



A Second Chance

A Second Chance for Threefolding?

*What kind of consciousness is a
match for today's global events?*

Artwork by Paula-Maria Blackland-de Lange

*Humanities Section Conference in collaboration with the
Economics Conference at the Goetheanum*

EMERSON COLLEGE

23-26 Aug 2012

A Second Chance for Threofolding?

Whether one studies *Towards Social Renewal*, the Appeal to the German People and the Civilized World, the lectures given in December 1919, or much else, Rudolf Steiner's message was clear, consistent and constant: The events that culminated in World War I and its immediate aftermath will become the fulcrum of modern history.

Some may like to think humanity has moved forward since then, seeing Anglo-American responsibility for world affairs – to date and in the future – as a successful, even benign enterprise. But in reality the lights of the folk souls of the world have become dimmed, unable to counter Anglo-American self-certainty. Instead of a worldwide economic commonwealth with a choir of cultures singing their several praises, every people is in thrall to the financial markets.

Yet the financial markets are in crisis. Experts in this field have gone on record regarding the events of 2007 to say in effect: "The crisis has hit; it is a crisis of understanding (the efficient market hypothesis is flawed); we can throw money at it in the first instance, but the real problems will begin five years down the line."

So here we are, 100 years on from the threshold that led to World War I. Now, in 2012, the kind of money problems we thought we had outgrown in the intervening years seem to have returned. Are they only of interest to the 'centenary industry'? Or could it be that the gods are giving humanity a second chance to hearken to what they sought to say then, and to hearken through our *deeds*?

In this conference, although seemingly outside the sphere of finance, can the arts help us to identify the change of consciousness that might have prevailed in the 20th century, and may yet do so in the 21st? Looking at modern finance through the lens of the arts, can we develop *together* a sense for the underlying imaginative consciousness that is now possible, and make practical recommendations from it?

The structure of the conference follows three esoteric 'days': an evening presentation on the overall theme, which is then taken into sleep, with the following day spent addressing the topic from various perspectives, culminating in jointly created 'practical recommendations for humanity', arrived at with the help of the humanities and the creative arts.

Conference Carriers

Simon Blaxland-de Lange: The Conference Idea: the Impulse of the London World Conference on Spiritual Science held in 1928, and its relevance for today.

In Finance: Christopher Houghton Budd: Modern money and the New Mysteries.

In the Legal Sphere: Frances Zammit: Current Developments .

In the Arts: Brien Masters: Music : Herald of the Fulcra in the Evolution of Ego-Consciousness.

Fritz Wefelmeyer: 20th century seeds for a 21st century change.

Workshops:

Margaret Jonas: The change in consciousness reflected in contemporary literature.

Vanessa Underwood: 'Pierrot Lunaire' an experimental presentation for voice, dated 1912

Brien Masters: Tasting the essence of music through the interval.

Marina Jones: Eurythmy warm-up.

Bookings to Emerson College: 01342 822238 or bookings@emerson.org.uk

Conference fee £95, full board £135, meals (no breakfast) £54.

Dates: from 4.30pm on Thurs.23rd Aug. to lunchtime on Sun.26th Aug.