

The Rose Cross in Europe IV

Questions of Spiritual Identity

A three-day conference examining the deeper historical challenges facing Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries



Prague

17 – 20 November 2011

THIS IS THE FOURTH CONFERENCE ON *THE ROSE CROSS IN EUROPE* AGAIN A FREESTANDING EVENT, AND IT IS THEREFORE NOT NECESSARY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO HAVE ATTENDED LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE. THIS TIME WE DECIDED TO FOCUS ON THE PLETHORA OF CONFUSING MESSAGES BEING PRESENTED TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ALTERNATIVE AND SPIRITUAL MOVEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY AND HOW THESE MIGHT BE UNDERSTOOD AND COPED WITH.



“Down with the Mystery Temples of the New World Order!” – What is the Meaning of the Contemporary Anti-Rosicrucian Critiques Emerging in Alternative Circles in the West? – Terry Boardman

One notable feature of modern life that has been bubbling away under the surface of mainstream culture since the development of the Internet is the growth of alternative history and conspiracy ‘communities’. Out of these communities in recent years have come many comprehensive, would-be ‘alternative spiritual sciences’ which, like anthroposophy, claim to understand the process of human evolution. The ideas in these movements are spreading from the USA across the world. A common thread in these movements is that many of them attack what they regard as the contemporary heritage of the ancient Mystery streams, which, they claim, are directly responsible for the burgeoning, tyrannical global elitism of ‘the New World Order’. The ‘Rosicrucians’ are often a prime target in these circles. Many efforts are being made to discredit the stream of the Rose Cross. Is this mere ignorance, or is there something more to it? A movement such as that of anthroposophy that regards itself as linked in a positive way to the Rose Cross heritage of the 13th-19th centuries must take note of this phenomenon in which many today argue forcefully that ‘Rosicrucians’ represent a great danger to the human race. What is the nature of these arguments and what is driving them? Terry Boardman's talk will examine these questions in relation to an anthroposophical understanding of the 21st century.

Deceptions and Delusions – Markus Osterrieder

It is perhaps a symptom of mankind's crossing of the threshold that it becomes evermore essential to learn how not to succumb to deceptions or delusions, whether externally imposed or self-created. This is one of the trials of the spiritual path, on the quest for higher knowledge (Erkenntnis).

Especially since we entered cyberspace, we are flooded by all sorts of deceptions that attempt to blur the sense for what is real or fake.

Markus intends to address this question by giving several examples and illustrations from different fields of social life over the past 100 years as well as from spiritual experience.

Swedenborgianism or Anthroposophy – Alternative pictures of the “Western Esoteric Tradition” – Richard Ramsbotham

When Madame Blavatsky moved the headquarters of the Theosophical Society to Adyar, in India, it left an unanswered question concerning the significance of the true spiritual ground and sources of European, ‘Western’ culture. Rudolf Steiner’s work directly addressed this question, evolving a spirituality appropriate to European culture, and leading to all the work in different spheres of life that has arisen from this. But others too attempted to answer this question. In America and England groups developed, such as the ‘Hermetic Society of the Golden Dawn’, specifically intended to inaugurate a spirituality for the Western world. This direction is stronger than ever today, to the extent that it now attempts to subsume anthroposophy into itself, and is even strongly asserting itself within the anthroposophical movement itself. Richard’s talks will attempt to show up the difference between these two ‘Western Esoteric Traditions’, and thus attempt to point to the central esoteric cultural stream within Europe and to become clear about the attempts of one of the major side-currents which seeks to subvert or supplant this.

The Rose Cross today – Anezka Janatova PhD

Shall we succeed in starting again – 100 years after the unsuccessful attempt to create the Rose Cross community? How does our life story relate to things we manage to fulfil in our lives and those we don’t?

In the past, the Rose Cross community members used to work as healers (doctors). They healed people for free. Apart from that, they walked among people and told stories, fairy tales. Together they worked towards the aim of mediating scientific knowledge to humanity. Nowadays, the so-called Rose Cross brotherhoods hand out leaflets to win new members.

What is the true community of those who understand what the sign of the Rose Cross means?

Richard Ramsbotham is a writer and theatre practitioner living near Birmingham, UK. Born in 1962, he studied at Cambridge University and Artemis School of Speech and Drama. He lectured in English literature at Warsaw University (1989-1993) and worked as performer and writer with the Rose Theatre Company. He is the author of *Who Wrote Bacon? William Shakespeare, Francis Bacon and James I. A Mystery for the 21st Century* (Temple Lodge 2004), the editor of *New Selected Poems of Vernon Watkins* (Carcenet 2006) and runs *Amador*, offering theatre, education and research.

Web site: www.amador.co.uk

Markus Osterrieder, PhD, M.A.(Munich University),b.1961, Munich. Formerly a research fellow of the Institute for Eastern Europe (Osteuropa Institut), Munich, he is now a freelance historian, lecturer and writer, active in many European countries from Norway to Romania and from Britain to Russia. He has a particular interest in the spiritual, geopolitical and cross-cultural exchanges between the continents of America, Europe and Eurasia. Main publication (in German): *Sun Cross and Tree of Life* (1995), *The Militant Commonwealth of Peace* (2005).

His web site: www.celtoslavica.de

Terry Boardman (b. 1952) is a long-term student of history and of Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Science. He was a university and college lecturer for thirteen years in Japan and England, a eurythmist for 11 years, and is now a freelance writer, lecturer and translator of Japanese and German. He is the author of *Kaspar Hauser: Where did he come from?* (Wynstones Press, 2006), *Mapping the Millenium – Behind the Plans of the New World Order* (Temple Lodge, 1998).

Web site: www.monju.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Anežka Janátová, PhD., born 1945 in Tabor (Czechoslovakia). After graduating from Charles University (Prague), she worked as a psychologist and later, as a director at the Jedlickas Home, for people with learning difficulties and physical handicaps. In 1993 she conceived of, and promptly established, the Curative Education and Social Therapy course. In 1997 she and her students set up The Tabor Academy of Social Arts, where she has been active ever since. She has also set up the Tabor Foundation and The Association for Social Therapy and Curative Education in the Czech Republic, in both of which she has been working until the present. She works as a konsultant for several day centres and workshops for people with learning difficulties, gives lectures all over Europe, and cooperates with four Steiner schools. Since 2008, she has been the head of the Anthroposophical Society in the Czech Republic.

Venue: Anthroposofická společnost, Hošťálkova 392/1d, Praha 6

Organiser: Anthroposofická společnost v ČR, www.anthroposof.cz

Applications: ruzeakriz@akademietabor.cz

Co-ordinator: Tomáš Petr, Akademie sociálního umění Tabor, Španělská 10, 120 00 Praha 2, tel.: (00420) 233 382 492, www.akademietabor.cz

Price: 90 Euro, 50 Euro (students)

Czech-English translation will be provided

Programme: The conference will start on Thursday evening (November 17th) and will end on Sunday afternoon (November 20th). The programme will include plenums and artistic performances. You will receive the exact programme after your application.