

Rudolf Steiner Library Accommodates Sleuths from the Research Institute

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In autumn 2005, the Research Institute for Waldorf Education received a grant from the Waldorf Curriculum Fund. The grant funded a visit to the Rudolf Steiner Library in Ghent, New York, to research its archives in order to discover materials of interest to Waldorf teachers, materials that might exist in old periodicals, journals, and newsletters. In short, this was an invitation to participate in an intellectual treasure hunt.

The Research Institute Board of Trustees asked two stalwart buccaneers, Roberto Trostli and David Mitchell, to undertake the challenge of this treasure hunt. Two months later, with a gleam in their eyes, they arose at dawn and set out on a grey November New England morning. They soon became engaged in a conversation so deep that the two-hour drive seemed to last five minutes.

They entered the library and found that Judith Soleil and Judy Kiely were ready for them. Two chairs and a long oak table with a half dozen catalogs had been prepared for their research. Roberto and David joyfully divided the papers and wrote down the names of articles from sources they never knew existed. There were periodicals entitled *The Present Age*, *Forerunner*, *Free Deeds*, *Anthroposophical News Sheet*, *Anthroposophical Review*, and *Star and Furrow*, to name a few, with many articles from the original teachers of the first Waldorf school in Stuttgart. Caroline von Heydebrand, Herbert Hahn, Ernst Lehrs, Walter

Johannes Stein, Rudolf Treichler, and, of course, Rudolf Steiner himself, had written on a variety of topics.

There were exclamations of glee and uncontained excitement every time one of the pair found something new or unusual to share with the other. It was a rich time and altogether more than 60 articles were collected and passed on to the online Waldorf library (OWL), found at www.waldorflibrary.org, for posting and free downloading by English-speaking teachers worldwide. The surface has been scratched and the hope is that the team can return at a later date for the next phase of exploration.

An unexpected find was an educational book by Rudolf Steiner that has not been translated into English, *Erziehung zum Leben: Selbsterziehung und pädagogische Praxis* (Education for Life: Self-Education and Educational Practice), lectures given between February 24, 1921, and April 4, 1924; GA 297a. An anonymous donor has since stepped forward with a generous donation to see the translation completed and published. The Research Institute has received permission from the Nachlassverwaltung (the administrators of Steiner's publishable estate) in Switzerland to carry this forward. It is now being translated and will be available in book form this coming autumn. You will also see it serialized in future *Research Bulletins*.