

LAPHAM'S QUARTERLY

AMERICAN AGORA FOUNDATION INC.

Entrepreneur and Philanthropist Thomas M. Siebel Named Chairman of the Board of American Agora Foundation and *Lapham's Quarterly*

NEW YORK—JANUARY 12, 2011—The American Agora Foundation today announced it has appointed Thomas M. Siebel as chairman of its board of directors. The American Agora Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering an interest in history and uncovering the historical roots of our society and culture. Founded by renowned editor Lewis Lapham, the Foundation funds and operates *Lapham's Quarterly*, a publication which looks through the lens of the past to see the story of the present. With each issue, the editors cull the finest writing and artwork from throughout history to shed light on the issues of our time.

“We are fortunate to have Tom Siebel as our new chairman,” Lapham said. “Through his philanthropic and business ventures, Tom recognizes that knowledge is a valuable tool for confronting our country’s problems and enjoying its opportunities. He is committed to education, in the humanities as well as the sciences, and he employs philanthropy to ensure that students and academic institutions have the resources they need to reach their full potential.”

Lewis Lapham founded *Lapham's Quarterly* after serving as editor of *Harper's Magazine* for more than thirty years. In the three years since its launch, the *Quarterly* has attracted over 25,000 subscribers and newsstand buyers with its treatment of topics such as war, money, medicine, and religion. The magazine’s unique approach—presenting an array of contributors from across 4,000 years of history—resonates with readers who purchase thousands of gift subscriptions, box sets, and back issues, and download the popular LQ Podcast. The *Quarterly* is also distributed to more than one thousand schools, libraries, and university bookstores, and has received critical acclaim and industry accolades.

The Winter 2011 issue focuses on the culture of celebrity, with texts by Cicero, Juvenal, Mary Wollstonecraft, John Adams, Lord Byron, T.E. Lawrence, John Lennon, Steve Martin, and many more. The issue makes it clear that the human desire for immortality is as old as the pyramids, as cutting edge as Lady Gaga. To launch the issue, the *Quarterly* will host an evening of readings and conversation on January 20 in New York with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Mandy Patinkin, and Alec Baldwin.

“I began my association with the American Agora Foundation as an admirer of Lewis Lapham’s work and avid reader of *Lapham's Quarterly*,” Siebel said. “There is no publication like it. The voices of preeminent historical figures combined with those of contemporary scholars provide context and perspective on themes that remain timeless. It is changing the way people approach history and understand its impact on current topics. Its success in a period of media upheaval is a testament to the quality of its content and the relevance of its mission.”

Thomas Siebel is the chairman of First Virtual Group, a diversified holding company with interests in commercial real estate, agribusiness, global investment management, and philanthropy. He is also the founder and chairman of C3, an energy and emissions management company. Mr. Siebel serves on the board of advisors for the Stanford University College of Engineering, the University of Illinois College of Engineering, and the University of California at Berkeley College of Engineering, and is a member of the Princeton University Board of Trustees. He is a director of the University of Illinois Foundation and the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

Mr. Siebel is the founder and chairman of the Meth Project Foundation and the Siebel Scholars Foundation, and chairman of the Siebel Foundation. The Siebel Foundation was established in 1996. Its mission is to support projects and organizations that work to improve the quality of life, environment, and education of its community members. The Foundation funds projects to support the homeless and underprivileged, educational and research programs, methamphetamine abuse prevention, and alternative energy solutions. The Siebel Foundation engages in strategic philanthropy, and as such it does not entertain grant requests, but invests in projects it creates and operates. Barron's recently listed Mr. Siebel as number three on its list of the world's top twenty-five most impactful philanthropists for his work with the Meth Project Foundation.

Lapham's Quarterly is published by the American Agora Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to fostering an interest in, and developing an acquaintance with history. The American Agora Foundation was created with the purpose of funding Lapham's Quarterly, as well as other projects that promote an understanding and appreciation of history. Lapham's Quarterly's unique thematic format and its incorporation of four millennia of literature, art, and discourse allow for the magazine to become part of a broader historical discussion and, additionally, to further American Agora's own educational mission. It is the goal of the American Agora Foundation and of Lapham's Quarterly to add to the teaching arsenal of the educational community and to provide a rich cultural resource for a new generation of citizens.

The American Agora Foundation and Lapham's Quarterly are supported in part by corporate and private donors including the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Lannan Foundation, EJMP Fund for Philanthropy, Siebel Foundation, Riggio Foundation, Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Montblanc, Newman's Own Foundation, Bernard and Audre Rapoport, Carmela R. Kletjian, George Lund, Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, the Walbridge Fund, Ned Evans, Daniel and Joanna S. Rose Fund, Inc., and the San Francisco Foundation.

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