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Press Office
Press Release

Chemnitz, 5 November 2017

Stefan Heym sponsorships awarded

PLEASE NOTE EMBARGO: 6.45 pm on Sunday, 5 November 2017

The first Stefan Heym sponsorships to be awarded by the city of Chemnitz are being presented to recipients by Mayor Barbara Ludwig during a celebratory event at the Schauspielhaus theatre.

Mayor Barbara Ludwig said, “Today we are witnessing a first, with the award of the inaugural Stefan Heym sponsorships – and it makes me particularly proud that there are five of them. These initial Stefan Heym sponsorships are going to very varied projects and initiatives, and that pleases me a great deal too. Because it shows that Stefan Heym, a great son and honorary citizen of our city, still has something to say.

We have very consciously emphasised that engagement with Stefan Heym is all about discovery. For example, for young people, for whom Stefan Heym opens the door on other eras, and for whom the messages of his work still resonate today. Or for researchers, who will find there is a huge amount of material to satisfy their passion for unearthing connections. At this point, I would like to thank the members of the Awards Committee, who have brought the same dedication, enthusiasm and meticulous care to the search for sponsorship recipients as you would expect for a major literary prize.”

Sponsorship recipients were selected by the City of Chemnitz International Stefan Heym Prize Awards Committee. The sponsorships are awarded alongside the EUR 20,000 International Stefan Heym Prize, and aim to support school and university-level projects and initiatives with a

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particular focus on researching the life and work of Stefan Heym, and on keeping his legacy alive. The total available funding is EUR 20,000.

All legal and natural persons, initiatives, institutions, public and private bodies and associations are eligible to apply for sponsorship. Funded measures must be completed in the period between the awarding of one International Stefan Heym Prize and the next.

Stefan Heym sponsorship recipients and the jury's reasons for their choices

- **Stefan Heym competition for young literature**

Karl-Schmidt-Rottluff Grammar School Friends' Association, represented by Headteacher Ronald Langhoff (EUR 4,000)

In keeping with the spirit of Stefan Heym, this competition encourages young people to follow his example – by writing. The young people get to grips with the world around them in an active artistic way, and the jury will consider a collected summary of the best entries from each competition, including the forthcoming 150th anniversary of Karl-Schmidt-Rottluff Grammar School in 2018 – an appropriate way of honouring many years of dedication from pupils and project organisers at Stefan Heym's alma mater.

- **Stefan Heym and the 800-year celebration in Karl-Marx-Stadt in 1965. A journey through time with the Stefan Heym sponsorship**

Historian Dr Jürgen Nitsche (EUR 3,000)

The Awards Committee took the view that this project dealt with a hitherto neglected field of research. It is expected not only to uncover close links between the life of Stefan Heym and the history of the city of Chemnitz, but also other connections with Stefan Heym's life, such as his companions at that time.

- **Visit to the Cambridge archives**

Internationale Stefan-Heym-Gesellschaft e. V. (International Stefan Heym Society), represented by Prof. Bernadette Malinowski (EUR 2,600)

The Awards Committee recognises the academic potential and desirability of an exploratory trip to the Stefan Heym Archive in Cambridge by the Chair of Modern

German and Comparative Literature. The trip would also help kick start academic engagement with Stefan Heym at a Stefan Heym research centre in the city of Chemnitz.

- **“Heym-liche Welt” (“secret world”, including a play on words involving Heym’s name) - preparatory academic seminar**

Theresia-Gerhardinger Grammar School in Munich, represented by Elisabeth Neuhaus (EUR 2,500)

The Awards Committee concluded that this preparatory academic seminar, enabling pupils at a girls’ grammar school in Munich to engage with Stefan Heym, and the associated field trip to Chemnitz, were an eminently suitable way of passing on the memory of Stefan Heym to the next generation, and gave pupils the opportunity to draw active lessons from the life of Stefan Heym.

- **“HEYMAT - HEIMAT, WAS IST DAS?” (“WHAT IS HEYM’ S HOME TOWN LIKE?”)**

Verein Kunstzone Schwarzenberg-Aue e. V., represented by Jörg Beier (EUR 2,500)

The Awards Committee is recognising and funding the part of the project in which pupils are provided with educational materials to help them engage with the concept of home as part of a school project. The life of Stefan Heym is used to illuminate the concept of home, enabling pupils to engage with current issues.

Overall, the jury awarded EUR 14,600 as requested in the competition entries. The remaining EUR 5,400 from the total of EUR 20,000 is being set aside for future awards.

Conclusion of the year

Following the prizegiving, there will be a dramatic reading of *Der unbekante Heym* (The unknown Heym) on the small stage at the Schauspielhaus theatre, to bring the International Stefan Heym Society year to a close.

Background to the International Stefan Heym Prize

The City of Chemnitz International Stefan Heym Prize is awarded every three years to outstanding authors and journalists. In April 2017, the prize and its EUR 20,000 endowment

went to Polish writer and journalist Joanna Bator. Winners in previous years have included Amos Oz (2008), Bora Ćosić (2011) and Christoph Hein in 2013. Since 2017, Stefan Heym sponsorships totalling up to EUR 20,000 have been awarded each year alongside the International Prize.