

Regrouping for a Second Christmas

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One third into the current Michael age we get a second chance to rerun what we first tried after World War One. This is true, too, of the Deed of Rudolf Steiner, the refounding of the Anthroposophical Society, which though widely misunderstood to begin with and slow in historical realization, cannot be undone.

A free association

However, this Deed cannot be understood in terms of Roman law. Today's rights life has to be rethought to accommodate the refounded Society with the School of Spiritual Science. That we are challenged to comprehend its legal significance does not mean the Christmas Conference did not take place. It clearly did, albeit at a meta level.

When one re-enacts the entire event, its meta or supersensible existence comes back to life as a free association of human beings united in their adoption and furtherance of Anthroposophy. This can be experienced directly by anyone who in forming, with others, a Group of the Society ensures that its existence conforms with the Anthroposophical Society as a whole by including in its constitution a reiteration of the original statutes, but especially by ensuring that its finances include the remittance of 90 CHF per member per year to the Goetheanum (*Anthroposophy Worldwide* 11/2021), arrangements to hold funds for the work of the School, and holding enough cash for the Group's activity, but resisting the receipt and/or acquisition of financial and real assets in the abstract.

Why the last? To provide protection from those forces (not to mention beings) involved in owning and managing such assets that are inimical to pluralist and ecumenical appreciation of Anthroposophy. The challenge in this Michael age is to ground the stewardship of 'serious' assets on transparent, entrepreneurial initiative.

Whatever way the history of our two Societies eventually plays out – here, the two Jesus children come to mind – the challenge of melding the exigencies of proactive asset management with the very different dynamics of a membership of thousands will not go away.

I suggest that we all return to the 'meta' level and start over, but on a Group by Group basis, repeating the run-up to the original Christmas Conference. We could then ask ourselves, Group by Group, how this triple financial challenge is being addressed. With goodwill, this could be done during 2023 – in time for the Christmas Conference anniversary.

– Christopher Houghton Budd, Folkestone (GB)