

September 2010

Letter to the Scottish Region/ To Whom it May Concern

In this present year when Camphill has been celebrating its seventieth birthday, the call has been heard from several different directions for the establishment of a Camphill Archive of a general character, where extant documentary or other material of relevance to the now long history of Camphill and its pioneering figures could be gathered, ordered, preserved and -- most importantly -- made use of. Material of this sort is at present scattered around here and there in different countries, and no single person any longer has a complete overview. Individual Camphill centres, even where they have good libraries, scarcely have facilities to set up a proper archive of the type now needed, which would require an initiative on a broad and united front in order to come into existence.

It has to be said at once that the Karl König Archive, which was designed to further the specific legacy of König himself, cannot possibly take on this extra task. The small rooms of the Archive in Camphill House are not even big enough to contain all of König's own library, let alone anything else. Moreover, all who are engaged on researching and publishing the immense legacy lying in Koenig's papers have already enough work to occupy them for many years to come. But we too would welcome the foundation of such a Camphill Archive as a related but separate enterprise.

What is needed is firstly a group of individual persons committed to the idea of such an Archive to come forward and take it on (and/or approach others who might be prepared to do so); secondly, some dedicated premises where relevant material could be stored and work be done; and thirdly, a means of communication in order to be of practical usefulness to everyone else currently or potentially interested in or affected by what such an Archive might contain.

With regard to the first need, the individuals concerned would have to be persons with both relevant ability and a certain measure of time. Although not all of them need be actually living near such an Archive, they would need to engage themselves in work on its behalf.

With regard to the second need, it would for obvious historical reasons be most desirable for premises to be located somewhere in the vicinity of Aberdeen. A room in some existing building would have to be found and set aside for the specific purposes of such an Archive.

With regard to the third need, we have wondered whether, instead of starting up yet another publicational organ, it would not be simpler and more appropriate for such an Archive to use the pages of *Camphill Correspondence* in order to reach out to other parties through the medium of the written word, photographs, other art-work, etc.

If in the near future these needs could be suitably met, those of us working at the Karl König Archive would willingly offer assistance to the relevant persons in setting up such a Camphill Archive, and would hope to liaise with it.

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for Karl König Archives**