

ITA WEGMAN INSTITUT

FÜR ANTHROPOSOPHISCHE GRUNDLAGENFORSCHUNG

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Das Ita Wegman Institut ist als gemeinnütziger Verein mit wissenschaftlich-sozialer Zielsetzung anerkannt.

Arlesheim, 22 February 2025

Dear Members of the International Circle of Friends

In preparing for this year's birthday of Ita Wegman we again look back at a year of intensive work in the Ita Wegman Archive and Institute with gratitude for your continued support! Many guests came to visit, and many tours were offered; in addition, there were introductory seminars for new coworkers in the Klinik Arlesheim. On Ita Wegman's birthday in 2024 we were able to present her book *Mysterien und Heilkunst* [Mysteries and the art of healing] to an audience that filled the hall in the Therapy House; texts were read aloud from it, and their tone spoke clearly to all who were present.

In the Archive, Mirela Faldey and Heinrich Wulff continue their work, along with Felicitas Graf in the secretariat, and Angelika and Leonhard Schuster for the International Circle of Friends – and, as always, our collaborative work with the team of Walter Schneider in connection with the Institute's publishing firm ran smoothly.

During this year under review, a highpoint for the *Ita Wegman Archive* was the return of the tourmaline disk (June 2024) that Rudolf Steiner had gifted to Ita Wegman 100 years ago. Margarete Kirchner-Bockholt had originally given it from the estate of Ita Wegman to Walter Holtzapfel when he took responsibility for the Medical Section at the Goetheanum; later, after Holtzapfel's death, it came into the mineral collection of Michaela Glöckler in the Medical Section by way of the Holtzapfel-Karenovic family. We are grateful to the current leadership of the Section – Karen Michael, Marion Debus, and Adam Blanning – that it was now possible to reunite it with the estate and archive of Ita Wegman where it belongs (as expressed in her last will and testament) in the collection of original items and documents that are maintained, protected, and displayed for visitors to Ita Wegman's Holzhaus from around the world. The collection forms a comprehensive whole – and this tourmaline belongs among the gifts from Rudolf Steiner to Ita Wegman (meditative verses, transcripts, notes, rings, Rose Cross, etc.) as evidence of their profound connectedness and collaborative work.

In the Ita Wegman Archive, original manuscripts by Rudolf Steiner from our Archive's safe were scanned for the Rudolf Steiner Archive by Mirela Faldey. Many private and institutional inquiries received replies, and visitors were welcomed. Photographs for publication were made available to Christa Lichtenstern (Germany) and Larisa Steele (Brazil), among others. Works of art by Edith Maryon and Liane Collot d'Herbois were loaned out for exhibitions in the Goetheanum and in the Christian Community in Zürich. The tourmaline disk in its wooden frame was examined, conserved, and photographed. Work has begun on a chronicle of Ita Wegman's life planned for publication in 2026 to honor her 150th birthday. Heinrich Wulff continues to tend our Institute's publishing company and the inventory of the Institute's large library holdings – in addition to his engagement in the preparations for a publication about the first course for nurses that took place in May 1925, shortly after Rudolf Steiner's death.

During 2024, eleven new books and a new complete catalogue were issued by the Institute's press. The completion and publication of Soili Turunen's book on Lilly Kolisko was a

particularly happy event for us – Soili had worked on it for so many years, often collaboratively with our Archive (especially with Gunhild Pörksen, but also with Brigitte Kowarik). We offer our heartfelt congratulations to her on this book as well as to Prof. Christa Lichtenstern on her groundbreaking publication, *Bewegte Plastik. Rudolf Steiners Christus-Gruppe und die Grundlage seiner bildhauerischen Praxis* [Sculpture in motion. Rudolf Steiner’s Christ-group and the foundations of his sculptural practice] which we were able to bring out at the end of 2024. Another particularly happy event was the appearance in print of the first volume of *Der Weg zum Gemeinschaftskrankenhaus Havelhöhe* [The path to the community hospital Havelhöhe] through the efforts of Roland Bersdorf, Matthias Girke, und Harald Matthes; Roland Bersdorf displayed an exemplary commitment to the completion of this volume which, in its own way, tells of the destiny of the impulse for an anthroposophical clinic as a continuation of Ita Wegman’s initiative. Finally, during 2024, Thomas O’Keefe succeeded in completing his review and revision of the translation by George and Mary Adams of Rudolf Steiner’s *Leading Thoughts*. As a result, we were able to realize the long-planned volume of the *Leading Thoughts* in a bilingual (German and English) study edition with an extensive introduction to what Rudolf Steiner intended when writing these texts – which represent his literary legacy and the essence of anthroposophy.

The seven additional books that the Ita Wegman Institute’s press was able to publish during 2024 arose out of our own endeavors. They encompass large themes and events from Rudolf Steiner’s final year of life—the karma lectures in Breslau and the 1924 September courses in Dornach, the curative education course (based on the example of the child Wilfried Immanuel Kunert), and the question of medicine based in the Mysteries. We were also able to successfully complete - in a third volume – a selected edition of Ita Wegman’s correspondence between 1921 and 1925. Thanks to the initiative of the Finnish midwife Merja Riijärvi, the help of Heinrich Wulff, and a translation by our friends Douglas and Marguerite Miller, the small book *On the Path to Birth – The Placenta of the Unborn* appeared in both English and German (as volume 51 in the “white series”: lectures on anthroposophy). The book *Hannah Arendt, die Shoa und das Ringen um Israel* [Hanna Arendt, the Shoa, and the struggle for Israel] forms the conclusion of our list of publications from the Institute’s publishing house during the year past.

One of the great pleasures of 2024/25 was and is our collaboration with Schwabe Verlag in Basel, the oldest academic book printer in Europe—and the world (founded in 1488 with the *Offizin Petri* [the Petri bookprinter’s shop in Basel]). During 2024 the first volume of our trilogy, *Anthroposophischen Medizin, Pharmazie und Heilpädagogik im Nationalsozialismus (1933-1945)* [Anthroposophical medicine, pharmacology, and curative education during National Socialism (1933-1945)] was published by Schwabe – written in collaboration with Susanne H. Gross and Matthias Mochner. On 30 March 2025, *Rudolf Steiner and anthroposophy. Studies on his life and work* will be published by Verlag Schwabe.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the Klinik Arlesheim and to all of you for the support we received during the year that marks the centenary of Rudolf Steiner’s death. And we would like to invite you – insofar as time and your life situation would allow you to be in Arlesheim – to Ita Wegman’s birthday on 22 February 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Ita Wegman Archive, and then to a lecture in German by Peter Selg at 7:00 pm in the Therapy House: *Im Atelier 1924/25. Ita Wegmans Begleitung von Rudolf Steiner in seiner letzten Zeit*. [In the atelier 1924/25. Ita Wegman’s accompaniment of Rudolf Steiner during his last days.]

With our warmest greetings from Arlesheim,

Peter Selg

Felicitas Graf

Mirela Faldey

Heinrich Wulff

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