

## **Friedwart Bock.**

### **September 18th 1928 - Whit-Sunday May 23rd 2010**

How could it be other, than that Friedwart chooses such a special time to cross over the threshold river to begin a journey in the spirit lands, that he has prepared for in many ways. I almost feel his knowing look and smiling expression, telling me - yes, this was the correct occasion. The Whitsun festival this year was enhanced by the 70th anniversary of that special moment when the impulse Karl König carried and had implanted and kindled in the hearts of young people could connect to the earthly place that carried the name of "Camphill".

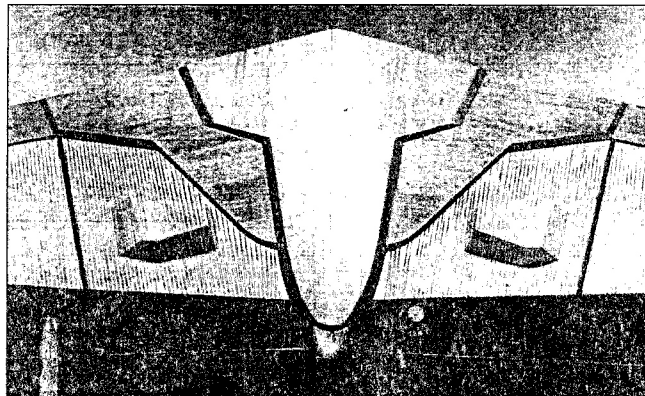
Whitsun had played such an important part in the life of Karl König. One of the roots of the Camphill impulse belongs back to the time when König was in Arlesheim. We all know the experience at Advent and the moment of awakening that kept the image in König and for so many of us later: The Candle on the Hill. It was a special Christmas-time 1927-28. And it was the time when the journey out of spirit existence into earthly reality and social tasks began for the spirit soul that was to receive the name Friedwart - the name for a bearer and guardian of peace. His birthday being in the preparation time for Michael - September 18th. Friedwart was also the name Rudolf Steiner had given to the house next to the Goetheanum that was to give a home for guests and also for his special painting demonstrations. That Christmas at the Goetheanum König painted a picture with words to explain embryology, speaking of St. John and of the Sixtine Madonna. Then came Whitsun of 1928 and he was again asked to speak of those mysteries of birth. His lecture was on "Kaspar Hauser's day" (Whit-Monday 100 years after Kaspar's appearance in Nürnberg) and with it began mysteriously the tension towards König - the journey of inner exile began that led first to Silesia, where he started work in Pilgramshain, a few days before Friedwart's birth. König was in search of a home for his heart-felt task. From then he worked together with Friedwart's father, Emil Bock. It was then Whitsun of 1932 and something of healing light quality was to be born into the rising darkness in central Europe. An Association for social work was founded out of the healing will and religious renewal - we all know that moving photograph - and this had to take place at the Wartburg, where in times past the grail light had overcome the king of darkness, Klingsor. At the founding in 1932 it was surely already clear, that outwardly the darkness would grow. Outer exile will come.



Karl König with Emil Bock 1932 in Eisenach

How could it be other than that Friedwart is involved through the very fibre of his destiny with the

impulses of König and the historic incarnation of that Whitsun impulse of Camphill which was to find its expression in that special symbol of the dove, of the descending spirit-germ, becoming part of the artistic reality of the Camphill Hall building - what we now know as the Logo of the Camphill Movement. Maybe someone remembers how Friedwart researched this and published the article in Camphill Correspondence in 1986. (picture-excerpt below) Just 33 years after König's Whit-lecture in Dornach the image became part of the first Camphill hall, which was then opened between the days of Friedwart's and König's birthday in 1962. Was he not especially connected to those assets of Memory and Conscience and to the path of sacrifice? It was a wonderful experience to have been together with him and Nora now in February and to speak about these inner "Kaspar-Hauser aspects" of Camphill history. And who could have known, that it would be such a short time until he was called upon to help build that bond of the Christmas Story. On the way to the Hall I asked him which hill it was that König had climbed to his encounter with Kaspar in 1945. Who else should one ask? Who else - after König - would be so ready to follow a call without hesitation and without questioning? Yes, Whitsun is the festival of Spirit Birth.



The Camphill sign above the chapel in the Camphill Hall

It can not be my intention now to write an account of Friedwart's life and his service for the Camphill impulse since 1949, when he first arrived and entered 21-year-old the first seminar group, and of his long-standing connection to Camphill House itself. I am not qualified to do so. It is so special, that after having undertaken the special collection of biographies "The Builders of Camphill" he had just recently written his own story - modest as he always was - for Erika Nauk's book "We came." I can only express my gratitude for the many encounters we have had since I first met him with his wife Nora in 1973, when König's drawings had just been discovered and were celebrated with a Soul Calendar Conference in Föhrenbühl; and that I had the privilege to take a part of one of his most cherished duties, as guardian of the impulse of light and peace documented in the Karl König Archive, knowing that this Fried -Wart, conscientious as he always was, will certainly not neglect his duties.

Richard Steel, Berlin, Kaspar Hauser Day, 26th May 2010