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Karl König Institute Newsletter 23

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The Hidden Life of Rudi S.
More About Refugee Destiny for 80 Years of Camphill

Alison Lodge

Although Rudi's name has always been known to Camphill and several photographs of him still exist, little was known about his fate after he left Kirkton House on March 21, 1940. Though he was not the first child to join, that being Peter Bergel, he was the second pupil to arrive at Kirkton House in April of 1939, before the official opening, moving away just before Camphill House was acquired. He had arrived in Britain as a German Jewish refugee and a young man with epilepsy. [Anke Weihs states in her *Fragments from the History of Camphill* which has been printed in the volume *The Spirit of Camphill. Birth of a Movement*: "His convulsions were so violent and elemental that they could be heard from one end of the house to the other."]

While researching the School for its 80th anniversary, it became important to establish who exactly Rudi was and what happened to him up to his death in Oxfordshire, England in 1977 which was the only thing we could find out at first. It was the pioneers themselves that ultimately opened the door to discover this path of destiny when it became time to examine how the married male pioneers came to be sent to the Isle of Man as Enemy Aliens.

It was the date that was significant. 1940. Rudi was already a young man in his twenties when he arrived [as he was born on November 15, 1909 he would have been 29 when he arrived], and he was also originally from Germany. Rudi had also been classed as an Enemy Alien! Next to establish was his full name to make a search of the British Government's Enemy Alien internment records. Rudi was likely born a Rudolf. It was in these records one Rudolf Eugen Samoje, was found and he was sent to Canada on July 3, 1940 on the ship the S.S. Ettrick (interestingly, the same ship and date as pioneer Alex Baum).

As was also quite normal for many of the young men at the time, Rudi stayed in Canada for three years classed as a Category B prisoner. At this point Rudi was not considered a refugee, though not a dangerous enemy alien (Category A). All men from Germany and Austria both single and married with families were collected by their local police and taken to a central, local point from whence they were transported directly to a holding place of internment. Rudi, being a young, German male was sent to Canada almost immediately.

From Karl König's photo album — on the far left Rudi Samoje

By December 1943, Rudi was finally recognised as a Category C refugee. Released from internment in Canada, he made his way from Nova Scotia via the ship S.S. Mauretania to the port of Liverpool in England. Unfortunately, he was sent straight from Liverpool to the nearby Isle of Man to be interned as an Enemy Alien again until 1944 when he was fully released.

Having established his full name meant being able to match it to genealogical records in Germany and find out who his parents were and what part of Germany they were from at that time. Rudi was born in the Schöneberg district of Berlin, Germany in 1909 to Ferdinand Siegmund Samoje and

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At Kirkton House, Rudi with Christoph König

Pauline Wilhelmine Helene Elb who married in Berlin in 1907. He was the middle child of at least three known children his siblings being Ferdinand and Anna.

Ferdinand senior (born 1875, Dresden and known to his family as Siegmund) was an attorney and prominent Jewish leader in Berlin particularly the Central Union of Jews in Germany and a prominent figure in the Reichs Union of Jewish Front Soldiers, a veteran's organisation, until his death during a medical operation in 1937. It is very likely then that he also served his country during WWI. Paula by contrast, (born 1880, Dresden) describes herself as a Fashion Correspondent during this period. After Siegmund's death Paula is referred to as a businessperson moving back and forth through South America, USA and Europe along with her older son and personal assistant. Both Paula and her sons had their German citizenship removed by the Nazi Regime and were made stateless before finding new countries in which to make their homes.

Ferdinand, Rudi's brother, ran the family business through South America and the USA while Rudi's sister Anna, her husband and child immigrated to the USA just prior to the Second World War and all can be traced through shipping records as they travelled. Indeed, by the 1960s Ferdinand's photograph also appears in the records showing a likeness between the brothers.

Much is still unknown about how Rudi left the Isle of Man and returned to England. It is possible that he had friends and or relatives in Hendon, North London which enabled him to settle there after the war between 1945/6–1948. Newspaper reports post war refer to Paula also being in London at that time. Rudi may have been placed in a medical institution, epileptic colony or merely been placed in the safety of friends and family from the Jewish community for support.

It has also been possible to identify Paula and her friend and assistant Charlotte Bernstein on shipping lists moving back and forth from overseas. But in 1939 it is also possible to find them in Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire, 29 September 1939 at the time of the 1939 Register, a Census taken in mind for rationing purposes for the coming Second World War. This shows that Paula did not immediately leave her son or become a British Citizen being referred to as a refugee at that time.

One final record of Rudi's name was found during a search of British newspapers in a 1974 newspaper article where Rudi was listed as being in Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire showcasing his gifts making handmade toys in the handicapped section in the Tilehurst Eisteddfod. If he was in Berkshire, then Oxfordshire was not far away meaning his residence in those lost years had to be in this area of England.

What is significant in this instance is that looking back to the last previous mention of Rudi found it was in 1948. In 1948 the British National Health Service was created, and Rudi may then have been able to access better care for his epileptic seizures. And Henley, the area where he died in 1977 had at that time only one hospital that took epileptic adult patients — the Borocourt Hospital that Rudi may have known is now used as private residences. It may, therefore, never be possible to access Rudi's hospital records to confirm that he spent the rest of his life from 1948–1977 in the care of Borocourt Hospital's epilepsy wards — even if they still exist.

During Camphill's 80th year it has been a privilege to discover just some of Rudi's life and to remember all those who have contributed to Camphill's rich history.

Das wiedergefundene Schicksal des Rudi S.
Wieder eine Flüchtlingsgeschichte zu 80 Jahren Camphill

Alison Lodge

At Kirkton House in 1940, Rudi on the left

Obwohl der Name Rudi Samoje schon immer in den Akten zu finden war und noch einige Fotos existieren, war wenig über sein Schicksal bekannt, nachdem er Kirkton House bereits am 21. März 1940 verließ. Er war zwar nicht das erste betreute Kind, das im Kirkton House aufgenommen wurde, denn das war Peter Bergel gewesen; doch war er im April 1939 das zweite, oder genauer, der erste junge Erwachsene! Er kam schon vor der offiziellen Eröffnung, Pfingsten 1939. [Siehe das Faksimile des Gründungsdokuments – Karl König schrieb die Namen der sechs anwesenden Kinder zu den Unterschriften der Erwachsenen dazu. Damals, als Betreuter, wurde er noch zu den Kindern gezählt.] Er war als jüdischer Flüchtling, als junger Mann mit einer schweren Epilepsie nach England gelangt. [Anke Weihs beschreibt in ihrem Aufsatz über die Gründungszeit: »Seine Anfälle waren so heftig und brachial, dass man sie durchs ganze Haus hörte.«]

Als ich für die Camphill Schulen Forschung zum 80. Jahrestag machte, wuchs mein Interesse herauszufinden, wer dieser Rudi gewesen und was mit ihm weiter geschehen ist, denn das Einzige, was zunächst in den Akten zu finden war, war sein Tod in der Grafschaft Oxford im Jahre 1977. Dann waren es die Pioniere selbst, die mir die Tür zu diesem Schicksalsweg öffneten. Als ich dann den Weg der Männer der Pioniergruppe recherchierte, fand ich heraus, dass sie als »Enemy Aliens« auf

die Insel Man ins Internierungslager gebracht wurden. Aber das Jahr war das Entscheidende – 1940. Rudi verließ die Gruppe auch 1940; warum ging er kurz vor dem Umzug ins Camphill House fort? Und wohin?

Rudi war schon ein junger Erwachsener in den Zwanzigern, als er ankam [da er am 15.11.1909 geboren wurde, war er 29 Jahre alt bei der Ankunft in Kirkton] und war aus Deutschland gekommen; deswegen wurde er auch als »Enemy Alien« klassifiziert! Das erste war, den Namen gesichert festzustellen, um in den Unterlagen der Internierungsbehörde der Regierung suchen zu können. Es war ja anzunehmen, dass Rudi eigentlich als Rudolf geboren wurde. Just in diesen Unterlagen tauchte dann ein Rudolf Eugen Samoje auf, der am 3. Juli 1940 mit dem Schiff S.S. Ettrick nach Kanada gebracht wurde. Das war interessant, weil es das gleiche Schiff war, auf dem sich der Camphill-Pionier Alex Baum befand! Alle Männer, die aus Deutschland oder Österreich stammten, ob ledig oder verheiratet und mit Kindern, wurden von der Ortspolizei eingesammelt und zu einem zentralen Sammelplatz gebracht, von wo aus sie entweder direkt in ein Internierungslager kamen oder aber zu einer weiteren Übergangsstation. Rudi, als junger deutscher Mann ohne Familie, kam, wie Alex Baum, direkt nach Kanada. Und so, wie es damals fast immer üblich war, blieb Rudi drei Jahre in Kanada, mit der Klassifizierung »Gefangener der Kategorie B« denn es war zu der Zeit schon deutlich, dass er kein »gefährlicher feindlicher Ausländer« (»Kategorie A«) war, doch wurde er auch nicht als »Flüchtling« anerkannt.

Ab Dezember 1943 wurde Rudi endlich als »Kategorie C« anerkannt – als Flüchtling, wurde aus der Internierung entlassen und von Kanada über Nova Scotia mit dem Schiff S.S. Mauretania auf der nicht ungefährlichen Überfahrt nach Liverpool in England gebracht. Allerdings ging es direkt vom Hafen in Liverpool, so wie es auch Carlo Pietzner ergangen ist, auf die nahe gelegene Insel Man, wo er wieder als »Enemy Alien« bis 1944, bis zu seiner endgültigen Entlassung, festgehalten wurde.

Mit dem ganzen, korrekten Namen »in der Hand« war es mir nun möglich, in den deutschen genealogischen Archiven zu suchen, um nach Rudis Familie nachzuforschen. Da ließ sich mit Sicherheit feststellen, dass er 1909 in dem Schöneberger Stadtteil von Berlin geboren wurde. Seine Eltern waren Ferdinand Siegmund Samoje und Pauline Wilhelmine Helene (geborene Elb), die 1907 geheiratet hatten. Von den bekannten drei Kindern war er das mittlere, mit den Geschwistern Ferdinand und Anna. Der Vater, Ferdinand (geboren 1875 in Dresden und in der Familie als Siegmund bekannt) war Rechtsanwalt und eine bedeutende Persönlichkeit im damaligen Berlin; in leitender Funktion im Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland und im Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten, was ver-

Heute, am 28. Mai 1939, am Heiligen Pfingstsonntag, haben wir das Kirkton-House eingeweiht. Alle ansässig untergeschriebenen Persönlichkeiten nahmen am Akt der Einweihung teil und schrieben nachher ihre Namen nieder.

Außerdem waren noch 6 Kinder anwesend: Clara Renate König, Bernhard Christof König, Andreas Daniel König, Anna Veronika König, Peter Bergel, Rudi Samoje.

mutlich darauf hindeutet, dass er im Ersten Weltkrieg seinem Land (Deutschland) an der Front gedient hat. Er starb 1937 »an den Folgen einer medizinischen Operation«. Paula hat ein sehr anderes Schicksal; sie wurde 1880 in Dresden geboren und beschreibt sich zur Zeit des beginnenden Krieges als »Mode-Korrespondentin.« Nach dem Tod von Siegmund, taucht Paula als »Handelsfrau« auf und reist unentwegt mit ihrem älteren Sohn und einer persönlichen Assistentin durch Südamerika, die USA und Europa. Sowohl Paula, wie auch die Kinder bekamen ihre Staatsbürgerschaft durch die Nazis aberkannt und waren zunächst staatenlos, bis sie ein neues zu Hause in einem anderen Land gründen konnten.

Ferdinand, Rudis Bruder, führte das Familiengeschäft, zunächst in Südamerika, dann in den USA. Die Schwester, Anna, konnte knapp vor Kriegsausbruch mit ihrem Mann und Kind in die USA auswandern, was durch die Schiffsunterlagen bestätigt werden konnte. Es tauchte sogar in einem Schiffsregister ein Foto des Bruders aus den 1960'er Jahren auf, welches tatsächlich eine Familienähnlichkeit zwischen den Brüdern aufweist.

Leider ist wenig über den Weg zu finden, wie Rudi von der Insel Man nach Südengland kam. Es ist zu vermuten, dass er nach dem Krieg, 1945–48 bei Verwandten oder Freunden der Familie in Hendon, im Norden Londons unterkam. Zeitungsberichten zufolge hielt sich die Mutter Paula in den Nachkriegsjahren auch in London auf. Ob Rudi dort in einer der Spezialkliniken betreut wurde oder einfach bei Verwandten lebte, wissen wir nicht.

Über Schifffahrtsregister war es aber auch möglich, Paula mit ihrer Assistentin, die wir dadurch als Charlotte Bernstein kennen, in den Listen zu finden, als sie hin und her über den Atlantik fuhren. 1939 konnte sie wieder in Südengland gefunden werden, denn in dem Ort Steeple Morden, Grafschaft Cambridge, fand am 29. September 1939 eine Einwohnererhebung statt, die in Hinsicht auf die Vorbereitung der Lebensrationierung wegen des bevorstehenden Kriegs organisiert wurde. Daraus lässt sich auch ersehen, dass Paula ihren Sohn Rudi, den sie in Schottland untergebracht hatte, noch nicht ganz verlassen hatte. Aber auch sie erhielt keine britische Staatsbürgerschaft, sondern galt als staatenloser Flüchtling.

Ein letztes Mal tauchte Rudis Name beim Durchsuchen britischer Zeitungen auf, und zwar in einem Artikel von 1974, in dem beschrieben wird, dass er in Tilehurst bei Reading ansäßig war und für seine handwerklichen Fertigkeiten bei der Herstellung von handgemachtem Spielzeug bei der Tilehurst Eisteddfod gepriesen wird. [»Eisteddfod« ist ein walisischer Begriff und bezeichnet ein Gesangsfest, das meist über mehrere Tage ging und von einer Art Volksfest begleitet wird. Tilehurst liegt zwar nicht in Wales, doch wird dort heute noch jährlich dieses Kunstfestival abgehalten]. Das bedeutet, dass Rudi sich wahrscheinlich über längere Zeit in der Gegend um die Grenze von Oxford und Berkshire aufgehalten hat, denn Henley, wo er 1977 starb, ist gerade auf der Richtung Oxford gelegenen Seite der Grenze. Die letzte weiter zurückliegende gesicherte Spur von Rudi stammt aus dem Jahre 1948; das ist aber vielleicht ein Hinweis in sich, weil just in dem Jahr das heute noch bestehende Gesundheitssystem, National Health Service, gegründet

wurde. Somit könnte es sein, dass Rudi Zugang zu einer besseren Versorgung wegen seiner Epilepsie bekam. Gerade in der Zeit hatte Henley eine spezialisierte Einrichtung für erwachsene Patienten mit starker Epilepsie. Dieses Krankenhaus – das 1930 von Oxford und Berkshire gemeinsam gegründete Borocourt Hospital for the Mentally Handicapped – ist aber 1993 aufgelöst und in Wohnungseinheiten aufgeteilt worden. Also kann es sein, dass wir nie an die Akten kommen – falls es sie noch gibt –, die eventuell zeigen könnten, dass Rudi Samoje den Rest seines Lebens, 1948–1977 an der Themse in der Borocourt Epilepsy Ward verbracht hat.

Es war aber eine Ehre, während der Forschung für den 80. Jahrestag Camphills, wenigstens etwas über das Leben dieses Mit-Pioniers der Anfangsphase zu entdecken und auf diese Weise an all die Menschen zu erinnern, die die reichhaltige Geschichte der Camphill-Bewegung mitgestaltet haben.

Alison ist Archivarin und hat gerade ein Forschungsprojekt für die Camphill Schule in Aberdeen abgeschlossen – wir bedanken uns bei ihr für diesen bewegenden Bericht einer Spurensuche, die einen Beitrag besonderer Art zum 80-jährigen Camphill-Jubiläum bedeutet!

The Children of Europe Air Rescue
(A letter has just been found after 75 years!)

Anne Weise

In a five-page letter dated December 18, 1945, Karl König reported that he, together with Alfred Heidenreich, had initiated an aid campaign for children in post-war Germany. He and Alfred Heidenreich, then priest of The Christian Community in London, were friends, and in the early 1940s the latter had spent several months in Camphill to recover from an illness.

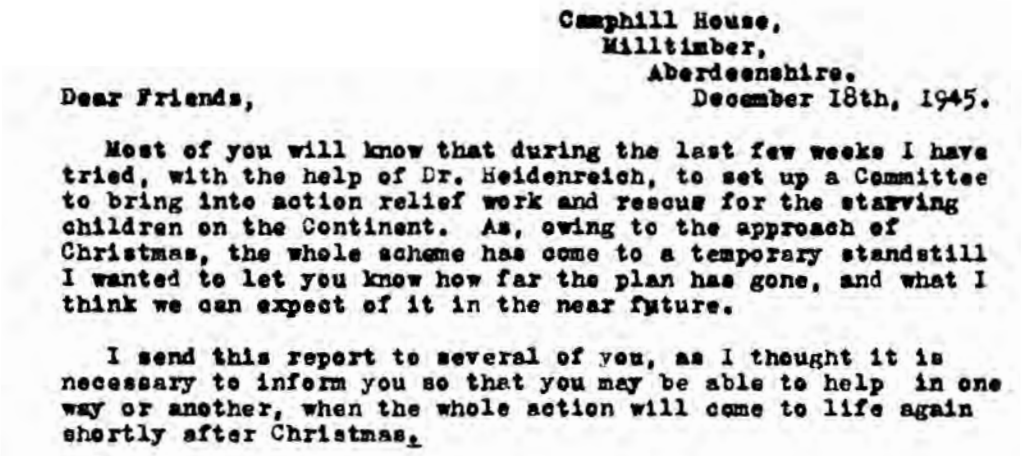
In 1945 Karl König and his friends had been living in safe Scotland already for six years after having fled from annexed Vienna because of their Jewish origin. Camphill was about to establish itself. In May 1945, through the effort of the Allies, the Second World War was finally brought to an end. Europe lay in ruins and hunger was widespread. In this situation Karl König and Alfred Heidenreich committed to helping hungry children on the continent, but especially in Germany.

At the time of the letter both had been making efforts in this direction already for a couple of weeks. König wrote that the idea arose in Glasgow on November 1, in a conversation with his friend George MacLeod, pastor of the Church of Scotland and founder of the ecumenical Iona Community on the island of Iona. Karl König had just given a lecture on his experience in living and working with disabled children. About five and a half years earlier, on March 27, 1940, Karl König and George MacLeod had met for the first time in Edinburgh, on the day the contracts were signed for the purchase of Camphill estate in Aberdeen, from where the Camphill movement got its name. König described MacLeod as a "fiery spirit" who wanted to "reform the Scottish Church from within", who was "a pastor in one of the worst slums of Glasgow". They both recognized a "close relationship" between both of their community attempts. A few weeks after their first meeting Karl König travelled to Glasgow to give a lecture to about 50 pastors on "Rudolf Steiner's interpretation of the Gospel". He and Macleod remained friends for life. (*Camphill. Ursprung und Ziele einer Bewegung*, Stuttgart, 2019, S. 109f.)

In their conversation in Glasgow, MacLeod made him aware of the willingness of many Britons to help starving children in Germany. Werner Pache who had visited the ruined Germany had also reported about it in a letter to MacLoed.

Karl König and Alfred Heidenreich wanted to speak to people who could do something immediately, as there were already initiatives with similar goals, that still hoped for realization. Karl König first spoke to Air Vice-Marshal Champion de Crespigny, who was associated with the then ruling Labour Party and was involved in the reestablishing of political structures in Germany. According to König, he had taken enthusiastically to their ideas and immediately taken first steps by writing to Deputy Prime Minister Herbert Morrison, who only a few days later replied that the proposal had been scheduled for discussion by ministers in Downing Street. Following this, Karl König and Alfred Heidenreich spoke to the Honorary Secretary of the Free Church Council, Sydney Berry. The idea was to fly 10,000 children under the age of about seven into the UK and host them in private families for five to six months. Sydney Berry promised to find these families.

Further, König contacted the humanitarian and human rights activist Victor Gollancz, who was organizing a big meeting in the Albert Hall for the aid organization *Save Europe Now* and who should soon trigger a wave of helpfulness through his calls. Further discussions followed, e.g. with the Archbishop of Canterbury, who agreed to assist. On November 20, there was a meeting between Karl König, Alfred Heidenreich, the Bishop of Chichester George K. A. Bell, the Air Vice-Marshal Champion de Crespigny, Victor Gollancz and Mr. Clutton-Brook, who worked for the Welfare Department of the British administration in Berlin. They all worked from now on to implement



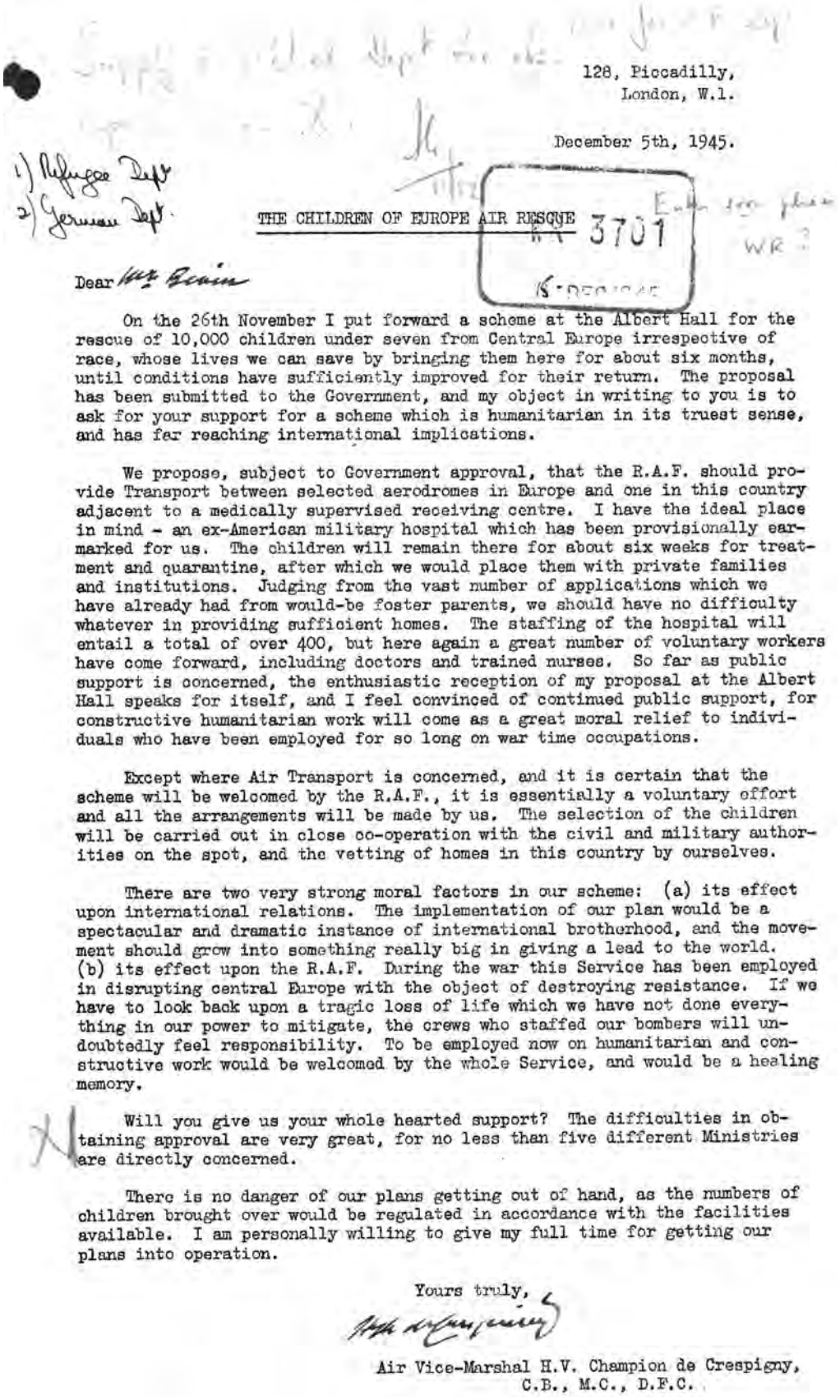
Camphill House,
Milltimber,
Aberdeenshire.
December 18th, 1945.

Dear Friends,

Most of you will know that during the last few weeks I have tried, with the help of Dr. Heidenreich, to set up a Committee to bring into action relief work and rescue for the starving children on the Continent. As, owing to the approach of Christmas, the whole scheme has come to a temporary standstill I wanted to let you know how far the plan has gone, and what I think we can expect of it in the near future.

I send this report to several of you, as I thought it is necessary to inform you so that you may be able to help in one way or another, when the whole action will come to life again shortly after Christmas.

From a letter of Karl König to Mrs Francis, secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain, to The Christian Community, Cecil Harwood and the teachers of Michael Hall, Miss Bennell and the teachers at Wynstones, Fried Geuter at Clent, Miss Elderton and Orion Schools, Hans Schauder and Garvald, Ernst Lehrs and Maria Röschl, Walter Johannes Stein, Norbert Glas, Miss Lenn, Dr. Karl Nunhofer, Rev. George MacLeod, Werner Pache and friends in Arlesheim.



128, Piccadilly,
London, W.1.

December 5th, 1945.

THE CHILDREN OF EUROPE AIR RESCUE

Dear Mr. Bevin

On the 26th November I put forward a scheme at the Albert Hall for the rescue of 10,000 children under seven from Central Europe irrespective of race, whose lives we can save by bringing them here for about six months, until conditions have sufficiently improved for their return. The proposal has been submitted to the Government, and my object in writing to you is to ask for your support for a scheme which is humanitarian in its truest sense, and has far reaching international implications.

We propose, subject to Government approval, that the R.A.F. should provide Transport between selected aerodromes in Europe and one in this country adjacent to a medically supervised receiving centre. I have the ideal place in mind - an ex-American military hospital which has been provisionally earmarked for us. The children will remain there for about six weeks for treatment and quarantine, after which we would place them with private families and institutions. Judging from the vast number of applications which we have already had from would-be foster parents, we should have no difficulty whatever in providing sufficient homes. The staffing of the hospital will entail a total of over 400, but here again a great number of voluntary workers have come forward, including doctors and trained nurses. So far as public support is concerned, the enthusiastic reception of my proposal at the Albert Hall speaks for itself, and I feel convinced of continued public support, for constructive humanitarian work will come as a great moral relief to individuals who have been employed for so long on war time occupations.

Except where Air Transport is concerned, and it is certain that the scheme will be welcomed by the R.A.F., it is essentially a voluntary effort and all the arrangements will be made by us. The selection of the children will be carried out in close co-operation with the civil and military authorities on the spot, and the vetting of homes in this country by ourselves.

There are two very strong moral factors in our scheme: (a) its effect upon international relations. The implementation of our plan would be a spectacular and dramatic instance of international brotherhood, and the movement should grow into something really big in giving a lead to the world. (b) its effect upon the R.A.F. During the war this Service has been employed in disrupting central Europe with the object of destroying resistance. If we have to look back upon a tragic loss of life which we have not done everything in our power to mitigate, the crews who staffed our bombers will undoubtedly feel responsibility. To be employed now on humanitarian and constructive work would be welcomed by the whole Service, and would be a healing memory.

Will you give us your whole hearted support? The difficulties in obtaining approval are very great, for no less than five different Ministries are directly concerned.

There is no danger of our plans getting out of hand, as the numbers of children brought over would be regulated in accordance with the facilities available. I am personally willing to give my full time for getting our plans into operation.

Yours truly,

Air Vice-Marshal H.V. Champion de Crespigny,
C.B., M.C., D.F.C.

Letter of the Air Vice-Marshall Champion de Crespigny to Ernest Bevin, then Foreign Secretary in the post-war Labour government asking for support for the Children of Europe Air Rescue. Document at the National Archives, Kew

the project. The Roman Catholic Church joined in the effort and the Government promised the provision of twenty Dakota aircraft. Details had to be worked out. The Ministry of Health organised the children's quarantine, the Ministry of War a suitable hospital, which König examined together with a certain Miss Paine in early December. In the letter, he described the next steps and the people who were involved, among them Miss Paine, director of St. Christopher's Nursery Training College in Tunbridge Wells, who had the relevant experience.

On November 26, 7,000–8,000 people attended an event in the Albert Hall in London. There were such great numbers that a nearby church had to accommodate the overflow. There were three appeals, one of which went to the British government. König wrote:

> *Several Prime Ministers spoke in the Albert Hall at the event which was chaired by the Archbishop of York. The Air Vice-Marshal also spoke about our programme, which was well received by the entire audience. This speech led to a long article to appear in the* News Chronicle *the following day, and from that moment on our programme was, so to speak, the leading horse in the race for aid work on the continent. The Christian Community in London was keen to take on the patronage for our project.*

From now on this initiative was called *The Children of Europe Air Rescue*. On December 18 the House of Commons discussed the motion. The November 27 issue of the *Daily Herald* reads (p. 3):

> *The audience that filled the great Albert Hall cheered a proposal by Air Vice Marshal Champion de Crespigny to use the RAF to rescue 10,000 European children under seven and bring them to Britain for the winter.*

The parliamentary hurdles still had to be overcome. And there was widespread opposition in the country against the admission of refugees. The Karl König Archive holds a copy of this letter and some other documents. Further documentation is on order from the National Archives at Kew. The plan was apparently not implemented, otherwise we would be able to read about it in the history books. It was an impulse that could not be realized at the time. However, it appeals to our conscience today as an intention, as many children in the world are in need right now.

In Ireland, a comparable initiative was brought to completion. *Operation Shamrock* by the Irish Red Cross helped about 1,000 German, Austrian and French orphans and other minors in need of help to live with Irish host families for up to three years. The initiative came from paediatrician Kathleen Murphy, who was chairwoman of the *Save the German Children Society.*

Alfred Bergel — in English

Anne Weise

It all began with reading the diaries of the young Karl König. His best friend Fredi was mentioned very often. But who was Alfred Bergel, called Fredi? An internet search brought to light that he was murdered in Auschwitz because of his Jewish origin. Soon the decision was made to remind of him in an article, based on the diary notes of Karl König. Further intensive research in the world's archives brought about so much material that the article became a whole book that was published in German in 2014. The book was first presented to the public in his native Olomouc in the Czech Republic (then Olmütz in Austria), and at the same time a small exhibition showed some of his works. A first big step to help this biography which was purposefully consigned to oblivion. Now we need many readers to re-experience his life and thus make up for the memory.

The presentation of the book took place on the 70th anniversary of his death; the deportation train from the Theresienstadt ghetto to the Auschwitz death camp passed through what was then Olmütz. Was Alfred Bergel able to perceive that, crowded together in a cattle car towards an uncertain destination, he was travelling through his birthplace? The circumstances and the exact date of his death are unclear. The list of deportees on this train, which left Theresienstadt on 16 October 1944 and arrived in Auschwitz two days later, is the last trace, so that 18 October 1944 is assumed to be the date of his death. Together with him in the train of deportees, in one of the cattle cars, was the musician and composer Victor Ullmann. The 70th anniversary of his death was the reason for the Festival of Jewish Culture in Olomouc to be held and in his honour his opera *The Fall of the Antichrist* was performed. Thus it happened that by honouring Victor Ullmann the unknown Alfred Bergel could also be honoured. Both most likely met in the Theresienstadt ghetto, they had, among other things, mutual friends. At the end of this week in Olomouc, in a small former Hutterite church, during the sermon of an Act of Consecration of Man of The Christian Community, not only Victor Ullmann but also Alfred Bergel was remembered and honoured.

In 2021, seven years later and 80 years after Theresienstadt began as a ghetto and concentration camp, the book will be published in English with many new documents and new facts that have been found in the meantime.

Stay tuned – we will soon be announcing the launch of the book and there will be a series of talks too … Would you like us to come to you? Let us know please!

Karl König in the Bergel Family – next to him is his friend Alfred Bergel, in the Prater Park, Vienna, 1922

Alles begann mit dem Lesen der Tagebücher des jugendlichen Karl König. Sein bester Freund Fredi wurde darin sehr oft erwähnt. Aber wer war Alfred Bergel, genannt Fredi? Eine Internetsuche brachte ans Licht, dass er wegen seiner jüdischen Herkunft in Auschwitz ermordet wurde. Schnell entstand der Entschluss, seiner in einem Artikel zu erinnern, mit den Tagebuchnotizen Karl Königs als Grundlage. Weitere intensive Recherche in den Archiven der Welt brachte so viel Material zusammen, dass aus dem Artikel ein ganzes Buch wurde, das 2014 in deutscher Sprache publiziert wurde. Das Buch wurde erstmals der Öffentlichkeit in seiner Geburtsstadt Olomouc in der Tschechischen Republik (damals Olmütz in Österreich) vorgestellt, und gleichzeitig zeigte eine kleine Ausstellung einige seiner Werke. Ein erster großer Schritt, damit diese Biografie wieder dem Vergessen entwunden werden kann. Nun braucht es viele Leser, die sich seinem Leben widmen und somit die Erinnerung nachholen.

Die Vorstellung des Buches geschah am 70. Jahrestag seines Todes; der Deportationszug vom Ghetto Theresienstadt zum Todeslager Auschwitz führte durch das damalige Olmütz. Konnte Alfred

A water colour which Alfred Bergel was forced to paint. It's is a beautified situation of the sleeping quarters. The bunk beds show only two tiers but there were always three.
30 January 1944 (Jewish Museum, Sydney)

Bergel wahrnehmen, dass er, zusammengedrängt im Viehwagon einem ungewissen Ziel entgegenfahrend, durch seine Geburtsstadt fuhr? Die Umstände und das genaue Datum seines Todes sind unklar. Die Liste der Deportierten in diesem Zug, der am 16. Oktober 1944 Theresienstadt verließ und zwei Tage später in Auschwitz ankam, ist die letzte Spur, sodass der 18. Oktober 1944 als Todesdatum angenommen wird. Gemeinsam mit ihm im Zug der Deportierten war in einem der Viehwagons der Musiker und Komponist Victor Ullmann, zu dessen 70. Todestag das Fest der jüdischen Kultur in Olomouc stattfand und zu dessen Ehren seine Oper *Der Sturz des Antichrist* aufgeführt wurde. So geschah es, dass durch die Ehrung Victor Ullmanns auch der unbekannte Alfred Bergel geehrt werden konnte. Beide sind sich höchstwahrscheinlich im Ghetto Theresienstadt begegnet, sie hatten u.a. gemeinsame Freunde. Zum Abschluss dieser Woche in Olomouc wurde in einer kleinen ehemaligen Hutterer-Kirche während der Predigt einer Weihehandlung der Christengemeinschaft nicht nur an Victor Ullmann, sondern auch an Alfred Bergel erinnert.

2021, also sieben Jahre später und 80 Jahre, nachdem Theresienstadt als Ghetto und Konzentrationslager begonnen hat, wird das Buch mit vielen neuen Dokumenten und Erkenntnissen, die in der Zwischenzeit gefunden werden konnten, in englischer Sprache erscheinen.

(Die deutsche Ausgabe findet man hier: ***www.karlkoeniginstitute.org/de/andere-publikationen.asp)***
Wir werden auch deutsche Veranstaltungen anbieten!

Neuigkeiten aus der Mitteleuropäischen Region

Die Initiative der Ambassadeurs als Beispiel für ein Instrument des Dialogs

Wir möchten an dieser Stelle die Idee der Ambassadeurs vorstellen und auch diese selbst. Fotos und eine kurze biographische Vorstellung zu ihnen findet man auf unserer Webseite.

Die Idee der »Ambassadeurs« im Sinne von »Botschafterinnen«/»Bot-schaftern« entstand im Zusammenhang einer »Roadmap«, einem langfristigen Plan für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung und Arbeit des Instituts.

Als Ambassadeurs möchten wir besonders solche Persönlichkeiten auswählen, die einen großen Radius an Aktivitäten besitzen hinsichtlich Einfluss und Netzwerk und sich dabei mit dem Karl König Institut identifizieren und dessen Arbeit und Ziele gerne in diesen Netzwerken repräsentieren möchten. Ein Ambassadeur verpflichtet sich, in dieser Rolle jeweils für einen Zeitraum von zwei Jahren mitzuarbeiten mit der Möglichkeit der Verlängerung nach gegenseitiger Übereinkunft. Sie werden als solche auf der Webseite des Karl König Instituts aufgeführt. Der Zweck ist es, das Wissen um und das allgemeine Interesse am Karl König Institut in einem weiteren Umkreis zu fördern. Dies soll dabei helfen, mehr Menschen zu rekrutieren, sich dem Freundeskreis des KKI anzuschließen, die Kern-Aktivitäten des KKI voranzubringen und die Sichtbarkeit und das Bewusstsein für die Wichtigkeit des KKI in neue Kreise und Felder zu bringen.

Die Ambassadeurs werden gebeten, sich für die Interessen, Nöte, Projekte und Aktivitäten des Karl König Instituts einzusetzen, diese zu unterstützen und für sie innerhalb ihrer Gemeinschaften und Netzwerke einzustehen. Dies kann auf vielfältige Art und Weise erfolgen: durch eine Einladung zu einer Präsentation, einen Vortrag oder ein Gespräch über das KKI, durch Zirkulieren von Informationen über Veranstaltungen, Konferenzen, Vorträge oder Aktivitäten, die Vermittlung von Buchverkäufen, sowohl durch Ideen, Vorschläge und das Ermöglichen von Gelegenheiten für Partnerschaften, Veranstaltungen und Aktivitäten als auch Möglichkeiten für Fundraising und Spenden. Es wird jährlich regelmäßige, regional organisierte Treffen der sozialen Begegnung mit den Ambassadeurs geben, um über Aktualisierungen und Entwicklungen des KKI zu berichten mit der Möglichkeit zum Gesprächsaustausch zu Ideen und Vorschlägen.

Sollte jemand Vorschläge haben, wer sonst noch zu diesem Kreis gehören könnte, wende sie oder er sich bitte an Richard Steel, Cornelius Pietzner oder mich. ***Regine Bruhn***

News from the Middle European Region

The Initiative of Ambassadors as an Example of an Instrument of Dialogue

We would like to use this opportunity to introduce you to the idea of the Ambassadors for the Karl König Institute and also introduce you to the Ambassadors themselves. You can find a photo and a short biography of each one on our website.

The idea of "Ambassadors" came about in the context of a "road map", a long-term plan for a sustainable development and working of the Institute.

We are in the process of appointing some friends as Ambassadors; people who possess a wide radius of activity regarding influence and networking, identifying at the same time with the Karl König Institute and being positively willing to represent its work and aims in these networks. We have suggested that an Ambassador should be committed to this role for a period of two years with the possibility of extending this in mutual agreement. Information about them can be found on our website. The aim is to further the general knowledge of and interest in the Karl König Institute in a wider circumference. This should also help to recruit more individuals to join the Friends of the Karl König Institute, to bring forward its core activities and also enhance the visibility and awareness for the importance of the KKI in new circles and fields.

The Ambassadors are being asked to get engaged for the interests, needs, projects and activities of the Karl König Institute, to support these and stand for them in their communities and networks. This can happen in many diverse ways: by an invitation for a presentation, a talk or a conversation about the Institute, by circulation of information about events, conferences, lectures or activities, organising book sales, through ideas, suggestions and by initiating partnerships, events and activities as well as helping with fund raising. There will be annual regional meetings for social encounters with the Ambassadors in order to inform about current developments of the Institute and taking the opportunity for conversation about ideas and suggestions.

Should anyone have suggestions about who else should belong to this circle, please contact Richard Steel, Cornelius Pietzner or myself. We hope that this will set an example for work in other regions too! ***Regine Bruhn***

Ambassadors:

Tilman Aichele (Lübeck), Peter Beier (Haidenmühle, Darmstadt)
Christoph Heemann (Hermannsberg), Rui Machado (Lehenhof)
Christiana Mentzel-Kemper (Hermannsberg), Marcin Mierecko (Le Béal, France/Frankreich)
Anita Pedersen (Lautenbach)

80 Jahre Camphill 1940 – 2020

Feiern Sie mit! Können diese Impulse auch für die Zukunft helfen? Das Karl König Institut bietet Material zu diesem Anlass an.

Vor 80 Jahren setzte eine kleine Gruppe von Flüchtlingen aus Wien eine weltweite Bewegung für heilende Gemeinschaftsbildung in Bewegung: Die Camphill Bewegung. Am 1. Juni 1940 fand der Einzug in das Camphill House statt.

Das Karl König Institut hat eine Ausstellung zum Selbstgestalten für Sie:
23 Poster im A3-Format sind vorbereitet – mit kurzen Texten zur Gründungsgruppe von Camphill mit ihren Impulsen und zu der Geschichte der weltweiten Ausbreitung der Camphill-Bewegung. Alles ist mit reichlichem Bildmaterial dokumentiert. Für einen Selbstkostenbeitrag von €100 können Sie die Poster herunterladen und als Ausstellungstafeln drucken lassen. Gerne liefern wir bei Bedarf auch weiteres Info-Material und Bücher.

Falls Sie keine Ausstellung organisieren können oder Ergänzungsmaterial haben möchten, haben wir das ganze Material als Ausstellungsheft zusammengestellt:

80 Jahre Camphill Movement
48 Seiten mit vielen Abbildungen: £10

Und als Begleitheft über den Camphill-Impuls als Kulturimpuls:

Kunst in Gemeinschaft – Gemeinschaft als Kunst
60 Seiten, reich illustriert: €15

Und bitte vergessen Sie nicht – wir haben in Vorbereitung auf dieses Jahr bereits einen Band der Karl König Werkausgabe veröffentlicht:

Camphill – Ursprung und Ziele einer Bewegung, unter anderem mit vielen Texten von Karl König, und haben noch die Jubiläums-CD mit einem BBC-Interview mit Karl König:

Camphill – A Social Experiment – hören Sie seine Stimme!

Mit Fragen, Bestellungen oder um Veranstaltungen vorzubereiten bitte kontaktieren Sie uns: ***office@karlkoeniginstitute.org***

BOOKS

Any books by Karl König that are in print—also any other publications advertised here or online can be ordered directly and will be delivered postage free. Just send your order with address for delivery and invoice to:

in the U.K. **aberdeen@karlkoeniginstitute.org**
in USA **onat@camphillghent.org**
in Europe **office@karlkoeniginstitute.org**

Sie können alle lieferbaren Bücher von Karl König direkt bestellen—auch andere Publikationen, die hier oder auf unserer Website gezeigt werden. Die Lieferung ist portofrei aber bitte: Rechnungs- und Lieferadresse nicht vergessen!

Insiders/Outsiders

Richard Steel and Vicky Syme

Insiders/Outsiders: A good title for research into present-day community life in and around Camphill? Yes, indeed! And there will be a retreat about this theme, entitled "Steps into the Unknown — Rebuilding Community out of the Camphill Impulse" organised by Tilman Aichele in September this year…not in Camphill, but in the North German town of Lübeck!

But that is actually not the reason for this article.

Right now I would like to share about an organization called *Insiders/Outsiders* that was created in London just over a year ago. It is a nationwide arts festival celebrating refugees from Nazi Europe and their contribution to British culture — a festival planned to last the whole year from March 2019 to March 2020. We would have marked the end of this festival with an event about Camphill…of course this has to be postponed. Well, March 2020 should have marked the official end of the festival, but because of the popularity of their events, which have taken place all over Britain, including all the arts, many lectures and courses, it has now become the beginning of a longer-term commitment to celebrating the impact of this remarkable generation of émigrés under the *Insiders/Outsiders* umbrella. That our event had to be cancelled because of pandemic regulations does not mean that we will not continue this interesting collaboration!

Let's start with the organisation: *Insiders/Outsiders* was created by a group of historians in and around London University. On their website ***insidersoutsiders-festival.org/about-us/*** you can read:

While in no way underplaying the émigrés' experience of loss, dispossession and displacement, or the difficulties they encountered on arrival in Britain, the general tenor of the festival is affirmative and celebratory. With the plight of refugees and the rise of right-wing politics and racism being once again pressing and topical issues, 2019, as the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, is the ideal moment to take stock of Britain's debt to an earlier generation who found refuge on these shores. It is also a fitting moment to pay tribute to those British-born individuals who, in welcoming and working with the émigrés, chose openness and internationalism over provincialism and xenophobia.

And Phillippe Sands QC comments:

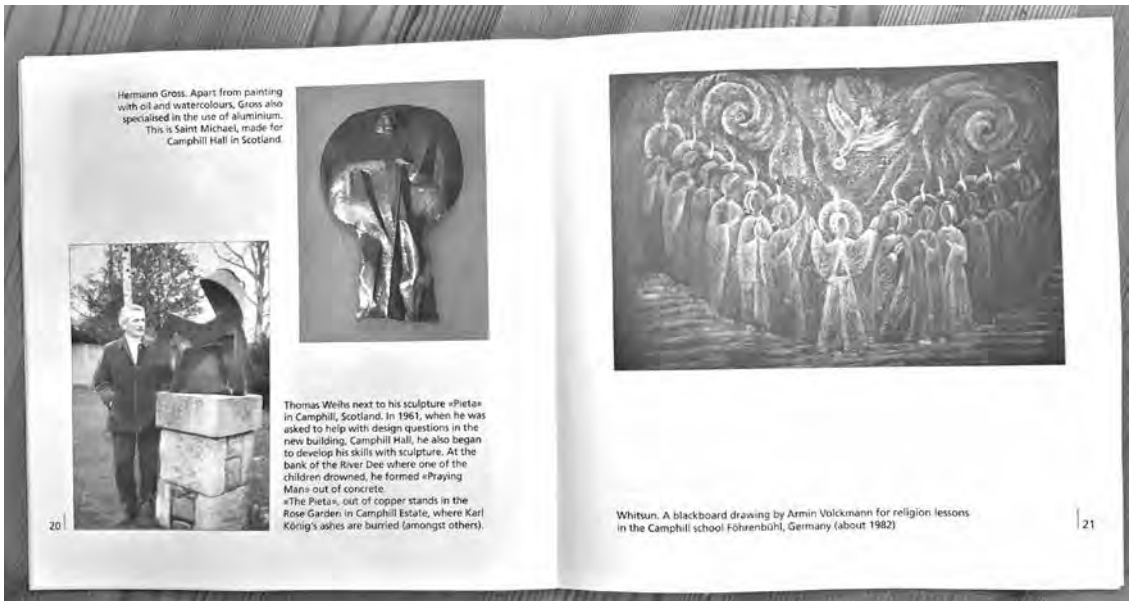
This is an important and timely initiative, one that should help us to better understand the realities of life as a refugee — then and now — and the remarkable contributions to be made by Britain's more recent arrivals.

Well, 80 years since the Second World War means 80 years since the beginning of Camphill! It was a little group of refugees from Vienna who created what became the Camphill Movement. And it just happens to be 50 years since the start of the The Mount Camphill Community — therefore we at the Karl König Institute decided on a cooperative project, working together with the architect and design consultant Sarri Tapales, Camphill Community The Mount. Soon Joan Sleigh was on board from the Executive Council of the Anthroposophical Society in Dornach — because she is a granddaughter of Karl König and grew up in Camphill in South Africa. Judy Bailey joined the team — she has lived and worked for many years in The Grange Camphill Village and has been active supporting an initiative in Palestine. We looked for ways to connect life — and people! — in Camphill today with the present stream of refugees, using art as a bridge*… and found a good starting point together with our friend Greg Tricker.

The cooperation between the Karl König Institute and the artist Greg Tricker began after the exhibition of his very special Kaspar Hauser pictures in Botton Village. Greg gave this whole collection of 35 paintings and three sculptures into the hands of the Institute and we have exhibited them now in over 25 places in England, Germany and Switzerland, including Ansbach and Dornach, working together with him in various places. Now this collaboration took a new step:

Greg Tricker started with a painting course in The Mount Camphill Community, centring on the theme *The Refugee, a Messenger from Afar. V*icky Syme, who is our partner in The Mount describes that in a special way and her account is the second part of this article. The painting should have been followed by two very special events this year — March 15th in London and May 17th at The Mount. I will describe them because we hope to reschedule them now and would like your support for that:

Event 1: At "St. Ethelburgas Centre for Reconciliation and Peace", Bishopsgate, London: Exhibition of paintings by residents of The Mount; slide show — Karl König's pictures for the Calendar of the Soul; talk by Richard Steel — "Camphill, Founded by Refugees"; talk by Joan Sleigh — "Growing Up in Community";

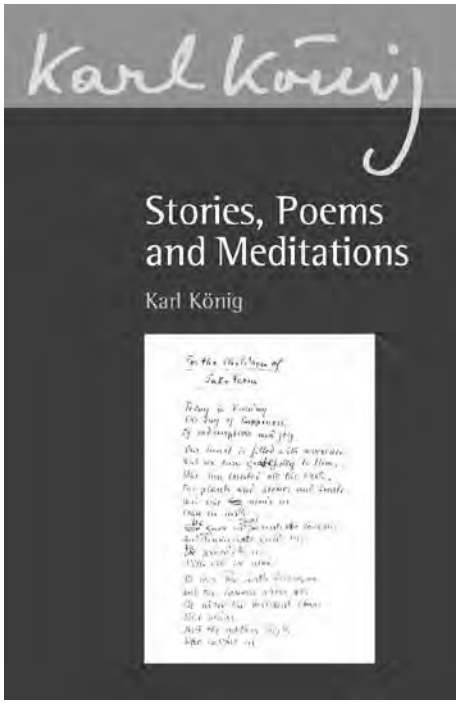


* The Karl König Institute is cooperating with two initiatives that have grown out of the Camphill Impulse connecting social therapy and refugee work: One has done amazing work since 1980 at The House of Peace in Ipswich, Massachusetts, the other is a new start-up in Oslo, Norway: find them through our website: ***https://www.karlkoeniginstitute.org/en/SubjectAreas/Social-Questions*** and look at "Partners and Collaborations"

podium discussion with Judy Bailey, Joan Sleigh, Richard Steel; slide show — "History of Camphill"; various short videos of Camphill today; Karl König in Interview with the BBC in 1964.

There would be information and a selection of books — including a new special publication — the booklet. *Art in Community — Community as Art* about the refugee group that started Camphill and how their impulse included art — König himself spoke about creating "cultural islands".

The new Karl König volume was also to be ready, but Floris Books did not manage, so they made a special offer (have you received the flyer yet?). Did Floris know about the postponement already?



The new volume: *Karl König — Poems, Stories and Meditations* — (including the *Christmas Story* too)

And of course, the CD with the 1964 interview with Karl König would also be there: Of course you can have these special items too!

Your order to

office@karlkoeniginstitute.org

will help us going forwards.

So, even without events we don't come empty handed: We can deliver to anywhere postage free and you will be contributing to our future cooperation with *Insiders/Outsiders*, then we can also give books to refugees.

The second event would have taken place in May in The Mount so that the refugees and other guests could see a Camphill Community in real life! There would also be exhibitions: 80 years of Camphill; 50 years The Mount; Greg Tricker's picture series "Anne Frank"; the residents' refugee paintings and: The Mount Today. As highlight of the day the community of The Mount has prepared Karl König's Play for Good Friday, which would be performed after a short introduction.

Well — as you will see — we cannot just cancel these wonderful events, so do please support our endeavour to reschedule, probably in 2021. And thanks to those who have already contributed!

The Mount Camphill Community turns 50

Vicky Syme

The Mount Camphill Community was founded in 1970. As a community we have a wish to celebrate and honour this milestone in many ways. We started our celebrations with an extraordinary weekend workshop with the acclaimed artist Greg Tricker entitled The Refugee, a Messenger from Afar.

During a very special few days, groups of students, co-housers and coworkers from the community heard a talk and were guided to paint their own responses with Greg through his inspirational works for Anne Frank and Bernadette of Lourdes.

We studied three major works by Greg for Anne Frank and St Bernadette from which our own pictures were created and shared. Alongside our painting experience we had the wonderful opportunity to explore the poems about Anne Frank by Nick Naydler through eurythmy. This was led by our inspirational community eurythmist, Chystal Hayn.

The workshop arose out of a wish to extend the boundaries of our community building and connect with other groups who would be interested in the work of Camphill. To celebrate 80 years of the Camphill movement and what it has offered to art in social care over these many years and what it still has to offer now.

Greg's workshop was the seed for a collaboration with the Insiders/Outsiders Festival and the Karl König Institut to explore the story of the Camphill refugees of WWII, pioneering a new form of community that forever transformed the care of people with special needs. An event in London was scheduled for this collaboration to take place and sadly this has now been postponed due to the world pandemic we are all a part of. We have also had to take the decision to postpone the second workshop which was to be hosted by The Mount Camphill Community in May to share our work with migrant and refugee groups. It is our hope that both events can be rescheduled in the near future.

We at The Mount Camphill Community wish to thank Greg for his inspirational work and weekend workshop. We are all changed by this creative experience and we hope to share our exhibition with others soon.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for the events that we hope to be able to reschedule in London and in The Mount please contact us at:

office@karlkoeniginstitute.org

Greg Tricker shows one of his pictures: *Journey to Le Cachot*

... and 60 Years Ago

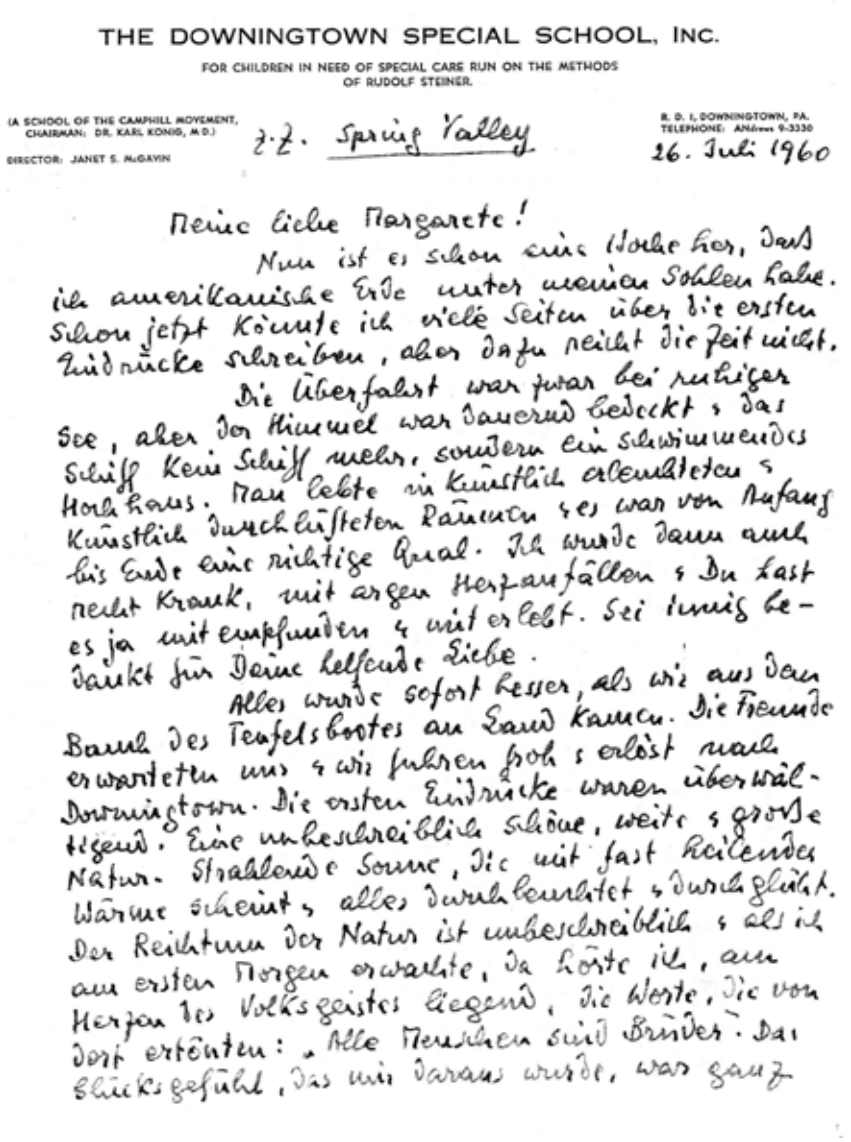
60 years ago, in 1960, Karl König made his first journey to America. Shortly before that, in Autumn 1959 a small group of co-workers, led by Janet McGavin had moved to Pennsylvania from Scotland following a call from Gladys and Bill Hahn who for health reasons were no longer able to continue their work with special needs children.

So in the summer of 1960 König already met with the beginnings of Camphill work there but during his extended lecture tour making also a start to what became the North American Camphill Region. His lectures took him to Montreal, Toronto and Ottowa in Canada, as far West as Michigan and Wisconsin and giving over 30 lectures in two months, apart from visiting various pediatric facilities and universities and seeing many children who were introduced to him by worried parents. During this tour he spent a large part of his time in the Threefold Foundation in Spring Valley, New York, where the seed for the start of Camphill Village Copake was sown, but also giving a very significant course of 12 lectures on the senses. This year, 2020, was to be a celebrative conference in August at the Threefold Foundation with talks about the twelve senses and about Karl König. Due to the pandemic this will unfortunately not be possible in the planned frame, although some events will be shared online and our exhibition of 80 years of Camphill will be shown. Probably a conference will be held at a later date. Stay tuned to our website to see details.

Nevertheless — to celebrate *60 years of Camphill in North America* we are preparing a new and greatly enlarged version of the book *Karl König in America* including transcripts from Karl König's diaries where one can follow his first impressions of America in the 60's and have unique insights into his preparation work for the lectures.

Check here for more information:
www.karlkoeniginstitute.org/en/news.asp

Congratulations on your
60th birthday in this unusual year,
Camphill in North America



THE DOWNINGTOWN SPECIAL SCHOOL, INC.

FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE RUN ON THE METHODS OF RUDOLF STEINER

(A SCHOOL OF THE CAMPHILL MOVEMENT, CHAIRMAN: DR. KARL KONIG, M.D.)
DIRECTOR: JANET S. McGAVIN

R. D. 1, DOWNINGTOWN, PA.
TELEPHONE: ANderson 9-3330

z.Z. Spring Valley

26. Juli 1960

Meine liebe Margarete!

Nun ist es schon eine Woche her, dass ich amerikanische Erde unter meinen Sohlen habe. Schon jetzt könnte ich viele Seiten über die ersten Eindrücke schreiben, aber dafür reicht die Zeit nicht.

Die Überfahrt war zwar bei ruhiger See, aber der Himmel war dauernd bedeckt & das Schiff kein Schiff mehr, sondern ein schwimmendes Hochhaus. Man lebte in künstlich erhellten & künstlich durchlüfteten Räumen & es war von Anfang bis Ende eine richtige Qual. Ich wurde dann auch recht krank, mit argen Herzanfällen & Du hast es ja mitempfunden & mit erlebt. Sei innig bedankt für Deine helfende Liebe.

Alles wurde sofort besser, als wir aus dem Bauch des Teufelsbootes an Land kamen. Die Freunde erwarteten uns & wir fuhren froh & erlöst nach Downingtown. Die ersten Eindrücke waren überwältigend. Eine unbeschreiblich schöne, weite & grosse Natur. Strahlende Sonne, die mit fast heilender Wärme scheint & alles durchleuchtet & durchglüht. Der Reichtum der Natur ist unbeschreiblich & als ich am ersten Morgen erwachte, da hörte ich, aus Herzen des Volksgeistes liegend, die Worte, die von dort ertönten: „Alle Menschen sind Brüder". Das Glücksgefühl, das mir daraus wurde, war ganz

land. The friends were waiting for us and we drove happily and delivered from our pains to Downingtown. The first impressions were overwhelming. Nature here is indescribably beautiful, wide and huge. A radiant sun was shining with what seemed to be healing warmth and it illuminates everything and warms it through.

The richness of nature is indescribable and as I awoke on the first morning my head was resting on the heart of the folk spirit, and I heard words issuing forth from it: "All humans are brothers and sisters".

The feeling of joy that grew from that was truly wonderful. Since then I felt as though I was allowed to experience one of the mysteries of the American people.

I was in Downingtown until Saturday, then we drove to New York (more about that next time) and from there to Spring Valley, which is like an American "Dornach" with a really nice building that has a stage and lecture rooms; Dr. Pfeiffer has his laboratories here too; then there is a large farm, gardens and a number of houses where anthroposophical friends live. At the moment they have "Summer School" here and about 150 people have come together. I am giving 12 lectures and the first two, yesterday and the day before, were received with enthusiasm. People listen very attentively and without so many prejudgments and that is good. Alix and I share a little house in which we have made ourselves quite at home. The conference goes until August 7.

I received your letter and thank you for your warm words. I would be pleased if you could translate a few things from the green "Cresset" booklet, then we would have a start with literature. I have been invited to a meeting by the leadership of the Christian Community; they no longer know how to co-ordinate the festivals between the Northern and Southern hemispheres and asked me for advice. I will organize the dates with Husemann but please do not say anything about this. [Margarete Reuschle lived in Stuttgart where the Priests' Seminary and the meeting place of the leadership of the Christian Community was].

So much for today! My heart-felt greetings *Your Karl*

The letter in English

Written from Spring Valley, July 26 1960

My dear Margarete,

Now it is already a week that I have American soil under my feet. And I could already write pages about my first impressions except that time would not permit it.

For the crossing the sea was calm but the sky was permanently overcast and the ship was no ship any more but a floating sky-scraper. One had to live in rooms with artificial light and artificial air-flow, which was simply an ordeal from start to finish. I was also quite ill and had a series of heart attacks, but I know that you experienced this and felt with me. Deepest thanks be to you for the stream of helping love.

Everything was immediately better once we could exit the stomach of this devil's-boat onto

Das Team erweitert sich – Willkommen Manuela Maaß

Vielleicht haben Sie schon einen Brief bekommen, den Manuela Maaß geschrieben hat und Sie haben sich gefragt – Wer ist das?

Eigentlich hatten wir nur darüber nachgedacht – im Nachklang eines Gesprächs im Vorstand über die Zukunft des Instituts –, dass wir für viele Aufgaben, die sich damals hauptsächlich bei mir stapelten und den ich nur mehr oder weniger gerecht werden konnte, Unterstützung im Büro bräuchten. Wir haben wirklich fleißige Vorstandsmitglieder und dazu kommen vor allem Anne Martin, die mir sehr viel abnahm – die vielen Listen zu erstellen und dann die Abrechnungen der drei Bankkonten – und natürlich Winfried Altmann, der schon seit langer Zeit alles übernimmt, was mit Design, Layout und Druck zu tun hat. Aber man war sich darüber im Klaren – nach einer geeigneten Person sollte gesucht werden. Wir waren tatsächlich kurz davor (was mir nicht ganz recht war) eine Annonce in die Zeitung zu setzen. Aber wie sollten wir eine Person finden, die in diese vielfältigen Aufgaben einsteigen kann? Dann entstand »zufällig« ein Email-Austausch mit Manuela Maaß, die ich schon von der Ausbildungszeit her kenne – sie hat in Föhrenbühl die Heilpädagogik erlernt, dort gelebt und gearbeitet…ich wäre nie auf die Idee gekommen, dass sie bereit wäre, so etwas zu machen, erwähnte aber (möglicherweise stöhnte ich über die ständig zunehmende Arbeitsmenge), dass wir jemanden suchen würden. Das war im Oktober letzten Jahres – und seit 6. Januar ist sie nun für uns tätig!

Manuela ist Berlinerin, hat das Camphill Seminar am Bodensee abgeschlossen und einige Jahre in der Hausverantwortung in der Camphill Schule Föhrenbühl verbracht, absolvierte dann einen doppelten Bachelor in Sozialanthropologie mit Kunstgeschichte in den Niederlanden und Deutschland und hat Arbeitserfahrung im Museum, im Eventmanagement, im Gartenbau und in einigen Bereichen der sozialen Arbeit. Sie hat zeitweise in Holland, in den USA und in Kanada gelebt – dass heißt, sie bringt gute Sprachkenntnisse mit. Manuela Maaß arbeitet auf Honorarbasis bei uns mit, da sie eine Festanstellung in der Cateringbranche hat. Sie arbeitet – nicht nur wegen Corona – bei sich zu Hause und hat angefangen, all das zu gestalten, was mit unserem PR-Bereich zu tun hat; deswegen kann es sein, dass Sie schon einen Brief bekommen haben oder eine Spendenbescheinigung und sahen bereits den Namen! Sie bringt schon einiges an Ideen ein und ich bin persönlich sehr froh, dass ich wieder einen ganzen Bereich abgeben kann! Für den Kaspar Hauser Forschungskreis wie auch für das Camphill Archiv hat sie schon begonnen, Material zu scannen und wird unsere Bibliothek demnächst in Angriff nehmen. ***Für das Team, Richard***

The Team Grows — Welcome to Manuela Maass

Maybe you have already seen a letter signed by Manuela Maass and have wondered who that is?

Well, this all goes back to a conversation in the last board meeting of the Karl König Institute. Cornelius Pietzner said that it is really time to take a look at the "biography" of the Institute and ask how it should develop into the future. We formed a "road map" group to prepare this for the AGM. The conversation soon showed that it is time to look at all the tasks that have accumulated over the years, most of which land on my desk in some way. We really do have an active and informed Board, I must say. And the "secretariat" that has formed over the past years to helps with all sorts of issues — Anne Martin who looks after the accounts and sends monthly reports to Leonie Frenkert-Ghazi for the annual financials; then, of course, there is Winfried Altmann, without whom nothing would work — he has done all graphic design jobs, flyers, posters, layout for books, sees to printing orders and so on. And many others amongst the members of the Institute help with text editing, translation and so on.

But now we would need, this was the bottom line of the meeting, an addition to the team for administrative work, particularly to look after our donation base and see to various letters and lists. We were actually on the brink of putting an ad into a newspaper (I dreaded the thought of people applying without any previous connection to our work and having to answer applications and do interviews….. not really believing that we could find the right person like that anyway…)

Then the proverbial coincidence occurred — in a string of email conversations with Manuela Maass, whom I know from her time in the Camphill Seminar in Föhrenbühl some 20 years ago, I happened to mention that I was going to look for someone to join the team, not expecting that it would be of interest to her at all. Well, that was in October 2019 and we are pleased to say that since January 2020, Manuela has been with us, looking after everything that has to do with PR for the Institute, the data base and donations — also for the Kaspar Hauser Research Circle — and she will soon be seeing to our wonderful but disorganised library!

Manuela is from Berlin, so she is not far from our office, but works mainly from home (not only during the pandemic). After completing Camphill Seminar, she was responsible for a house community with children and youngsters for a while before studying cultural and social anthropology (which includes art history) and German-Dutch studies. She has work experience in a museum, in event-management and catering, in gardening and various areas of social work. Manuela has lived in the US, in Canada and Holland, which means that she brings not only pertinent knowledge and experience, but also important language skills with her! As she has a permanent job as Office Services Coordinator with a local company, she can only do limited hours for us, but this has already proven to be quite an asset! Thank you, Manuela, we're very glad to have you on our team!

Richard

Spendenmöglichkeiten für das Institut — We depend on your contribution

Unser Spendenkonto bei der GLS-Bank, Bochum: Karl König Institut, Nr. 1131714200 BLZ 430 609 67;
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For donations in the **US and Canada**: Please make checks payable to the Camphill Foundation and send them to the Camphill Foundation, 285 Hungry Hollow Road. Chestnut, NY, 10977. Please mention 'Karl König Archive' in the 'honor of' line. Or you can go to their online donation page: ***www.camphillfoundation.org/donate*** If you have any questions please contact Peggy Edwards-Osborn at the Camphill Foundation address above or at: ***peggy@camphillfoundation.org***

GB: Cheques to Karl König Institute at Karl König Archive, Cairnlee House, Bieldside, Aberdeen AB15 9BN

Schweiz: Konto Nr 115.5 'Freunde der Erziehungskunst' bei der Freien Gemeinschaftsbank Basel, Postkonto 40-963-0, mit dem Vermerk 'Spende Karl König Archiv, Berlin'