11

THE WAR MEMORIAL

CH. GEISS, SCULPTEUR
COLMAR

AUX HÉROS
ET VICTIMES
DE LA
GRANDE GUERRE
1914 - 1918

A SAINT-JEAN
NÉPOMUCÈNE
PROTECTEUR
DU VILLAGE

RIXHEIM
MONUMENT AUX MORTS DE LA GRANDE GUERRE 1914-1918

LITH. J.HUSSER, COLM

Inaugurated on Sunday October 11th 1925, the War memorial was located at first near the Saint Jean chapel, destroyed in 1920, where, during the Great War, the Rixheim inhabitants asked for the protection of Saint Jean Népomucène. Following the demand of both civil and religious authorities of Rixheim, the carver from Colmar, Charles Geiss, made this memorial in tribute to the 65 soldiers dead during World War I and to the protection of Saint-Jean (picture on the right).

It was removed in 1940, at the demand of the german authorities, and installed back at this place for the Liberation Day, on Sunday June 25th 1945. But it was installed back without the Saint Jean statue in order to write the names of the 79 victims of World War II, civilians and soldiers, including 51 "Malgré Nous".

The only mention to Saint Jean is in the libel, which was made again to include the victims of the Algerian War (1954-1962).

At the corner of the "rue Foch" was before the print shops founded in 1856 by Antoine Sutter. Sponsored by the Rixheim priest, Jacques-

Ignace Simonis, he worked a lot for the catholic church: religious works, periodic reviews, almanacs.. He printed notably the "Elsässicher Volksbote", a catholic political newspaper founded in 1868 by the priest Simonis. The print shop closed in 1980.

From 1847 to 1870, the first floor held also the Rixheim post office, created in 1843. From this complex (house in the foreground, factories in the background), remains only the house, built again in the 1930, in the style Art Deco.

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Ville de
Rixheim

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