

The Karl König Institute Newsletter is published by the Karl König Institute, Berlin, and the Karl König Archive, Aberdeen, Scotland  
 Editors: Richard Steel, Deborah Grace, Christoph Hanni [www.karlkoeniginstitute.org](http://www.karlkoeniginstitute.org) · [r.steel@karlkoeniginstitute.org](mailto:r.steel@karlkoeniginstitute.org)

### Inner Connections: Soul Breathing, Nature Breathing

#### *The Relevance of the Calendar of the Soul for Today's Nature Crisis*

The obvious relevance of the Calendar of the Soul from Rudolf Steiner for today's nature crisis, and the gentle, meditative drawings from Karl König to the Soul Calendar, made during his interment on the Isle of Man in 1940, served as the initial impulse to propose the *Inner Connections: Soul Breathing, Nature Breathing* conference in Järna, Sweden. The first conversations about undertaking this initiative took place in the grandiose Swedish countryside some 18 months ago, where the serenity and peace of this particular place in nature made the urgent distress of nature elsewhere seem even more acute.

The Kulturhuset, through Anders Kumlander, was generously prepared to develop and host this conference as a joint venture with the Karl König Institute, and with an invitation to exhibit the 52 drawings from König as a special feature of the event. The idea of the conference was to draw attention to our deep kinship with nature through the subtle breathing process of the soul in relation to her, so sublimely expressed in the development of the Soul Calendar verses.

Further, the idea was to embed art and culture as a central motif in the event – not as a pleasant add-on, but as a statement that aesthetics and culture themselves have a soul-formative element that ultimately can deepen and enhance our sense of kinship with, and therefore our responsibility to,

nature. By overcoming the "objectification" of nature, and its "otherness", as something outside and foreign to us, we can decrease and close the distance and strangeness we often perceive with nature. We can then, indeed, experience our powerful inner connections.

With this event, we also wanted to offer a truly public conference with a diverse group of speakers, workshops and related cultural offerings, with a daily thematic evolution over the two and a half days of: 1) Exploring Inner Connections, 2) Inner Connections – Outer Engagement, and 3) What does this have to do with me?

Thus, for example, we had keynotes "On Aliveness and Inner Connections" by the biologist and philosopher *Andreas Weber*, followed by *Richard Steel's* presentation on "The Calendar of the Soul – An inner path connecting to the Being of the Earth". But we also invited *Anders Wijkman* to speak, former President of the Club of Rome and European Parliamentarian, well known for his

decades' long engagement with climate issues and coauthor of the recent "Earth4All" report. And the former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, *Isabella Lövin*, delivered an evening talk on her work in politics at the highest levels on behalf of nature over many years and her new book "The Oceanic Feeling".

Together with the artistic workshops and "deep dive" discussions with the speakers, the conference offered an unusual mixture of entry points to a deeper view on our relationship to the climate crisis. Perhaps one could think that combining such diverse speakers and presenters is a risk in a predominantly anthroposophical milieu, combined with presentations in the English language. Yet to be able to speak about spiritual and cultural values, offer workshops on the Calendar of the Soul aided by Dr. König's drawings in a most impressive exhibit, learn about recent reports and political and eco-activists' engagements in one weekend, is precisely the risk we wanted to take and

felt necessary to take. This event was a first modest step in a direction that could be further developed and deepened. And for those who were previously unfamiliar with Karl König, his drawings and the Calendar of the Soul, this was a special and unique opportunity for which we are truly grateful.

*Cornelius Pietzner*

Karl König Institute Board member

*Järna, part of the exhibition of Karl König's 52 drawings for the Soul Calendar*





*Kulturhuset, Järna, Sweden*

## Reflections from the International Climate Conference in Järna

Three things came together that grew into a really significant conference. With one little shadow – but that only comes at the end. So in order:

First: the place – Järna is indeed a very special place! Located an hour south of Stockholm, embedded in an open area of meadows, fields, Baltic Sea foothills with its archipelago and forests, it is designed as a space in which nature and man can grow into a common whole, a "nature culture" with Demeter farms, a clinic, Waldorf schools, a large mill, gardens

with biological sewage treatment plants, art installations, and several small settlements in between. And an imposing conference building and hotel, designed for meetings where several hundred people can meet. A place that was thought of in a big way by its founders in the 70s.

Second: The two organizers of the conference also thought big: Anders Kumlander, one of the co-founders of Järna and Cornelius Pietzner, Board Director of the Karl König Institute. Thanks to his past global activities in the field of sustainable business and involvement with various spiritual currents (Camphill Movement/Goetheanum Executive Board, as well as the Dalai Lama's "Mind and Life Institute"), Cornelius is at home in a wide variety of worlds. And not only at home, but is networked and connected with the most diverse decision-makers as probably few people.

Thirdly, this broad horizon and the expansive network made possible a conference on the climate crisis that I had always wished for, but had never experienced before in this dimension: Both the participants and the lecturers came from a wide variety of worlds: activists, politicians, anthroposophists from diverse backgrounds, including ecologists, those interested in climate issues, system theorists, architects,

musicians... (we will talk about the latter later.)

This led to a climate conference that could be described in simplified terms as follows: "Anthroposophy (and above all Steiner's Calendar of the Soul, brought in by Richard Steel, Executive Director of the Karl König Institute through lectures and pictures) meets the climate movement – the climate movement meets anthroposophy".

But for me a more complex description would be more coherent: the most diverse approaches to the problem of the global ecological/climate crisis came together in Järna. From the anthroposophical side, in addition to Richard, Ursula Flatters, a Swedish doctor addressed the question: can the inner world of the soul come into relationship again with an ensouled outer world? How can "not-I" become I? How can one come into a completely new (relationship) spatial experience in which one acts ecologically out of love? All three contributions shimmered through with the modern consciousness: the soul has to expand its space in order to feel at least a corner of the "spiritual".

These perspectives were received –with astonishing appreciation by system theorists, politicians (one of whom was Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden until 1.5 years ago: Isabella Lövin), activists who are guided by holistic and systemic approaches, but have not yet deepened their spirituality, who also brought up these topics. I found this openness very gratifying. But the openness also took place the other way around: in a deeper understanding by the anthroposophical participants that a systemic view of the ecological, but also political world in its complex interactions is necessary if one wants to come into constructive action.

And the last two days were about options for action: Anders Wijkman, former President of the Club of Rome, presented, for example, an action plan for global transformation:

### Contents

Inner Connections: Soul  
Breathing, Nature Breathing.  
*Cornelius Pietzner* **1**

Reflecons from the International  
Climate Conference in Järna  
*Stefan Ruf* **2**

Karl König's Drawings  
Set Forth for North America!  
*Deborah Grace* **3**

Celebrating One Year!  
*Deborah Grace* **4**

Reflections on the Inner Journey  
*Letters from participants* **5**

The Living History Project  
*Deborah Grace* **6**

*Kaspar Hauser Research Circle:*  
**7–12**

"Earth4All". Or Kjetil Thorsen, who, among other things, designed the Oslo Opera House, spoke about a holistic architecture of connection.

But it was not only a conference of keynote speeches but also of practical deepening in many workshops. And it was a marvelous convention of music. And especially when it comes to the atmospheric, listening, the connecting spatial experience that music enables us, is a wonderful phenomenological approach. Fantastic musicians – an Ensemble (Vivaldi's: Four Seasons – played as if it were a premiere from timelessness) and Bach's solo suites for cello and violin framed the days. Perhaps the highlight was Tchaikovsky's piano trio combined with a lyrical reading of a work by Magnason on climate issues: "About Time and Water".

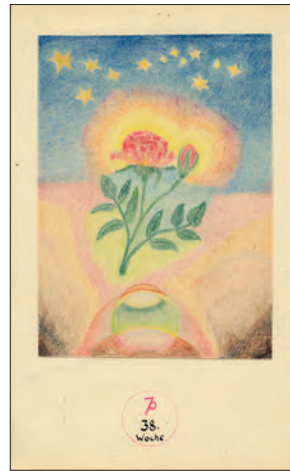
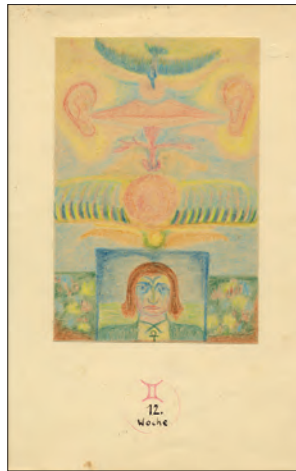
What was the little shadow? The number of participants was well under 100 people. Was it the date around Easter, the difficult accessibility (especially if you wanted to try to be climate-friendly), the conference language of English or the topic – in any case, significantly fewer people than possible came. Of course one can say: The right people probably were there... And yet, when it comes to this very relevant question, which is likely to bring us a number of social and ecological crises in the coming years, it would be essential to think and act together. Nevertheless, the attempt was made...

The fact that such an impulse came about with the primary participation of the Karl König Institute (and is already the second climate impulse after the conference in Berlin 2021) is very gratifying and shows the topicality of the Institute and thus also of Karl König's work – with the 52 meditative Soul Calendar drawings from König beautifully exhibited which permeated the atmosphere of the conference.

*Dr. Stefan Ruf, Berlin*

Karl König Institute Board member  
Managing Director and Therapist,  
Mäander Youth Services

## Karl König's Drawings Set Forth for North America!



Karl König's original drawings for the Calendar of the Soul are coming for the first time to North America!!! Created in 1940 when König was interned as an enemy alien during WWII on the Isle of Man, they which were first exhibited at Camphill Föhrenbühl in Germany in 1972. After that, the originals were not seen again until 2008, when they were brought as a first deed by Richard Steel to the newly formed Karl König Institute. In the 15 years since, Richard has exhibited König's drawings for the Institute several dozen across Europe and Great Britain.

König's drawings will be shown across North America from September 2023 – September 2024 by the Karl König Institute. They will be accompanied by talks on the theme by Richard Steel.

We are happy to say that Richard Steel's new English translations for the Calendar of the Soul will be published in time for the exhibitions.

The exhibition has generated good interest and is scheduled at the following locations, as of May 23, 2023.

Interest has also been expressed from a number of other venues, we hope to schedule a few more locations before the exhibition flies to Tel Aviv, Israel in November 2024.

*Please contact us for further information:*

[deborahgrace@karlkoeniginstitute.org](mailto:deborahgrace@karlkoeniginstitute.org)  
[office@karlkoeniginstitute.org](mailto:office@karlkoeniginstitute.org)

### 2023

- September 16–24: Rudolf Steiner Branch of the ASA, Chicago, Illinois
- September 27–October 1: Camphill Minnesota, Sauk Centre, MN
- October 27–November 2: Camphill Ghent, Chatham, NY
- November 4–17: Camphill Village Copake, Copake, NY

### 2024

- March 8–10: Threefold Branch of the ASA, Spring Valley, NY
- March 13–17: Otto Specht School at the Threefold Auditorium, Spring Valley, NY
- Spring: Anthroposophical Society of Greater Boston, together with the Christian Community, Boston, MA
- Spring: Anthroposophy NYC, NY
- May 3–5: Camphill California, Soquel, CA
- May: Sacramento Faust Branch of the ASA, Fair Oaks, CA
- May: Los Angeles Branch of the ASA, Pasadena, CA
- Autumn: Camphill Soltane, Glenmoore, PA



## Celebrating One Year!

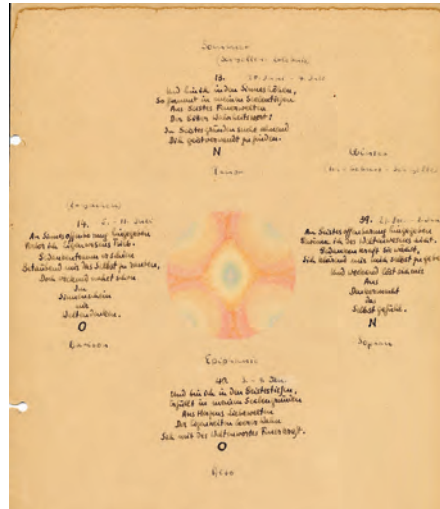
### *An Inner Journey through the Year*

A Yearlong Series of Talks on the Calendar of the Soul and Karl König's Drawings, given by *Richard Steel*

At Easter we celebrated one year of the "Inner Journey through the Year", a journey in which Richard Steel guided participants deep into the landscape of the Calendar of the Soul. Every Sunday for 52 weeks, Richard opened the enigmatic "doorways" Karl König had created with his drawings (which König made after having meditated on the verses for seven years).

The more than four hundred people taking part in this worldwide journey with Richard experienced how our human rhythms were connected to earthly and cosmic rhythms. We experienced how working with the "inner calendar" was healing for human life rhythms and for the being of the earth. We also experienced that by working together, a common strength could become available to the needs of the earth.

Many people who took part in the



One of the 13 'crosses' Karl König drew to illustrate that throughout the cycle of the year, there are always four verses that connect to and correspond with each other.

inner journey are participating in it again this year by following Richard's talks for the second time.

The Karl König Institute will publish two books arising from the inner

journey – a book of Richard's English translations for the verses of Calendar of the Soul will come out soon, and a two volume illustrated edition of his entire talk series is planned for publication in 2025.

New people are welcome to join the talk series at any time and it will remain online through Easter 2025. If interested in registering, please contact: [office@karlkoeniginstitute.org](mailto:office@karlkoeniginstitute.org)

We will share some reflections from participants so there is a picture of how the "Inner Journey" has been for people. (Next article)

With warm thanks to all of the participants – and a special honoring of those in China who took part in translations that were made week by week by their dedicated group – and warm thanks to Richard, too, from everyone.

*Deborah Grace*

Administrator

Karl König Institute in North America

## Everyone Needs Friends – the Institute, Too!



*Dear friends,*

We are inaugurating the ***Friends of the Karl König Institute in North America!***

Our work here started when we received a three-year grant from Camphill Foundation and Camphill Soltane provided us with office space for three years. *Thanks to them, the Institute's work on this continent was launched!*

However... these three years in North America will be over for the Institute at Michaelmas 2024.

We are committed! And for the work here to continue into the future, we need committed friends!

*Would you be willing to pledge annual support for the work of the Karl König Institute in North America?*

Whatever you pledge will be gratefully received! What matters is knowing we can count on your support.

*Please contact Deborah or Richard to make a pledge.*

With big and heartfelt thanks!!! *Richard and Deborah*

Contact: [deborahgrace@karlkoeniginstitute.org](mailto:deborahgrace@karlkoeniginstitute.org)

[office@karlkoeniginstitute.org](mailto:office@karlkoeniginstitute.org)

## Reflections on the Inner Journey

*Peter Skaller*, retired priest of the Christian Community

The first thing that happens when you log in to Richard's Calendar of the Soul talks is seeing his smiling face and then hearing "Welcome!" spoken with the palpable warmth of sincerity. We then hear that this week's verse is "special", which, by the time one is well into the sequence, even becomes a bit humorous, but eventually one realizes that Richard is right: every verse is indeed "special." Since we meet Richard every week, we also get to appreciate a real human being on the other end, noticing his shifts in mood, as well as recognizable patterns in word-use! There is a friend on the other end with whom one can connect.

What I just wrote is no small thing. The messengers can be even more important than the message insofar as they can determine the degree to which the heart opens to receive. In these presentations Richard is a "heart-opener". And one always senses how what he says comes from his own work and insights. Thus, the content was always alive, not simply regurgitated anthroposophy.

Of course here and there one can always quibble over translations and Richard often acknowledges this. But this notwithstanding, the orderly relating of the verses to one another, in conjunction with Karl Koenig's drawings, makes clear how the verses form a lawful whole. The drawings, without Richard's help, would often be riddles. His deciphering of them adds a completely new realm of understanding these verses. It was wonderful, and comforting, to rhythmically return week after week to these presentations of The Calendar of the Soul.

Warmly,  
*Peter Skaller*

*Anna*

Richard's reflections have awoken in me in a deeper way not only the need to try to experience Nature at the moment, but to feel in advance – "vorfühlen" – the ever changing, quickening forces in Nature. This is healing medicine for the earth!!! Richard, as well as Rudolf Steiner, has left us with a riddle as to how to do that.

And there is a small group in Camp-hill Ghent who listen to Richard's weekly talks together and then follow his contemplations with eurythmy. Every time we are enlivened by our endeavors.

*Karin*

I cannot express with words the phenomenal journey as Richard shares his high knowledge of the Calendar of the Soul. I have read it for 10 years on and off, but Richard's work is truly a gem, with his clear explanations, both in the broad view and in the details of how everything is working together as a whole. I could really understand week by week where we are standing in the year and it was for me a very spiritual experience. I am so thankful that this format allows me to participate, as I come from Mexico City – and it is remarkable that this Calendar of the Soul community has become like family which I can feel as part of my heart.

*Martee*

I so love tuning in to Richard's insights each week and know there is much glean from the wisdom of Karl König and of Richard. I am also particularly interested in ways to support the healing of Mother Earth, so I am grateful for this new and deeper way of working with the Calendar of the Soul, through the "Inner Journey through the Year".

*Guadalupe*

Richard's talks have been far more than I imagined, doorways to deepened feeling-understanding, with keys to unlocking aspects that had long remained closed to me – but above all, they have breathed such warm love into the relationship between earth, cosmos and us, the human being. Every verse came far more alive than I ever suspected was possible. A friend following the talks said that Richard resurrects the words off the page. I could not have said it better. I'm deeply moved by his consistent devotion to this special work with the Calendar of the Soul, and Karl König's drawings, which are illuminating and anchoring. I always feel so harmonized, enlivened and centered from working with what Richard has offered.

*Deb*

I offer my deepest gratitude for the Calendar of the Soul presentations which have touched my heart and strengthened my faith in God. This inner journey has helped me connect images, words, experiences and innermost feelings so that I am absolutely certain in my heart that God is present within and without all of us. This heartfelt knowledge gives me a great deal of comfort and hope for dealing with the chal-



Richard Steel

lenges of today and the future. Thank you for guiding me and us on this soul journey with your incredibly sensitive and deeply meaningful translations of the Calendar of the Soul verses. It is a journey that has brought so much light into darkness and will continue bringing inspiration through its spiritual impact. This is truly an experience of a lifetime for me!

*Glenda*

I have worked with the Calendar of the Soul for many years, yet longed to deepen that work. Participating in this "Inner Journey" with Richard, experiencing his incredible insight and wisdom, has deepened my whole relationship with the Calendar of the Soul. I am experiencing new insight into the constant, subtle, cyclic changes

of the spiritual world as it manifests in nature and the cosmos. Experiencing this both inwardly and outwardly is part of my journey to becoming fully human, and is changing my relationship to life itself. I share in Richard's hope that "we – together – can contribute something out of the striving of our will and the love of our hearts towards healing and peace."

## The Living History Project – And Gratitude!

Three dozen interviews with elders across North America, Europe and Great Britain have been done by the Karl König Institute. They are with people who experienced Karl König and the beginnings of Camphill. And from this, the Living History project is creating a video record which along with offering enjoyment, will also help with the education of coworkers, historical research, public relations and fundraising. Here are brief impressions from two interviews.

Roswitha Mal was a child who grew up in Camphill Scotland. One day she saw an older boy hitting a little girl with Down syndrome, so Roswitha jumped in and started hitting him back. As luck would have it, Karl König drove up just then and she heard him bellow, "Ros-witha!!!" Six year-old Roswitha did not back down, rather she told Dr. König what

had really happened. And he listened (with a small twinkle in his eye) and said to her, "Yes, yes, I see... but maybe next time, you could go and get a grownup to help, all right?"

Roswitha said that soon afterwards when the family was invited to Dr. König's house for lunch, she felt a bit nervous – until he wanted to hear all about her animals. She was worried that the disease afflicting the wild rabbits might also infect her pets, and Dr. König went into detail about how to feed and care for her beloved rabbits so they stayed well. Later, he often asked about their health.

When Roswitha was 13, her mother encouraged her to go to a talk of Dr. König's, "The Elephant and the Mouse". She was reluctant – but as he lectured, Roswitha grew entranced. She said, "Karl König became the elephant, slowly moving with his big trunk, and he became the little mouse on his tiny feet." Roswitha observed that she never noticed Dr. König's small stature, because he felt so mighty, as if he were a lion.

On the theme of Karl König listening, Adola McWilliam spoke of being a young coworker in Camphill: "When one came for a conversation with Dr. König, which we all were allowed to have regularly, he had us sit down and was always very hospitable. But he just sat – and waited until one started speaking. He hardly said anything. And I was always amazed at how much could come out of you! You said things you had no idea were

in you – as if he had advised you to say them – but they came from yourself! Dr. König was just sitting there. I experienced him as being like a great shell from the great ocean, taking you in, taking it all in. He listened, he knew how to truly listen."

Editing these interviews is perhaps the most critical aspect of the process and must be done professionally; and for this, the Institute had to seek funding. A grant we'd hoped for didn't come through – but then something amazing happened! The friends in Camphill Copake heard about this need and generously gave \$10,000 so that the editing is happening now! From the Karl König Institute team, we want to say *A Big Thank You* to everyone in Camphill Copake, for making the Living History project a success!!!

*Deborah*

*Karl König and John. Camphill 1955*



*Adola McWilliam*





## The Kaspar Hauser Research Circle

The Karl König Institute spread its support around the work of the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle on December 17, 2016. This would surely gratify Karl König, who recognized that Kaspar Hauser was at the heart of Camphill. König called on people in Camphill to stand around Kaspar, the "child of Europe", protector of the inviolability of the human spirit, by uniting with him and by forming bonds of brother-sisterhood with one another in the life and work of Camphill. With the new English Karl König Institute Newsletter, we are also including articles representing the work of the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle.



Richard and Eckart in Pennsylvania

## A Greeting from the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle

*Dear friends and sponsors of the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle!*

Exactly one hundred years ago, a very important and relevant conversation about Kaspar Hauser took place between Rudolf Steiner and Ehrenfried Pfeiffer (a chemist, biochemist, pioneer of ecological farming and pioneer of anthroposophical work in North America, 1899–1961). As they drove by car from Stuttgart to Dornach (and the young Ehrenfried had grown up and gone to school in Nuremberg), Rudolf Steiner raised the topic of Kaspar Hauser.

Kaspar Hauser's mighty task to re-found the social-political structure of central Europe had been prevented. But from this conversation between Steiner and Pfeiffer, we learn something crucial about the task of the "child of Europe", which despite all the adversarial forces, he was able to accomplish. This is a weighty truth with which one is confronted regarding Kaspar Hauser; the fact that his

great, primary task, namely that of a social-political development of central Europe, could be prevented. However, after the hereditary prince was released from his occult imprisonment, following which he then bore the name Kaspar Hauser, he could achieve something – even when this is very difficult to measure and is written on a completely different "page". And that is the great mystery! We discover a decisive indication from Rudolf Steiner for how this enigmatic individual is to be understood in his true being. They are mighty words, enormous words that were communicated.

On the final page of the ninth volume of his work "Contributions to the History of the Occident" Heyer wrote: "The dimensions by which Rudolf Steiner saw the figure of Kaspar Hauser is expressed by his words (which we have from a very reliable source): *If Kaspar Hauser had not lived and died as he did, then the connection between the human being on earth and the spiritual world would have been completely severed!*"

This opens further perspectives. However, Heyer did not name the source! In the meantime, through the Kaspar Hauser work in the USA, we know now that Steiner's essential words were heard and written down by Pfeiffer!\*

This mighty statement of Rudolf

Steiner's requires deep and ongoing research, which is a primary task of the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle. It is our aim to create a vivid connection between the historical, worldly research and the spiritual, intellectual research. Only by connecting this great arc will it be possible to rightly come to terms with the essence of Kaspar Hauser. If one were to linger for too long in the historical, then the important future-oriented nature of the Kaspar Hauser impulse would be lost. If one were to linger too long in the spiritual-esoteric, then one's footing would be lost and with it, any effective force!

The research we do is continually progressing and we are glad to announce that we have found a person qualified to read and historically organize the letters of Stefanie Beauharnais, which we were able to locate in Hungary. Now a huge task has begun, for there are approximately 5,000 documents, the majority of which are handwritten and in the French of the 19th century! We will report more on this in the next Newsletter – also about the work of Paul Heldens, who is doing untiring research in the archive.

It was also possible for us to publish (in German) the fascinating letters between Hermann Pies, whose estate we manage, and Jakob Wassermann (whose 150th birthday was on the 10th of March this year).

And we are grateful to report that the past year was once again a very fruitful one for our work. It began in the spring of 2022 with the third

### Contents

A Greeting from the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle

Eckart Böhmer 7

"The most loving, complete and beautiful book"

Winfried Altmann 8

Threads of Destiny, Connections to Camphill

Richard Steel 9

On the 150th Birthday of Jakob Wassermann

Richard Steel 10

\*What Rudolf Steiner said about Kaspar Hauser to Ehrenfried Pfeiffer was first set to record by Pfeiffer in a lecture he gave on December 8, 1946 in Spring Valley, "The Task of the Archangel Michael", Mercury Press.

Kaspar Hauser festival on the east coast of North America, *Kaspar Hauser and the Apocalypse*, then reached a high point in the summer with the 13. Kaspar Hauser pageants in Ansbach, and continued deep into the autumn with Kaspar Hauser conferences in Budapest and Oslo!

Dear friends and sponsors of our work, I would like to express my

heartfelt thanks to all of you for your interest and support, without which we could not accomplish this work! And we will continue to need your support in the future – for big, new tasks approach us, in particular now with the Kaspar Hauser Center for Healing Pedagogy in Ansbach entering a significant phase of development, and we will share more about

this on our website.

I would like to close with words of Kaspar Hauser that speak to us and show what he demanded of himself!

*Virtue is the only thing that can make us heirs to immortality and bring us close to divinity.*

Warmest regards,  
Eckart Boehmer

## "The most loving, complete and beautiful book"

### *A Letter from Golo Mann to Hermann Pies*

A find from the archive

During the viewing and sorting of the literary inheritance of Hermann Pies, one can sometimes make surprising discoveries and find documents that show how deeply entwined he was in the cultural life of his time. Furthermore, these are witness to the high

regard he had for his work on Kaspar Hauser, as is shown in this letter from Golo Mann, March 21st 1967: "Your book seems to me by far the most scientifically precise, and at the same time the most loving, complete and beautiful."

Winfried Altmann

Most honorable Sir Dr. Pies,

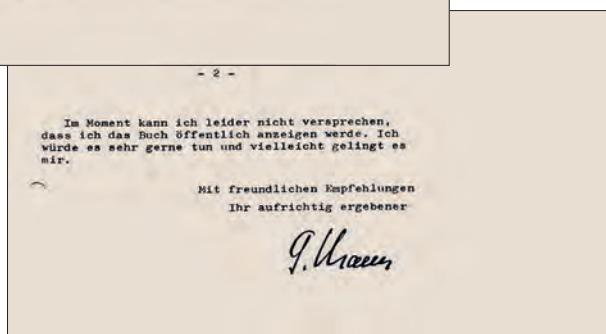
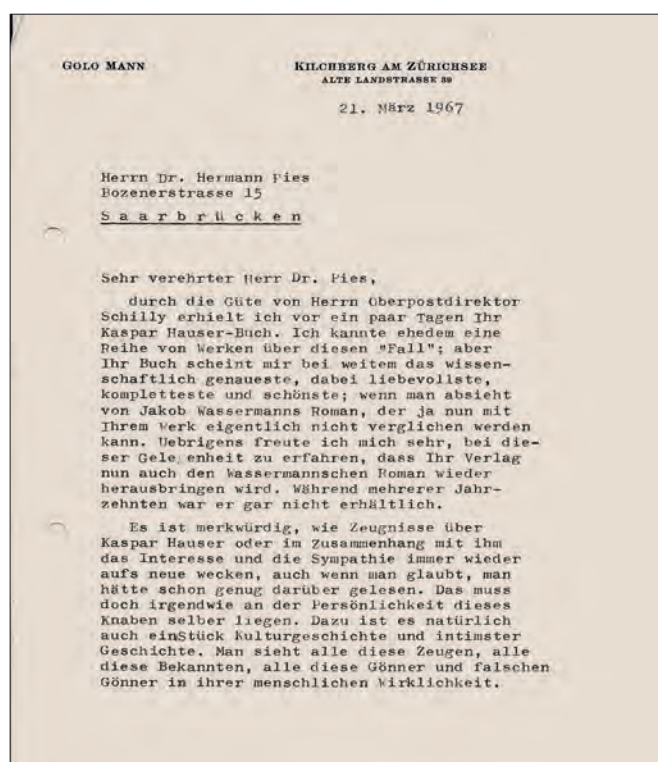
A few days ago, by the goodness of Mr. postmaster Shilly, I received your Kaspar Hauser book. I was previously familiar with several works about this "case", but your book seems to me by far the most scientifically precise, and at the same time the most loving, complete and beautiful – apart from Jacob Wassermann's novel – which really cannot be compared to your work. By the way I was very happy on this occasion to discover that your publishing house will be reissuing Wasserman's novel. It was not available for several decades.

It is remarkable how testaments to Kaspar Hauser or in relation to him, always awaken renewed interest and sympathy, even when one believes to have read enough on the subject. This must somehow be a result of the personality of the boy himself. Thereby it is of course a piece of cultural history and of the most intimate history. One sees all these witnesses, all these acquaintances, all these benefactors and false benefactors in their human reality.

Unfortunately, at the moment I cannot promise that I will advertise the book to the public. I would very much like to and perhaps I will achieve this.

With kind regards  
Your loyal friend

*G. Mann*





## Threads of Destiny, Connections to Camphill

### *Another Chapter of Refugee Stories*

And Another Bridge Between Camphill and Kaspar Hauser

Golo Mann was a famous German historian and the son of the writer Thomas Mann, who was so outspoken about the rise of Hitler that he had to escape to the US in 1933. Thomas's sons, Golo and Klaus, were also committed to the anti-Facist cause and helped in the French and Czech resistance.

On 13 September 1940, Golo undertook a daring escape from Perpignan, France, traveling across the high Pyrenees mountains into Spain. With him were his uncle Heinrich Mann, the latter's wife Nelly Kröger and others who all had papers for a ship to New York City. His parents had already made their home in New Jersey.

Golo joined the American Army, following his brother Klaus, and was sent after the war to Europe to observe the war trials in Nuremberg. He started his career as historian at the University of California, returning then to Europe to write his best selling book: *The History of Germany Since 1789*, which is still an important reference book on the theme and has sold millions of copies in nine languages.

It is his other famous book that is of interest for us at the Institute. In his youth, Golo played the character of Wallenstein in Schiller's play, at the Castle School of Salem in Lake Constance. It was a life-changing experience for him and for the rest of his life Golo – like Karl König – had a deep connection to this otherwise little known social utopian and peace advocate. Wallenstein's Sovereign Duchy of Friedland (Peace Land) was in eastern Bohemia, where Camphill Village Ceske Kopisty is now located; this is also in the township of Theresienstadt, which played such an infamous role in World War Two. Only in 1971 did Golo get to write his book: *Wallenstein, His Life, Narrated by Golo Mann*.

All three – Thomas, Klaus and Golo Mann knew Jakob Wassermann and were interested in the destiny of Kaspar Hauser. We have letters from Golo and from Klaus to Hermann Pies in our archive. Thomas Mann wrote a review of Wassermann's "Kaspar Hauser" novel when it was first published in 1908 (In the *Münchener Neuesten Nachrichten*, July 20 1908) and called it the "pinnacle of his work" and "an absolute serendipity of artistic creativity". Thomas Mann and Jakob Wassermann esteemed the same peers in literature and published with the same company – but they also had the same enemies! (One in particular was the anti-Semitic author and journalist Adolf Bartels, who then became the main figure in national socialist cultural policy.)

But there are still more threads of destiny! How did Golo manage to get papers to enter the US? Well, there is a fascinating book that tells this story, which was kept rather secret by the American Government for some time... The book, by Robert Bingham, is called "Courageous Dissent". It is about his father, Hiram Bingham IV (son of the explorer who discovered Machu Picchu). Hiram was US Vice Consul in Marseille in the difficult years from 1937. He was therefore in a position to help a great number of Jewish people and other refugees out of Europe and in this, he worked together with Varian Fry, who risked his life helping anti-Nazi refugees escape after France surrendered to Nazi Germany. Hiram Bingham did this rescue work in defiance of Government orders. That is why, in the end, he was sent from the dangerous situation in the French port to Spain, where the government probably thought he would be out of the way. But instead, once there, Hiram facilitated refugees to cross over the French Pyrenees by foot into Spain.



Golo Mann

There, they received visas in Spain from Hiram and were brought to sail from Lisbon to the United States, to safety.

Amongst these refugees crossing the Pyrenees mountains were Marc Chagall and his wife Bella, Golo, his uncle Heinrich Mann with Nelly (Heinrich wrote about the escape in his memoirs), Franz Werfel and Alma Mahler-Werfel – who Karl König had known in Vienna (see the wonderful essay and letters in our book *At the Threshold of the Modern Age*).

And – there was also a young family, carrying a small child in a rucksack, climbing the mountain passes...

In 1941 Hiram was reassigned to Buenos Aires. But once in Argentina, he began writing reports about fascist activities there and warned that the whole of South America could become a seeding ground for a new wave of Nazi developments. Because he was increasingly ignored, he resigned from his position in 1944. Varian Fry became famous, but the story of Hiram was kept quiet, until 1998, when, through the insistence of Varian Fry, Hiram was featured for the first time in an exhibition in Yad Vashem – honored, 10 years after



Mike Kraus

his death. By then many of those traveling to meet Hiram in Spain were well known. But what about the young family with the child in a rucksack?

The infant in the rucksack had become ill with scarlet fever, and due to the unfavorable conditions and lack of medical assistance in the mountains, this led to a lasting disability, which in turn led the family to find a movement founded by Jewish refugees who had started a village community in New York State... And so destiny brought it about that this boy, Mike Kraus, now a young adult, became a resident of Camphill Village Copake. And there, a son of Hiram Bingham was also living at that time, Ben Bingham! Ben and his wife Jenny had found Camphill in their search for meaningful social innovation. Also as destiny would have it, the administrator of our North American office, Deborah Grace, arrived in Copake when Golo was fulfilling a destiny task by writing the Wallenstein book. Mike and Deborah lived together in a Camphill household for many years. She described him as a person who was very aware of things and was kind and noble in spirit. Deborah said Mike always saw the needs and was ready to help and that his friendship was a support on her own path – he, who as a child had escaped with his parents on paths through storms, over high mountains, to safety from the Nazis, to freedom!

Richard Steel

## On the 150th Birthday of Jakob Wassermann

### *A very relevant biography*

Richard Steel for the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle in the Karl König Institute

Jakob Wassermann, author of many remarkable books – novels, short stories, biographies and essays – was born on the 10th of March 1873 in Fürth. Today he is best known for his book *Kaspar Hauser, or the Inertia of the Heart*. Another of his works should be mentioned now, in memory of the 90th anniversary of his death, which fell on the night of the 1st of January 1934: *My Path as German and Jew*. Wassermann often addressed this profound question of his own destiny, and it is not difficult to imagine that it was related to the ultimate tragedy of his fate.

In 1933, Wassermann was at the height of his productivity and up to then was one of the most read authors in the German language. The list of his works is long; several of his books have been translated into English. *The Mauritius Case, My Marriage, Columbus – Don Quixote of the Seas* and *The Goose Man* for instance.

It was just in the year 1933 that his *Introspections* appeared – but only shortly before he was excluded from the Prussian Academy of the Arts. Not long thereafter came the mass burning of forbidden books, which is commemorated here in Berlin with the monument right next to the State Opera House (called the "Silent Library"). It was May 10th 1933, almost exactly 100 years after Kaspar's confirmation. To Wassermann, this edict meant not only his material ruin and his career's end, but in particular, the collapse of his cherished lifelong hope that through his work, he could help to create a world of peace, without nationalist tensions and without racial hatred. It was not to be, as before first daylight dawned in the year 1934, at the age of 60, impoverished and mentally broken, Wassermann died in Altausee, Austria. (And did he die, perhaps, before he could have been murdered?)

In our library of the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle there is a special book by Wassermann: *Lebensdienst (Life Service)*, published in 1928 – perhaps not coincidentally, 100 years after the appearance of the founding Kaspar Hauser! Our copy carries the Nazi stamp: Verboten/Forbidden. It was one of the books that was to be taken to the pile in the Bebel Square in Berlin and burned... it was also never printed again. (This burning of books also happened at 18 other German universities.)

We are printing the most important parts of the book *Lebensdienst (Life Service)* now (in German first), along with the letters we have between Wassermann and Hermann Pies. Among the many interesting essays in the book are some that would be very important for those interested in Kaspar Hauser: *Documents in Defence of Kaspar Hauser*. These are deeply moving accounts, especially considering the subtitle of his Kaspar Hauser novel: *Inertia of the Heart*. Wassermann writes of his experiences with the novel and its reception – and we can ask, was it "only" because he was Jewish – or was the condemnation of his Kaspar Hauser novel caused by malicious intent towards the being of Kaspar Hauser? Wassermann was of the following opinion:

*For how much longer will the lie have power over your remembrance, Caspar Hauser, for how much longer will it sully the purest image of a human that we know? At that time, I fell into a kind of despairing optimism. If all the signs do not deceive, I said, then the truth is on its way. Since the hideous murder in the Ansbach court garden in December 1833, the conscience of humanity has not ceased to be disturbed. And archives, that until recently were inaccessible to every request and research project, will perhaps soon be available. Was I perhaps mistaken?*



*In my autobiographical book "My path as German and Jew", looking back at the time at which I published the Caspar Hauser novel, I wrote: "Initially there arose a nasty controversy about the remembrance of Caspar Hauser, and a cloudburst of malicious insults and arrogant rebukes rained down on me, accusations of a crime, to have stirred up renewed interest in the fable of the foundling's princely origins, and to have done it in the service of a sensation hungry public."*

Immediately following the publication of his Kaspar Hauser book, Wasserman was harshly attacked by critics, to the extent that he felt obliged to defend himself through his writings and thus wrote the aforementioned *Documents in Defence of Kaspar Hauser*. Yet, it is actually Kaspar he defends, more than himself! And it is strange that this rejection of Wasserman, often in silent omission, still lives on: If one reads about Wassermann on the internet, the Kaspar Hauser novel is often only mentioned as a side note. The attacks against him are barely mentioned, if at all – even in an essay about the tragedy of his life!

To turn to more personal aspects of his biography, at the age of seventeen, Wasserman came to the decision to write about Kaspar Hauser. And it was his personal experience that compelled him to put pen to paper. His own grandfather had met and experienced Kaspar Hauser and often described this to the young Jakob. The boy was so stirred by these stories that although yet a youth, he would embark on his own journey, seeking out elderly people who could still tell him of their own personal encounters with Kaspar Hauser. Soon Wasserman felt Kaspar Hauser's presence for himself, in the whole Franconian landscape, in the old town of Nuremberg, Kaspar's presence was felt.



Jakob Wassermann

Writing about Kaspar became for Wasserman a "life service". By 1905, at the age of 33, Wasserman had pretty much completed this body of work, however it did not fulfill his high expectations and he put it all aside, to focus instead on writing social critical essays – they were to be named *The Inertia of the Heart*!

Then came the decisive experience, which he describes in his Notes. He quotes his journal from the 3rd of December 1905:

*Yesterday evening was a red-letter day and deserves to be marked as such in my calendar. For a long time, I agonized over the old material for "The Inertia of the Heart", and slowly came to or by some power was brought to the conviction that a general story, even if it is quite lively and takes its characters from figures of the present time, no longer had meaning for me and would merely lead to refined psychology. This is not enough for me. Why, I finally said to myself, for the love of an idea should I further*

*drag along material that does not completely fulfill me? Must it not become an artistic representation? And as if by the fire of a lightning bolt I tore myself loose of all this, all of a sudden the vision of Caspar Hauser was united within me with the idea of Inertia, the whole tragedy stood there powerfully, and the title was written in shining letters on the wall: "Caspar Hauser or The Inertia of the Heart." Now his work on Kaspar Hauser had to be rewritten and was then only published in 1908. However, this – may one say, spiritual – experience in 1905 clearly maintained its significance for Wassermann.*

Someone else was during this same period intensely occupied with the spiritual, someone else who recognized the importance of Kaspar Hauser – Rudolf Steiner – he was in those days of 1905 in Cologne. Could it be more than "coincidence" that just on that 2nd of

December, he gave a lecture about the "Beautitudes" from the Sermon of the Mount, and on the 3rd of December, about the Lohengrin legend, Parzival and the Grail? In that lecture, Steiner quotes the wisdom of the Knights Templar with interesting words:

*The sun will then enter the constellation of Aquarius. This is when Christianity will really emerge... John, of whom they speak, is Aquarius.*  
(The German for Aquarius is "Wassermann"!)

Then when Karl König occupied himself with Jakob Wassermann, he determined:

*Jakob Wassermann died on New Year's Eve of the fateful year 1933. One hundred years and fourteen days after the death of Kaspar Hauser. And once again the sun and the moon stood opposite each other. Mars, Venus and Saturn and the lunar nodes... all stood in Aquarius.*

This leads us to the background of this article. In 2018 the Kaspar Hauser



Research Circle was founded around Eckart Böhmer in the Karl König Institute, and since then we have hoped that the special essays by Jakob Wassermann – *Documents in Defence of Kaspar Hauser* – could be published again. This article can perhaps give our English readers a taste for the importance of these texts. I hope we will get all of this translated one day!

Furthermore, we have the inheritance of Hermann Pies in our archives and there we have a series of letters between Pies, the researcher, who dedicated his life to Kaspar Hauser, and Jakob Wassermann! It is very moving, how they, so to say passed the baton to one another in matters related to the "defense of Kaspar Hauser". Here are two excerpts from their exchange of letters:

Wassermann to Pies: *your letter was of tremendous interest to me, and made me happy as it was proof that the truth was on its way.*

Hermann Pies to Wassermann: *your novel seemed to offer a broad platform for attack by all those who are not able to experience the intuitively and psychologically faultlessly constructed truth, and demand lifeless documents instead of the living truth.*

The ground-breaking research by Hermann Pies (1888-1983) was inspired by Wassermann's novel, a direct thread to those who met Kaspar Hauser. It is wonderful that Claudius Weise is now helping us to publish these letters, along with *Documents in Defence of Kaspar Hauser*, with a very helpful commentary! This book will certainly speak to every inertia-free heart interested in Kaspar Hauser! And now we would like to share this amazing story with our English readers so that we can give you a little impression at least, even if we can't yet promise to translate this book. If you should feel inspired to help us with this translation, we would love to hear from you!

Finally, it should be Wassermann who will have the last word here (and particularly from his book *My Path as German and Jew!*):

*Today, as ever, I am still filled with the conviction that Caspar Hauser really was the crown prince, for whom Daumer and Feuerbach and later many others, were hushed up or slandered or murdered. Enough documented proof and trustworthy witnesses have come to my eyes and ears, and others will one day come to light from the treacherously hidden archives. The intrigues speak for themselves... Today, as ever, I am convinced that the name, the life and the death of Caspar Hauser has resulted in a guilt that has not been atoned for, which continues to grow like all guilt that is not atoned for.*

It is a hope that the work of the Karl König Institute and Kaspar Hauser Research Circle can bring expiation towards the continued "guilt of that which must be atoned".



Greg Tricker, *My Life* (depicting Kaspar Hauser and his wooden horse in his dungeon)

### Please make **Donations**

to the Karl König Institute's North American Office via Camphill Foundation:

**<https://camphillfoundation.org/kki-donation>**

Or send a **check** with **KKI** in the memo line to: Camphill Foundation, PO Box 820, Uwchland, PA 19480

Please make **International Donations** via the Institute's website:

**<https://www.karlkoeniginstitute.org/en/donations.asp>**

**Questions to:** [deborahgrace@karlkoeniginstitute.org](mailto:deborahgrace@karlkoeniginstitute.org). **THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!!**