

SYMPTOMS OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



THE ROSE CROSS IN EUROPE

QUESTIONS OF SPIRITUAL IDENTITY IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES

9TH YEAR OF THE CONFERENCE
18–20 NOVEMBER 2016 PRAGUE

NEW PHENOMENA IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, THE QUEST
FOR SPIRITUAL IDENTITY AND THE OVERCOMING OF POLARITIES



WWW.ROSE-CROSS.CZ

THIS IS THE NINTH SUCCESSIVE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ROSE CROSS IN EUROPE. THE AIM OF THE CONFERENCE, SINCE THE BEGINNING, HAS BEEN TO SHED LIGHT ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND CURRENT EVENTS, INCLUDING POLITICS, SPIRITUALITY, THE ARTS AND MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE. THE FIRST CONFERENCE HAD TO DO WITH THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY, AND WITH THE DIFFICULTIES OF TRUE ROSICRUCIANISM FINDING ITS WAY AMIDST MANY COUNTER-CURRENTS AND THE TURBULENT EVENTS OF THE TIME. IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS, WE HAVE EXPLORED DIFFERENT PERIODS AND THEMES, ALWAYS WITH THE HELP OF ANTHROPOSOPHY, ATTEMPTING TO FIND THE TRUE METAMORPHOSES OF THE 'ROSE CROSS IN EUROPE' AS WELL AS THE HINDRANCES THESE ENCOUNTER. THIS YEAR, AMONG OUR THEMES ARE: EUROPE AND THE ORIENT – THE PRESENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EUROPEAN KARMA; THREEFOLDING AND THE EUROPEAN UNION; ANTHROPOSOPHY AND THE "THE EUROPEAN PROJECT"; AND THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN QUALITIES.

Europe and the Orient: The present social and political situation from the perspective of European karma / Markus Osterrieder

The dramatic increase in wars and political turmoil in the Near and Middle East (as well as in Eastern Europe) and the migration question show that these problems can no longer be resolved by old ways of thinking. Nor will fear and an antipathetic rejection of what is often considered to be a "foreign civilization" help to create solutions for the future. Through understanding of the deeper karmic riddles at stake, European societies will be able to take the necessary steps of spiritual transformation that may open the way for social and political reform. From this point of view, the present

dangers are in reality a mirror, in which we can see our own shadow.

Overcoming polarity: The quest for spiritual identity and the middle / Markus Osterrieder

Over the last two years, there has been a drastic increase in polarizing conflicts and confrontations among human beings. This can be observed in many countries and in all kinds of issues, not only in politics and social life. Why has this been happening? What are the forces at work that we can find in our own souls, trying to pull us this way or into the opposite direction? Under the influence of polarization, human beings and societies can be easily manipulated in their emotions and instincts. This can be demonstrated by the thoughts of Samuel Huntington who claimed in 1998 that if human beings want to love, they also need to hate, and if they want to find their identity, they need an enemy. To find the middle beyond the two poles is not an easy task. But only by striving for a spiritual middle can we avoid the increasing danger of a "war of all against all".

Europe, My Country and Myself – The Roman Spectre, the "Protestant"* Spirit and Social Threefolding in the 21st Century / Terry Boardman

We need to identify and "protest" against what Rudolf Steiner called the "spectre of Rome" in European culture, both inside us and outside us, if we are to free ourselves and Europe from Roman thoughts and habits and become appropriately modern. Europe was

not ready for a “protestant” impulse in the early 15th century but had become more receptive 100 years later. Today, it seems that Europeans might be ready to be more open for the impulse of the “threefold social organism” than 100 years ago when Steiner first introduced it. Terry Boardman’s two presentations will consider the European Union as a modern manifestation of the Roman spectre, the British “protest” against it in the “Brexit” referendum this year, how real or unreal that protest was and remains, and what it means for Europeans today: in their soul life, in relation to the emergence of social threefolding, and in the wider context of East-West relations in the 21st century.

*The word “Protestant” is in quotation marks because it does not refer here only to the sphere of religion.

Anthroposophy and the “The European Project” / Richard Ramsbotham

Besides the powerful financial and political interests involved in the European Union, many people also experience huge tides of feeling and idealism for the cultural possibilities of the “The European project”. What lies behind such waves of feeling and idealism? To what extent are the cultural ideals of the EU identical to or different from the deepest strivings of European spiritual life?

Rudolf Steiner’s 4th (and final) Mystery Drama (written in 1913) also depicts a “project” for the renewal of contemporary civilization, right into the economic sphere and even the technological realm. The project “fails” – but how it does so is not

only instructive, but also in a certain sense prophetic of much that we witness today. Profound emphasis is placed on the need to understand the destructive powers around one, in order to discern and eventually to redeem them.

These two lectures will also look at the new characteristics brought into European spiritual life by spiritual science (or anthroposophy), and how these differ from what is to be found in more popular soul-spiritual strivings, and from the stream of contemporary life inaugurated in the 17th Century by Francis Bacon and Amos Comenius.

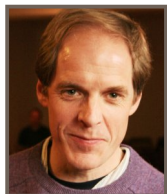
Changes in the Perception of Reality Caused by “Virtual Reality” / Anežka Janátová

Virtual reality streams into people’s perception. We pursue illusions because we want to play (e.g. Pokemon). The word begins to lose its true value. People who are under the influence of virtual reality may consider a promise fulfilled just by speaking it out without actually doing anything about it. The words we speak can be twisted in so many ways.

The Preservation of Human Qualities / Anežka Janátová

The quest for self-sufficiency: running a farm. The return to working with the soil and with original crafts. The development of independent schools and the creation of new communities. The return to traditions, the search for the natural rhythm of life.

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* (2004). He is currently writing a book about the poet Vernon Watkins (1906-1967) and will soon begin work directing Rudolf Steiner's 4th Mystery Drama.

Markus Osterrieder, PhD., M.A. (Munich University), b.1961, Munich. Formerly a research fellow of the Institute for Eastern Europe (Osteuropa Institut), Munich, freelance historian, writer, lecturer in numerous countries from Norway to Iran and from Ireland to Russia. His special interests are the spiritual, cultural, and geopolitical relations between America, Europe, the Orient and Eurasia. He is currently working on the historical foundations of the Grail legends in the cultures of eastern and western Christianity and of (eso-



teric) Islam. Main publications (in German): *Sun Cross and Tree of Life* (1995), *The Militant Commonwealth of Peace* (2005), *World in Upheaval – The Question of Nationalities, World Order Concepts, and Rudolf Steiner's Standpoint during the First World War* (2014). His web site: www.celtoslavica.de

Terry Boardman (b.1952) lives in Stourbridge, England, and is a long-term student of history and of Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Science, with special interests in East-West issues, contemporary world events, Kaspar Hauser, and the First World War as the crucible of the modern world. 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? (2006), (*Záhadný Kaspar Hauser, Grada*, 2009), *Mapping the Millenium – Behind the Plans of the*

New World Order (1998 and 2013). His web site: 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. She has also set up the Tabor Foundation and The Association for Social Therapy and Curative Education in the Czech Republic. 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

VENUE

Anthroposophical society, Hošťálkova street 392/1d, Prague 6.

ORGANISER

Anthroposophical society, CR, www.anthroposof.cz

APPLICATIONS

Online www.rose-cross.cz
Please send applications by 1st November 2016 at the latest.

COORDINATOR

Tomáš Petr, The Tabor Academy of Social Arts, Španělská street 10, 120 00 Prague 2, +420 723 539 983

PRICE

€ 90, 30 (student)

OTHER INFORMATION

Czech-English and Czech-German translation provided. The conference will start on Friday evening (November 18th) and will end on Sunday afternoon (November 20nd). It is possible for the participants to join the tour round Prague on Friday morning in German and in English. You will receive a detailed programme after your application.

See www.rose-cross.cz for more detailed information.