with Heidelberg, recalling his own childhood in the USA, where his family had fled from the Nazi terror.

The fact that someone who had been expelled from Germany comes back and makes gifts that work to ensure that young people get a perspective—Mayor Eckart Würzner paid the donor great respect. In the Emmertsgrund's Children's and Youth Center, children from different countries of origin have been playing with each other for decades. Without such donations, Würzner said, one would not be able to develop such a meeting place here, especially for young people.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Jarecki, how much has this award moved you?

Very. But above all it is about the message of reconciliation and the acceptance of refugees, as I was one.

Your speech was very political when it came to refugees. Was this in regard to the situation in Germany?

The refugees will come. It would be naive to believe that you can stop them. You have to make the most of it—and eventually the refugees are the ones that benefit the development. In this respect, I strongly support German refugee policy.

In your home country, the USA, immigration was an issue in the presidential election campaign. Do your words address Donald Trump?

We don't yet know what he's up to—and with whom he wants to form a government. Our job is to help him.

You have been associated with Heidelberg for 65 years. Is it not time to settle down here?

It is not very likely, but I always think about it—if I find a suitable place. I am very fascinated by the landscape—and above all I love the Neckar.

Dr. Henry Jarecki: Acceptance of Order of Merit, Officer's Cross (cont)
November 17, 2016



Henry Jarecki (2nd from right) donates €100,000 euros for the "Kinderbaustelle" in the Emmertsgrund. Joachim Ritter from the Children's and Youth Center (left) and Mayor Eckart Würzner (right) say thank you.