

Members Bring a New Lawsuit Against the Dornach Executive Council

Five members whose motions the Executive Council declined to present at the Extraordinary Members' Meeting on April 8, 2006 (after calling the meeting expressly to present them) are asking the court to declare invalid all resolutions taken at that meeting. The Dorneck-Thierstein Court will hear the case on Tuesday, July 11, at 10 AM.

The plaintiffs are asking the court to establish that, according to the Anthroposophical Society's principles and statutes and according to Swiss corporate law, the Council is *obligated* to present these motions – that it is unlawful to keep members from hearing, discussing, and voting on them. The plaintiffs are also asking the court to reexamine the financial report; they are charging that Society funds have been improperly used to cover the legal expenses of the previous lawsuit¹

In 2004 and 2005, two courts ruled that the Executive Council was trying to found a new society in an illegal manner. The present suit again charges disregard of both Anthroposophical Society and Swiss laws and regulations.

When Rudolf Steiner founded our present General Anthroposophical Society during the Christmas Conference of 1923, he joined the earlier society, hitherto in charge of the *exoteric concerns* (the administration) with the movement -- the *esoteric* part. He explained that these two now belong together. Exoteric, everyday, official - *including legal*, - matters were to be handled strictly in keeping with esoteric standards, and esoteric work was to be solidly grounded in outer, exoteric reality.

Hence, disregard of Society principles and statutes (and Swiss law) is a serious charge, not just a "technicality", because we know that they have their esoteric dimensions, and esoteric work cannot flourish when "outer" matter are not conducted in keeping with esoteric standards. And indeed, the Principles, Statutes, and Swiss corporate law are crucial safeguards of the rights and dignity of members, which are surely a strong anthroposophical concern.

If this lawsuit can remind the Executive Council and Society members of the esoteric dimensions of regulations, the respect that everyone, even the Council owe them as an essential part of living out of Anthroposophy, then it will not have been brought in vain.

As always, I will be happy to supply more information about this subject to anyone who wishes it.

Christiane Marks

¹ The court verdict made the Council's alleged society, the General Anthroposophical Society (Christmas Conference), which proved nonexistent, responsible for these costs, but having no existence it cannot pay, so that that responsibility passes on to the Executive Council members, who claimed its existence. The G.A.S. was not involved in this lawsuit at all – only the Council. The judgment, as well as other information, may be found in English under www.888GOYA.org.