Video to Stefan Zweig and about his last days in Brazil

About the Chess Story The Royal Game by Stefan Zweig

**Information by Elke Rehder** 

On 23 February 1942, the world became poorer. The United Press in the New York Times reports on that day: "Stefan Zweig and wife end lives In Brazil. Austrian-born author left a note saying he lacked the strength to go on. Author and wife die in compact. Zweig and wife commit suicide."

In 2013 I created my new woodcut *Schachnovelle 2013* in memoriam of Stefan Zweig. The impulse for this came from the Brazilian short film *The Royal Game - Zweig's Last Checkmate* directed by Leonardo Dourado. The short film from 2012 is about 7 minutes. The Zweig biographer and journalist Alberto Dines talks together with Flávio Tavares about Stefan Zweig's chess story and his death in exile. Please see the film in Portuguese with English subtitles and my woodcuts.



Link to the short film at YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpGrmfI\_WYQ

## The Brazilian short film The Royal Game - Zweig's Last Checkmate

This film was directed by Leonardo Dourado; script: Kristina Michahelles; consultant: Alberto Dines; editing: Lupércio Bogéa; field production: Rafael Schultz; photography: Marco Frossard and Luiz Maurício Leite; sound recording: Paulo Felipe, translation: Jordan Noel Hawkes and Kate Lyra; woodcut prints: Elke Rehder; production: telenews ( Rio de Janeiro ).

## **Alberto Dines**

Alberto Dines (born 1932) is a Brazilian journalist and writer. With a career spanning over five decades, Dines directed and launched several magazines and newspapers in Brazil and Portugal. He has taught journalism since 1963, and was a visiting professor at the Columbia University School of Journalism in 1974. Dines was the editor in chief of Jornal do Brasil for twelve years, in addition to coordinating the Rio de Janeiro branch of Folha de S. Paulo. He was also the

director of Grupo Abril in Portugal, where he launched the *Exame* magazine.

After years of dodging the military dictatorship censorship as the editor in chief of Jornal do Brazil, Dines was fired on June 1984 for publishing an article criticizing the overtly amicable relationship between the owners of the newspaper and government of Rio de Janeiro. In addition to working as a journalist, Dines has written more than 15 books, including Death in Paradise, the Tragedy of Stefan Zweig (1981). His book about Stefan Zweig was adapted into the film *Lost Zweig* (2002), directed by Sylvio Back. Dines also discussed Zweig in a documentary by the same director.

On April 1996, Dines launched the groundbreaking Observatório da Imprensa website. The media analysis website was later adapted into a weekly TV show, currently aired by TV Brasil, and a daily radio show, aired on public stations. Dines was a recipient of the Maria Moors Cabot prize on 1970. On October 2007 he received the Austrian Holocaust Memorial Award. On March 29, 2010, he received the Roberto Marinho Prize for Communication, awarded by the Brazilian federal government. *(text selected from the English Wikipedia)* 



Scene from the film with color woodcuts by the artist Elke Rehder

## Flávio Tavares

Flávio Tavares (born 1934) is a prominent Brazilian journalist. He was a member of a communist organization and a political prisoner during the Brazilian military dictatorship. At the age of 20 years Flávio Tavares was the political commentator of the newspaper *Ultima Hora* and later one of the founders of the University of Brasilia. After the military coup in 1964, he was imprisoned for the first time for his political views. Between 1967 and 1969 he was again arrested for being involved in an armed campaign for the liberation of political prisoners from the Lemos de Brito prison in Rio de Janeiro. In September 1969 he was exiled to Mexico.

In the 70s, during the exile, he worked for the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior* and worked as a correspondent in Buenos Aires since 1974. In July 1977 Tavares was abducted by military organs of repression in Uruguay. He spent 195 days in prison. Here is a parallel to the situation of Dr. B., the political prisoner in the chess story by Stefan Zweig. He found a small magazine in his prison cell. The constantly reading and memorizing of the text gave him spiritual strength. Due to an international protest Tavares was released. He lived in London and after

the amnesty of 1979 he returned to Brazil. (*Translation and notes by Elke Rehder on the basis of the text of the Portuguese Encyclopedia Wikipedia*)



scene from the film about the last days of Stefan Zweig. Alberto Dines talking with Flávio Tavares.

## Stefan Zweig - Life in Exile

Anyone who's interested in the life of Stefan Zweig should visit the following website. In July 2012, the museum Casa Stefan Zweig opened in Petrópolis, Brazil. The well-known Stefan Zweig biographer Alberto Dines and many other helping hands have managed to save the house from destruction and to keep it as a memento. The house will be filled with cultural life. There are a lot of rare archive photographs to explore at this website. Please follow the link to the English version <a href="http://www.casastefanzweig.org/index.php?language=en">http://www.casastefanzweig.org/index.php?language=en</a>



In memoriam Stefan Zweig - art for human rights and against isolation, solitary confinement and torture. Color woodcuts by the artist Elke Rehder.



*The photo shows the house of Stefan Zweig and his wife Lotte in Petrópolis before the restoration and the opening of the new museum.* 

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