



Paul Schöten-Carlson
The Soul of the World
1917

Anthroposophy in the World

"Modern individuals must think and act in ways that are significant and decisive if we are to emerge from the present misery. And what is thought, what is done, must be born out of spiritual knowledge, out of concrete spiritual insights." (1917)



Rudolf Steiner

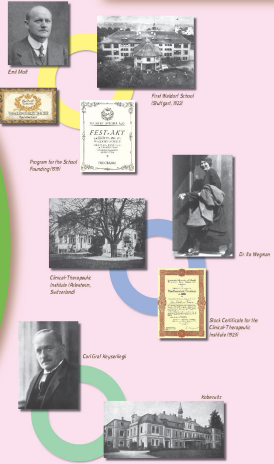


Otto Graf Larchenfeld

"The natural organism must do its thinking with its head, not with its lungs. Likewise, it is necessary to arrange the social organism so that no system can preempt the task of another; each cooperates with the others while maintaining its own independence." (1919)

Human Dignity
The dehumanizing carnage of World War I (1914–1918) made clear that the dignity of the human being would come under increasing attack. When Otto Graf Larchenfeld asked in 1917 about what could be done to remedy the situation, Rudolf Steiner replied with an outline for a threefold society with human dimensions, a plan that was pursued in the politically chaotic public arena during 1919.

Institutions
It became evident that the Threefold Society movement was gaining little ground in post-war Europe. Rudolf Steiner turned his attention to building institutions that might model anthroposophical insights. He and Emil Molt (director of the Waldorf-Astoria cigarette company) founded an independent school in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919. Then he helped Dr. Ita Wegman begin a Clinical-Therapeutic Institute in Arlesheim, Switzerland in 1921; pharmaceuticals (Weleda) and curative practices soon followed. In 1924 he instituted a new approach to agriculture (biodynamics) at Koberwitz, a Silesian estate belonging to Carl Graf von Keyserlingk. Today, these initiatives are being explored and applied around the world. There are over a thousand Waldorf Schools, and many medical and therapeutic institutions as well as biodynamic farms. In addition to his work on behalf of the Anthroposophical Society and the School for Spiritual Science, Rudolf Steiner served as an advisor to a group of young theologians seeking to found a church based on spiritual-scientific insights; in 1922 they established the Christian Community.



A Stronger Foundation
In 1923 Rudolf Steiner took steps to transform the Anthroposophical Society and the School for Spiritual Science. The General Anthroposophical Society was founded during the 1923 Christmas conference in the Carpentery Building adjacent to the first Goetheanum. A six-member Executive Council was created with Rudolf Steiner as its president; the School for Spiritual Science would consist of three esoteric Classes as well as professional Sections. In February, 1924, Rudolf Steiner offered the first of nineteen lessons of the first Class. He died before he was able to give the second and third Classes.

"And if we show ourselves to be worthy we will see that a good star will shine over what is willed from here. My dear friends, follow this good star." (January 1, 1924)

At the Threshold
Rudolf Steiner intensified his efforts during 1924, but by autumn he began to reach the limits of his physical strength. He gave his last address on September 29, 1924. He worked from his sick bed until his death on March 30, 1925. His ashes rest in the Memorial Grove near the Goetheanum.



"Where love and empathy stir in life we can perceive the magical breath of the spirit as it fills the world of the senses."

