

## THE XXTH CENTURY

### 1. The Beginning of the Century.

A ) Before 1914 :

In the first years of the century, the large commune of Soufflenheim demonstrates great activity. As far as demography is concerned, it counts in 1905, 3,265 inhabitants. There are 769 houses, most of them remain of a modest type.

In regard of the economic and social situation, (G. Strack), farming counts between 400 and 500 farms working in 1910. Nearly 751 undertakings occupy 1,990 people, whereas commerce and communications count 127 undertakings occupying 335 persons.

In the agriculture field, large farms (5-20 ha) are not many (54), middle sized (2-5 ha) are in a number of 59, the largest part stay of a modest size (50 ares-2 ha), but many (187), and those containing 0-50 ares, are in a number of 284. A large number of poor people are obliged to find work as laborers. In year 1897, the forest occupies a surface of 388 ha, meadows 387 ha, fields 865 ha.

In year 1910 are planted corn, barley, and oats on a total surface of 252 ha. Potatoes occupy a surface of 120 ha, clover 25, mangel-wurzel 42 ha, hops 23 ha. Gardens cover a large surface. Domestic animals count 120 horses, 476 heads of cattle, 318 pigs.



Conscripts of the Class of 1897.

The handcrafts bring together the most varied trades. Industry are of a small size, tile factories and refractory products occupy 144 persons, ceramic and pottery 253, wood industry and tobacco (with the creation of a cigar factory in year 1905) 115, snaffle-bridles 42, grocery shops count 74 persons, potteries (36) occupy 281 persons. Wooden-shoe makers are in the number of 6.

So that population is the population is therefore divided between small and medium farmers, craftsmen and a few merchants. Among the small farmers, many are workers in industry.

From 1902, the commune is directed by Mayor Philipp Lehmann who remains in his position until 1917. Whereas the communes does not know major difficulties, the situation however is not brilliant. Very many families lead a very modest life.

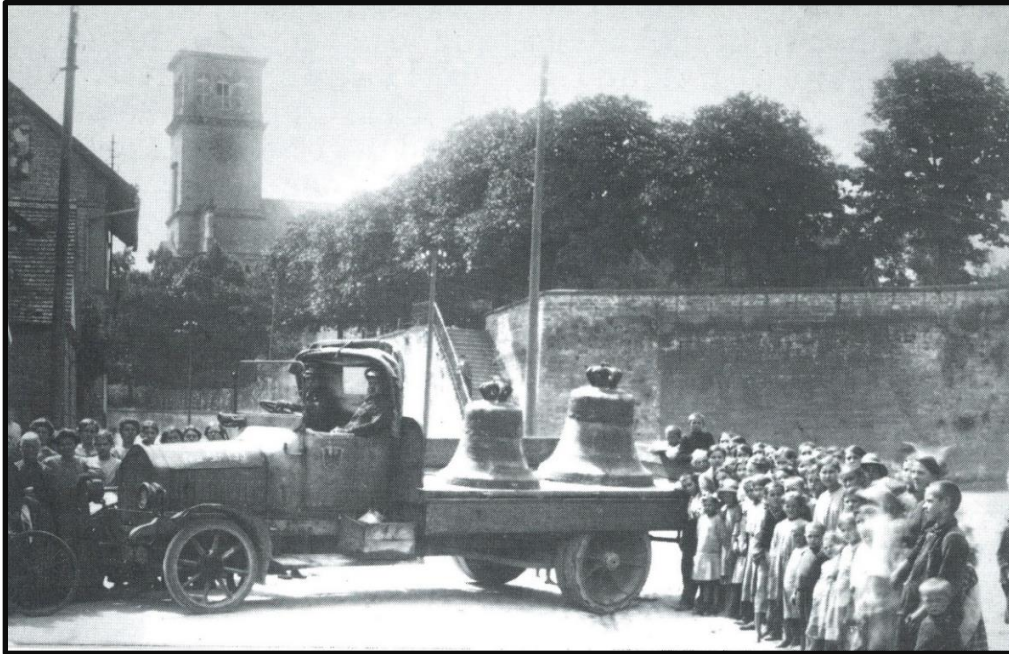
The First World War causes many troubles in the life of the commune. Material difficulties and restrictions are more and more and harder. The situation of the mayor is very uncomfortable, anguish concerning the mobilized men is a heavy weight on the families.



Vicar Julien Schies and the companions of the various trades who collaborated in the construction of the Vereinshaus, 1905

**b) 1918-1939 :**

The events of war do not touch Soufflenheim directly, but the commune deplores the death of many men mobilized in the German army. The sacrifice is important: 92 young men lose their life in cruel tribute to war. Their names are written on the Monument of Dead erected by the commune.



The departure of the required bells, summer 1918.



Roadmakers in the Grand Rue, 1920

In year 1918, Alsace comes back to France. A new period of history begins in the history of the country. It spreads itself to year 1939, until the Second World War. During these twenty years, under mayors Thiel, Haasser, A. Uhrig, A. Strack, E. Ott, F. Jaeck, L. Schlosser, changes take place in the economic and social situation of the village.



Rountzenheim Road around 1920



In the field of agriculture, one still finds the small property, but many peasants can take advantage, as formerly, of the commune property, which are rented to them by the mayor and allow them to cultivate larger areas. But the traditional agriculture is still prominent and farming machinery is almost unknown. In year 1936, are found 76 horses, 200 cows, 322 pigs. So an important decrease in domestic livestock. Mixed activity is important. Families who live only from agriculture are a small minority (8.3 %). As before the craftsmen, blacksmiths, carters, wooden shoe makers, itinerant merchants are at the same time farmers. As well as a number of workers, especially workers in refractory materials factories. So that in year 1936, 24% in the population are craftsmen, 59.5 % work in industry. The percentage of merchants is small. Social classes are not do clearly distinct. Agriculture is still based on self-consumption. Its produce is not commercialized.

Industry has started in Soufflenheim very early, starting with pottery, which was a family activity mainly. Tiles factories, refractory products factories stay of a small size and continue to work in a traditional way, offering small salaries.

But now, in year 1936, several industries open in Soufflenheim : Shirt factory Marchal with 53 persons, ready-made clothes factory Mavest, with about 100 persons, shoes manufactory Ott & Cie, with over 200 persons employed. A number of workers go every day to work in Haguenau, Bischwiller (15-20) Bischheim (railroad industrial units) and Strasbourg (100-200 persons). Maginot line construction, from 1930, supplies work to about 100 people.

## **2. The Pottery of Soufflenheim in the 20th Century.**

The massive arrival on the market of domestic utensils made of cast iron, enamel and aluminum led to the decline of the pottery industry in the end of the 19th century.

A certain reaction took place owing to a man of initiative : Léon Elchinger. Born in year 1871, he was the son of Philippe Elchinger, potter (1836-1906). Granted with outstanding intelligence, gifted artist, modeler, he made serious studies in specialized schools : the school of Decorative Arts in Strasbourg, Fine Arts school in Nancy, and Karlsruhe, Upper schools of ceramics of Höhr-Greuzhausen. He travelled to improve his knowledge in the field of ceramics : in Germany, in Austria, in France and Italy, even up to Hungary (Zolnay) and England (Stoock and Trent), studying processes, chemical factors, and forms. His French letters sent back home to his parents, sent from the different countries prove his curiosity, of his studies and possible achievements. Back to Alsace, he creates a workshop of art ceramics, realizes beautiful vases, remarked in the exhibitions of Strasbourg and New York in year 1895. He takes part in international exhibitions in Paris in year 1900, finding much success and winning important prizes. Owing to art ceramics, he opens new horizons, creates monumental works for parks, and buildings, medals and reliefs reminiscent of the Florentine creations of families Luca Della Robia. He is the creator of the façade of the Decorative Arts school in Strasbourg, of 1892, where his fellow artist in his promotion were Henri Loux, painter, and Henri Ott, glazier. Whereas the Director is Anton Seder at this time. He designed a large wall fountain now found in the museum of Bern. Using new methods, new chemical combinations, he covers his creations with a wonderful brilliant tinge, close to the color of bronze or of silver, or gold, and this in the well-stylized forms of the beginning of the 20th century.

At this time in Alsace, art knows a period of remarkable renewal. L. Elchinger, participates to it with his friends Ch. Spindler, G. Rittleng, who considered him as the "Hannong of contemporary ceramists in Alsace" (1907) ; also Cammissar and Weiss, and the sculptors used gladly the clay from Soufflenheim in their creations ; among them Ringel in Illzach, and A. Marzloff who worked in Rountzenheim. So that

Soufflenheim, in the beginning of the century, became a center for Alsace art. Publishing his "Memories", G. Ritleng describes Leon Elchinger : I had much regard and affection towards this upright man, sober in his clothing, gestures and words, but deep in feelings, rich of knowledge, exempt of boasting, unaffected and never bragging."

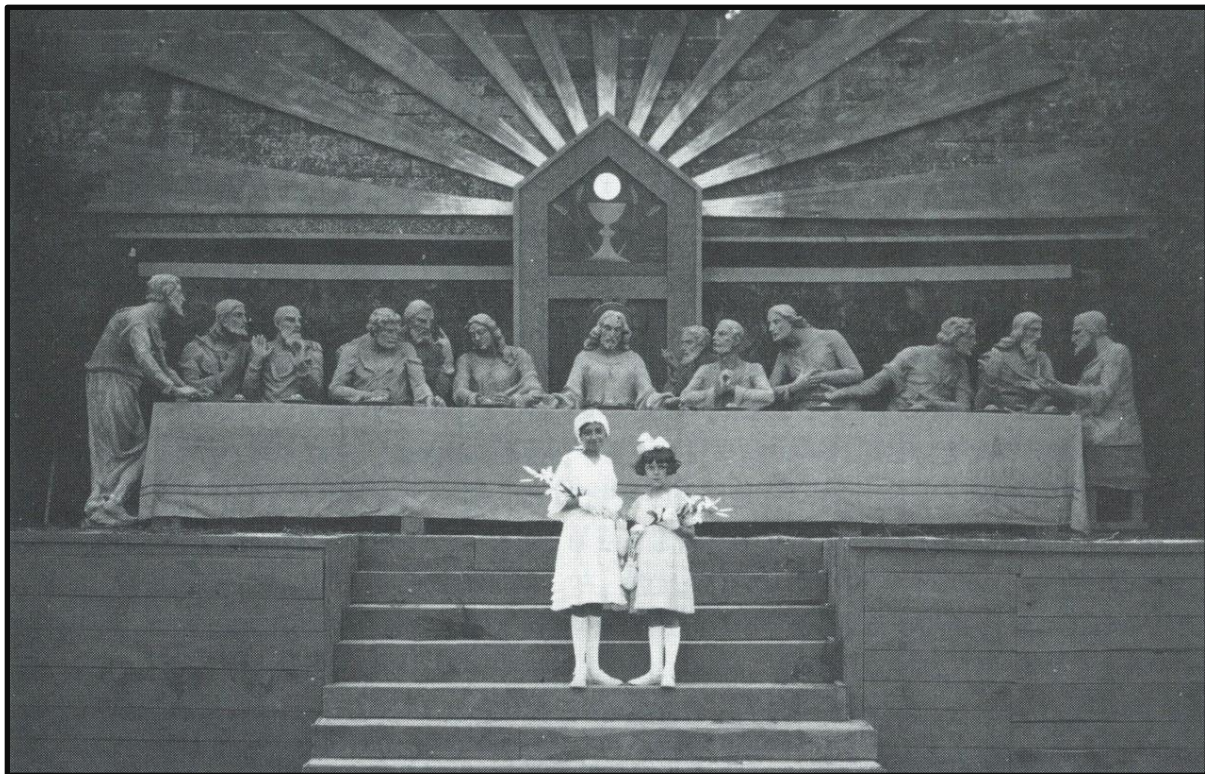


Fired Stoneware by Leon Elchinger (1900)



So, L. Elchinger worked for a new development of the Alsace ceramics. He also took part actively in the Alsace political life before 1914. He is the representative of the district of Bischwiller at the Bezirkstag (General Council) from 1912 to 1918.

After the Second World War and the return of Alsace to France, Soufflenheim continues to produce a large part of the culinary and decorative pottery, including dinner sets, small figurines (groups of Alsace dancers) others of religious inspiration. In the 1920 years, the workshop of L. Elchinger supplies several communes with monuments to the Dead with low-reliefs out of colored ceramics ; the Pieta of the graveyard in Haguenau, Resurrection of Christ in Niederbronn, Christ on Cross in Richtolsheim, memorials to de Dead in Auenheim, Ergersheim, and others; statues of Christ, scenes of nativity, Our Lady and the Infant Jesus, Saints were very frequently his subject. On the mount of Olives (Oelberg) in Soufflenheim, is found a large representation of the Last Supper created on occasion of a religious meeting (Eucharistic district congress in year 1932). The figures, in full size, are executed after the famous painting of Leonardo de Vinci. Under the direction of L. Elchinger, the ceramists Ch. Burger and the young son of Léon, (1932) participated in its creation.



The Holy Supper by Leon Elchinger at the foot of the Oelberg (1932).

The masterpiece of ceramics of Soufflenheim by Elchinger is the monumental Stations of the Cross of Mount Sainte Odile. Very original, expressive, of a deep religious feeling, also proving a fine technical success, it was realized during years 1933-1935. We can add the Stations of the Cross in basilica Our-Lady of Lourdes in Nancy (1936-1937). With the Calvary, erected south out of Soufflenheim (1937) ends the unique in France series of realizations of L. Elchinger. He experienced the general debacle of 1940,

came back to Alsace where he died in 1942, while his two sons, Raymond and Arthur, the future bishop of Strasbourg, had stayed in France ; only Fernand continued the undertaking ; G. Ritleng wrote about him that “he counts today among the best of the ceramic industry. He worked successfully in the years following the war until the 1970s, during which period he enlarged and develops the undertaking with eighty employees and workers (around 1960).

Pottery in Soufflenheim flourished again after 1945. One more slow down took place after 1950, when the market is saturated by industrial mass production. But from 1960 it knew another rise, still staying however of a traditional and familial type. A large French and international public is interested again in the fine pottery of Soufflenheim, as well in cooking utensils and decorative objects (ash-trays, flower-pots, vessels for various functions) or as “memories from Alsace”. So that the production of pottery of Soufflenheim has known a renewal, and is appreciated by a large number of customers. The family undertakings in number of about a dozen, are real hearts of popular art, and continue to create a pottery of good taste and of good presentation, which bring the reputation of “Soufflenheim” label into European countries as well as far to America and Japan.



The cantonal Eucharistic congress of 1932

### **3. The Second World War.**

In September 1939, the second world war bursts out. According to plans established previously, evacuation of villages situated along the Rhine, among them Soufflenheim, is organized. The exodus is long and hard, people leave their house and property, their heart full of anguish for their future. The trip



takes place days long in cattle wagons. They disembark in the department of Haute-Vienne, in Ambazac, and divide into nine communes in the vicinity. Times are very hard because of all type of shortages. Only several weeks later, people start living again. A good atmosphere reigns with the local population, in spite of the difficulties of language. Finally, everybody finds good lodging, and with a 10 francs allowance to each person, the Alsace population receives satisfactory supplies. Mavest factory is created in Ambazac, allowing a number of people to earn money. However, sorrow is still present in their minds, and home sickness prominent : when and how will we see our village again ?

For months, nothing happens on the Rhine front. In May 1940, the German offensive is launched, breaking the French front and, after weeks of fight, France is vanquished. On the Rhine, the German army attacks in June. In Soufflenheim the bombing causes considerable destruction, many houses are totally destroyed or damaged. When the French troops withdraw, they smash the bridges on the Eberbach and the Fallgraben.

The evacuated population can only come back in the fall of year 1940, and finds houses in very bad state, a large number of them have been plundered. Long months are necessary to bring the village back to good order, and this under the Nazis domination. The spirit in population is low, but everyone must resign and work in spite of the outstanding anxiety. The constraints of the Nazi government are suffered with dignity. The forced incorporation of young men into the German army (1942) causes a large discontent and anxiety.

The anxiety is increased considerably when in autumn 1944, the German debacle takes place. In November, the liberation of Strasbourg takes place, and in December, the American troops hold Soufflenheim. The situation of the village is not great because the fire of the German artillery, installed on the other side of the Rhine, causes damage and a growing concern. Finally, in January 1945, when the Germans launch their last offensive near Belgium, the Americans withdraw to Haguenau, and the people of Soufflenheim with them. This is a second and painful exodus, with uncertain means, often on foot in the snow, in direction of Mommenheim. From there people are conducted by trains to Vesoul and dispatched to the department of Haute-Saône. During long weeks, they endure a painful life.

On the 21st of January 1945, Soufflenheim is occupied again by the German troops. From this time, the village is bombed by the American artillery. In the following weeks, the French troops hold the dikes of Bischwiller up to the Rhine. On the 15th of March the Franco-American offensive is launched in direction of Lauterbourg. It begins by the attack on Oberhoffen camp, held by the German army. On the 17th of March, Soufflenheim is freed by the 3rd DIA (Division of Algerian Infantry) without a fight. But the degradations in the village are considerable. Many houses are badly damaged, a large number of them have been plundered. The percentage of war damage is over 50%.

The Germans are beaten. The right side of the Rhine is conquered by the French troops of General de Lattre de Tassigny, and Germany is forced to capitulate in the beginning of May 1945.

At this time, the majority of the population of Soufflenheim comes back to the place and finds it in a deplorable situation. Progressively, during the following months and years, repairs and reconstructions are done, until around 1952.

At this time, Soufflenheim is in the end restored of afflictions. In year 1948, the War Cross is granted to the village.



Soufflenheim, Occupied (1942)





Soufflenheim Liberated (17 March 1945)



#### **4. Soufflenheim From 1945.**

The years after the war saw the rebuilding of the village, and at the same time a large scale action directed by the mayors and their town council, active and efficient in the development of their commune.

From 1945, the mayors are Louis Schlosser, helped by the deputy mayors E. Haasser and G. Hickel. This last one, who died in year 1948, was replaced by Eugène Knepfler. In 1965, Aloise Scheydecker is elected mayor, on his side E. Wernert and S. Albrecht are his deputy-mayors ; later, in year 1977, E. Hickel and F. Balbierer and again S. Albrecht. In year 1983, Jean-Pierre Meyer, a teacher, succeeds him. His deputy-mayors are V. Merckel, J.P. Speeg and B. Rael.

During these periods, we can note important achievements: following the wish of the municipality, a secondary school is created whose construction was carried out from 1968 to 1969. From 1970, the number of students is 628. They come in large numbers from Soufflenheim and from thirteen surrounding municipalities. The motor-coaches of Eschenlauer Company is in charge of picking up these students.

From 1968, well developed sports societies have a gymnasium at their disposal. From 1970, a municipal hall serves the needs of trade. On each Wednesday, the market takes place, and other local events, such as Messti in spring (3rd Sunday of May) and autumn (2nd Sunday of October), are held there. Five fairs take place on a Monday in March, May, August, October and December.

In addition, village associations are equipped with new equipment with the financial support of local, departmental and regional authorities. Such as the new playing field of the Football Club, the so called majorettes and minorettes, as well as the theatrical section, build their clubhouse. The associations of fishermen and fish-breeding fits up a new pond, and the tennis club receives two courts. The town music and the senior section settle into new places inside the Socio-Cultural Center. In fact, all societies, whether in the sporting or cultural field, significantly improve their reception and way of functioning, which proves their vitality.

As Soufflenheim increases its population after the War, subdivisions are carried out with all the necessary approvals.

From 1954, is found the development of the Erzlach-Judenweg, which counts 72 houses and its extension, in year 1970, of 16 new houses ; the second development counts 48 houses in year 1964, it is situated on the so named Unter-Erzlach place.

The extension of both developments, situated on the northern outskirts of the commune, are possible with the creation in 1973 of a development zone on the eastern side of the village. A first portion counts 92 houses, a second one in 1977 counts 79 ; a nursery school is created in 1984, followed by a second extension of the zone.

To these achievements are necessarily added the water supply carried out from 1954 by the intercommunal Syndicate of water supply of Soufflenheim and surrounding places ; then the other one, as important, building the pipeline and a first water treatment plant (1957-1958). This first one is replaced in year 1979 by a new one, which can supply for 7000 people. Recently, the commune receives natural gas, which since 1983 supplies the pottery ovens and some houses. Electric connection dates back to the beginning of the century.

In year 1967 a major increase of the graveyard takes place, the surface is nearly doubled in size. The town hall is subject to large improvement in year 1976, so that this building is today worthy of the name.

In September 1984 the new Soufflenheim emergency center was inaugurated on the recently acquired municipal land, thus providing the municipality and its surroundings with essential equipment for the security of the population.

The first Memorial to the Death of Soufflenheim, close to the church, was created by sculptor Marzolf. It represents Joan of Arc. It was destroyed during the Second World War. A new war memorial, by the sculptor Steuzel, was erected on General Leclerc Place.



War memorial of Marzolf destroyed during the Second World War.

The creation of the Savings Bank of Soufflenheim, important to the population, dates back to 1886. Since 1948, it has been part of the group of the Savings Bank of Haguenau. The Mutual Bank for Savings and Loans, which also provides great services, exists since 1897. In the meanwhile, the Agriculture Credit Bank and the Alsace General Bank Society have established agencies, proof of the economic activity of the place.

Concerning the church, it had to be repaired after the damage caused by the war. Since 1943, new glass pieces by glazier Bohl were installed. In year 1955, the inside renovation takes place, thanks to Robert Gall, artist and painter from Colmar, and to canon Burger, vicar of the parish. In year 1976, a new renovation is directed by Gustave Stossopf, architect. A new altar is installed. A mobile separation, surmounted by a large stain-glass window, separates the nave from the choir which, during the week, is used for offices. In the same place, in an ecumenical spirit, are celebrated the services of the evangelical worship. A new Christmas crib is offered by potters René Beck and Jean-Pal Frindel. The chapel of the choir receives a new ceramic representation of the Stations of the Cross by the Elchinger workshop.

The Stiehr-Mockers organ dating back to 1850 is restored and renovated by the organ-builder Gaston Kern who replaces the air-pump traction of Roethinger (1932) with a mechanical one.

The choir-organ of the instrument finds again its voice, and the organ now counts three keyboards, one pedal-board, thirty stop-keys, and two thousand flutings. So that, thanks to the hard work of Vicar Martin Boell, disposes now of a remarkable sanctuary and of a new parish hall in the yard of the presbytery.

This last one in fact replaces the former Charitable Institutions House (Vereinshaus) of 1905, work of abbot Schies, which was acquired in year 1980 by the commune. This large neo-gothic building was restored and renovated with a large expense of money to become to socio-cultural center (1980-1981). Built in year 1905, it was the heart and soul of the cultural and sporting life of the community. This center is managed by the parish. During the thirty years, exceptional theatrical representations take place, attracting the crowd from the neighborhood. Some of us still remember the representation of Joan of Arc, a work in prose and music by vicar Klein.

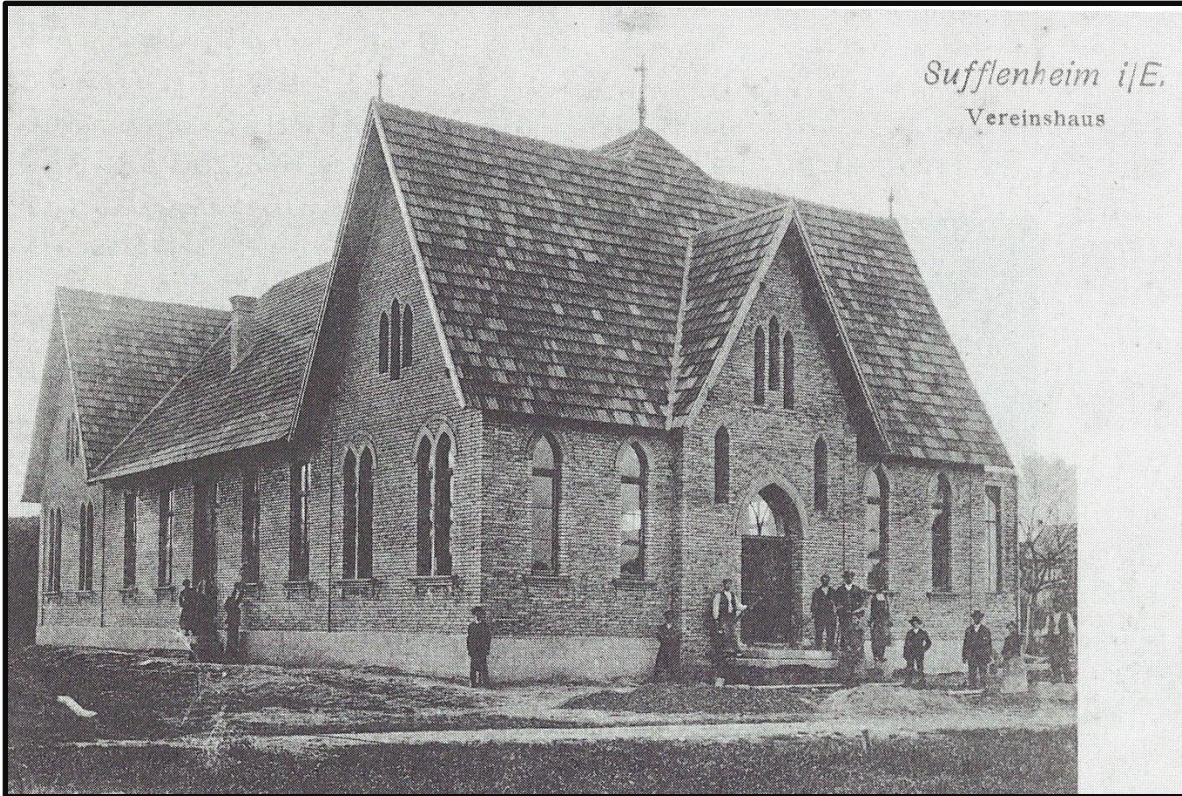
The restoration of the Last Supper scene in 1981, as well as the development of the park of the Oellberg confers on this place, in the heart of the city, a deep peaceful feeling

The economic and social situation evolves strongly in the years following 1950.

From a demographic point of view, we note, as always after a period of war, an important increase of population. Whereas in year 1941, we number only 3375 persons, in year 1954, the population reaches 3622, in 1962 3860 people, and reaches over 4000 in 1968. In year 1975, the census gives 4281 persons, in 1982, 4462.

The evolution of agriculture is on a negative scale. In 1936, 28 farms are declared, in year 1956, stay only 14, in 1965 remain 4 and in 1980, just one. The farmers have disappeared from Soufflenheim. In year 1956 subsists one farmer exploiting an area between 15 and 20 acres, 4 are between 10 and 15, 12 are between 5 and 10 acres, and 17 between 2 and 5 acres. In year 1954 farmers represent no more than 4% of the population, in year 1965 the number has diminished to 2.5%

As to the cattle, in year 1956 you still number 32 horses, 96 heads of large cattle, and 42 pigs ; the number decreases in the following years, so that today are still left, in year 1984, 3 cows. The craftsmen and workmen still keep a small farming activity, but there too you can see that the farming-craftsman disappears after the Second World War.



The Vereinshaus, built in 1905

However, the municipality has an agricultural policy through reforestation and the regrouping of communal land which covers 814 ha. These are rented, by loan of 9 years, to farmers in the vicinity who continued faithfully the farming activity : 13 in Sessenheim, 5 in Schirrhein, and 4 in Rountzenheim others in Stattmatten, Roeschwoog, Roppenheim and Fort-Louis. Thus, the lands of Soufflenheim are revalued. But it is regrettable that the young generation have neglected their ancestors' work, to choose the field of the industry, which indeed supplies better remuneration and social welfare to them.

The craftwork activity which in year 1954 reached a percentage of 16.4% in the population, maintains its position and percentage in the following years. Indeed between 1936 and 1965 some craftsmen disappear : blacksmiths, carters, wooden-shoe makers, tailors, for example ; but others appear electricians, tinsmiths, sanitary fitters, mechanics. Commerce goes on as well, in spite of the closing of bakeries, butcher shops, or groceries, replaced by small supermarkets, newly created as well as shops of furniture, electric houseware, ready-made clothes, shoes and press shops ; and also all tableware shops, complementary to the local pottery occupation. On the other hand, hotels and restaurants remain surprisingly weak. A number of persons work as employees or clerks in the field of education, banking, town administration or liberal activities.

Most of the workforce is found in local industry and constitutes, by far, the major group with 65% of the active population in year 1958.

Pottery stays a prominent activity and perpetuates the local tradition, but there only stay in year 1955 about ten workshops, essentially with a familial character.

Since 1970, pottery knows a new rise proved by the enlarging of a number of pottery shops. And by the creation of a number of factories (a total of 18 in year 1986.) The factories involved in refractory products employ several hundred people in 6 different undertakings. Today the crisis in the steel industry explains the decrease of their activity, provoking in the 70s the closing of two factories.

Today, we find in Soufflenheim a number of outstanding industries : shoes and ready-made clothes give work in 1954, to 330 persons. Around 1960, industry employs about 1000 people in Soufflenheim.

But a new fact presents itself : whereas industry in Strasbourg does not employ more than about thirty people, same as in Haguenau and Bischwiller, German industry, developed strongly from the 1960s, uses the Alsatian workers.

It offers more advantageous salaries paid in strong foreign bills. In the beginning, the number of workers from Soufflenheim is limited (about twenty in year 1959) but the creation of the bridge in Beinheim-Roppenheim allows people to reach their working point in Germany quicker than Strasbourg. From 1960-65, the number of migrants is in constant increase : 71 in year 1961, 196 in 1963, 206 in 1965. In the 1970s, the number is stable around 250, a number in decline since 1980. Effectively, Germany is also shaken by the industrial crisis striking Europe since 1973.

However, from 1968, it became necessary to overcome the important loss of local workers by calling a number of immigrants from Mediterranean countries, Italians at first, then Spanish, Portuguese and Maghrebin newcomers, finally Turkish. The insertion of this population into the local life was done slowly.

Now, many of them have established themselves in Soufflenheim and some intend to stay there because of the appearance of the second generation which benefits from schooling, medical supervision and other benefits from schooling, medical supervision and other benefits that they might not find in its country of origin, and that they do not wish to loose.

The local industry is still strong, on one side thanks to pottery, the refractory products (Haasser Company from 1864, Lafarge, Knepfler Brothers), on the other side due to the industry of ready-made clothing (Vestra, Vethal) of sporting shoes (Puma established in year 1967, replacing the Ott & Cie company, with 200 persons working there from the beginning) also the industry of wood with Paul Maechler Company which first settled with the Eschenlauer coaches in the new industrial zone, followed later by the building and tool industry.

So, in year 1980, are numbered 450 persons working in the pottery, 150 in the industry of refractory products, and 300 in the textile industry, about 180 in the shoe factories, and about fifty in the wood industry. Handcraft, commerce and tertiary sector occupy 150 people. In total, the amount of employed people of the locality counts about 1700 persons. To this must be added the workers and employees working outside, about 300 people.

In May 1984 are also numbered 111 unemployed, a figure which is likely to worsen with the closure of important manufacturing units in the region such as the Refinery of Herrlisheim, Mechanical Constructions of Lauterbourg, or to the return of persons having worked on the other side of the Rhine, due to the recession in certain industries in Baden district.

However, the commune stays economically strong, and this due to the diversity of its industry, of its commerce and handcraft occupations. The middle size of the undertakings and craft shops confers them a quality of adaptation to the market and flexibility.



A last economical aspect to underline and not the least is : tourism. Soufflenheim with its potteries have become a center of attraction in Northern Alsace. Daily, in summer or winter, hundreds of tourists pour into the city of potters to visit the craft shops. The arrival of this touristic phenomenon not only benefits pottery, but has indirect spinoffs on the general activity of the commune. This is why a tourist office was created in year 1976. Its dynamic character works constantly for the promotion of Soufflenheim, through the organization of the Festival of Pottery, by the creation of a tourists office reception desk, by the drawing up and publishing of documents that make known and will continue to make known this typical and dear village of Alsace.

## **APPENDICES: Page 206**

### **Mayors from 1902 to 1982**

- 1902 to 1917 : Philipp Lehmann
- 1917 to 1918 : H. Van Thiel
- 1918 to 1919 : J. Haasser
- 1919 to 1928 : Alexandre Uhrig (General Counsel in 1925)
- 1928 to 1930 : Antoine Strack (Interim Mayor)
- 1930 to 1937 : Emile Ott
- 1937 to 1938 : Ferdinand Jaeck
- 1938 to 1965 : Louis Schlosser
- 1940 to 1945 : During the occupation, Charles Peter is Burgermeister
- 1965 to 1982 : Aloise Scheydecker
- Since 1982 : Jean-Pierre Meyer

### **School Directors since 1909**

- 1909 to 1910 : Ludwig Ball
- 1910 to 1919 : Albert Nussbaum
- 1919 to 1922 : Gopey
- 1922 to 1945 : Joseph Fournon
- 1945 to 1965 : Paul Gerrlein, who became first principal of the new college
- 1965 to 1975 : Aloise Scheydecker
- Since 1975 : Alphonse Schall