

June 2019 – Newsletter – Translated by J. B. Potter

Bust of Haag Unveiled in Oberwesel

On 4 May, with the sound of Scottish bagpipe music playing, the portrait bust of Carl Haag was ceremoniously unveiled at the base of the Red Tower in the city of Oberwesel. The chairman of the International Carl Haag Society, Dr. Walter Karbach, greeted Haag's great-grandchildren from England – Catherine and Clifford Allison – as well as the Bavarian descendants of Haag's brother – Conrad Weber – who, until just a few weeks ago, knew nothing about their English relatives.

In his opening remarks, the Vice President of the Rhineland-Palatinate State Parliament, Hans-Josef Bracht, praised the work of the International Carl Haag Society. Bracht's words were echoed by Heinz Fischer, the deputy to outgoing city mayor Jürgen Port.



Among the additional guests were Ursula Krick, deputy of the municipality of St. Goar-Oberwesel, and graduate engineer Walter Weiler, the chairman of the Oberwesel Historic Buildings Association. The vice chairman of the Haag Society, Dr. Werner Heunoske, delivered the remarks of the mayor from Haag's home town of Erlangen. In honor of the occasion, Society Chairman Dr. Karbach held the following speech:

Since its founding on the 100th anniversary of the artist's death, in 2015, the International Carl Haag Society has sought to preserve and promote Haag's memory. This day brings us one huge step closer to achieving this goal. The painter Carl Haag is known for traveling throughout the world – by ship and by rail as well as on foot and on horseback. Regardless of how he got there, wherever he

went, Haag always had his painting supplies with him, in the Rhineland and in Tyrol, in Dalmatia and in Italy, in Greece and in Egypt, in Libya and in Syria.

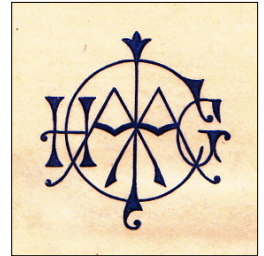
You may have wondered why Marco Kneissl, the bagpipe player, played for us at the start of this ceremony. He did so as tribute to Carl Haag's love for this music. Indeed, during his visits to Queen Victoria's Castle in the Scottish Highlands, Haag captured images of the life of the royal family, which, of course, included Scottish Bagpipers. Haag is still highly esteemed in the Royal Family. I have here a letter from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. To commemorate the founding of our society, Prince Charles wrote to tell us how much he admires the watercolors of Haag, which are prominent pieces in the Royal Collection.

Today, we want to honor Carl Haag by unveiling a bust in his likeness on this spot. It is the place where his ashes lie. When the artist died during the middle of the First World War, in 1915, there was no burial. The urn was kept safe in this tower for many years, until the 1950s, when the ashes were scattered here in this small plot. In this way, this memorial stone also serves as a long overdue gravestone. It reminds us of an artist, who, throughout his life, considered himself a German and an Englishman – one who was at home in London as well as in Oberwesel.

Carl Haag created magnificent pictures of Oberwesel in the 19th century: the old town hall on the city wall, shortly before it was destroyed by fire; the ten-tower, restored by the Oberwesel Historic Buildings Association; and the Werner Chapel, under which the St. Werner procession passes, to name but a few.

The bust that we unveil today was made by the sculptor Andrea Wenzel, who comes from Munich. Her studio is located in Max Suburb, not far from where Haag lived during his years in Munich. Today, the image we have of Carl Haag is of an old man with a white beard. We deliberately chose a photograph of a younger Haag as a model for the bust. The bust depicts Haag as he would have looked around 1850, when Oberwesel first caught his artistic eye.

Local stonemason Thomas Brahm, from Oberwesel, chose and expertly crafted a red hard sand-



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stone from the Neckar River Valley for the shaft and attached the bust to the stone with a stainless steel anchor. The company Pointe, headquartered in Wasserliesch on the Moselle, made the lettering with Carl Haag's signature from night-blue aluminum Dibond. The foundation was cast by Khalid Hasso, who had to flee Syria, his home country, and now lives with his family in Oberwesel. In Syria, jihadists destroyed the ancient city of Palmyra, whose ruins Carl Haag once painted. Thanks to all parties involved.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have donated and contributed to completing the work. Worthy of mentioning would be the city of Oberwesel and the city of Erlangen, Savings Bank Rhein-Hunsrück and People's Bank Rhein-Nahe-Hunsrück, the couples Höhn and Karbach, the honorary citizen of Oberwesel Heinrich Hütte, the stonemason Thomas Brahm, the winery Lanius-Knab, the members of International Carl Haag Society, and the citizens of Oberwesel. My thanks to all of you.

Next year we celebrate Carl Haag's 200th birthday. It would be a wonderful birthday present if the Oberwesel city council could decide to give the unnamed square at the shipping pier the name Carl-Haag-Platz or would name a part of the sub-street Carl-Haag-Straße.

May the bust of Carl Haag become another attraction and draw many visitors from Germany and England, the continent, and all over the world.

Another Haag Painting from 1852 Discovered



This Carl Haag painting was in the possession of an elderly lady. It shows an Italian woman carrying a basket of grapes on her head and forbidding a cavalier to nibble. The picture (oil on canvas) is framed (90 x 78 cm) and for sale. Any par-

ties interested in buying the painting should contact us directly.

Members' Meeting 2019

Following the unveiling of the bust, the Annual Members' Meeting of the International Carl Haag Society was held in the Red Tower, where Haag's great-grandchildren participated in the proceedings. The chairman reported on the activities of the society and provided an outlook for coming projects. The managing director, Jutta Karbach, gave an account of the cash report. The three-man board was unanimously re-elected.

Catherine Allison renewed her promise to gift a valuable watercolor of their great-grandfather to the city Oberwesel if a street is named after Carl Haag. For the upcoming anniversary year 2020, which will mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Carl Haags, interesting ideas were developed and plans were made.

Site Administrator Found

Effective immediately, Juliane Grimme will keep the website www.carl-haag.de up to date.

New Members

Our society has added six new members. Others are welcome to join. Applications for membership can be found on our website.

New Book on Haag to Be Released Later

The publication date of the book *Carl Haag: Victorian Court Painter and Travelling Adventurer Between Orient and Occident* had to be postponed by the Fine Art Publishers of Berlin. The biography will be published simultaneously in German as well as in English. We gladly accept pre-orders. A presentation of the book is being planned and will take place at the Cultural Center in Oberwesel.

