

SAL. OPPENHEIM

Private Bank since 1789

PRESS RELEASE

Sal. Oppenheim dedicates 175th Oppenheim-Union-Race to the historical archive of the City of Cologne

COLOGNE, 13 JUNE 2010

- *Private bank donates €50,000 to support reconstruction of the City of Cologne's historical archive, which collapsed in March 2009*
- *Mayor Jürgen Roters presents the cheque to the association of the friends of the historical archive (Verein der Freunde des Historischen Archivs e.V.) at Cologne's race track*

Not only is the Oppenheim-Union-Race marking its 175th anniversary at the Cologne-Weidenpesch track, the city itself also has reason to celebrate. The private bank Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie. is dedicating the traditional horse race to the historical archive of the City of Cologne and donating €50,000 towards the reconstruction of the institution's building, which collapsed in March 2009. Cologne mayor Jürgen Roters is to present the symbolic cheque along with Wilhelm von Haller, Chairman of the Executive Board of Sal. Oppenheim, to Burkhard von der Mühlen, Chairman of the *Verein der Freunde des Historischen Archivs der Stadt Köln e. V.* and to Dr. Bettina Schmidt-Czaia, director of the historical archive of the City of Cologne.

Wilhelm von Haller commented, "Our corporate history spanning more than 200 years and the future development of our bank connect us to the city of Cologne. Our support of the historical archive highlights our long-term conviction that the best foundation for achieving something new is to preserve tradition and history."

Cologne's mayor Jürgen Roters said, "I am delighted about this generous donation. With this contribution, Sal. Oppenheim makes clear its strong ties to Cologne and its cultural life. It sets a shining example of civic involvement in the reconstruction of the city's historical archive. Sal. Oppenheim demonstrated this commitment directly after the collapse in Severinstrasse, by dispatching three employees of its bank archive to support our archivists in saving recovered archive material at the restoration centre in Porz."

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ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES NORTH OF THE ALPS

The historical archive of the City of Cologne is the largest and most important municipal archive in Germany and one of the most important north of the Alps. The archive was first mentioned in documents dating back to the 14th century. The Cologne archivists were particularly proud of the rich collection of medieval sources, with the oldest document more than 1000 years old. A new building was constructed in Severinstrasse in 1971 to house the city's original archive initially collected in St. Gereon's monastery; Cologne suffered a major loss with the tragic collapse of this building on 3 March 2009. Around 90 percent of the archive's documents were buried in what the head of Cologne's department of cultural affairs Georg Quander referred to as a "national catastrophe". A large portion of the materials were recovered, with some severely damaged, and distributed among 19 archives. Fully restoring and reuniting all documents will take approximately 30 years. Construction of a new archive building is planned for 2014 in combination with a new public-oriented concept.

Wilhelm von Haller stresses the sustainability of the commitment, "Taken as a signal, this commitment can unleash the full potential of public responsibility. We would be very pleased if other companies also felt called upon to support the historical archive and thus the preservation of this important cultural heritage."

OPPENHEIM-UNION RACE: PART OF COLOGNE'S SPORTING HISTORY

The race track in Cologne-Weidenpesch was constructed in 1898, largely on the initiative of the Oppenheim bankers Eduard and Albert von Oppenheim, who were also co-founders of the Cologne racing association the previous year. Cologne quickly became a centre of German horse racing. Today as many as 140,000 spectators attend horse races in Cologne during the season extending from April to October. The Cologne racing association is thus the leading permanent organiser in Germany.

CONTACT

Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie. AG & Co. KGaA

Dirk von Manikowsky

Press and PR

Tel.: +49 221 145-1955

E-mail: presse@oppenheim.de