



Bild von der Archiv Gründung mit Richard Steel

Bericht aus Camphill Correspondence, Januar/Februar 2014

Camphill Archive Inaugural Meeting

On 9th November 2013 we celebrated the inauguration of the Camphill Archive in the Camphill Chapel, a stone's throw from Camphill House, the home of the Karl König Archive. Richard Steel opened with an address taking us from the significance of the date November 9th in Central European and world history up to questions of how an archive can become a tool for working into the future. Karl König's favourite composer, Gustav Mahler - who was incidentally born in the same little Moravian town as Bertha König! - put his endeavour already into a nutshell: "Tradition is to tend to the fire and not to worship the ashes". There were many guests, mostly from the places around Aberdeen, who joined the Karl König Archive trustees and the archivists of the new archive: John Byrde from Duffcarrig, Cherry How from Clanabogan and Richard Keys from Camphill School. There were also greetings and good wishes from people from further away who could not make the journey, like Christoph König, Brigitte Köber and Nick Poole. The chapel was more than full! By a lucky coincidence, this archive event followed on a regional Camphill community meeting in Newton Dee in the morning. The presence of our guests enriched both meetings.

The Camphill Chapel has become the—perhaps only temporary—home of this initiative. It has itself a notable history, as it was from early Camphill beginnings a place where the Offering Service and the Camphill Community meetings were held. For its new task it has been given a large roof window to allow more light in. The altar space had been designed and carved in the 1940s by Paul Bay. In the back of the room boxes are filled with print and photographs, the stuff of which archives are made of, waiting to be sorted and catalogued.

This material has been coming together in the Karl König Archive rooms in the last few years, often from faraway places, until it became clear that it needed its own place. While over in Camphill House all of Karl König's manuscripts, notes,

lectures and books find their home, here in the Camphill Archive books, lectures and art of Thomas and Anke Weihs, Carlo Pietzner, Peter Roth, Peter Engel, Hans-Heinrich Engel, Hans van der Stok and many more people will come together. Also community records, reports and photographs will be stored here. This archive has the potential to become more voluminous than Karl König's legacy, except for the hope that with the modern technology of digitisation quantity will not necessarily translate into space. The range of this archive is obviously open-ended, as the Camphill movement is still developing. The literature about Camphill is constantly expanding.

The trustees of the Karl König Archive are very happy to assist this work with their expertise, particularly with regard to indexing and ordering which was gained in a steep learning curve over the last few years. They were gathered here not only to help with this founding, but also to spend an intensive week working together. The suggestion is to order the Camphill Archive material modelled on the categories used for Karl König's work:

1. Medical (therapies/nurses)
2. Curative Education/Social Therapy/Youth Guidance (diagnostics, craft, village)
3. Education/Psychology/Training (Seminar)
4. Agriculture/Science/Nutrition
5. Social/Threefold Social Order (homemaking, community building)
6. Camphill Movement/Region/Country
7. Religion/Festivals
8. General Anthroposophy
9. Inner Development
10. General History/Camphill Biographies (diaries)
11. Art/Literature/Music/Drama/
12. Inner Community

This archive will become a very exciting collection of a unique movement that, while struggling more than ever with its own development garners growing interest from the public that has many questions and needs a portal through which it can find out about all aspects of Camphill.

The mood of the participants of the founding meeting was very encouraging for this work to go ahead. The whole movement is called to strengthen the awareness of the riches that can be found in our places - on bookshelves, in cupboards, in boxes stored in lofts and garages. There is precious material that the Camphill archivists would like to collect and preserve for posterity. Please, if you come across material that is potentially of interest, get in touch with the Camphill Archive, to find out exactly just how important it might be. We also would like to hear from you if you can contribute some of your time and expertise to this effort.

To get in touch with the Camphill Archive please contact for the time being Christoph Hanni, aberdeen@karl-koenig-archive.net or Richard Steel, r.steel@karl-koenig-archive.net until the Camphill Archivists have their own dedicated email addresses, details of which will be displayed in due course on the website of the Karl König Institute www.karl-koenig-institute.net .

On behalf of the trustees of the Camphill Archive: John Byrde, Cherry How, Richard Keys

Christoph Hanni