

Owen Barfield and the Redemption of the Western Mind
March 27th to March 29th, 2009

Owen Barfield (1898-1997) was an English solicitor whose interest in language and in the evolution of human consciousness reflected in the history of words led him to recognise, devotedly study and apply the insights of the spiritual-scientific fruits of Rudolf Steiner's anthroposophical research.

Out of this wellspring, his acute mind applied itself to virtually the entire panorama of the Western cultural and social world-picture, searingly questioning and challenging its assumptions and breaking down its taboos – while also clearly demonstrating that there is another, and more satisfyingly reasonable, way looking at things.

However, the chief purpose of this conference is to work towards a discovery of what this fearlessly independent creative English thinker has achieved by way of experientially illuminating the deep philosophical quest of the German spirit by which he has himself been so richly inspired.

It therefore seemed wholly appropriate for a conference of this nature - on a figure whose thinking bestrides the intellectual journey from Hamlet to Prospero - to take place at the Goetheanum.

Please note: The conference will be in English

Friday, March 27th

8:00 to 9.30 p.m.

Simon Blaxland-de Lange: Owen Barfield - English Interpreter of the Consciousness Soul Age

Saturday, March 28th

9 to 10:30 a.m.

Owen A. Barfield: Personal reflections with photographs followed by “Symbolism/ Polarity in Sacred Art and a link to Nature”

Coffee break

11:00 to 12:30 p.m.

Astrid Diener: The work of Owen Barfield in the Context of European Cultural and Social Criticism

Lunch break

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Johannes Kiersch: Owen Barfield as a Leading Star for Waldorf Curriculum Research

Coffee break

5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Elmar Schenkel: The Mystery of Language. Owen Barfield and Pavel Florenski

Supper break

8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

The Rose on the Ash-Heap (from: Owen Barfield's *English People*)
Story-Telling by *Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange*

Sunday, March 29th

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Jane Hipolito: Owen Barfield and the Mystery of Love

Coffee break

11:00 to 12:30 p.m.

Christopher Houghton Budd: Barfield's Concept of Equity and Steiner's Second Earth

Musical illustrations played on the piano by Brien Masters

Contributors:

Owen Alexander Barfield is the grandson of Owen Barfield. He became a Trustee of the Barfield Literary Estate in 2006.

Paulamaria Blaxland-de Lange is an actress and storyteller who has worked for many years with adults with special needs. She co-founded Pericles Translations and Research in 1992.

Simon Blaxland-de Lange In addition to sharing in the above ventures with Paulamaria, Simon is the author of *Romanticism Come of Age. A Biography of Owen Barfield* (2006).

Dr. Astrid Diener is the author of a doctoral thesis on Barfield's early years entitled *The Role of Imagination in Culture and Society: Owen Barfield's Early Work* (2002)

Dr. Jane Hipolito is co-founder of the Owen Barfield Society and compiler of the definitive bibliography of Owen Barfield's published writings, 1917-2008. Emerita Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics at California State University, Fullerton, Dr. Hipolito is a member of the Collegium of the Literary Arts and Humanities Section in North America.

Dr. Christopher Houghton Budd has spent many years studying Rudolf Steiner's contributions to economics. He has a doctorate in finance and is convenor of the Economics Conference, part of the School of Spiritual Science.

Johannes Kiersch In addition to his deep interest in British cultural history, he has been active in teacher training at the Institut für Waldorfpädagogik in Witten, Germany

Dr. Brien Masters began his professional career as a musician but then devoted his life to Waldorf Education first as a Class Teacher and latterly as leader of the London Waldorf Teacher Training initiative.

Dr. Elmar Schenkel is professor of English Literature at the University of Leipzig, author and translator. He is also a leading member of the Inklings-Gesellschaft.

Registration until March 13th, 2009 at:

Empfang am Goetheanum, [Postfach, CH-4143 Dornach 1](#),

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tickets@goetheanum.org

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Sektion für Schöne Wissenschaften
Humanities Section

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