



Anthroposophy Atlanta Newsletter

March 2015

Dear friends,

Our last newsletter arrived in your inboxes on the 154th anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's birth on February 25. This month brings us to the 90th anniversary of his death on March 30.

Perhaps it is fitting that after months of ongoing activity, our branch life finds itself in a moment of quiet pause. While the regular study groups (listed in this newsletter) continue, our calendar of other events is currently clear. Future activities are on the horizon, but for now we have time to reflect on the past months and to gather our intentions for the future

With this timing and mood in mind, this newsletter offer reflections from friends and colleagues who were present at the time Rudolf Steiner crossed the threshold. A few related poems follow. Future issues will return to a focus on current activities and initiatives both close to home and further afield.

This newsletter seeks to offer a picture of the activity and voices of anthroposophy in Atlanta. To contribute to future issues, contact anthroposphyatlanta@gmail.com.

Remembering Rudolf Steiner

Ita Wegman:¹

Our leader, our teacher, and our friend separated from the physical plane. The departure was like a miracle. He left as if it were self-understood. To me it seemed as though the deciding dice were cast at the last moment. And when they had been cast there was no battle, no attempt made any more to want to stay on earth. For some time he gazed ahead quietly, said yet a few dear words to me, and closed his eyes consciously and folded his hands.

Assya Turgeniev:²

The warmth of life hovered over those rejuvenated features, tenderly lit by the mild candlelight. He was enshrouded in a white garment, only his hair stood out darkly against the background. The peace which emanated from him was not the stillness of death—it was not that of sleep either. It was a listening silence, questioning.

Willem Zeylmans van Emmichoven:³

The image I received was one of divine joy and human suffering...

Outside in nature the gods celebrated as the great guide of mankind returned to them. Within, by the death-bed, human beings mourned, for the friend of the gods had been taken from them. Spring was coming outside. The birds suddenly began to sing. The joy of resurrection lived in plant and beast. The joy of resurrection sought its path to the human being, entered his senses and sank down into his heart.

...Within, by the death-bed, stood the mourners, and looked in pain upon the dear face. Memories surfaced; the noblest and most beautiful of their lives. Pain flashed through their souls and welled up in their hearts.

Joy of resurrection and the pain of death encountered one another there: divine joy and human suffering. ...

¹ J.E. Zeylmans van Emmichoven, *Who Was Ita Wegman, Volume I*

² Assya Turgeniev, *Reminiscences of Rudolf Steiner and Work on the First Goetheanum*

³ Emanuel Zeylmans, *Willem Zeylmans van Emmichoven: An Inspiration for Anthroposophy*

How strange and mysterious everything looked, yet familiar at the same time. Images of the long-gone past arose, glittering like silver in the candle-light, and then vanishing. This had happened before, some other time...

And then we suddenly knew: this event reaches beyond time. It points back to the far distant past and forwards into the far future. Past and future here melt into one, and thus united form an eternal macrocosmic image: an image of the divine guidance of human beings and of human cosmic destiny!

Ita Wegman:⁴

On Thursday, April 2, the funeral takes place. The hall in which the founding of the General Anthroposophical Society was accomplished at Christmas, 1923, is filled to overflowing, as it was then.

The coffin has been placed on the stage of the hall. Friedrich Rittelmeyer conducts the blessing. At this funeral, friends from all over the world have gathered...

On Friday, April 3, where earlier Rudolf Steiner used to climb out of the Holle-carriage with Mrs. Marie Steiner, the coffin is carried into the black car. Along the foundation-wall of the new Goetheanum, the workers stand in a row in order to bid farewell to their chief. Love and devotion stream from this group of people toward him who is leaving the Goetheanum.

At 10 o'clock the burial service begins in the Basle crematorium. The doors of the hall remain wide open, so that those standing outside can also take part. As the smoke rises out of the chimney, a pair of swallows soars upward with it into the sky.

⁴ J.E. Zeylmans van Emmichoven, *Who Was Ita Wegman, Volume I*

Verse

Christy MacKaye Barnes:

The Carved Statue at the Goetheanum

The eyes speak...
 The mouth is silent
 to what we know as words;
 and yet no part of him but sounds
 the Word that was, and is, and is to be—
 while all the powers of evil
 are poor
 before this form's transparency
 to His high being.

The wood, earth-gold, man-formed,
 speaks and reveals
 the Spirit of Mankind,
 Who heals.

It is the great, serene flame of his heart
 that lights the eyes
 and gives his every gesture
 certainty.

Woe is overcome
 and weakness becomes waking
 within the gentlesnesses of his face;
 and in the power of his breast and of his pace
 so free a motion,
 such firm and forward going,
 so inward-sunned and so intent
 a focus of vision!

Every shining shape and feature
 built of love, poured fluid into form!
 Tumult and paralysis are held away
 by the decision of his hands'
 alert, winged concentration of command;
 a deed so speaking,
 that mankind must weep
 because it is so far from seeing,
 so far from being,
 so half, so distorted
 from what here flowers—
 when all His living power could be ours.

Christian Morgenstern:

I have seen THE HUMAN BEING in his deepest aspect,
I know the world, down to its foundation stones.

Its meaning, I have learned is love alone,
And I am here to love, and ever love again,

I spread out my arms, as HE spread HIS,
To embrace the whole wide world as HE has done.

Rudolf Steiner, from his last address, September 28, 1924:

Sprung from solar powers,
shining, world-blessing powers of spirit:
divine thinking has predestined you
to be Michael's coat of rays.

He, the messenger of Christ, reveals in you,
who bear humanity, the holy will of worlds;
you, bright beings of the ether worlds,
bear Christ's word to humankind.

Thus the herald of Christ appears
to waiting, thirsting souls;
to them your word of light streams forth
in the world age of the spiritual body.

You, students and knowers of the spirit,
take Michael's wise sign,
practice taking into your soul's high purpose
the word of love of the will of worlds.

Groups and Current Studies

Branch Study Group	<i>The Foundation Stone,</i> Willem Zeylmans Van Emmichoven (new study beginning soon)
The Bridge Group	<i>Letters to Members,</i> Rudolf Steiner
The Christian Mystery	<i>The Christian Mystery,</i> Rudolf Steiner
Isis-Sophia Study Group	<i>Isis Mary Sophia,</i> Rudolf Steiner
Working with the Virtues	<i>The Power of the Soul: Living the Twelve Virtues,</i> Robert Sardello

Looking Ahead

Any questions, considerations, or contributions can be sent to anthroposophyatlanta@gmail.com. More about our branch can be found on our [website](#).

In service,
Elizabeth Roosevelt, for Anthroposophy Atlanta

