



SYMPOSIUM

A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AUSTRIA: WHO WAS RICHARD SCHIFTER?

ORGANIZER:

Commission The North Atlantic Triangle: Social and Cultural Exchange between Europe, the USA and Canada

CONCEPT AND MANAGEMENT:

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Photo: Tomi Lombar

Part of the bilateral relations between the USA and Austria is constituted by the many migrants who managed to escape the terror of the National Socialist regime but not, however, to shed their attachment to their unfaithful home country.

In 2020, Böhlau (Vienna) published the volume *Camp Ritchie und seine Österreicher. Deutschsprachige Verhørsoldaten der US-Armee im Zweiten Weltkrieg* by Robert Lackner. The book provides examples from a considerable group of migrants. Many contemporary witnesses have been taken from us, among them Richard Schifter in October 2020. His family came from one of the crownlands of the Habsburg monarchy as it existed until 1918. There had been a huge amount of domestic migration, while many inhabitants of mostly economically backward regions emigrated overseas, mostly to the United States.

PROGRAM

- 9:00** **Welcome Address**
Waldemar Zacharasiewicz | Chair of the Commission The North Atlantic Triangle
- 9:15** **Ambassador Emil Brix** | Director of the Vienna School of International Studies
Bilateral Relations USA-Austria, a critical overview
- 9:45** **Robert Lackner** | Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research of the Consequences of War, Graz
From victims to victors: Austrian exiles as interrogation officers of the US Army and their return to their former home country
- 10:15** COFFEE BREAK
- 10:30** **Kurt Bednar** in conversation with **Rick Schifter**
Who was Richard Schifter?
- 11:00** **Vera Strobachova-Budway** | OSCE, Vienna
The Duo Richard Schifter-Erhard Busek
- 11:30** **Q&A**
Moderated by **Emil Brix**
- 12:00** **Conclusion**
Waldemar Zacharasiewicz
- Refreshments**