A black and white portrait of Axel Wenner-Gren, an elderly man with light-colored hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is standing with his hands in his pockets, looking slightly to the right of the camera.

Wenner-Gren International Symposium

*“Reality and Myth:
A Symposium on Axel Wenner-Gren”*

THE WENNER-GREN CENTER
STOCKHOLM, MAY 30-31, 2012



Wenner-Gren Stiftelsen

The symposium is organized by xxxxx in cooperation with xxxxx

CONTENTS

PREFACE	5
SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM	7
INTRODUCTION	
The Life of Axel Wenner-Gren – An Introduction	12
THEME 1: THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION	
Ingrid Dahlberg – <i>Who was Axel Wenner-Gren: A Documentary</i>	32
Ragnar Boman – <i>Wenner-Gren’s Economic Empire</i>	33
Paul Palmstedt – <i>The Electrolux Story</i>	34
Hans Schüsseleder – <i>Wenner-Gren in Mexico: Los Teléfonos de México (TELMEX)</i>	35
Örjan Lindroth – <i>Wenner-Gren in the Bahamas</i>	38
John Örtengren – <i>Designing Public Relations for Axel Wenner-Gren</i>	40
THEME 2: THE POLITICAL DIMENSION	
Ilja A. Luciak – <i>The Political Ambitions of Axel Wenner-Gren</i>	44
Klas Åmark – <i>Sweden and Nazi Germany during World War II</i>	46
Anders Wiberg – <i>Axel Wenner-Gren in the Bahamas: The Political Aspects</i>	48

THEME 3: THE SOCIAL DIMENSION

Anders Ehrenberg – <i>Wenner-Grenska Samfundet</i>	50
Barbara Cannon – <i>The Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biology, Stockholm</i>	52
Jorge Flores Ochoa and Rehider Quintanilla Velarde – <i>The Legacy The Legacy of the Wenner-Gren Scientific Expedition to Hispanic America</i>	54
Sydel Silverman – <i>The History of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York</i>	55
Leslie C. Aiello – <i>The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York</i>	58
Inge Jonsson – <i>A Short History of the Wenner-Gren Foundations, Stockholm</i>	61
Bertil Danesholt – <i>The Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm: Promotion of international scientific exchange</i>	63

THEME 4: THE PERSONAL DIMENSION

Armand Brunel – <i>Life with Axel and Marguerite Wenner-Gren</i>	68
Eric Hagsäter – <i>World Tour on Southern Cross (1937–38) and Rancho Cortéz, Mexico</i>	69
Seve Axell – <i>Axel Wenner-Gren’s Art Collection</i>	71
Katarina Axelle Axell – <i>Family: Relations, Reflections, Memories</i>	72
Jenny Ljungberg – <i>The Wenner-Gren’s Glamorous Life at the Palace</i>	73
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES	75

PREFACE

Axel Wenner-Gren made a remarkable career as an industrialist and financier and created a number of successful and world-famous companies, most notably Electrolux. During the 1930s and on, he broadened his scope and took an active interest in the development of society at large. He endeavoured to promote various social activities, in particular he believed in the value of science. To this end, Wenner-Gren made a series of donations and established Wenner-Grenska Samfundet and the Wenner-Gren Institute in Stockholm, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropology in New York and the Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm.

Apart from fulfilling their mandate to support research, the Wenner-Gren Foundations have the ambition to gather and make available information on Axel Wenner-Gren who endowed the Foundations. Thus, when one of us (IL) approached the Foundations for support to conduct a comprehensive study of Axel Wenner-Gren, his life and accomplishments, with a specific emphasis on his political ambitions, the Wenner-Gren Foundations in both Stockholm and New York were positive and decided to finance the project. Such a comprehensive study of Axel Wenner-Gren seemed most timely for several reasons. First, Wenner-Gren died about fifty years ago and his legacy, initiatives and activities can now be scrutinized with the benefit of a long-term perspective. The lasting results of his business accomplishments can be properly investigated, as well as the impact of his ambitious philanthropic efforts. This long-term perspective is particularly justified in the case of Axel Wenner-Gren, since during his lifetime he was, and still is, praised and admired but also questioned and criticized. Secondly, although several decades have passed since Wenner-Gren was active, there remain a few people

alive today who were closely associated with Wenner-Gren and can provide first-hand accounts about his life, vision and achievements. Finally, no comprehensive study of Wenner-Gren has been easily accessible to a global audience, since, to date, none has been published in English.

The supported research project is now essentially completed; many archives in Sweden and several other countries have provided valuable new insights, and a large number of people who were closely associated with Wenner-Gren or have special expertise on Wenner-Gren, have contributed with new information and insights. To conclude the project in a meaningful way, it seemed essential to bring the Wenner-Gren experts and associates from all over the world together for an International Wenner-Gren Symposium in Stockholm.

As organizers of the symposium, we are pleased that almost all of the initially invited experts and associates have assembled in Stockholm to share their individual perspectives at this forum. During the symposium, the economic, political, philanthropic, as well as personal dimensions of Wenner-Gren's life will be elucidated and discussed. We are convinced that the symposium will give a rich and comprehensive account of Wenner-Gren's life, and that the symposium record will be an asset to future in-depth studies of Axel Wenner-Gren. In addition, we hope that the meeting will be enjoyable and stimulating, and that there will be plenty of opportunities for exchange of memories, experiences and information. In particular, we expect that there will be fruitful contacts between those who had close personal contact with Wenner-Gren or studied his life from a variety of professional perspectives and those who now in their academic profession wish to understand and analyze Wenner-Gren's record.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the generous support from the Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm and New York that made both the research project on Axel Wenner-Gren and this particular symposium possible.

Stockholm in May, 2012

Ilja Luciak

Bertil Daneholt

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Wenner-Gren International Symposium

*“Reality and Myth:
A Symposium on Axel Wenner-Gren”*

THE WENNER-GREN CENTER
STOCKHOLM, MAY 30-31, 2012

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

- 08.30-09.00 Registration
09.00-09.10 Bertil Daneholt – Welcome address
09.10-09.30 Ilja Luciak – Introduction
-

THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION
Chair: Seth Masters

- 09.30-10.05 Ingrid Dahlberg, Sweden
Who was Axel Wenner-Gren: A Documentary
10.05-10.40 Ragnar Boman, Sweden
Wenner-Gren's Economic Empire
10.40-11.10 COFFEE

- 11.10–11.45 Paul Palmstedt, Sweden
The Electrolux Story
- 11.45–12.20 Johann Schüsseleder, Mexico
Wenner-Gren in Mexico: Los Teléfonos de Mexico
- 12.20–14.00 LUNCH
- 14.00–14.35 Örjan Lindroth, Bahamas
Wenner-Gren in the Bahamas
- 14.35–15.10 John Örtengren, Sweden
Designing Public Relations for Axel Wenner-Gren
- 15.10–15.20 LEG STRECHER

THE POLITICAL DIMENSION

Chair: Barbara Cannon

- 15.20–15.55 Ilja Luciak, USA
The Political Ambitions of Axel Wenner-Gren
- 15.55–16.25 COFFEE
- 16.25–17.00 Klas Åmark, Sweden
Sweden and Nazi Germany during World War II
- 17.00–17.35 Anders Wiberg, Bahamas
Axel Wenner-Gren in the Bahamas: The Political Aspects
- 18.00 DINNER BUFFET AT WENNER-GREN CENTER

THURSDAY, MAY 31

THE SOCIAL DIMENSION — PHILANTHROPY

Chair: Dan Brändström

-
- 09.00–09.35 Anders Ehrenberg, Sweden
Wenner-Grenska Samfundet
- 09.35–10.10 Barbara Cannon, Sweden
*Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biolog,
Stockholm*
- 10.10–10.30 COFFEE
- 10.30–11.05 Jorge Flores Ochoa and
Rehider Quintanilla Velarde, Peru
*The Legacy of the Wenner-Gren Scientific Expedition
to Hispanic America*
- 11.05–11.40 Sydel Silverman, USA
*The History of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthro-
pological Research, New York*
- 11.40–12.15 Leslie Aiello, USA
*The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological
Research, New York*
- 12.15–13.30 LUNCH
- 13.30–14.05 Inge Jonsson, Sweden
*A Short History of the Wenner-Gren Foundations,
Stockholm*
- 14.05–14.40 Bertil Daneholt, Sweden
*The Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm: Promotion
of International Scientific Exchange*
- 14.40–14.50 LEG STRETCHER

THE PERSONAL DIMENSION

Chair: Inge Jonsson

- 14.50–15.20 Armand Brunel, Spain/Sweden
Life with Axel and Marguerite Wenner-Gren
- 15.20–15.50 Eric Hagsäter, Mexico
World Tour on Southern Cross (1937–38) and Rancho Cortez, Mexico
- 15.50–16.10 COFFEE
- 16.10–16.40 Seve Axell, Sweden
Axel Wenner-Gren's Art Collection
- 16.40–17.10 Katarina Axelle Axell, Marguerite and Monika Wennergren, Sweden – *Family: Relations, Reflections, Memories*
- 17.10–17.40 Jenny Ljungberg, Sweden/USA
The Wenner-Gren's Glamorous Life at the Palace
- 17.50 TRANSPORTATION BY BUS TO HÄRINGE CASTLE
- 18.30 GUIDED TOUR OF HÄRINGE CASTLE
- 19.15 DINNER AT HÄRINGE CASTLE
- 22.00 TRANSPORTATION BACK TO STOCKHOLM



INTRODUCTION

King Gustaf VI Adolf and Axel Wenner-Gren in 1960.

The Life of Axel Wenner-Gren – An Introduction

by *Namn Efternamn*

This introduction provides a succinct overview of the economic, social, and political legacy of Axel Wenner-Gren, the Swedish tycoon, visionary, and philanthropist who founded Electrolux and built it into one of the crown jewels of his global economic empire.¹ Wenner-Gren's life was shrouded in myth and the tales spun around his name defy imagination. Allegations include that he shared a lover with John F. Kennedy two decades before J.F.K. assumed the U.S. presidency, sold Fidel Castro the *Granma*, the iconic boat of the Cuban revolution, and hid the Nazi gold treasure in South America. The facts, not surprisingly, do not support any of these sensational stories.

Wenner-Gren was a favored journalistic subject and the articles written about him easily fill up an entire library. Yet behind this sociable public persona who sought the limelight, was an intensely private – even shy – individual. The true feelings that drove this ambitious man remain an enigma. Even his personal diary, which he started in 1924 relatively late in life having filled forty years at the time and where he diligently noted every day's events in concise summary of a few sentences until his death in November 1961, rarely permit a glimpse into his most intimate thoughts. One of the “salesman of all times” was very protective of his private feelings.

His success in hiding his private life explains the controversy surrounding his name which continues today: Was he, as some have alleged, a Nazi-sympathizer who served the interests of the Third Reich or an extremely well-connected, cosmopolitan businessman who sought to do his best to prevent the conflagration of World War II? Five decades after Wenner-Gren's death, it is time to reexamine the historic record of

one of the leading businessmen and philanthropists of the 20th century whose contributions, particularly those to the world of science, remain not fully recognized.

Origins and Personal Life

Axel Wenner-Gren (1881–1961) was born in Uddevalla, Sweden, on June 5, 1881, into a home of considerable means, contrary to a standard legend that has him rising from the ashes of near poverty. His ancestors already exhibited some of the entrepreneurial acumen that would make Wenner-Gren world-famous. The Wennergren family traces its roots in Uddevalla back to the late 17th century. Axel’s ancestors were large farmers and business people. His grandfather Jeremias (1772–1843) was a large farmer (*storbonde*) who owned several small businesses and was active in the town’s affairs, having been elected to the town council in July 1815. The Wennergrens were considered one of Uddevalla’s patrician families. According to Wennergren family lore, Napoleon’s erstwhile protégé, Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte, Marshal of France, who had been elected crown prince of Sweden in August 1810 and assumed the Swedish throne in 1818 as King Charles XIV John, had honored the Wennergrens with a visit while passing through the town on one of his journeys to Norway.

The family faced uncertain economic times, when Jeremias passed away in 1843, leaving his wife behind in charge of three small children. When Leonard, Axel’s father, came of age, he managed to get the family out of the debt that had been accrued following his father’s death, showing considerable talent in running the family farm, Urhagen, and building an export business which sold wood products to England. He accumulated eventually a small fortune. Upon his marriage in 1875, Leonard sold his export business and devoted himself exclusively to his family and farm. He had married seventeen-year old Alice Albin, whose father

This essay is based on a forthcoming book manuscript, entitled, *The Electrolux King: Myth and Reality in the Life of Axel Wenner-Gren*, which focuses on Wenner-Gren’s political ambitions and their consequences. All sources for the text of this “Introduction” are fully acknowledged and appropriately cited in the book manuscript. Several key authors I am relying on are listed in the Reference section.

was a hat maker in Gothenberg. Leonard was twenty-seven years older and they had six children together. Axel's early childhood was spent in the company of his three sisters. The oldest, Anna, was five at the time of his birth and there were four-year old twins, Lotten and Karin. His younger brother, Hugo, arrived six year later. By the time his youngest sister, Ruth, born in 1894, completed the family picture, Axel was a thirteen-year old teenager, about to finish his basic schooling. Tragically, the twins met untimely deaths from accidents and illness and the youngest sister, Ruth, died at the age of five. The fact that three of his sisters had died even before Axel left home and set out for Germany, might be one important factor in explaining why Wenner-Gren never had children and even opposed Marguerite's desire to adopt Armand Brunel, their French-born "foster son."

Axel did not distinguish himself in his early years as a student. His favorite subject was geography and he enjoyed mathematics and history. Interestingly, Swedish, was his worst subject. Having finished his regular Swedish schooling at the age of fifteen, he spent five years working at the spice import business of Eric Tunnell, his wealthy maternal uncle in Gothenburg. In the evenings after work, Axel took language lessons in German, English and French at the local Berlitz school and acquired skills that would serve him well for his business career. He had no special gift for language, yet worked hard at mastering several. Spanish, for example, which he did not start to learn until he was sixty, Wenner-Gren never became completely fluent in.

In the summer of 1902, Axel left Uddevalla behind and started his schooling abroad at the university town of Greifswald in northern Germany where he took several summer courses. According to Wenner-Gren's own account, in particular the lectures by Professor Roseman in the field of medicine "made a deep impression on me and later on had an important influence in shaping my view of life." The meeting with Rosenberg was the catalyst for Wenner-Gren life-long interest in applied research.

From Greifswald, he went to Berlin where he was admitted to the Berliner Handelsakademie. He managed to graduate in record time – four months – that same December. At the age of twenty-one, Wenner-

Gren had completed his formal schooling and was ready to leave his mark on the business world.

On this journey he was accompanied by his life-partner of fifty-two years, Marguerite Gauntier Liggett. Axel Wenner-Gren's life cannot be understood without an understanding of the important role played by Marguerite who was his confidante and a judge of character that her husband relied on. However, she had little to no knowledge of the intricate business transactions of Axel. Marguerite was born on October 15, 1891 in Kansas City, Missouri. She grew up in a home where art was important and both Marguerite and even more so her sister, Genevieve (Gene) Gauntier, went on to leave their mark on the art world. Both sisters used their mother's maiden name Gauntier. Whereas Marguerite is remembered as a budding opera star and poet, Gene became a very accomplished screenwriter and actress who was one of the pioneers of the (then silent) U.S. motion picture industry. She played a key role in the development of the Kalem film company, serving as a writer, director and actress in films from 1906 to 1920. From the 1920s on, until her death in 1968, Gene shared the homes of Marguerite and Axel. The two sister's older brother, Richard, reportedly ran a theater in Kansas City.

Marguerite traveled to Europe in 1909 to complete her music training and seek her first engagements as an opera singer. She met Axel on board of a transatlantic ocean liner, on a passage from New York to Southampton, England. Following a *coup de foudre* on the ship, they star-eyed lovers married in secret upon arrival in London on December 14, 1909. Marguerite continued from London to Germany, together with her sister Gene, to take up her studies in Berlin. She obtained her first engagement at the Elberfeld Opera where she sang all the major opera parts from "Mimi" to "Aida." Marguerite had begun her studies in Kansas City, having the German Herman Springer as her teacher and continued to develop her talent in New York under Oscar Sanger, considered "the most famous *Gesanglehrer*" in the United States (Unger, 33). Following her success at Elberfeld, she was hired at Mainz where she soon became "the darling of the very demanding Mainzer public." Harald Andre who was then the forste regissor at the Stockholm Opera hired her away. During 1913–1915 she gave 25 performances in Stock-

holm. Marguerite suddenly ended her career, according to the “official version” to dedicate herself full-time to the demanding role as hostess of the Wenner-Gren residences. Strangely enough, according to accounts family and friends, afterwards she never sang again, not even in private. Marguerite published several collections of poetry, the Swedish versions with the help of the Wenner-Grens’ friend, Nobel laureate Bertil Malmberg. Marguerite was a colorful person. Gunnar Unger remembered her in a eulogy as “bizarre, spoiled, tactless – she could be impossible to stand – but there was always an aura of charm, a special magic around her and it was never boring in her company.”

Building an Economic Empire: The Sales Genius

Wenner-Gren got his first job at the German daughter company of Alfa Laval Separator where he acquired his “first knowledge of *the art to sell*.” Indeed, it was his sales genius that was the foundation for his meteoric rise in the business world. His talent could unfold without financial hurdles, since Wenner-Gren’s entry into the world of business was facilitated by the support given to him by his family.

Axel had “left for Germany with access to considerable starting capital. At the time of his departure, his father opened a credit line for him in the amount of 10,000 Swedish crowns” (Boger-Langhammer, 1959:21). This was a small fortune by today’s standards. In 2011, it corresponded to 540,000 crowns or the equivalent of USD 100,000 at the time. Indeed, it was with the financial help of his father, Leonard, that in 1904 Axel built his first commercial enterprise, an agricultural machinery company near Stuttgart that had earlier declared bankruptcy.

For several years Wenner-Gren studied sales and marketing techniques in various European countries. At the beginning of 1908 he left for the United States. There he was employed at a small company, owned by Swedish Count Henning Taube, which produced motor engines for agricultural use. Wenner-Gren fell in love with engines and became intrigued with transportation problems. He piloted his first plane a few years later and despite a spectacular crash early from which both Marguerite and Axel escaped unharmed, the improvement of motors would become a life-long passion. Here were the seeds for his interest in

funding the development of the MAWEN (Marguerite Wenner-Gren) airplane engine at the University of Kentucky in the United States and his cooperation with the Krupp family in building ALWEG – The Axel Leonard Wenner-Gren monorail system.

In 1908, Wenner-Gren strolled down the Kärntnerstrasse in downtown Vienna, Austria. Just a brief distance from the Opera he noticed a large apparatus in a store window. Wenner-Gren had found the appliance that would make him rich and famous – the vacuum cleaner. The future industrial magnate entered the store and met its owner Gustaf Paalen. Paalen had already secured the exclusive distribution rights for Europe from the U.S. mother company in Philadelphia when Wenner-Gren entered the picture. Recognizing the commercial potential of this appliance, Wenner-Gren joined Paalen as a junior partner in the production and distribution of the Santo vacuum cleaner. He bought a twenty percent interest in Paalen's newly established German company, located in Berlin, where he assumed the position of executive director. Following several years a fruitful collaboration Paalen and Wenner-Gren, parted ways and Axel sold his share back to Paalen.

Wenner-Gren's initial relationship with the vacuum cleaner was not without controversy and it is important to note that his central contribution – as in the case of Alfred Nobel – consisted in its essence in the “discovery of improvement.” Wenner-Gren saw an industrial appliance and invested in the development of a product that today is an essential part of the routine life of people throughout the world.

The founding of Electrolux, which became synonymous with the vacuum cleaner, was years in the making. The company was first incorporated in 1919, more than a decade after Wenner-Gren's first encounter with the vacuum cleaner. Electrolux had its roots in Elektromekaniska AB and in AB Lux. When Wenner-Gren entered the picture in 1912, Elektromekaniska produced a model based on the American Santo vacuum cleaner whereas AB Lux initially manufactured oil-lamps before it got into the vacuum cleaner business. Working for Lux, Wenner-Gren had one of his legendary success stories – he obtained a large order involving incandescent lamps for the illumination of the Panama Canal during its 1915 inauguration. The first entry in the personal diary of

Axel Wenner-Gren appropriately concerns his evolving business empire: On January 3, 1926, he reports on a Stockholm conference with the Scandinavian directors of the E. Lux company which included a business lunch at *Operakällaren*, one of Stockholm finest and most-exclusive restaurants.

By 1921, Wenner-Gren had established the Electrolux Corporation in the United States, which was independent of the Swedish company and privately owned by Wenner-Gren. At the same time he built Swedish Electrolux into a global empire, with sales office around the world, including in France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Spain, as well as Eastern Europe and Latin America. Wenner-Gren's younger brother, Hugo, worked closely with Axel in the 1920s and 1930s, with Hugo heading the Electrolux operations for Eastern Europe before he became an independent businessman himself.

The Electrolux success was also built on the refrigerator, developed by the Swedish inventors Baltzar von Platen and Carl Munters. The two engineers were developing a refrigerator based on the "Absorptionsmethod," much quieter and more economical than other models. Wenner-Gren invested considerable amounts in the development of the Swedish invention, which became a huge success not only in Sweden but also in the United States where it was produced by Servel Inc., a company eventually acquired by Wenner-Gren personally. Over the years, Wenner-Gren expanded his economic empire, including major interests in Bofors, Svenska Cellulosa and Svenska Aeroplan AB (Saab).

Wenner-Gren's rapid rise to wealth allowed him already by February 1924 to acquire a residence appropriate for his new social status, *Laboratoriegatan 10*, a palatial home that had just been built and was located in Stockholm's *Diplomatstaden*. Wenner-Gren leveraged his financial wealth – estimated in the late 1930s by the American intelligence community to amount to one billion dollars – into a permanent spot in the limelight. When the *Southern Cross*, then the largest private yacht in the world, arrived in any of the world's harbors, monarchs and presidents received Wenner-Gren as one of their own. He traveled between Paradise Island in the Bahamas, which he bought and developed in the 1930s, his estate Rancho Cortés in Mexico and Häringe Castle

in Sweden, criss-crossing the world in a relentless pursuit of financial wealth and social status. In the late 1930s, having built a global economic empire, Wenner-Gren chose to focus his attention on political and philanthropic pursuits, always with an open eye to pursue business opportunities.

Wenner-Gren enters the World of Politics

Wenner-Gren’s “coming out” on the world political scene included as a personal highlight a March 1936 weekend at the White House. He and Marguerite were the private guests of President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The U.S. president had noticed the Swedish tycoon’s ideas, which had received extensive coverage in the U.S. media over a number of years. Before the actual invitation, initiated at the behest of the President’s wife Eleanor, Wenner-Gren had given a presentation to the administrative heads of the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), Roosevelt’s brainchild, which had received considerable attention. The time with Roosevelt was in Wenner-Gren’s view one of the key events of his life. Wenner-Gren had contacted Roosevelt already in 1934, in an effort to get the president’s attention for his conviction that it was possible to “sell the USA out of the depression.”

A year after this meeting, Wenner-Gren’s political views entered the public arena with the publication of his 1937 book *A Call to Reason*. This manifesto took a principled stand against authoritarian ideologies, regardless whether they had their home in the political programs of right or left-wing regimes. Wenner-Gren had observed Hitler’s rise to power with great concern, convinced that his expansionist desires would lead to war. Indeed, he had reported to his North American friends bellicose threats he encountered on his voyages around the world. For example, in 1938, upon returning from Japan, he obtained a meeting on short notice with former President Herbert Hoover, informing him of a conversation with Japan’s foreign minister who had warned about the possibility of his country taking a more belligerent position.

At the time, Wenner-Gren was traveling around the world in his luxury boat around the world, mixing as always business, politics, and pleasure. The same year, in the Fall of 1938, Wenner-Gren embarked

on a visit to South America. He visited Brazil, Argentina, and Peru, meeting with the presidents of all three countries. In November 1938 – Kristallnacht in Germany having just occurred – he was in Brazil “upset about measures taken against Jews in Germany” (Leifland, 23). In discussions with foreign minister Oswaldo Aranha, Wenner-Gren explored whether Brazil would be prepared to accept 30,000 Jewish families provided the financial implications could be solved. In a December meeting with President Ortiz of Argentina, Wenner-Gren had a discussion on joint cooperation between Sweden and Argentina in the production of war materiel, whereas during January and February 1939 he met President Manuel Prado of Peru and was introduced to a culture that captured his imagination, as evidenced by the subsequent expeditions he came to sponsor.

Yet his public position against totalitarian rule would do little to protect him, once several of his powerful U.S. friends and acquaintances had started to suspect Wenner-Gren due to his economic and political contacts with Germany and based on the potential threat he posed to U.S. interests in Latin America. The United States government would subject the proud Swede to the worst humiliation of his life.

The distrust of the U.S. government was easily aroused in the days before and during World War II and FBI sources would infer Nazi activities and sympathies from the most innocuous behavior. In some instances, allegations and rumors, which were entered into FBI files, subsequently became established truths. Wenner-Gren was vulnerable to suspicion of pro-Nazi activities as a result of his appeasement endeavors during the summer of 1939 and his well-established business ties in Germany going back 30 years. At the time that the storm clouds of the impending conflagration of World War II were gathering, he served as a self-appointed private emissary between Field Marshall Hermann Göring and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

The first time Wenner-Gren met Hermann Göring was in September 1936, just a few months after his meeting with President Roosevelt. Subsequently he had two additional meetings with Göring in May and June 1939. The day before the May meeting, Wenner-Gren was with Swedish Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, at the inauguration of the *Wenner-*

Gren Institute in Stockholm. On this occasion, the two men discussed Wenner-Gren's plan to serve as a peace emissary between the British and the German governments, and it was the Swedish Crown Prince who wrote a letter of introduction to Chamberlain. This letter opened the door for Wenner-Gren to meet with the Prime Minister, carrying communications from Göring and conveying his personal perspective of the German position. At his June meeting with Chamberlain the two men discussed ways to avoid the impending confrontation between Germany and Great Britain. His personal meetings with Göring and Chamberlain were followed by an exchange of letters and memoranda, including a Wenner-Gren "peace proposal" which was intended for Hitler's eyes. Göring chose to keep it to himself, in the certain knowledge that its content would only enrage the "Führer." Suffice it to say, Wenner-Gren did not succeed where experienced men trained in the art of diplomacy had failed before.

Wenner-Gren saw Göring once more in March 1940 after the Nazi regime had invaded Poland, in an ill-timed effort to "shadow" Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles whom President Roosevelt had sent on a peace mission to Germany and Italy. Wenner-Gren's account of his meetings with Nazi officials was confirmed by Göring himself in June 1945, while he former number two official of the Third Reich was facing the war-crime tribunal in Nüremberg. No less an authority than former Swedish ambassador Leif Leifland has in pain-staking detail given an account of Wenner-Gren's failed peace endeavors and reached the conclusion that Wenner-Gren's main failing consisted in inserting himself on to a diplomatic stage that he didn't understand and the complexity of which he never fully grasped. In the end, Wenner-Gren paid dearly for his naivety, which some would argue was grounded in an illusion of grandeur. The successful businessman simply failed to understand that his business acumen did not translate into anything similar in the realm of politics.

On January 14, 1942, Wenner-Gren was officially included in the *Proclaimed List of Certain Blocked Nationals*. The decision was taken at the highest level, including the personal involvement of President Roosevelt. Nevertheless, the case was entirely built on circumstantial evidence and in hindsight had no merit. Leifland has provided conclusive

evidence in his well-documented, excellent study that Axel Wenner-Gren's blacklisting was "a miscarriage of justice."

Several FBI documents, written between October 1959 and March 1960 and discovered by the author, confirm Leifland's account and provide additional information central to this case. The official documents show that Wenner-Gren was blacklisted because he was a challenge to U.S. hegemony in Latin America, not because he was "a German agent." In its haste of making the blacklisting known to allies and foes alike, U.S. government agencies violated their own procedural rules for inclusion to the "Proclaimed List." Revealing some of its true motives, the U.S. government extended the blacklisting to Peru and Mexico, an action that required sensitive backchannel discussion to bring the two Latin American governments on board.

Following his failed mission as a peace emissary, Wenner-Gren had focused his attention on Latin America. Key U.S. officials, including President Roosevelt followed his activities with increasing concern. A key development that raised suspicion in the eyes of the U.S. government had to do with Wenner-Gren's proposal for building a harbor in Peru's Chimbote bay and his plans for developing Peru's industrial resources. Indeed, President Prado wrote to his "dear friend" Wenner-Gren in December 1941, thanking him for the "sound proposals that inspire you on behalf of my country" and specifically recognizing Wenner-Gren's "important work for the study and promotion of our archeological values, the high philanthropic spirit that always has been manifested by you, your special interest to bring about the construction of the Chimbote harbour and the industrialization of the Santa Valley." The final straw, however, was Wenner-Gren's real and anticipated influence in Mexico. Courted by both the Presidents of Peru and Mexico to invest in their countries, Wenner-Gren competed with American business interests and was gaining control over Mexico's strategic resources. When the United States decided to enter the war in the wake of Pearl Harbor, the decision was made to declare Wenner-Gren *persona non grata*. Wenner-Gren was blacklisted and thus the U.S. government had effectively contained a challenge to its hegemony in Latin America.

An FBI memorandum, dated March 1, 1960, reveals the true natu-

re behind the United States taking action. Due to its significance, the text of the relevant passage is given verbatim, including this underlined heading which speaks to the true reason for Wenner-Gren's fall from grace:

“The Real Reason Why Wenner-Gren was Placed on the Proclaimed List:

In a memorandum from Ladd to the Director [of the FBI] dated 3/6/42 it was pointed out that the Bureau SIS reports since 12/1/1941 had covered activities of Wenner-Gren. During December, 1941, information was developed that negotiations were under way leading up to the creation of an Export Control Board in Mexico which was to have an official status yet was to be financed exclusively by Axel Wenner-Gren. If the Board had been created in the form discussed, Wenner-Gren would have become the economic Czar of Mexico [emphasis mine]...and it was determined that the information furnished the State Department relative to Wenner-Gren's plans in Mexico finally convinced them to recommend Wenner-Gren for the black list. Accordingly, just as Wenner-Gren's Export Control Board plan was about to receive the written and official approval of the President of Mexico, Wenner-Gren was placed on the American black list.”

Due to the blacklisting, Wenner-Gren was in essence confined to Mexico for the duration of the war. First in 1946, with the blacklisting behind him could he once again personally attend to his global business interests.

The Philanthropic Legacy

Wenner-Gren had early on an appreciation of, and sincere belief in, the importance of science for improving the human condition. The applied research that had made him rich and famous, allowed him to generously endow and support a variety of scientific endeavors. Wenner-Gren argued that there was no “better way to international understanding and peaceful co-existence than precisely in scientific collaboration across borders.”

One of his first initiatives was support for the idea of *Norden*, a united north European region consisting of Denmark, Finland, Iceland,

Norway and Sweden. The pursuit of this goal resulted in one of his first philanthropic initiatives. *Föreningen Norden* in Stockholm was given a significant donation in the mid 1930s. Wenner-Gren's love for the Nordic countries was also manifest when Finland was attacked by the Soviet Union during the Winter War of 1939–1940. He was a close friend of Hjalmar Procopé, then the senior Finnish diplomat in Washington. Wenner-Gren helped both in the fund-raising for the Finnish war effort and contributed from his personal fortune.

In 1936 and 1937, Axel Wenner-Gren made two large donations for the benefit of Swedish scientific research: the *Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biology, Physiological Chemistry and Metabolic Research* at Stockholm University and the *Wenner-Grenska Samfundet* (Wenner-Gren Society for the Promotion of Scientific Research and Nordic Cooperation).

The *Institute* was in essence created to support the path-breaking research of John Runnström, its first leader. As a result of Wenner-Gren's significant donations "the working team decided, in order to honor its Maecenas, to ask Dr. Wenner-Gren whether the Institute might bear his name." Permanent operating support came through yearly grants from the *Wenner-Grenska Samfundet*, which became the main source of funding for the next decade. The official decision to create the Institute was made in January 1937 and Gustaf Adolf, Crown Prince of Sweden, inaugurated it in May 1939.

The *Wenner-Grenska Samfundet*, on the other hand, evolved into an important funding source for basic science. Its funds were important in the building of the Wenner-Gren Center and for its running costs the first years. The capacity for giving grants changed with time. During the dramatic years of World War II, the capacity was reduced for a while. The unfortunate development starting the years after the death of Axel Wenner-Gren in 1961, eroded the *Samfundet's* economy which was not stabilized until about 1980. Some funds then still remained. A new type of fellowship was introduced and very well received by the science society. Later similar fellowships were introduced in the more extensive program handled by Wenner-Gren Stiftelserna. After a while it became clear that it would be wise to arrange for a close collaboration between

the two actors, the *Wenner-Grenska Samfundet* and the *Wenner-Gren Stiftelserna*, with common administration of fellowships and funds.

Wenner-Gren's most important philanthropic legacy in the United States is the *Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research* in New York. Previously, Wenner-Gren had endowed the *Wenner-Gren Aeronautical Laboratory* at the University of Kentucky which engaged in the development of the MAWEN airplane engine.

Paul Fejos, whose genius left a lasting imprint on the early decades of the New York Foundation, first as its scientific director and then as president, led its the first significant scientific endeavor – the 1940 Wenner-Gren Scientific Expedition to Hispanic America. The expedition, a brainchild of Fejos and Wenner-Gren, was a key reason behind the February 1941 creation of the Viking Fund, which became in 1951 the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Only a select group of people, mostly within the anthropological community, have knowledge of the historic contributions the 1940–1941 Wenner-Gren Scientific Expedition to Hispanic America made to our understanding of Andean culture and the origins of scientific research in the fields of archeology and anthropology in Peru. The expedition's members discovered and explored several well-known sites along the Inca trail leading up to Machu Picchu and the discoveries sparked a flurry of news reports in the Peruvian media. The area comprising the expedition's explorations was officially denominated the "Wenner-Gren National Park," the expedition's leaders were recognized with the highest academic honors for their contributions and the expedition's collections were presented to museums in Peru and the United States. Finally, the legacy of the expedition includes the creation of the Archeology department at Cuzco's Universidad de San Antonio Abad.

In addition to providing the Expedition's funding, Wenner-Gren decided to get personally involved. He sailed for Peru in July 1941 to join the Expedition, preparing himself by learning basic Spanish and reading books on Peru. Showing his appreciation for Peruvian culture, Wenner-Gren endowed an "Institute of Archeology" at Cuzco's Universidad de

San Antonio Abad. Following his personal request to the Foundation's Board, the Viking Fund made a contribution of 100,000 soles (USD 30,000) for this purpose. Although an Institute of Archeology existed at the time it was essentially defunct and in a process of reorganization. The donation laid the basis for the emergence of an Archeology Program at Cuzco University that continues to operate today. Significantly, the emerging department was the first of its kind in Peru.

Today, the New York Foundation it is one of the major international funders of anthropological research and has three major goals: 1) To support significant and innovative anthropological research into humanity's biological and cultural origins, development and variation; 2) To foster the creation of an international community of research scholars in anthropology; and 3) To provide leadership at the forefronts of the discipline. The modern Foundation has a number of programs supporting these goals and an annual programs budget of approximately US\$ 6 million. The Foundation provides grants for international collaborative research projects, preservation of the anthropological record, and conference and workshop organization as well as fellowships for writing-up already completed research.

Wenner-Gren's final, and arguably most significant, philanthropic contribution was announced to the world in the Swedish media in November 1955. "Dr Wenner-Gren" had manifested his generosity once again through the establishment of the Wenner-Gren Center. The Center was to provide the material conditions for creating an international research center in Stockholm.

Today, the Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm (WGFs) seek to promote international cooperation in the area of scientific research. To this end, the WGFs provide housing for visiting researchers at the Wenner-Gren Center in Stockholm, and award grants both to Swedish researchers who wish to travel abroad, and to visiting scientists who would like to come to Sweden. The Wenner-Gren Center is centrally located in Stockholm and all resident scientists are close to their workplace, be it Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm University, The Royal Institute of Technology or The Stockholm School of Economics. In

total, 156 apartments are available for visiting scientists for a maximum period of two years, and rents are subsidized via specific housing grants. Each year resident researchers come from about 40 different nations.

The Foundations offer a comprehensive fellowship program for international scientific exchange, and each year about 150 fellowships are granted within this program. Swedish postdoctoral fellows can also obtain funding and the Foundations even have a specific repatriation program for especially promising young Swedish researchers (Wenner-Gren Fellows). Further, each year, the Foundations organize three international symposia.

Axel Wenner-Gren was without doubt one of the most important philanthropists of his time. His lifetime ambition was to strengthen scientific exchange at a global level. Although a part of his bold agenda was not realized due to the economic collapse of his economic empire, his legacy is significant indeed. It has been argued that no singular Swedish philanthropic contribution matched in size the amount Wenner-Gren contributed over his lifetime to the pursuit of scientific study. At least in the case of the most famous Swedish philanthropic enterprise – the world-renowned Nobel Foundation – one could make this argument. Alfred Nobel's 1885 donation was estimated at 31 million Swedish crowns. By 2011, the Nobel Foundation assets had grown to 3.1 billion Swedish crowns (USD 450 million). In comparison, the Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm and New York 2011 program budgets, benefiting hundreds of scholars across the world, were similar in their monetary significance and had a combined endowment that exceeded the one of the Nobel Foundation.

Wenner-Gren's contributions to science were recognized with four honorary doctorates. He received the first one in 1941 from Peru's Universidad de San Antonio Abad in Cuzco. Over the course of his life, he was also honored with a doctor honoris causa at Stockholm University (1953), Uppsala University (1954) and the Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg (1957). Yet the one distinction Axel Wenner-Gren most likely appreciated the most, was the 29th Honorary Fellowship of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. The Fellowship (in essence an honorary doctorate) was conferred upon Wenner-Gren

on October 30, 1960. This scientific honor symbolized his ultimate redemption. With the presence of Mrs. Chaim Weizmann, the widow of Israel's first President at the ceremony, and Abba Eban, then the President of the Weizmann Institute, conferring the fellowship, Wenner-Gren was in fact cleared by the highest Israeli authorities from the suspicion of having in any way supported the Nazi regime.

Conclusion

Wenner-Gren's last public appearance was at the funeral of Dag Hammarskjöld September 1961, before he checked into the *Röda Korset* hospital in Stockholm a few days later for apparent health problems to be examined by Clarence Crawford, an internationally known medical expert and Wenner-Gren's medical confidante. The man who had throughout his life the most important political and economic news of the day at his fingertips was never told about the severity of his condition and his impending demise. Although several people close to him were fully informed, including his private secretary Brita Procopé-Heidenstam and Paul Fejos, not even Marguerite was told how seriously ill her husband was. Wenner-Gren briefly recuperated for a couple of weeks after the operation but suddenly deteriorated. Crawford and the Swedish king's private physician, Gunnar Björk, jointly announced his death on November 24, 1961.

At the time of his death, Wenner-Gren was once again at a summit in his life, recognized as one of the leading businessmen and philanthropists of his time. Shortly before his death, King Gustaf VI Adolf personally bestowed the *Grand Cross of the Vasa Order*, one of the highest Swedish honors on Wenner-Gren. His collection of grand crosses from all over the world, included those given by Mexico, Peru Finland, and Denmark.

Upon Wenner-Gren's death, his economic empire came down in a spectacular crash, confounding friends and foes alike. Whereas Wenner-Gren's sales genius had propelled him to legendary riches, his inclination to control every detail of his large business empire carried the seed of his downfall. It remains a conundrum how the significant contributions to the world of business and science by one the wealthiest

men of the 20th century, with high-powered friends in the world of politics, business and art, are not more broadly acknowledged. Whereas Electrolux products can be found in households all over the world, the man whose marketing and sales genius put vacuum cleaners and refrigerators in millions of homes and sought to revolutionize transportation with the visionary ALWEG monorail system, is mostly forgotten.

Axel Wenner-Gren succeeded at an improbable historic feat – getting a second act in the global world of politics and economics. Having been disgraced following the 1942 blacklisting, he resurrected himself showing the same qualities of determined pursuit that characterized his rise to initial global stardom. He engineered his comeback by investing in a host of innovative business ventures while giving away his money freely in philanthropic pursuits that rivaled his most risky economic enterprises in their visionary conception. Whereas this vision did not become reality due to Wenner-Gren's death in 1961, his legacy includes several major foundations in Stockholm and New York that share the Wenner-Gren name. The Electrolux king, albeit not always with the recognition he deserves, left his footprint around the world.

Stockholm in May, 2012

Ilja Luciak

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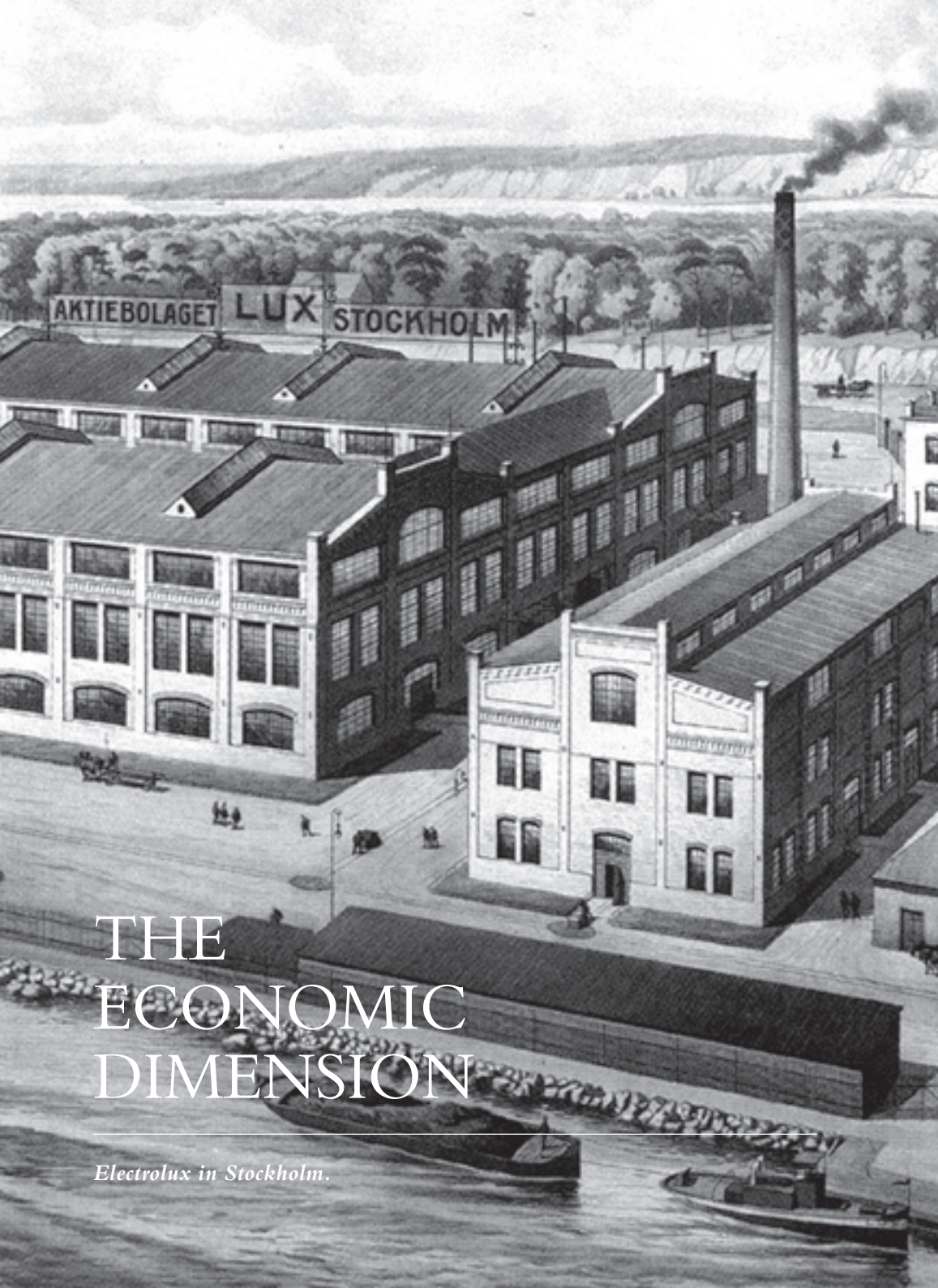
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AKTIEBOLAGET LUX STOCKHOLM

THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Electrolux in Stockholm.

Who was Axel Wenner-Gren: A Documentary

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When this question arose in my head almost 40 years ago I actually knew very little about Wenner-Gren. It was the trial against Wenner-Grenska Samfundet and the disappearance of lots of money that triggered my journalistic interest.

I and two colleagues from the Swedish Television, Birgitta Svensson and Anna Jansson, started a thorough research that took almost a year. We were in Sweden, Germany, USA, Canada, Bahamas and Mexico searching for relevant material and of course – people who knew, or said they knew.

We made three documentaries, a series, altogether 3 hours. The series is in Swedish but I have taken out scenes with English-spoken interviews. This might be a little confusing, but I will also translate the speaker's voice. The scenes should take about 20 minutes.

The 3 documenteries cover his entire life.

1. The first part is about the partnership between Krupp in Germany and Wenner-Gren and how they helped each other.
2. The second part is about the Alwac comuter and the gigantic project in British Columbia.
3. The tragic end.

After this I will try to answer questions, bearing in mind that almost 40 years passed since I did these documentaries. Unfortunately I have moved so many times that I have nothing left of the research material.

Wenner-Gren's Economic Empire

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My presentation will be based on the book “Dansen kring guldkalven” (“Dance around the golden calf”), written with Ingrid Dahlberg, published in 1975. The book deals with Axel Wenner-Gren’s economic empire and what happened to it after his death.

Axel Wenner-Gren (AWG) is well known as the builder of world famous Electrolux (household appliances) from about 1912. Less well known is the scope of all other investments and business ventures, in which he was involved in different parts of the world. I will give a summary of these and try to explain what happened to them and why.

To my view some (but far from all) of his projects were based on promising business ideas but mismanaged in different ways or underfinanced. A few were successes, most failed.

AWG had sometimes difficulties establishing long-range cooperation with leading business and banking groups in the countries where he had business interests. He often did not find the right people as local managers. “Group management” was not equipped to handle complex business problems on several continents. He also spread his financial resources too thinly. In the final decades before AWG passed away my impression is that his empire ran into a vicious circle with increasing difficulties of all kinds. The problems accelerated after his death and surfaced in detail during the criminal court proceedings involving some former Foundation board members in the early 1970’s.

The Electrolux Story

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Electrolux is today one of the world's largest and most well-known home appliance manufacturers. Since 1919, when Axel Wenner-Gren founded the company, Electrolux has grown from a small niche player in the Nordics to a global giant in its field. What were the reasons behind this growth and what is the legacy from Axel Wenner-Gren that will make the company successful also in the future?

Wenner-Gren in Mexico: Los Teléfonos de México (TELMEX)

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On the NYSE (New York Stock Exchange) under the abbreviation TMX you find one of the largest Latin American companies. TMX stands for Teléfonos de México S.A.B. de C.V. (TELMEX). The company together with its sister (recently becoming the mother!) company America Movil S.A.B. de C.V. (NYSE:AMX) owns & operates fixed-line and cellular telecommunications in Mexico, in the US and all over Latin America. It also provides other value-added telecommunications and telecommunications-related services in a large number of countries. The actual market value of both companies is around 25 (twenty-five) billion USD. The main shareholder exercising control in both TELMEX and America Movil S.A.B. de C.V. is the well-known Mexican businessman Carlos Slim Helú whose wealth, according to FORBES, reaches 53.5 billion dollars. Actually a most significant part of this wealth is coming from the telecom business that originates from the acquisition of TELMEX, which was made in December 1990 by the CARSO Group owned by Carlos Slim together with Southwestern Bell International Holding Corp., France Cables Et Radio and a group of investors. What does this have to do with Axel Wenner-Gren?

Teléfonos de México / TELMEX were actually founded in December 1947 by Axel Wenner-Gren. TIME magazine informed on January 5, 1948:

“In Mexico City, most businesses require at least two telephones. Reason: there are two companies, Mexican Ericsson Co. and Mexicana Telephone & Telegraph Co., and their switchboards do not connect. Last week, a \$49 million merger was completed to end this inconvenience. The new combination would be called Teléfonos de Mexico, S.A., and

an old hand at empire building hoped that it would make him Mexico's telephone king. The man: Sweden's famed Axel Wenner-Gren, 66."

The shareholders of the company Teléfonos de México S.A. that were taking over the operating company Teléfonos Ericsson S.A. were the Corporación Continental, S.A. (a Wenner-Gren holding), Empresa Ericsson (MEXERIC), Bruno Pagliai, Octavio Fernández R. and José Joaquín César. Wenner-Gren had 51% of the new company and he acquired also the minority share MEXERIC had in the Compañía Telefónica y Telegráfica Mexicana, S.A.

The hailed interconnection between the two switchboard systems operating in Mexico took place the 9th of January 1948 benefiting 149.612 subscribers. The Mexican president Miguel Alemán Velasco inaugurated the automatic link between now Wenner-Gren's Teléfonos de México S.A. (TELMEX as it became known) operating the systems delivered by Teléfonos Ericsson S.A., a subsidiary of the Swedish Telefonaktiebolaget L.M. Ericsson and the second carrier, the Compañía Telefónica y Telegráfica Mexicana, S.A., which was then a subsidiary of the US based International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT).

It was not a simple task to bring together the two operators owned by the fierce competitors Ericsson and ITT. It did not make it easier that ITT held a 35% stake in the Ericsson mother company (as a result of Ivar Krueger's speculations!) and Ericsson had a minority share in MEXICANA. Since 1933 very distinguished negotiators from Ericsson (Jacob Wallenberg) and ITT (Colonel Sosthenes Behn) had tried in numerous meetings to find a solution to reach an integration of the services of both companies. Finally Axel Wenner-Gren achieved this goal in 1947 by interlinking the network of both companies accomplishing the merger in early 1950. Gunnar Beckman, an engineer coming originally from L.M. Ericsson, stayed as the managing director of TELMEX.

During 1953, with Teléfonos de México fully on track and rapidly expanding, Axel Wenner-Gren withdrew from the company. He sold, respectively, his shares to L.M. Ericsson and ITT, according to an agreement that gave equal shares to both companies. Subsequently, in 1958, L.M. Ericsson and ITT sold their shares to Mexican investors.

TELMEX continued to grow fast. In 1972 the Mexican government acquired 51% of the shares heavily investing during the following decades until then president Salinas de Gotari started the privatization in March 1990. This brings us back to the beginning of the summary with the winners of the privatization that were the CARSO Group owned by Carlos Slim, together with Southwestern Bell International Holding Corp., France Cables Et Radio and a group of investors.

The visionary approach of Axel Wenner-Gren, his negotiating skill and his perseverance made this achievement possible, bringing together the most divergent interests to create the national Mexican telephone operator, which was a precondition for the modernization of the country and the development of the Mexican infrastructure.

Wenner-Gren in the Bahamas

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My talk will explore Axel Wenner-Gren's impact on the development of the modern Bahamian economy, spanning Wenner-Gren's first arrival in The Bahamas in the 1930s and his return after World War II, when he embarked on a number of large property developments that laid the foundations for the most successful resorts in The Bahamas.

The story begins with a round the world cruise on the most luxurious yacht of the time, the SOUTHERN CROSS. Built originally for P & O Chairman, Lord Inchcape, in Scotland, and sold to Wenner-Gren by Howard Hughes, it was a precursor in design to the passenger cruise ships that followed. When war broke out in September 1939, the SOUTHERN CROSS was en-route to The Bahamas. She responded to an SOS from the SS ATHENIA, saving the lives of over 300 victims after a U-Boat torpedoed the Allied civilian transport ship. In my talk, I will discuss how the ATHENIA rescue cast suspicions on Wenner-Gren's loyalties to the Allied Cause, leading to his blacklisting by the American and British governments. I will include anecdotal information from some of Wenner-Gren's friends and associates to shine light on the true circumstances surrounding this phase of Wenner-Gren's life.

In 1951 my father, Arne Lindroth, who formerly managed a factory for Wenner-Gren in my birthplace of Eksjö, Sweden, was sent to Nassau to manage Wenner-Gren's affairs in The Bahamas. The following year, my mother, Gunnel, and her three sons flew from Bromma Airport in Stockholm to Nassau via Iceland, Labrador, New York and Miami. Nassau, the capital of the British Colony of The Bahamas, was the base for Wenner-Gren's Bahamas operations, which consisted mainly of property developments, as well as some speculative, but nevertheless

visionary, efforts in early computer development, transportation and resource investments.

Through his companies, the Bank of Bahamas and Andros Bahamas Development Company, Wenner-Gren developed Andros Town on the largest island in the Bahamian archipelago. He also assembled large acreages on Hog Island, which was later re-christened “Paradise Island” and is today the site of the Atlantis Resort, the largest hotel operation and private sector employer in The Bahamas. My father was involved in the sale of “Paradise Island” to A&P heir, Huntington Hartford, a few years before Wenner-Gren’s death, and he helped Hartford develop The Ocean Club, The Bahamas’ most successful and luxurious resort, on the former site of Wenner-Gren’s home, “Shangri-La.” Following the sale to Hartford, Wenner-Gren bought a large home on the island of New Providence, “Villa Capulet,” where he lived when in Nassau up to the time of his death.

In relating his experiences in The Bahamas, I hope to offer the audience a first-hand perspective of Wenner-Gren’s life in the Bahamas and his contribution to the evolving economy in its transition from colonialism to independence. I will highlight how Wenner-Gren’s early ground-work in the field of resort development helped lay the foundation for The Bahamas’ most important economic driver: tourism. My talk will include photographs and other mementos of the era.

Designing Public Relations for Axel Wenner-Gren

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My presentation is based on my personal experience as the personal public relations consultant of Axel Wenner-Gren in the period of October 15, 1955–June 30, 1956.

At the start of this assignment I received a presentation of a conglomerate of companies and projects, weakly coordinated and, in many cases lacking the spirit of belonging to the same family of companies. Public relations, at that time, were conceived as publicity, primarily in the daily press.

Axel Wenner-Gren, however, was convinced that much was to win by a coordinated, professional management of the public relations of his companies and, not least important, himself as a successful business man and manager of his ‘empire’, including his various research projects, whether incorporated or not.

Public relations at the Wenner-Gren group of companies at that time consisted of distributing press releases to the leading dailies in Sweden. Every day – during his annual stay in Sweden – the leading newspapers, mostly Swedish but others like Financial Times as well, were placed at the office desk of Axel Wenner-Gren, so that he could see the results of the latest press releases.

In the beginning of my employment at the Fulcrum office at Kungsträdgårdsgatan we spent some time reviewing what was published of the press release information. He wanted me to meet with and interview the editors who had published information based on the press releases. I suggested that it would be a better idea to interview those editors who had received press releases but did not published anything. He accepted my suggestion.

In the course of such interviews I learned that non-publicity about Wenner-Gren and his companies and projects was mainly based on his alleged Nazi sympathies with Herman Göring and other leaders of the Third Reich, reinforced by his blacklisting by the U.S. during WWII. I argued that this was long ago, he was one of many leading persons, Swedes and others, who had been dependent on good relations with Germany during the thirties, and that the good he was now doing by his investments in R&D and his donations for medicine projects really deserved public acceptance and support by the mass media. Some of these editors recognized the points made, others did not.

From these days and on much more attention was paid on lack of feedback in the press than on confirmative response to the press releases. Concepts as content and effect analysis were introduced at the Fulcrum office at that time.

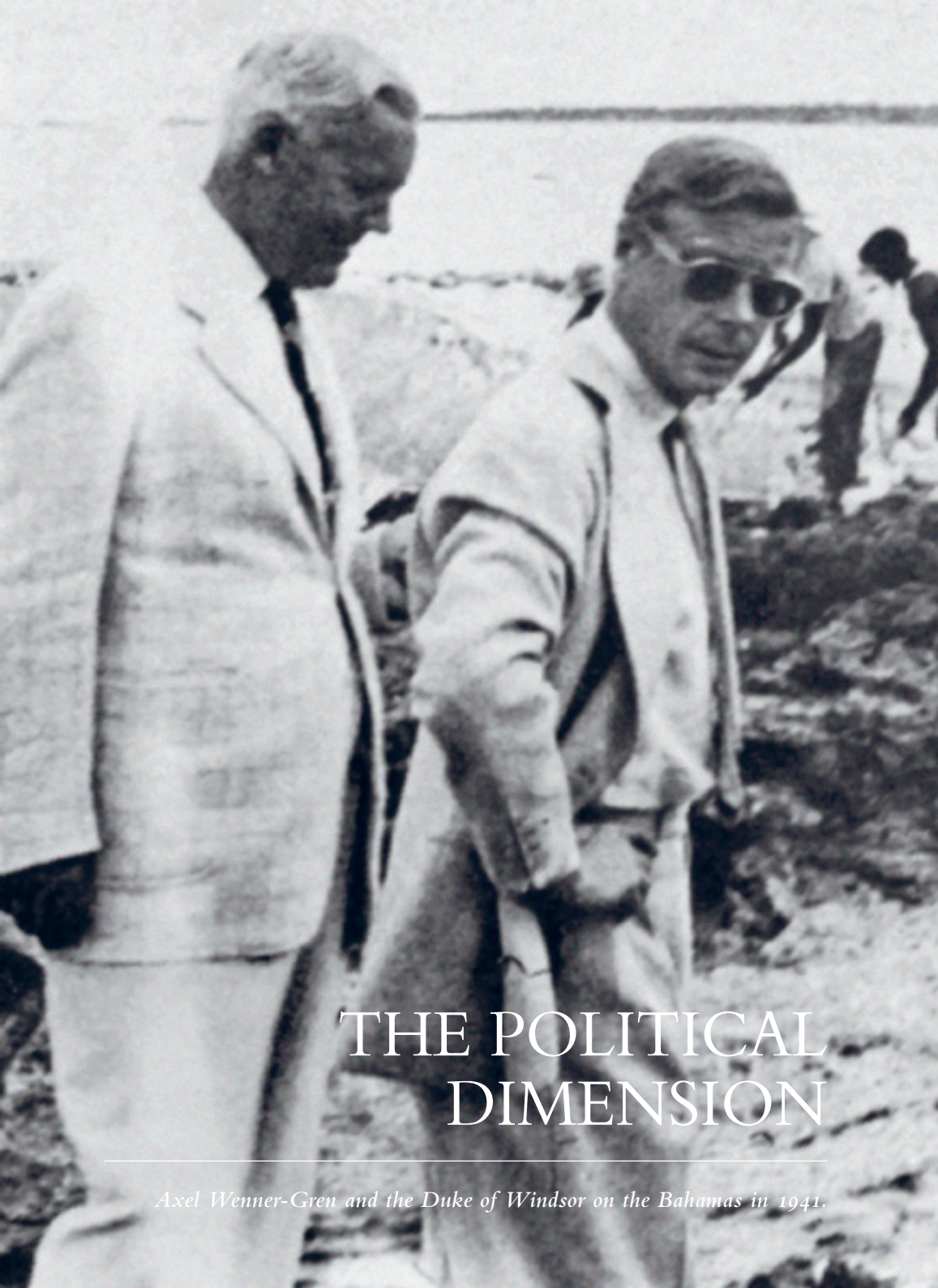
One day in the autumn of 1955 Axel Wenner-Gren called me to his office and asked for my suggestion to how his personal goodwill could be preserved in the long run. At that time he informed me of his idea to assemble the various offices of his, including those involved in medical research to one single place. He wondered how such a project could best serve his ambition to create long-term goodwill for himself. I suggested that he could do as Rockefeller, who had named his building complex in New York, Rockefeller Center. Why reinvent the wheel?

He suggested that I should present the idea to Hugo Theorell who was the Chairman of an informal Research Council consisting of leading Swedish scientists. I met Hugo Theorell at his office in Karolinska, by coincidence on the same day that the Nobel Committee announced his Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine “for his discoveries concerning the nature and mode of action of oxidation enzymes”. Hugo Theorell liked the idea, which was thereafter discussed in the Research Council. It was rapidly decided that Wenner-Gren Center would be an appropriate name of the building complex to be.

Axel Wenner-Gren had very special ideas in this connection. He wanted to build a tall building at the north end of Sveavägen, facing the Stockholm Castle in the south. He offered the Stockholm city authorities

to finance such a building provided that the city would give him the ground for free. Don't forget that Axel Wenner-Gren was a business-man! Stockholm accepted the offer but had to acquire the ground from the Swedish state, which was done in a triangular transaction, which at the same time solved some housing problems for both parties. Although the building construction did not occur until 1959–1961, the plans for the building were materialized already in 1955.

There is hardly any doubt that through the Wenner-Gren Center, Axel Wenner-Gren got his wish fulfilled to be remembered for a long time for his personal devotion to research. Wenner-Gren Center is undoubtedly a landmark, which the City of Stockholm can be proud of and grateful to Axel Wenner-Gren for.



THE POLITICAL DIMENSION

Axel Wenner-Gren and the Duke of Windsor on the Bahamas in 1941.

The Political Ambitions of Axel Wenner-Gren

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This presentation is based on research for a political biography of Axel Wenner-Gren, the Swedish tycoon and philanthropist who founded Electrolux and built it into one of the crown jewels of his global economic empire. Wenner-Gren's life was shrouded in myth and the tales spun around his name defy imagination. Allegation include that he shared a lover with John F. Kennedy two decades before J.F.K. assumed the U.S. presidency, sold Fidel Castro the *Granma*, the iconic boat of the Cuban revolution, and hid the Nazi gold treasure in South America. Wenner-Gren was a favored journalistic subject, yet remained an enigma. The controversy surrounding his name continues today: Was he a Nazi-sympathizer who served the interests of the Third Reich or an extremely well-connected, cosmopolitan businessman who sought to do his best to prevent the conflagration of World War II?

Wenner-Gren was vulnerable to suspicion of pro-Nazi activities as a result of his "appeasement" endeavors during the summer of 1939. At the time that the storm clouds of the impending conflagration of World War II were gathering, he served as a self-appointed private emissary between Field Marshall Hermann Göring and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. Following his failed mission as a peace emissary, Wenner-Gren focused his attention on Latin America. Key U.S. officials, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt followed his activities with increasing concern. Courted by the Presidents of Peru and Mexico to invest in their countries, he started to compete with American business interests and was about to gain control over Mexico's strategic resources.

The political ambitions of Axel Wenner-Gren and their consequences remain shrouded in mystery. Leif Leifland (1989) convincingly established

that Wenner-Gren was a “victim of a miscarriage of justice” when the United States’ government blacklisted him on January 14, 1942. U.S. authorities claimed that Wenner-Gren had political sympathies for Nazi Germany and that his economic endeavors strengthened Adolf Hitler’s war machinery. These allegations, however, were only insinuated and the rationale for the blacklisting never became a part of the public record. It can now be established that the “official” allegations were not the principal reason behind the blacklisting. Newly discovered U.S. documents finally provide irrefutable evidence that Wenner-Gren was primarily a victim of the Monroe doctrine. He was seen as a political and economic competitor whose activities in Mexico and Peru were perceived as a challenge to U.S. hegemony in America’s self-proclaimed “backyard.” In the wake of Pearl Harbor, the United States government was not inclined to tolerate such a challenge. Thus, the allegations of Wenner-Gren’s Nazi ties became a convenient screen.

The presentation sheds new light on Axel Wenner-Gren’s role in Latin America and the reasons why he was perceived as a threat to U.S. hegemony. It focuses on Wenner-Gren’s activities during World War II when he had personal contacts with the Hitler and Mussolini regimes and examines his rollercoaster ride through U.S. politics – from being a friend of President Herbert Hoover and a honored guest of President Roosevelt for a weekend at the White House, to being blacklisted in 1942 – only to return to the U.S. political scene as a guest of honor at President Harry Truman’s inauguration in January 1949.

Drawing on Wenner-Gren’s FBI file – one of the most extensive FBI files on any private person in the history of the United States – as well as archival materials in Europe and Latin America, Wenner-Gren’s personal diary, family archives, interviews with Wenner-Gren confidantes, family members and business associates, the presentation explores Axel Wenner-Gren’s political ambitions and their consequences. It establishes the facts surrounding Wenner-Gren’s relationship with John F. Kennedy, Fidel Castro, Adolf Hitler, Hermann Göring, the Krupp dynasty, Benito Mussolini, Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Swedish Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, the Duke of Windsor, and other key political figures, which shaped the politics of the 20th century.

Sweden and Nazi Germany during World War II

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My task at this conference is to provide a general background about the relations between Sweden and Nazi Germany during the Second World War, based on my above-mentioned book (*Living next door to Evil*).

At the outbreak of the war, neutrality was the obvious choice for Sweden, which had been neutral since 1814. Since 1936, Sweden had a coalition government between the Social Democratic Party and the Farmer's Party. After the outbreak of the Winter War between Finland and the Soviet Union, the government also included the Conservative and the Liberal parties.

A first task for the government after the outbreak of the war was to negotiate trade agreements with the two great powers fighting each other, Germany and Great Britain. Germany was in great need of Swedish iron ore, while Sweden especially needed coal. One cannot pursue a serious discussion on Swedish foreign policy during the war without placing trade policy at the centre of discussion.

Another obvious Swedish concession to German demands was the agreement about the military leave traffic on Swedish railways from Norway to Germany and back. More than two million German soldiers were transported through Sweden to Germany from the summer 1940 until August 1943. Also, a fully equipped German division was transported from Norway through Sweden to Finland in the summer of 1941. This was the most obvious violation of the Swedish neutrality during the war.

In earlier research, the policy of the Swedish coalition government has

often been seen as an opportunistic adaption to the outcome of the war. Instead, I have emphasised Swedish reactions on Nazi German brutality, demonstrated both in the persecutions of European Jews and in the German occupation of especially Norway and Denmark.

The press policy of the coalition government has been underestimated in earlier research. When all measures taken by the government now can be summarized, it becomes evident that the government really tried to suppress information on German brutality in general and on persecutions of Jews and the Holocaust.

Swedish refugee policy went through a major change from 1933 to 1945. During the 1930's, Swedish refugee policy became more and more restrictive. The first major change came after the German occupation of Norway and Denmark in April 1940. Tens of thousands Norwegians fled to Sweden during the war, and were allowed to stay in Sweden. The Swedish government also realized that it ought to and could engage itself in major rescue operations. The first example was Swedish efforts in late 1942 to help Norwegian Jews to escape from deportation to Germany. Hundreds of Jews from Norway succeeded to escape to Sweden. A year later, Sweden opened its borders for some 8 000 Jews from Denmark. The efforts made in Budapest in 1944 by Swedish embassy personnel and especially Raoul Wallenberg are well-known, as well as the rescue operation with the so called White busses, headed by count Folke Bernadotte in the spring 1945.

Axel Wenner-Gren in the Bahamas: The Political Aspects

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"Palmeras"

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Axel and Marguerite Wenner-Gren came to the Bahamas in the late 1930s. Upon his arrival in 1940, they immediately became good personal friends of the new Governor, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Windsor, (formerly King Edward VIII) and the Duchess. They were similar in outlooks and the Windsors had no friends of the same caliber in the Bahamas. The Bahamas were a British colony and tightly governed from London. All senior positions were held by British Civil Servants. No doubt this friendship was very beneficial to both sides.

Relations with Buckingham Palace were cold.

The Bahamas were not a democracy. All local political power was held by a small group of white, rich, reactionary Bahamians, the "Bay Street Boys." This mainly involved education and public works. The Duke had to live with very small budgets funded by London and the local government, respectively. However, relations with the locals were good as Axel Wenner-Gren invested large amounts of money. The black Bahamians (80% of the population) were ignored.

There were a few very powerful foreigners and an American Consul with Diplomatic Status.

In the background was an American diplomat with the unlikely name of Messersmith who became Axel Wenner-Gren's nemesis and worst enemy. He had been stationed in Berlin before the United States became involved in WWII. He was then transferred to Washington, and later to Mexico, but was always pursuing Wenner-Gren.



THE SOCIAL DIMENSION – PHILANTHROPY

Axel Wenner-Gren (left) at a dinner in Harpsund during the 1950s together with Professor Hugo Theorell, Earl Marshal Birger Ekeberg and the host, Prime Minister Tage Erlander.

Wenner-Grenska Samfundet

Anders Ehrenberg

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The foundation Wenner-Grenska Samfundet was established in 1937 on the initiative of Axel Wenner-Gren and his wife Marguerite who together donated considerable funds to the new foundation. The statutes of the foundation permitted great freedom to support a great spectrum of activities, in the first hand within some specifically named but very broad scientific areas. The scope was grand as outlined in the inauguration speech given by Axel Wenner-Gren. What was actually done may be extracted from the minutes of the board meetings. The two founders, Axel and Marguerite Wenner-Gren, were lifetime members of the board, which in total consisted of seven members.

Not surprising, the wishes expressed by Axel Wenner-Gren concerning grants dominated the policy from the beginning. A major recipient of grants over the years was the Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biology. Also, for the building of the Wenner-Gren Center and for its running costs the first years, grants and other financial assistance from Wenner-Grenska Samfundet were of quite some importance. In the talk it will be outlined how the granting policy changed with time and it will be discussed how this may be correlated with changing conditions for research in general.

The capacity for giving grant has also changed with time. During the dramatic years of World War II the capacity was reduced for a while. The unfortunate development starting the years after the death of Axel Wenner-Gren in 1961 eroded the Samfundet's economy which was not stabilized until about 1980. Some funds then still remained. Thanks to wise advices of Lennart Dahlström, member of the board for several years, these funds, now formerly handled by a bank, increased considerably.

A new type of fellowship was introduced and very well received by the science society. Later similar fellowships were introduced in the more extensive program handled by Wenner-Gren Stiftelserna. After a while it became clear that it would be wise to arrange for a close collaboration between the two actors, the Wenner-Grenska Samfundet and the Wenner-Gren Stiftelserna, with common administration of fellowships and funds.

The Wenner-Gren Institute for Experimental Biology, Stockholm

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The Wenner-Gren Institute was founded in Stockholm in 1939. Still in the early years of the 20th century, most research in biology was essentially descriptive. The brilliant and foresighted researcher John Runnström realised the enormous potential that experimentation could have in developing explanations of how living organisms functioned. To develop these ideas he felt a new institute was needed. Thanks to generous donations from Axel Wenner-Gren, as well as the Rockefeller Foundation, a new institute was built and opened in 1939. Not only the building costs, but for many years also the running costs, were financed by the Wenner-Grenska Samfundet. Initially, the research at the institute concentrated on developmental biology, with the sea urchin as the prime experimental model. Based on the events taking place during the early phases of development occurring after fertilization of the sea urchin egg, subgroups were developed at the institute, specializing on the energy metabolism of the embryo, the cell biology of the embryo, the ability to characterize the proteins of the embryo by immunological techniques, and the overriding questions regarding development. With time, the experimental models changed, and the scope of the questions broadened, but the initial concepts of the division of studies are still visible in the research performed today in the institute.



King Gustaf VI Adolf and Axel Wenner-Gren in 1960.

The Legacy of the Wenner-Gren Scientific Expedition to Hispanic America

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The first part of this presentation explores the origins of the Departments of Archeology and Anthropology at the National University of San Antonio de Abad del Cuzco.

Cuzco was the political and ideological center of the Inca civilization. This reality inspired studies by inquisitive minds. They were not archeologists but came from history, law, and also literature. Their studies were important as they were among the first to locate original Inca sites, which later were altered by the expansion of the city and its suburbs. The dissemination of the existence of Machupiqchu enhanced the interest in the Inca people and in archeology. Nevertheless, it did not lead to the creation of an archeological study program at the local university.

In the 1940s, the Wenner-Gren Foundation led and financed research in the highlands of the Vilcanota valley, in which one of its peaks, Machupiqchu sits. Lima archeologists could study the Phuyupatamarca and Sayaqmarca settlements. The dissemination of the findings impressed on the population and ignited interest in scientific archeology. The Wenner-Gren Foundation signed agreements with the National University of San Antonio Abad del Cuzco. The Foundation donated funds to start archeological studies. In this way, the tradition of scientific research in Cuzco was born. For the first time in the history of Peru's universities, a university started archeological and anthropological studies.

The second part of the presentation will give a visual picture of Machu Picchu and the important sites along the *Camino Inca* (Inca Trail) that were discovered or explored by the Wenner-Gren Scientific Expedition to Hispanic America.

The History of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York

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Axel Wenner-Gren's anthropological foundation was established in 1941 as the Viking Fund, funded with about \$2 million in Electrolux stock. In December of that year he appointed Paul Fejos to manage the Fund's activities. Under Fejos's influence, the Fund more closely defined its mission to focus on the small, young field of anthropology.

THE 1940S: CASTING A WIDE NET. The Fund was structured around grants-in-aid, which covered both awards to individuals and organizations, internationally, and in-house projects. After a relatively inactive period during the war years (when, nevertheless, two important programs were initiated—a monograph series and Supper Conferences), the second half of the decade saw the development of a wide array of activities. In 1945 the Fund acquired a town house in New York City, which soon contained research laboratories, technical equipment available for loan, a library, and space for visiting scholars. New projects continued to be devised, such as the Viking Fund Summer Seminars in Physical Anthropology. A hallmark achievement was the Fund's key role in the application of Carbon 14 dating to archaeology.

THE 1950S: DEFINING A SPECIAL ROLE. In 1951, in honor of the founder's seventieth birthday, the Fund's name was changed. The Board, recognizing that the modest endowment did not allow the Foundation to compete with the large public and private funders, decided to divert some funds from grant-making to concentrate on fostering communication and collaboration among scholars worldwide. Two initiatives addressed that goal: the acquisition in 1957 of Burg Wartenstein in Austria to serve as an international conference center (which housed

86 symposia until its closing in 1980), and the journal *Current Anthropology*.

THE 1960S: FLORESCENCE. Upon Fejos's death in 1963, his widow and associate Lita Binns Fejos (later Osmundsen) succeeded him as Director of Research. This was a decade of prosperity for both the anthropological profession and the Foundation. All programs flourished, and new ones were developed. A Casting Program (Anthro-Cast, Inc.), 1962–1975, pioneered the production of high-quality casts of fossil specimens for research and teaching. Other new programs aided training in museum methods; research and training in the use of film and other visual aids; and research on the Origins of Man in Africa. The end of the decade, however, saw a new tax law in the United States, which would bring a major change in the Foundation's operations.

THE 1970S: RETRENCHMENT. A combination of difficulties—demands of the new law, rising inflation, a poor investment climate, and erosion in the value of the dollar—reduced the endowment to a low of \$15 million in 1974. Faced with the decision to spend the Foundation out of existence or continue to function at a much reduced level, the Board took the latter course, agreeing to terminate several programs and to sell both Burg Wartenstein and the New York house. The offices moved to modest rental space.

THE 1980S: CRISIS AND RENEWAL. With the sale of the properties, the balance between in-house projects and grant-making shifted in favor of the latter (growing from 15% to 30% of the budget during the decade). Although the core programs continued, including conferences on the "BW model", now held at a variety of sites, and an important new one was introduced (Developing Countries Training Fellowships), the anthropological profession viewed the changes with suspicion. At the same time, the Board, seeking more rationalized management, decided to replace Lita Osmundsen. A search was conducted, and an anthropologist, Sydel Silverman, was appointed as president, as of 1987. In the next years, a concerted effort was made to reinvigorate programs, regularize management, and repair relationships with the anthropological community. The success of this effort was owed partially to the increase in the endowment, which exceeded \$50 million at the end of the decade.

THE 1990S: NEW CHALLENGES. Changes in the anthropological profession and in the world at large posed a number of challenges, which the revitalized Foundation was able to address. Foremost among these was the increasing internationalization of the discipline; the Foundation responded with new programs to enhance research resources and training in the Third World, as well as international collaboration among scholars. The "BW-model" symposia provided forums for discussion of new developments in the field and often for bridging of divisions. Both the number and dollar value of grants increased over the decade, as the endowment grew to \$113 million.

In its first sixty years, the Foundation awarded over 5,000 grants, which had an inestimable impact on the development of all branches of anthropology. Of the several hundred symposia and conferences that were organized and/or supported, at least 100 can be judged, in retrospect, to have been landmarks that changed the direction of the field. The Foundation has stood for the basic research (always a threatened commodity), the support of creative (sometimes high-risk) endeavors, and the fostering of a truly international discipline.

The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, New York

Leslie C. Aiello

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The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc. was established by Axel Wenner-Gren in 1941. Today it is one of the major international funders of anthropological research and has three major goals: 1) To support significant and innovative anthropological research into humanity's biological and cultural origins, development and variation; 2) To foster the creation of an international community of research scholars in anthropology; and 3) To provide leadership at the forefronts of the discipline.

The modern Foundation has a number of programs supporting these goals and an annual programs budget of approximately US\$ 6 million. The largest funding initiative supports individual research for doctoral students and established research scholars (maximum award = US\$20,000). In 2011 the Foundation awarded 178 grants in this category, which represents a success rate of approximately 15% (178 grants out of 1170 applications). In addition, the Foundation gives grants for international collaborative research projects, preservation of the anthropological record, and conference and workshop organization as well as fellowships for writing-up already completed research. The Foundation also has a strong interest in capacity building and provides fellowships for students from developing countries to obtain doctorates at world-class universities and grants to support the development of anthropology departments in countries where the discipline is underrepresented and where there are limited resources for academic development.

One of the most successful on-going initiatives is the Wenner-Gren Symposium program, which annually includes two intensive week-long workshops organized by the Foundation in collaboration with leading

international anthropologists. Over the years, the Foundation has organized approximately 145 of these meetings and in recent years they are published as open-access supplementary issues of the Foundation's journal *Current Anthropology*. Many of these meetings have been land-mark occasions in the field and they are one way in which the Foundation provides anthropological leadership.

Other leadership initiatives include grant programs such as the Osmundsen Initiative, which encourages anthropologists to reflect on the potential contribution their research makes to broader social or intellectual issues and on the unique perspective Anthropology brings to understanding these concerns. In 2012 the Foundation will also introduce the Engaged Anthropology Grant to enable Wenner-Gren grantees to return to their research locale to share their research results with their research community, and/or the academic community in the region or country of research.

The field of Anthropology has grown tremendously in both size and diversity since the Foundation's inception, and thanks largely to the foresight of Axel Wenner-Gren the Foundation has played a significant part in its development and particularly in fostering an international community of anthropologists. Recently the Foundation has continued in this area with an active social media presence, which provides direct and immediate communication with the field, a forum for the international community, and a means to publicize the research of our grantees as well as the Foundation's rich historical archives.



New York Wenner-Gren Foundation's International Conference Center at Burg Wartenstein in Austria (1958–1980) (above). The Courtyard and North Tower within the castle (below).

A Short History of the Wenner-Gren Foundations, Stockholm

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The Wenner-Gren Center, inaugurated in 1962, was not the first of Axel Wenner-Gren's initiatives to support research in Sweden, but it was certainly the most spectacular one. Already in 1937 he and his wife Marguerite had made two substantial donations, one of which was a foundation called "Wenner-Grenska Samfundet". It was intended as a resource for research primarily in the social, economic, scientific and medical fields.

Jan Wallander, who was chairman of the Wenner-Gren Foundations 1983–2000, has written a valuable book on the first 45 years after 1955, when the Wenner-Gren couple made their next donation. As a prelude I want to give him strong credit for most of what I am going to present at the symposium. The donation that Axel Wenner-Gren promised to make in 1955 was 4 million crowns for building a center, where scientists from all over the world could meet, provided that the government could make grounds available free of charge. However, even if that sum was increased to 8 millions later on, it was relatively modest, and it certainly did not cover the building costs. According to Wallander, the total sum amounted to 40 million crowns. After Axel Wenner-Gren's death on November 24th 1961 it became clear that his financial situation was rather fragile, and the board of the Wenner-Gren Center foundation, which was constituted on October 15th 1955, had to handle substantial bank loans for the three buildings of the center. It meant that the original idea of the rents giving a surplus to be used for supporting research remained a dream.

To make matters worse the board of "Wenner-Grenska Samfundet" became involved in a lawsuit, which caused a lot of bad publicity even

for the WGC foundation, since quite a few distinguished persons were members of both boards. When Wallander became chairman of the WGC foundation in 1983, he soon realized that the financial situation admittedly made it possible to enlarge the number of apartments for guest researchers but also that it would cause serious problems in the long run, because of rising taxes as well as of increasing costs for the maintenance and repair of the buildings. After long discussions a decision to sell two of them and to keep only Helicon, the halfmoon of apartments for guest scientists, was taken in 1990. The purchase sum was 665 million crowns, which made it possible for the foundations – a second one had been established in 1984 – to significantly contribute to the exchange of researchers between Sweden and developed countries all over the world, at present with around 50 million crowns each year.

In my own period as chairman, the new financial resources have allowed the foundations successively to expand their activities with attractive programs within the traditional framework. We have also concluded an agreement with ”Wenner-Grenska Samfundet” on cooperation, which has rationalized our administration and made it easier for researchers to apply for grants.

The Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm: Promotion of international scientific exchange

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The Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm (WGFs) seek to promote international cooperation in the area of scientific research. To this end, WGFs provide housing for visiting researchers at the Wenner-Gren Center in Stockholm, and award grants both to Swedish researchers who wish to travel abroad, and to visiting scientists who would like to come to Sweden.

Visiting scholars' residences are located in Helicon, a semi-circular, three-story building in the Wenner-Gren Center. From an academic standpoint, the Wenner-Gren Center is centrally located, and all resident scientists are close to their workplace, be it Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm University, The Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) or The Stockholm School of Economics. In total, 156 apartments are available for visiting scientists for a maximum period of two years, and rents are subsidized via specific housing grants. Each year resident researchers come from about 40 different nations.

WGFs offer a *comprehensive fellowship program for international scientific exchange*, and each year about 150 fellowships are granted within this program.

After completion of their doctorate, early-stage scientists may obtain *postdoctoral fellowships* for studies abroad. *Swedish postdoctoral fellows* generally choose the United States for postdoctoral training (about 50%), but the United Kingdom is also attractive (25%). *Foreign postdoctoral fellows* work at Swedish universities, and each year about 25 countries are represented among the grantees.

In addition, WGFs have a specific repatriation program for especially promising young Swedish researchers (*Wenner-Gren Fellows*). This award includes a three-year, grant-funded period abroad, followed by a period of two years as a researcher at a Swedish university. To facilitate their establishment as an independent researcher on their return to Sweden, each Fellow also receives a freely disposable one-time research grant and can recruit a postdoctoral researcher from abroad. The running program comprises about 30 Fellows.

Although the emphasis is on young scientists, WGFs also award fellowships to Swedish as well as foreign senior scientists for periods abroad. Swedish scientists receive *sabbatical fellowships*, and most prefer top universities in the United States (about 50%). Highly qualified senior visiting researchers receive *guest research fellowships* to cover the increased cost of living in Sweden, and typically they retain their salary from their home institution. Most of the guest researchers come from the United States (almost 50%), while the EU countries collectively account for 25% and the former Eastern Bloc 20%.

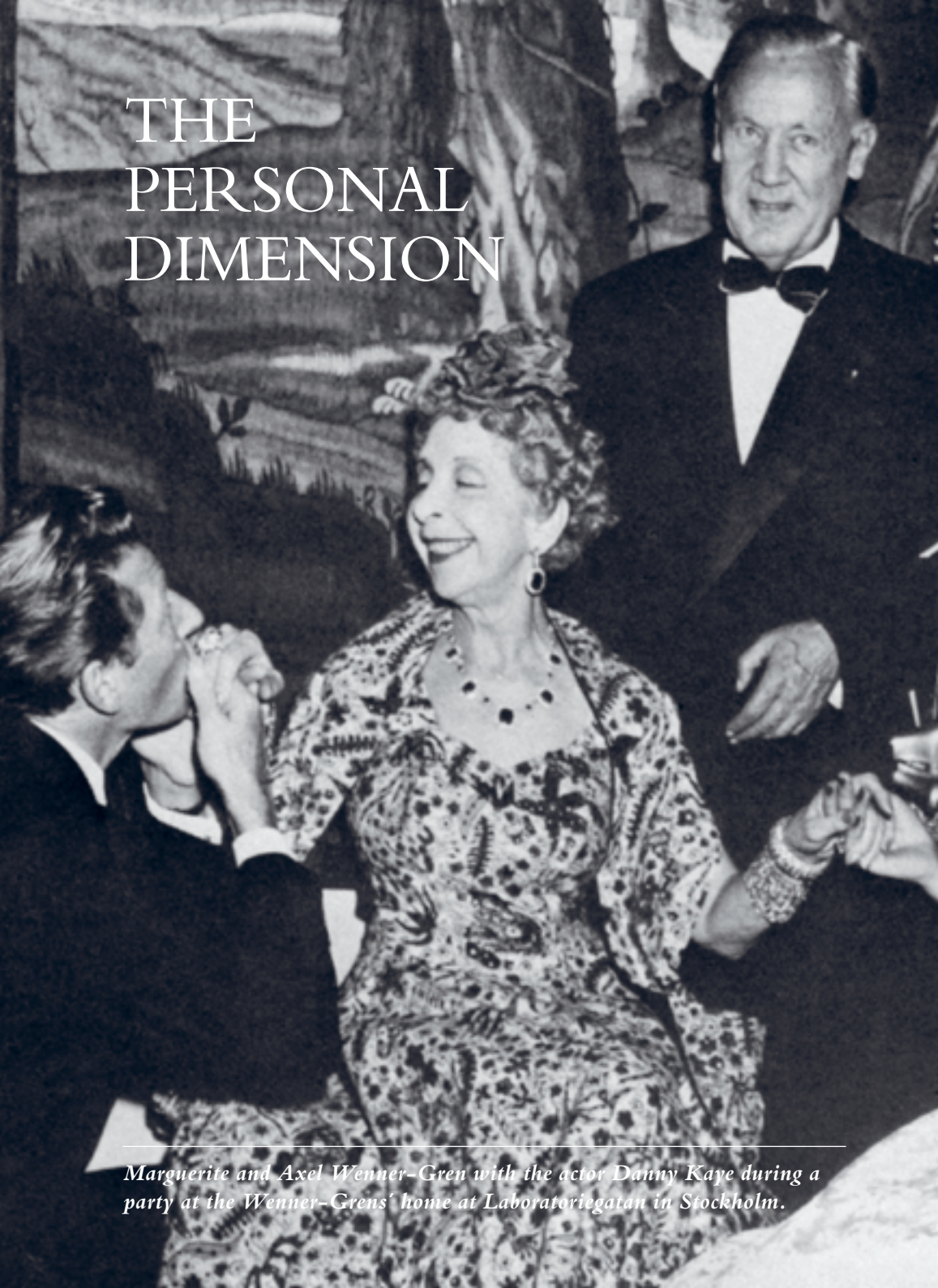
Each year WGFs organize three *international symposia* usually located in the Wenner-Gren Center. The symposia are of two kinds: symposia on specialized topics, most frequently in the field of biomedicine, and symposia on science and university politics. As a rule the latter ones are organized together with Academia Europaea. WGFs also award grants for the organization of external symposia and workshops in Sweden. *Guest lectures* supported by WGFs comprise Wenner-Gren Distinguished Lectures as well as regular guest lectures at universities and colleges. *Travel grants* are provided for early-stage researchers to participate in conferences, workshops and symposia.

Finally, WGFs allocate funds (“*Special grants*”) for the dissemination of knowledge about research and in particular for the promotion of young students’ interest in research. Programs to improve teaching of natural sciences in elementary and high schools are also supported, which in the long term is expected to promote the Foundations’ objectives.



Wenner-Gren Center in Stockholm, the home of the Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm (above). Wenner-Gren apartments for resident scientists (below). The Center was inaugurated in 1962.

THE PERSONAL DIMENSION



Marguerite and Axel Wenner-Gren with the actor Danny Kaye during a party at the Wenner-Grens' home at Laboratoriegatan in Stockholm.

Life with Axel and Marguerite Wenner-Gren

Armand Brunel

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I met Axel and Marguerite Wenner-Gren in 1928 at the age of thirteen in Paris through my father. He was co-owner of a company in Lyon, which produced airplanes and was a business associate of Wenner-Gren. This was the beginning of a life-long personal and – at times – business association with the Wenner-Grens.

With my parents permission, and on Marguerite's insistence, I accompanied Axel and Marguerite to Sweden. Although I finished high school in Paris, I spent almost all my time apart from the school year with the Wenner-Grens. This was the time of the expansion of Electrolux into a global enterprise, and I observed this period first-hand. Axel Wenner-Gren was an entrepreneur who was completely dedicated to his economic enterprise, and his success was a result of his hard work. He helped many, including me, to get a start in life, with the expectation that subsequently "one had to do it on one's own as he had done."

Axel paid for my studies at the London School of Economics, and subsequently I worked in various capacities at different enterprises, which were part of Wenner-Gren's economic empire, including Electrolux and Cellulosa.

After the war, I went to Mexico where Wenner-Gren and I set up a joint business, Beijer Continental. I had previously worked for Beijer in Stockholm. Eventually, I became sole owner of the company. For the next decades, I remained in Mexico involved in various businesses and continued my relationship with the Wenner-Grens. My wife Bebe and I were present at Rancho Cortés, when Marguerite's sister, Genevieve Gauntier, died in December 1966 and we remained close with Marguerite – we were actually neighbors in Cuernavaca – until her death in August 1973.

World Tour on Southern Cross (1937–38) and Rancho Cortéz, Mexico

Eric Hagsäter

Montañas Calizas 490
México D.F. 11,000,
México

Gene Gauntier, sister of Marguerite Wenner-Gren kept a diary during the circumnavigation of the Southern Cross, from September 30th, 1937, to August 16th, 1938. Although most of the notes relate to her personal experiences, tourist sights and shopping, there are very interesting notes on the people, both business and government, that Axel met during that year, and some revealing personal comments about world affairs.

Axel Wenner-Gren took possession of the *Rover* in February 1937 in the Bahamas. He sailed the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Black Sea, reaching Gothenburg on September 30th, where the ship was renamed *Southern Cross*, took on the Swedish flag and crew, was refitted and sailed with Marguerite and Gene to Algiers and Naples. Axel in the meantime was to visit Berlin, London, Paris and Rome where he would meet with Mussolini, and board the ship in Naples, then bustling with submarines and naval vessels taking troops to Tripoli. Axel had models of the Bofors' anti-aircraft guns in his state-room.

In most ports he was received by the Swedish Consul, which was often a manager of the Swedish Match Company, or the Swedish Ambassadors. He also dined with the Governors of British India, Dutch East India, United States High Commissioner to the Phillipines, and the Princes, Presidents, and Ministers as well as military commanders and admirals. In Penang and Singapore he met with Paul Fejos of the Swedish Film Company.

Among the interesting insights, penciled in between the type written diary, are insights into some of the conversations with the highest ranking dignitaries. The preoccupation of Prince Regent Aditya of

Siam of the arming of Japan, and asking for help in the rapid delivery of Bofors guns to Siam. The impatience of the military authorities in Java because the Bofors guns were not delivered fast enough. Fear from President Quezon concerning the Japanese ambitions and aggression, which would lead to trouble.

In Japan, the *Southern Cross* was a novelty as foreign ships were not visiting, the Wenner-Gren's dined with the Secretary of the American Embassy, and they had a private lunch with Foreign Minister Koki Hirota, who, after Axel's explaining his proposal of international understanding and peaceful collaboration, expressed criticism of Japan's invasion of Manchuria and explained the reasons behind it and what would follow.

Hawaii was mostly socializing, but included lunch with General Heron, the Military Commander. In Los Angeles, Axel visited the Douglas Airplane factories. Gene received the English translation of Axel's book, *Call to Reason*, a very bad translation. Axel and Gene would rewrite it on the way back to Sweden.

The Southern Cross left Göteborg the night of August 31, 1939, on its way to the Bahamas. It saved some 300 passengers of the Athenia in the north Atlantic. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Wenner-Gren gave the ship to the President of Mexico. Thereafter, the Wenner-Grens lived mainly in their home in Rancho Cortéz, Cuernavaca, a spacious, but otherwise modest home with large gardens. There, they often dined with guests from all over the world.

Axel Wenner-Gren's Art Collection

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In my presentation on Dr. Axel Wenner-Gren's art collection I intend to give a historic account, starting when I noticed it first as a ten-year old boy. I will share the history of the collection while it was owned by Wenner-Gren through the phasing-out of the collection in which I was partially involved following Axel's death.

The choice of artists and funny details from the collecting period do not only recognize the great businessman as a collector but his good eye to build a collection of beauty.

Family: Relations, Reflections, Memories

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Some of this we saw with our own eyes or heard with our own ears, some is told from parents and friends to parents. So we go to the house in Berlin of Hugo Wennergren where Anita and Lennart were born, this big house where important people of many professions met and from where they were chased when the war came. – “Espetången” – summer house of Hugo on the West Coast, not far from “Nabben” where the brothers came with their wives to see their sister Anna – Relationship between brothers and rest of family. How the war changed our living and thinking. – Axel and Marguerite in privacy and social lives – Marguerite alone, Axel alone; what children see. – What is it to be richest in the world? – Care of the family? – Friends? The kitchen, the service, late nights. – Children and dogs – dreams and sorrow. – Stories. Rumours! – Häringe; the deer, the horses, the mushrooms – stillness – Why poetry? – “To reach the truth” said Marguerite. And Axel said: “The truth is but a dream.”

The Wenner-Gren's Glamorous Life at the Palace

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The eccentric Wenner-Gren couple resided at Häringe Palace from 1934–1973. Marguerite and Axel lived in excess, travelling between their residences and yachts around the world, always in the company of Marguerite's beloved dogs, and socializing with the crème de la crème wherever they went. Their vivid lifestyle certainly rubbed off on the Palace, which became the setting for ostentatious parties during the summer months. Many prominent friends of the Wenner-Gren's frequented the Palace – Jussi Börling, Greta Garbo, Josephine Baker, Paul Fejos, Mrs. Wallis Simpson and the Duke of Windsor – just to name a few. During their time at Häringe, Marguerite grew exotic flowers in the giant greenhouses and Axel made sure that the farm was managed flawlessly. The estate's good-quality milk was sent to the Stockholm Children's Hospital, and Marguerite's flowers were sold exclusively at the department store NK and occasionally auctioned off for charity.

When the Palace was unoccupied during the rest of the year, everything was mothballed and Häringe became just a regular large farm in the countryside. During these periods, the farm children had plenty of freedom, just as long as they stayed away from the watch dogs guarding the Palace until the Wenner-Grens returned.

Over the years, a group of faithful servants ran the Palace and its vast surroundings. Managing the property, complete with breeding stock, milking cows, crops, garden shop, and a vast forest was an extensive task undertaken by a labor force consisting of farm foremen, bookkeepers, farm managers, stablemen, fishermen, gardeners, peasants, and agricultural students. To this day, people marvel at how the Wenner-Grens managed to keep their staff so incredibly disciplined that their routines

continued flawlessly even when the couple left the Palace. However, there actually seems to have been plenty going on behind the scenes...

Axel and his wife both left their mark on the interiors of the Palace, rearranging rooms to correspond to their quirks. Axel wished for a puritanical and austere bedroom as well as a gothic study, Marguerite ordered for a golden dressing room. Today, Axel's urn rests quietly alongside Marguerite's, under the natural stone in front of the Palace, as do their 38 late dogs and 2 domesticated roe deer, each honored with a special tombstone.

Evidently, the Wenner-Grens were not your ordinary Palace owners and they left us with a wonderful legacy. They left us with hundreds of anecdotes, which are a delight to share.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

LESLIE AIELLO is President of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. She has a B.A and M.A in Anthropology (University of California at Los Angeles) and a Ph.D in human evolution from the University of London. She was Professor of Biological Anthropology at University College London (UCL) (1995–2005), Head of the UCL Anthropology Department (1996–2002), and Head of the UCL Graduate School (2002 to 2005). She is currently Professor Emerita and an Honorary Fellow of University College London.

KATARINA AXELLE AXELL is an actor, who was trained at the Drama School at Malmö City Theater and premier pupil at Uppsala City Theater. She worked for 40 years at Stockholm City Theater but is now retired. Presently she is a freelancing actor at Free Theaters and a singer with her own programs. Axel Wenner-Gren's brother Hugo was her grandfather, and during her early school years she stayed part of her time with the Wenner-Grens at Laboratoriegatan and Håringe Castle.

SEVE AXELL is an international advisor for individuals and businesses for art and antiques. He was trained in Chartres, France and is mainly specialized in old master paintings, furniture and silver. He has been an appraiser for the Swedish Chamber of Commerce and auction companies. He is currently employed at Ekolsund Castle working as a consultant, appraiser and advisor to individuals and institutions and runs a business named Polar Art Antiques. Seve Axell is grandson of Axel Wenner-Gren's brother Hugo. During his childhood, he lived at times in Håringe Castle going to school.

RAGNAR BOMAN is a writer focused on business history and has also for many years been active in the Swedish stock exchange regulation. He got an MBA at the Stockholm School of Economics and was initially a business journalist. With Ingrid Dahlberg he published in 1975 "Dansen kring guldkalven" ("Dance around the golden calf") on Axel Wenner-Gren's economic empire and what happened to it after his death. Later on, he has made additional contributions to business history, e.g. "Iggesund 1685–1985" and "Hasselfors under fyra sekel" ("Hasselfors during four centuries").

ARMAND BRUNEL had a life-long personal and business association with the Wenner-Grens. He was born in France in 1915, received a Baccalauréat at Lycée Charlemagne in Paris, and studied at the London School of Economics. Brunel met Axel and Marguerite Wenner-Gren at the age of thirteen in Paris through his father who was a business associate of Wenner-Gren. Brunel owned and managed several Mexican businesses and maintained close contact with the Wenner-Grens through the years. He became a Swedish citizen in 1939.

DAN BRÄNDSTRÖM is Professor with academic training in Political Science from the University of Umeå and is the Chair of the Board of Wenner-Gren Foundations. He has been the CEO of the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation 1993–2006. Since 2010 he is also the Chair of the Board of Regents of Linnéus University at Växjö and Kalmar. He is a Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. He is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and of the Academia Europaea.

BARBARA CANNON is Professor of Physiology and was Director of the Wenner-Gren Institute from 1985 to 2010. She got a B.Sc. in Biochemistry at London University in 1967 and received a scholarship to gain research experience at the Wenner-Gren Institute in Stockholm. She stayed on there and obtained a Ph.D. in Physiology. Apart from a brief postdoctoral period, she has been at the Institute ever since. She has been Dean of Biological Sciences at Stockholm University and is President-elect of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences starting in July 2012.

INGRID DAHLBERG is a Swedish journalist, drama writer, movie director and TV producer and is presently member/chair of a number of boards mostly related to theater, opera, and film. She studied at the Bar-Lock Institute in Stockholm and the Lindenwood College in the US. Early on, she worked for Swedish television, initially with documentaries and then with Drama. She was appointed head of The Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm and Governor of Dalarna. She is connected to Axel Wenner-Gren through her book “Dansen kring guldkalven” (together with Ragnar Boman) and her three part TV documentary “Who was Axel Wenner-Gren?”

BERTIL DANEHOLT is Professor of Molecular Genetics at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm and is Science Secretary of the Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm. He studied Medicine at Karolinska Institutet and received his M.D. degree there. He has been Chairman of the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology and was a Member/Adjunct Member of the Nobel Committee for Physiology or Medicine from 1990–2007. He is also a Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Academia Europaea and the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).

ANDERS EHRENBERG is Professor emeritus in Biophysics and has been Chairman of the Board of Wenner-Grenska Samfundet. He has a Master of Technology in Physics from the Royal Institute of Technology, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Stockholm University and a M.D. h.c. from Karolinska Institutet. He was initially employed at Karolinska Institutet and subsequently for more than forty years at Stockholm University. He served for more than 25 years on the Board of the Wenner-Grenska Samfundet, the last eleven years as Chairman.

JORGE FLORES OCHOA is Professor in the Department of Anthropology, Archeology and Sociology, Social Sciences School, Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cuzco in Peru. He obtained a Doctoral degree in Literature and Humanities,

and a Professional Degree of Anthropology at the National University in Cuzco, Peru. Professor Flores is an expert on Andean culture and teaches in a department that was originally endowed by Axel Wenner-Gren.

ERIK HAGSÄTER was closely associated with the Wenner-Grens. His father, Einar Hagsäter, served as the Mechanical Engineer of the Southern Cross, from its world tour in 1937 until the ship was given to the Mexican Government in December, 1941. With his parents, Hagsäter met the Wenner-Grens at numerous social occasions. Marguerite Wenner-Gren was Eric Hagsäter's godmother.

INGE JONSSON is Professor emeritus of Comparative Literature and has been Chairman of the Board of the Wenner-Gren Foundations in Stockholm for ten years. He obtained his Ph.D. from Stockholm University and became Professor of Comparative Literature at the University. He has served as Vice Chancellor of Stockholm University, Chairman of the Tercentenary Fund of the Swedish National Bank, and President of the Royal Academy of Literature, History and Antiquities. He is still active in some research foundations as well as a scholar.

ÖRJAN LINDROTH is devoted to construction and sustainable development. He was born in Sweden and raised in The Bahamas where his father managed Axel Wenner-Gren's holding companies. The two families lived for years on Wenner-Gren's Hog Island, where Örjan first came to appreciate the unique Bahamian ecosystem. He obtained a formal education at the London School of Economics. Following three decades in the field of construction and design in various parts of the world, he returned to The Bahamas to pioneer a new tradition of sustainable development at Schooner Bay, Great Abaco.

JENNY LJUNGBERG is Founder, Director and Owner of the international c/o Hotels. She was born in Sweden and educated in Belgium and the United States, where she received her MBA. In 1997, Jenny Ljungberg and her father launched Tage Hotels and purchased historic Swedish properties: Grythyttan Inn, established in 1642 and Häringe Palace, dating back to 1657. Jenny's latest project is the addition of c/o The Maidstone in East Hampton, NY. She has a commitment to sustainable business practices and is the owner of Häringe, the former Swedish home of the Wenner-Grens.

ILJA LUCIAK is Professor of Political Science at Virginia Tech, USA. He has a Doctor juris from the University of Vienna, Austria and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Iowa, USA. He has written for Swedish, Austrian, British, Mexican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran and North American publications and been a guest professor/fellow at universities in the United States, Europe, and Latin America. His research focuses on gender equality and democratization in Latin America. Lucia's grandmother, Elsa, following the death of her husband Einar of Wirsén, married Axel Wenner-Gren's brother, Hugo.

SETH MASTERS is Chief Investment Officer of Asset Allocation and Bernstein Global Wealth Management and a Partner at AllianceBernstein. He earned a B.A. from Princeton University and a M.Phil. in Economics from Oxford University. He joined Bernstein in 1991 as a research analyst covering global financial firms. From 1994 to 2002 he was CIO of Emerging Markets Value Equities and became CIO of Blend Strategies in 2002. Over the years, Masters has published numerous articles. He has served on the NY Wenner-Gren Foundation Board of Trustees since 2000 and as Chair of the Board since 2008.

PAUL PALMSTEDT is Vice President Communications at Electrolux Small Appliances, which is the business sector within the Electrolux Group developing, designing, producing and marketing vacuum cleaners and small domestic appliances globally. He has been with Electrolux since 1996 in various positions, among them Head of Group Internal Communications and Head of Communications Major Appliances in Asia Pacific.

REHIDER QUINTANILLA VELARDE is the owner of Pantanal Peru Adventures and pursues studies in business management at the Universidad Andina del Cuzco. He is the author of Convento y Museo de la Merced del Cuzco. As a registered tourist guide, he is an expert on Machu Picchu and the important sites along the Camino Inca (Inca Trail) that were discovered or explored by the Wenner-Gren Scientific Expedition to Hispanic America.

JOHANN SCHÜSSELEDER is an engineer and business manager. He was born in Austria and studied engineering in Austria and Sweden and business administration in Sweden. He was employed with Telefon AB LM Ericsson in Sweden and also worked in many countries abroad. Subsequently, he was a manager with ITT/Alcatel in Austria and later on in Brazil and Hungary. Recently, he served as President of Ericsson Slovakia and is now an independent entrepreneur in Slovakia. Since 2008 he is living in Mexico. He is an expert on Wenner-Gren's telecommunication accomplishments in Mexico.

SYDEL SILVERMAN is an anthropologist who received her training at the University of Chicago (M.A.) and Columbia University (Ph.D.). She taught at Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY) and was Executive Officer of the CUNY Ph.D. Program in Anthropology from 1975 through 1986. During this period she also served as Acting Dean of the CUNY Graduate School. In 1987 she became president of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. She retired in 2000.

MARGUERITE SUNDMARK WENNERGREN is a Special education teacher. She is Monika Wennergren's sister and a grandchild of Hugo Wennergren, Axel Wenner-Gren's brother. She is also a godchild of Marguerite Wenner-Gren.

MONIKA WENNERGREN is a visual artist. She is Marguerite Wennergren's sister and a grandchild of Hugo Wennergren, Axel Wenner-Gren's brother. She is also a godchild of Marguerite Wenner-Gren.

ANDERS WIBERG is a hotel manager and Sweden's Consul General in the Bahamas. He was born in Sweden and received a Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Lund (LL. B. or Jur. kand.). He visited the Bahamas in 1959 at the invitation of Arne and Gunnel Lindroth, and five years later he moved there. He bought and operated Cable Beach Manor Hotel in Nassau. He was President of the Bahamas Hotel Association and President of the Caribbean Hotel Association. He is ex-officio familiar with Axel Wenner-Gren activities in the Bahamas.

KLAS ÅMARK is Professor emeritus of History at Stockholm University. He has been co-ordinator for a research programme at the Swedish Research Council (2000–2011), initiated by the Social Democratic Prime Minister Göran Persson about Sweden's relations to Nazism, Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. The report was published as a book under the title "Att bo granne med ondskan. Sveriges förhållande till nazismen, Nazityskland och Förintelsen" ("Living next door to Evil"). He has no special relation to Axel Wenner-Gren.

JOHN ÖSTENGREN is the owner and president of AB Marknadsforskning, a market research institute. Previously he served as the Manager of the Marketing and Media Departments and then Director of the Tessab Advertising Agency in Stockholm. He holds a Master of Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Mass Communications from Syracuse University, USA. In 1954, Örtengren was personally recruited by Axel Wenner-Gren to serve as his personal public relations consultant.

COVER IMAGE
Axel Wenner-Gren

EDITORS
Bertil Daneholt and Ilja Luciak

GRAFIC DESIGN
Fräulein Design

PRINT
XXXXXXXXXXXX, XXXXXX
Paper Scandia 2000 Smoth Naural White,
cover 240 g and inaly 130 g
Font Bemdo