



"Thank you, Rudolf Steiner."

Sao Paulo, Brazil 25-27 August 2023
chb / 28 August 2023

Offered by Christopher Houghton Budd and organised by Lucia Sigolo, this seminar proved to be an intense overview of the history, possible demise and future potential of the Anthroposophical Society, as seen via the case of the Anthroposophical Society in Brazil and as set against the economic and monetary journey of humanity as a whole.

A core attendance of 12 people including two board members of the Anthroposophical Society in Brazil, were joined on two open evenings by another 30 participants. Provision and administration of the building was ably and efficiently carried by Anthroposophical Society in Brazil staff – to whom a big 'thank you!' is due.

The overall thesis of the workshop was that in 1923 a fundamental shift in worldwide economics and finance occurred, but was not clearly understood because the world became bifurcated between capitalism and communism, resulting in a great detour from humanity's true path. Now, with general chaos reigning, we find ourselves back at 1923's problems and with a second chance to solve them. But we won't get a third opportunity.

Close study of the accompanying blackboard images will reveal the details of the story, as we looked at what this historical moment meant (or could mean) in terms of 'own light' macro-economic theory and the changes facing the Anthroposophical Society if it is to stay coherent with the form and conduct introduced by Rudolf Steiner in outline through the 1923/4 Christmas Conference.

A key aspect of the thesis was that unless the Anthroposophical Society fulfils what Rudolf Steiner had in mind (and does not assume it knows better), the macro-historical changes possible in 2023 will not be possible. Meaning the Anthroposophical Society has to be seen and conducted not as something *apart from* general humanity, but *as a part of* it. Indeed, achieving the Society's true public role to be seen as humanity's North Star and the setter of history's pace as we proceed through the current – and crucial – Michael age.

Insofar as Rudolf Steiner united his karma with humanity at large through the members of the Anthroposophical Society, it is in the Society's gift, our gift, to validate Michael's belief in humanity. Fail in that regard, and Michael's disappointment will be our legacy.

Letter of Invitation

The announcement of the event was accompanied by this letter:

Brazil says 'Thank You' to Rudolf Steiner

*Reaffirming the Anthroposophical Society 100 years on
25-27 August 2023*

With Christopher Houghton Budd, economic and monetary historian, convenor of the Economics Conference of the Goetheanum, board member of the Worldwide Goetheanum Fund association, participant in the Circle of Treasurers.

1923 was an important year in human history. Outwardly, the world was in chaos. The gods having left us to our own devices for the first time, it was being organised dishonestly on the basis of the false principles of self-determination of peoples and the uniting of nations, instead of the threefold nature of society and a single, associative world economy. In response, Rudolf Steiner inaugurated the School of Spiritual Science and refounded the Anthroposophical Society as a twin arrangement intended to bring example and stability into human affairs.

Prior to that, as Peter Selg has recently reminded us,¹ Rudolf Steiner encouraged the founding of Country Societies. After the Christmas Conference, they became Country Groups of the Society, autonomous yet part of a world Society, whose task, presumably, is to host and care for the work of the School in its country.

¹ Under the heading, 'The Autonomous Country Societies and the World Society', and based on a talk he gave to the Swiss Anthroposophical Society in February 2023.

In the background of Country Groups stands *The Mission of Folks Souls*,² Rudolf Steiner's 1910 answer to the contrary impulse that, coming through Roosevelt, resulted in the United Nations. Except that nations should not unite; rather they should identify their own light and respect the light of others. For then a globalised economy can be matched by a worldwide shared cultural space of folk souls in conversation.

With its focus on Teutonic mythology, however, Steiner gives little or no detail as regards folk souls in Latin America.³ And yet, this paucity of detail enables the theme to be investigatory, an exploration based on actual soul and national experience... What, for example, is the 'own light' of Brazil and how does this shine in the work of the School/Society? What do Brazilians see when looking in on what we do? And how does this all look in the realm of finances, where money is always a reflection of intention, will and deeper, if unspoken, karma?

It seems fitting to mark the centenary of Country Groups, of which Brazil was one of the first, by thanking Rudolf Steiner⁴ for his many insights and looking closely at his genius in the field of finance, in order to take fresh steps in funding the Goetheanum worldwide – wherever, that is, activities of the School and Society are undertaken in its name and spirit?

The idea of this seminar is to contextualize today's situation by way of two keynote talks given as the basis of open discussion of the themes mentioned above as elaborated from within Brazil. Please come and share what you know – and how you know – about the mission of Brazil!

The Importance of 2023

A report such as this cannot capture or do justice to the seminar's wide-ranging content, but it might be useful to reiterate the essential themes as mentioned in the above letter accompanying programme (see end).

We began with a survey of the history of Rudolf Steiner's endeavours to bring about a modern, existential experience of the reality of karma and reincarnation – tracing his time in the Theosophical Society, his work with the Anthroposophical Society and the School of Spiritual Science, the building of the Goetheanum on land belonging to the Swiss Johannes Bau Verein (John Building Association), eventually renamed the General Anthroposophical Society on 8 February 1925.

Specially noted was the on-going discussion⁵ about which Anthroposophical Society is the 'true' one – and did the Christmas Society really end because it never convened an Annual General Meeting, or might history be recast to say the intention was not, in fact, to have annual, but centennial general meetings – 2023, 2123 and 2223 – and so pace ourselves until the close of this Michael period? So, not choosing between two entities, but understanding their shared karma such that 'a third event may be'.

Our task in 2023? To reset the economic and financial paradigm so that the weight and forward movement of history gives effect to the 'own light' thesis, as variously formulated by Ralph Hawtrey in 1908, Maynard Keynes in 1923 and Milton Friedman in 1953, namely:

If, when world economy begins, every country can identify its own light, we will be able to harmonise all countries through the one shared financial paradigm. If not, through that same paradigm, the Anglo-Saxon mind-set will tyrannise all other cultures.

The Light of Brazil – I

What, therefore, is the light of Brazil? And what is the role and destiny of the Anthroposophical Society in Brazil at this critical, even nadir, point in the history of the Anthroposophical Society, when one cannot be certain if 'the culmination'⁶ has happened and whether the future of the Anthroposophical Society will be real or nominal?⁷

² *The Mission of the Individual Folk Souls in Relation to Teutonic Mythology*, 7-17 June of 1910, Oslo. Rudolf Steiner Press, London 1970. CW 121.

³ Perhaps, with the exception of Mexico, which is well documented in *Inner Impulses of Evolution. The Mexican Mysteries and the Knights Templar*. Steiner Books, New York 1999. CW 171.

⁴ This idea was first suggested at a meeting with the board of the Brazilian Society.

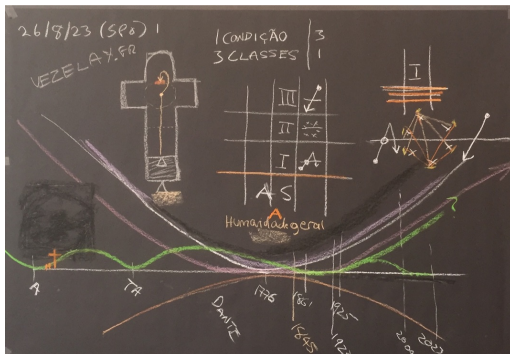
⁵ See March 2022 47pp Goetheanum committee report on the *Chronology of the constitutional history of the Anthroposophical Society*.

⁶ See discussion by Stephen Usher: https://anthroposophy.eu/w/images/1/15/Usher_Stephen_E._-Remarks_on_the_culmination_at_the_end_of_the_20th_century.pdf

⁷ Strange to relate, for one of the participants these themes brought to mind Elgar's Variation, Nimrod, with these lyrics:

The 'own light' thesis envisages that all countries need to identify their unique contribution to humanity's spiritual development if we are not to fight over and deplete the earth's resources. This has obvious echoes of folk souls, and so the question was explored whether the Country Groups of the Anthroposophical Society – now celebrating their centenary – are not only linked to, but 'spokespersons' for the folk souls of the world. And with that, is it the task of the erstwhile General Secretaries to be 'antennas' in that regard, representative not only of a particular public role in their country, but also of the country as a whole, able to articulate the challenges it faces and the contribution the Anthroposophical Society (and the wider Anthroposophical Movement) might offer in meeting them?

In this connection, we touched again on Rudolf Steiner's *The Mission of Folk Souls* and the possible conversation between them as a contrary impulse to the Rooseveltian uniting of nations in order to police an humanity unable to manage itself once the gods have stepped back. But also on the key role of Teutonic mythology and whether the cultures of the world have to step into the consciousness soul through the resistance they offer to the imperialist capture of today's one-world finance through what one might call the Anglo-Saxon mind-set.

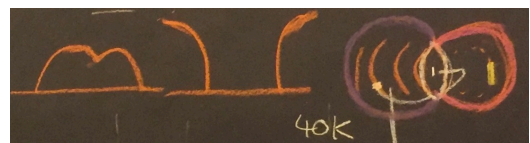


Acknowledging Catholicism

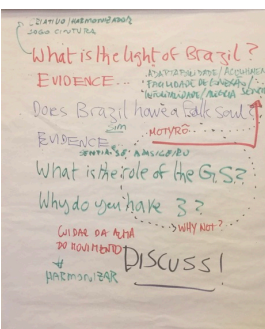
In a Catholic country like Brazil, it is important to find a relation with the spiritual evolution impeded by Catholicism and the mystery wisdom hidden in the Mass and church architecture, if one is to avoid falling off the anthroposophical path into papal arms. If, when trying to become one's own Peter, one is not to default to Peter in Rome. And so, via the Madeleine church in Vezelay, France, we looked at the open

secrets of the Goetheanums' architecture,⁸ and how the first Goetheanum 'returned' after its burning as the second inverted building, on the one hand, and on the other, as the double-cupola form of the Anthroposophical Society, with its initiative council and affirming membership.

Likewise, we explored afresh the guidance to humanity at the threshold of the 'grid' drawing,⁹ and, for example, groups of the Anthroposophical Society but meetings or standing conferences of the School of Spiritual Science. Why, above all, do we speak of one class and three conditions when, for Rudolf Steiner, there are three classes and one condition – that of being a 'representant' of Anthroposophy?¹⁰



The Light of Brazil – II



What, then, is the light of Brazil, and where is the evidence? Does Brazil have a folk soul and how is that evidenced? And what do we think the role of the General Secretaries is, and why are there three in Brazil?

The Brazilians answer to the first two questions was to form into groups of four and draw out of their discussions and experience key attributes they felt to be typical of both Brazilians and anthroposophists in Brazil. The flip chart tells the story.

1. What is the light of Brazil?

Creative, harmonizing, jogo de cintura (meaning: being able to adapt when a different unexpected situations)

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es / Requiem aeternam / Dona eis, Domine / Et lux perpetua / Leceat eis.

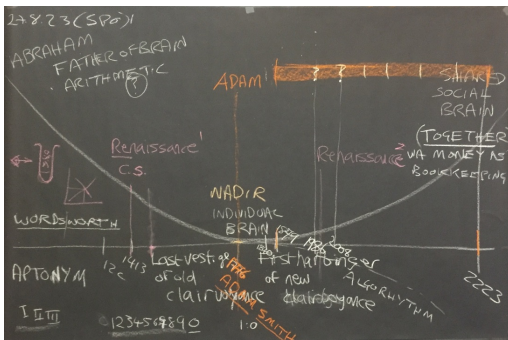
May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord, with Thy saints forever, for Thou art Kind / Eternal rest / Give to them, O Lord / And let perpetual light shine upon them.

⁸ See **Step into Another World – Economic Life as a Medium for Modern Initiation**. Christian Houghton Budd, Marc Desaulles, Anita Grandjean and Christian Thal-Jantzen. <https://aebookstore.com/publications/associative-economics-worldwide/authors/christopher-houghton-budd/step-into-another-world/>

⁹ Drawn by Rudolf Steiner on 27 December 1923.

¹⁰ For background, see www.hopespringseternal.world.

Perhaps using the newly created Worldwide Goetheanum Fund, another project of the Treasurers is to ask 5,000 'anthroposophical' institutions worldwide to contribute 1 USD per day as a way of saying "Thank You" to Rudolf Steiner for all the insights on which our work (and indeed our income) depends.¹⁵ Interestingly, the name of this project was first suggested at a meeting with the Anthroposophical Society in Brazil board a few years ago.

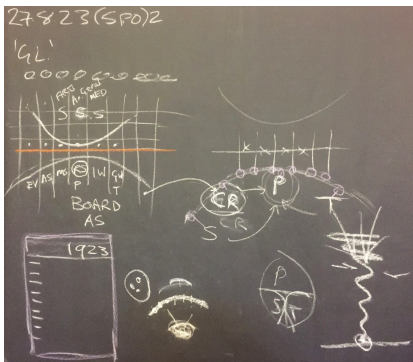


And so we arrived at the last morning – and another *tour de force*. Much ground was covered, including:

- the evolution of the brain,
- arithmetic and clairvoyance,
- the deeper meaning of the structure and numbers of bookkeeping once a single world currency is in operation and money reflects but does not beget human activity
- the possibility that our goodwill towards the Goetheanum (wherever it is present in the world) is at a nadir point and at

risk of going below it, as the lack of members' fees is made up by dependency on foundations and their pools of capital.

Finally, we looked at the way Rudolf Steiner conceived and established the refounded Anthroposophical Society at Christmas 1923/4 with the subtle relationships and dynamics between the Council of the Society and meetings or standing conferences of the School's sections, as well as the role of a General Secretary (now Country Representative) and whether this is something that can be carried by more than one person.



Likewise, is there not a threefold story in the normal constitutional construct of an entity with its president, secretary and treasurer? Take this away, especially the president, and are we sure that non-hierarchical arrangements can be 'seen', let alone made use of, by the gods? Is not the effect of conflating the leadership of the School with that of the Society one of an increasing stultification, manifesting as occult timidity and earthly dysfunction?

¹⁵ This, too, is a daily pittance.

Brazil says 'Thank You' to Rudolf Steiner
Reaffirming the Anthroposophical Society 100 years on

A workshop with Christopher Houghton Budd*

Provisional Program

	Friday 25th	Saturday 26th	Sunday 27th
09:30	* Economic and monetary historian, participant in the Circle of Treasurers, board member of the Goetheanum Fund Worldwide.	The School of Spiritual Science and the Anthroposophical Society Their Nature and Purpose	Goetheanum Fund <i>Worldwide / Brazil</i>
10:30		Pause	Pause
11:00		Country Groups Then and Now	2023 – 2223 If Europe misses its mission, will Brazil step in?
12:30		Pause	Pause
14:00		Folk Souls, Milton Friedman and their relevance to Latin America	Thematic Notes The role of gold ----- 'Own light' theory ----- England, Portugal, Brazil: Consciousness Soul lands
15:30	Welcome Introductions and Preview	Pause	
16:00		Brazil Tomorrow! The People who Dance <i>Brazil and the Templars</i>	
17:30	Supper	Supper	
19:00	1923 – 2023 The First One Hundred Years Two entities that a third may be <i>CHB</i>	Rudolf Steiner Financial Genius <i>CHB</i>	