



The purpose of The Bonnart Trust is to *“establish and maintain scholarships at universities in the United Kingdom for research at the postgraduate level into the nature of racial, religious and cultural intolerance with a view to finding a means to combat it”*.

The Trust was established by Freddy Bonnart-Braunthal in 2002. Born in Vienna in 1922, the elder son of one of Austria’s leading Social Democrats between the wars, Julius Braunthal, Freddy traced his intellectual roots to that great pre-Holocaust generation whose language was German but whose outlook was profoundly European and cosmopolitan in the best sense of the term. However, his family suffered the fate all too common among Jews in mainland Europe occupied by Hitler and the Nazi regime. He eventually arrived in England, attended secondary school and university, and joined the British Army in 1943. After the war, he decided to remain in the Army, becoming a British citizen in 1947. He finally retired from the Army as a lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Signals in November 1972.

Freddy then embarked on a new career in journalism, specialising in defence and strategic matters. His work was not confined to specialist media, but brought to a wider audience by his frequent contributions in the broadsheet press, not least in the pages of The Times and The International Herald Tribune. He was also frequently heard as an analyst on the BBC World Service. For details about Freddy’s life see the Trust website: <http://www.fbbtrust.org.uk/about-freddy-bonnart-braunthal/>.

Following his death in 2008, the bulk of his estate was left to the Trust.

As well as the formal statement of purpose cited above, Freddy also set down clearly what he regarded as an essential element. This is the importance of action:

*“I have chosen the academic route to provide the necessary intellectual rigour and discipline, but it is the initiation of subsequent action which is its essential part.”*

He went on to state that candidate selection must be made with this in mind, to ensure the relevance of their proposed thesis to this aim; indeed it is a precondition for funding.

He was explicit that this focus must be continued, insisting that it was a requirement of the scholarship that a *“final report”*, which the scholar will prepare for the Trust after submitting the thesis to the University, *“should show the action towards achieving the Trust aims resulting from their studies”*.

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