

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - SOUFFLENHEIM UNE CITE

“The History of Soufflenheim” and “A Look Back at the Past”* by Lucien Sittler, Honorary Archivist of the city of Colmar, and Marc Elchinger.

“Soufflenheim, Cradle of the Paleontology of the Alsatian Pliocene”* and “Crosses of the Evangelists in the Bann of Soufflenheim”, by Fritz Geissert.

Note: “A Look Back at the Past”, written in German, is an abridgement of “History of Soufflenheim”, with additional photographs, and the same “Forward” by the mayor, also translated into German.

* Not translated.

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A WORD FROM THE MAYOR - SOUFFLENHEIM UNE CITE

On occasion of the publication of the book issued by the History and Archeology Society of Northern Ried, entitled:

“SOUFFLENHEIM, A TOWN IN SEARCH OF ITS HISTORY”

I want, in name of the town council, of all my fellow-citizens and in my personal name, to thank warmly all those who have participated to the elaboration of this publication.

The Society of History and Archeology of Northern Ried deserves our gratitude and our regard. In devoting a special issue to our “City of Potters”, she gives a very important credit to us and undoubtedly takes part to the effulgence of Soufflenheim.

I want to express my specific gratitude to the following persons :

- M. Lucien SITTLER, Honorary Archivist of the town of Colmar
- M. Marc ELCHINGER of Soufflenheim
- M. Fritz GEISSERT from the nearby city of Sessenheim

Thanks to their connected efforts, this started work could be carried into effect. We here consider it as a real work of specialists and historians.

The reading of the texts let appear the seriousness of research and analysis, the will to go into true and authentic details, based on a rigorous and rich documentation.

Historical events are reported without compliance, the glad and dramatic events recalled with objectivity and realism.

The very many references to original texts in German language of their period allow to build an idea of the linguistic situation of Soufflenheim in the Alsace of the time : Alsatian dialect and Hochdeutsch were the most used languages of our Region.

As teacher and Mayor of Soufflenheim, I allow myself to express three wishes.

First, I wish keenly that this work will figure in the libraries of our teachers, of our elementary schools, and in the Center of Documentation and Information of our College.

To consult it, read it, will allow them to take or resume contact with our local past history, to understand it better and so respect its originality and particularity.

I have no doubt that this booklet will be exploited usefully by pupils and teachers, who are interested in the option of Language and Regional Culture, taught in the Second Degree College.

Then, I keenly invite all my fellow-citizens to have it figure among their personal books.

SOUFFLENHEIM, A TOWN IN SEARCH OF ITS HISTORY, is with no doubt an important compilation of our collective memory.

Rediscover one's roots, know and deepen the history of those who have preceded us, gives someone assurance, self-confidence and respect of personal identity.

Finally, I wish success and prosperity to the Society of History and Archeology of Northern Ried, and I encourage deeply her members and responsible persons to pursue their untiring efforts to bring into evidence the riches of our Alsace patrimonial wealth.

Jean-Pierre MEYER

Mayor of Soufflenheim.

FOREWORD - SOUFFLENHEIM UNE CITE

We express our very strong gratitude to those who wanted to know, more or less, what had happened during the centuries, on the present place where Soufflenheim stands. They have dug with attention into the archives and libraries and examined the archeological treasures of the Alsace museums.

It is always instructive, for a region, a city, to know better its roots. Often the present can be explained by the past. Anyway, we must feel ourselves bound to those who have preceded us and who helped prepare the ground for us.

Is it not interesting to learn that over 2000 years before Jesus Christ, potters lived on our soil, and that Soufflenheim pottery is probably the oldest form of handcraft of Alsace?

This book lets us know the variations of fate that marked our area and which influenced the administrative situation of the village, weighed on the number of people there, on their professional activities and the

farming structures. The evolution of history all the same has led to hard trials which had to be endured, and as well as chances of progress that had to be conquered.

These historical researches, however conscientious and captivating as they may be, cannot tell us some particularly important aspects of the life of our city. This refers to all which cannot be accounted by calculable terms, I mean what happened in the heart and conscience of the people there. The Christian traditions that have impregnated the population of our city at least from the XIIIth century, have constructed men and women of hard moral and spiritual solidity.

Having been for 27 years in episcopal service in Alsace, I often had the opportunity to admire the human qualities, the deep good sense, the exacting professional conscience, the spirit of devotion and the untiring faith of the residents of our area. How often did I wonder how firm and deep the moral and religious convictions were in our "Seniors" who bore witness of the value of the spiritual patrimony that their ancestors had transmitted to them.

This long and often difficult way of those who have preceded us, stimulate our will to never be cut from our "roots" and to fight so that the cultural and technical mutations who have overwhelmed our modes of life and thought, will not stifle in our contemporaries the values which, over the ages, have formed the soul of Alsace.

So, it is not sufficient to admire the past. We must at the same time look into the future, with clearness of mind and intrepidity, and be convinced that the economic and social crisis of our time is doubled by a profound crisis of man. No industrial and civic consolidation effort can have lasting results without a restructuring of consciousness. My long experience of human problems in Alsace encourages me to emphasize, in order, the importance of a threefold permanent effort : restoring the family community, strengthening the academic community, and the revival of the parochial community.

This is the fervent wish that I form, out of fidelity to my hometown and out of friendship for my compatriots.

Léon Arthur ELCHINGER

Bishop Emeritus of Strasbourg

SOUFFLENHEIM IN THE 18TH CENTURY : APPENDIX

2) Town Accounts 1716-1789

Year	Income (Gulden)	Expense (Gulden)
1716	1,286*	1,286
1717	1,160	1,181
1718	1,088	978
1719	1, 515	1,240

1720	2,309	1,744
1721	2,304	1,742
1722	2,020	1,255
1723	2,489	1,409
1724	2,532	1,676
1725	2,397	1,661
1726	2,242	1,399
1727	2,780	1,825
1728	2,773	1,687
1729	2,773	1,687
1730	2,542	1,598
1731	2,808	1,618
1732	3,317	2,039
1733	3,363	2,315
1734	3,051	2,194
1735	3,095	2,518
1736	3,429	2,610
1737	?	?
1738	2,628	2,589
1739	2,284	2,151
1740	2,608	2,187
1741	3,119	2,446
1742	3,119	2,446
1743	3,165	3,224
1744	5,387	5,395 Year of Crisis (War)
1745	3,264	3,176
1746	3,905	3,516
1747	3,617	3,667
1748	4,027	3,993
1749	3,530	3,438
1750	3,238	3,004
1751	3,315	2,975
1752	4,243	3,667
1753	4,204	3,371
1754	4,706	3,231
1755	5,417	3,526
1756	5,193	3,616
1757	4,540	3,410
1758	4,616	3,689
1759	4,207	2,849
1760	5,572	3,568
1761	6,865	4,220
1762	8,384	4,840

1763	8,830	5,216
1764	13,599	11,969
1765	6,813	5,170
1766	6,756	4,638
1767	4,921	2,225
1768	4,956	3,759
1769	3,692	1,932
1770	6,506	3,479
1771	5,849	2,935
1772	4,934	2,281
1773	7,651	5,140
1774	6,855	4,429
1775	7,740	4,988
1776	8,859	5,698
1777	10,090	5,927
1778	10,407	5,924
1779	8,709	8,598
1780	6,606	5,304
1781	12,532	7,338
1782	12,884	9,820
1783	6,398	2,410
1784	6,943	2,878
1785	7,216	3,238
1786	7,616	3,842
1787	7,421	445 (?)
1788	?	?
1789	6,920	3,895

*The surplus of the receipts is each time entered in the receipts of the following year: it often reaches more than 1,000 guilders.