

## **A Norwegian Camphill Archive?**

In November 2011 Richard Steel from the Karl König Archives visited Norway. The occasion was the publication of Hans Müller-Wiedeman's biography of Karl König into Norwegian. Richard Steel held a public lecture on Karl König's life in Oslo in the House of Literature. Even though most of the faces in the audience were familiar, perhaps the one or the other will have heard of Karl König for the first time and, who knows, what that will mean in the future. Richard held a good lecture, fascinating also for those who know Karl König's biography well. It really shows how worthwhile work on Karl König's heritage is, and the biography is surely just the basis on which further research can be undertaken on the life and work of Camphill's founder.

In connection with Richard's visit to Norway the Camphill places in Norway organized an internal retreat on "Developing our Spiritual Heritage". The Karl König biography has been published in Norway very much to encourage those in the Norwegian Camphill villages to pause in the bustle of everyday life and connect up with their spiritual heritage.

A small group connected to the Norwegian Camphill Village Trust took the opportunity to meet with Richard in Oslo and consider setting up an organized archive for the Trust in Norway. In addition to Richard Steel those present were John Baum, Rolf Kåre Håland, Elisabeth Wirsching, Oddvar Granly and Dag Balavoine.

Richard opened the meeting by describing the development of the Karl König Archives which have led to the continuing process of publishing of Karl König's literary works in a New Edition. To date there are 9 volumes in German and 10 in English. Cooperation has begun with other language areas.

### **The Karl König Archives consist of:**

The original Archive in Camphill Aberdeen is in the rooms König worked in. The special atmosphere which is being tended to there shows the element of "museum" in the best sense of the word: the word 'museum' comes originally from the Greek Μουσείον (Mouseion), which denotes a place or temple dedicated to the Muses, the patron divinities in Greek mythology of the arts, and hence a building set apart for study and the arts.

- Archiving, digitalising and indexing over 50 000 documents and photographs is well under way. Copies of everything in the Karl König Archives are becoming part of the Ita Wegman Institute in Arlesheim. All the documents are preserved on microfilm and digitalised in an index system to facilitate further research.
- New material and reworked new editions are coming about through working processes, mainly edited by Richard Steel together with professionals within the various fields. In this way Karl König's works are brought into a professional historical context. This should give an opportunity for Karl König's work to create impulses for the future.
- The newly founded Karl König Institute is a charitable organisation as legal setting for the Archive work and for publishing, linking to many fields of work where König's work finds new settings. This is intended to make König's work available to a wider public. König's individuality shows itself to be relevant for our time. Connections are made to other Archives and a legal structure can be offered for what needs to come about as a Camphill Archive, linking to the various regions and places.

### **A Norwegian national Camphill Archive:**

It would be appropriate if a Camphill Archive in Norway could be established on the same pattern as the Karl König Archives. In order to do this we need:

- A responsible person, who does not need to be continuously present or in any full time job there, and a sound economy, which would not be so large because infrastructure and resources of the Karl König Archive can be shared.
- To ensure that the documents are preserved. For this we need a secure **place**. One would not need to keep so much physical material but a data bank which can be linked from an office in Norway to the Camphill international work. An address is necessary from where the documents can be sorted.
- First one would need to develop a “map” of the areas that would need to be covered and seen to: Histories, dates, names, publications. (Richard Steel is willing to cooperate to establish this and the Archive team can easily be of assistance.)
- To support the necessary research and editing of new editions, because this is a process which is “independent” of a specific language. Once it has taken place publications can evolve in any language. At the moment the books are mainly in German and English but provide the base to translate into Norwegian for instance.

Karl König's work is not a "Property of Camphill". It is important for us to understand this. As anywhere else it is necessary to have a legal contract in order to translate and publish any of Karl König's works. In this way we can safeguard the literary estate and make sure of quality and correctness. For instance it is important that things are not translated from German when the original was English, and to connect the work always to the complete Archive.

It is hoped that more and more cooperation can evolve between the Archive, the Karl König Institute and the regions.

The Northern Region Camphill Association has with great willingness decided, in the near future, to support the Karl König Archives with €12.000. This has been possible through a cooperation of the Camphill places in the north.

In the spirit of Camphill coworkership we wish to help create a solid foundation for Karl König's work, so that it can be available in a worthy way for coming generations.