

# The Rose Cross in Europe 5

## Questions of Spiritual Identity

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



Prague

22 – 25 November 2012

THIS IS THE FIFTH 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, A FOCUS WILL BE ON THE QUESTIONS OF IMAGE AND COUNTER-IMAGE IN EUROPEAN/WESTERN SPIRITUAL STREAMS.



**Swedenborgianism or Anthroposophy – Alternative pictures of the ‘Western Esoteric Tradition’ – Richard Ramsbotham**

When Madame Blavatsky moved the headquarters of the Theosophical Society to Adyar, 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.

## **"Caspar Hauser and the Question of European Community - then and now" - Terry Boardman**

Rudolf Steiner spoke of how we should focus on what Caspar Hauser came to do rather than on his death, and of Caspar inspiring the Rosicrucian movement "from the beginning". He also said that he could find no previous incarnation for either Napoleon nor Caspar Hauser, though he reportedly described the latter as "a straggler from Atlantis". Did both of these two individualities, whose fates were related, come with a mission for the sake of Europe, one in an old, the other in a new way? What kind of Europe are we now heading for? What kind is being created for us by forces from the past? In this 200th year since Caspar's birth on 29th September 1812, in this 21st century, can we learn something from the 21 years of Caspar Hauser's life about a different kind of Europe of the future? A Europe of nation states? A Superstate, a federal United States of Europe? Or of a real Community, a Commonwealth? Finding one's identity in the encounter with evil - what can we learn from 'the Child of Europe' about a new beginning for Europe?

## **The Body Electric: Confrontation with Our Own Inner Double in the Age of the "Intelligent" Machine - The Inner, Soul Reality of the Threefold Social Order and the Counter-Image of the "New World Order" - Markus Osterrieder**

In Rosicrucianism, a particular importance was always given to the investigation of how the inner world, the microcosm, mirrors the outer world, the macrocosm. In his lectures, Markus will attempt to show how the rise of the "electrical age" and cybernetics has exerted an influence on our own inner evolution in such a way that we have to become con-

scious of the "hidden" aspects of our own human condition. This especially concerns physiological aspects of our nervous (senses and thought) and reproduction systems (sexuality), and our will. At the same time, such an investigation sheds some light on the question of how social life is today perceived and constructed by "social engineers" (cf. Niklas Luhmann), who perceive the world either as an "efficient machine" or an "integral, yet closed system" that has to be interpreted and set on track by a "new leadership" of "system administrators/coachers", and by using many "stimulating" concepts and expressions from the electrical realm. But is this the inner reality of the Threefold Social Order?

**The Tragic Consequences of Thinking without Awareness of Connections. Real practical thinking. – Anezka Janatova PhD**

If we look into the world with our intellect, no matter if it is great or not, we can never grasp the connections in life and our surroundings. Intellect has the ability to analyze and synthesize in separate sequences, but it does not have the ability to work in an artistic way with living images, which are revealed to the human soul every day. We often mistake intellect for intelligence; however, we tend to forget the other kinds of intelligence – emotional and social intelligence. The human being and the whole world are moulded artistically and mutually connected. Real, practical thinking can reveal concealed connections which are hidden to the intellect and therefore can have catastrophic consequences for both mankind and the world.



**Richard Ramsbotham** is a writer and theatre practitioner living near Gloucester, 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* (Carcamet, 2006). He is currently directing Rudolf Steiner's 3rd Mystery Drama in a contemporary English translation and working on a performance piece, in English and Russian, based on Andrej Belyj's poem Glossolalia.

**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](http://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 in English 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).

His web site: [www.threeman.org](http://www.threeman.org)

**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 the Curative Education and Social Therapy course and promptly established it. 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 consultant 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.

Tabor Academy website: [www.akademietabor.cz](http://www.akademietabor.cz)

**Venue:** Anthroposofická společnost, Hošťálkova392/1d, Praha 6

**Organiser:** Anthroposophical society, the Czech Republic

**Registration:** Akademie sociálního umění Tabor, tel.: 00420 233 38 24 92, web: [www.akademietabor.cz](http://www.akademietabor.cz)

**Applications:** [ruzeakriz@akademietabor.cz](mailto:ruzeakriz@akademietabor.cz)

**Co-ordinator:** Tomáš Petr

**Price:** € 80, 40 (student)

**Czech-English translation provided.**

**Programme:** The conference will start on Thursday evening (November 22nd) and will end on Sunday afternoon (November 25th). The programme will be accompanied by plenums and artistic performances. You will receive a detailed programme after your application.