

**Gottfried H.Wagner's book „Thou Shalt Have no Other Gods Before me –  
German Edition 2013**



**Gottfried and Adam , July 11, 2013**

**Dr. Adam Sacks on March 7, 2016:**

I am writing to bring to your attention an important and timely book on the man and the myth of Richard Wagner, “Thou Shalt Have no Other Gods Before Me.” There has yet to be a book in English that so directly and clearly confronts the dissonance between Wagner as an icon of inhumanity unique among artists, yet who is the celebrated center of an international cult still flourishing today. This explosive book therefore portends a seismic shift in our understanding of Wagner and unmasks him as the anti-Gandhi and anti-Mandela for our time. Tailored to the needs and interests of as broad as possible a reading public, this book has been produced by none other than Wagner’s own great-grandson, Gottfried. Yet this is no personal exposé or family-tellall; Gottfried already accomplished that task years ago, and to great acclaim. His first book, “Twilight of the Wagners,” was an international bestseller that proved the great interest and viability of such a subject and audience in the international arena. This second book is instead not a memoir but a serious, thoroughly researched work of public history that chronicles Wagner as an epigone of all the worst ills of modernity. He has now authorized me as a trained historian to guide this project to translation and expansion for the English-speaking world. Gottfried Wagner’s “Thou Shalt Have no Other Gods Before Me,” has already been published to strong press and public reception by the Ullstein Verlag in 2013. This new version and translation of the German is clearly organized into pithy and powerful chapters that thoroughly pull apart each aspect of the personality, operatic works, and career of Richard Wagner and his successors. Each chapter further frames these subjects for what they were and still represent today: the antithesis of every value enshrined in the international family of nations. In our era of refugee crises, religious conflicts, challenges to gender norms, how can any society, let alone the leading circles of Germany, continue to hallow the values of such a figure as Wagner? The accomplishments of this book are especially crucial for an English-speaking/American audience that continues to support one of the most conservative and uncritical Wagner infrastructures in the world. Not coincidentally, this audience also remains largely unaware of the actual meaning and subtleties of much of Wagner’s work in its original language and context. Moreover, contrary to that which is commonly assumed, Jewish artists and thinkers have been at the forefront of the Wagner cult since the very beginning, which forms a surprisingly overlooked dimension of this whole phenomenon. Our English language edition will feature an expanded concluding section to illuminate precisely this issue of Wagner and his Jewish acolytes. Finally, much more than a catalogue of iniquities about a composer well known to have inspired Hitler, Gottfried’s latest book is a meditation on the sublime aesthetics of Wagner that too often conceal a program of psychological terror and prejudice. Courageous and inspired, this book ultimately expresses new insights about the relationship between art, ethics and human rights that are perfectly in tune with critical issues today, an era in which more and more societies are rethinking the place and presence of past idols. In the attached dossier, please find a sample translation of the introduction and a comprehensive précis of the chapters. Detailed resumes for Gottfried Wagner and myself as well as samples of critical acclaim for the European version of this text can be furnished upon request. Sincerely, Adam J. Sacks,  
Ph.D. Adam\_Sacks@Brown.edu