



Wayfarer

Newsletter for Friends
of the whole Life Work
of Gerhard Reisch

from Gerhard Reisch Stiftung
Nussbaumweg 5 D-88699 Bruckfelden

to

Dear friends,

AnneGret Reisch crossed the threshold of death on 8th September 2006 after a full 80 years of life.

After the death of her husband Gerhard Reisch in 1975, she accompanied his Life Work faithfully. In order to protect the whole of his Work for the future, she established a charitable foundation in his name in 1981, into which she transferred his entire artistic Work, ie. pictures, sketches, books, writings, notes and all objects and rights which derive from his Life and Work and which had accompanied him until the end of his life.

It is almost a miracle that it was possible at all to achieve charitable recognition of AnneGret's philanthropic deed without so much as a penny of capital. Over the years many friends helped her, but thanks to AnneGret's sacrifices and her courageous perseverance during the ensuing years the Gerhard Reisch Foundation has been active now for 25 years. It conserves, archives and promotes the Work, and currently maintains contact with friends of his Life Work in 30 countries.

This takes place through exhibitions drawing on the collection of around 300 pictures by Gerhard Reisch, through reproduction and the publishing and translation of his writings. Furthermore, access to the original pictures is facilitated in an appropriate way for all interested parties, and spiritual scientific research and study in connection with the Work is supported.

But above all else ... it is through your participation, through the efforts of many friends, indeed through the thousands of people who have now come into contact with the being and activity of Gerhard Reisch ... that his Life Work is able to serve in the world.

AnneGret Reisch dedicated herself tirelessly until the end of her life to the Work of Gerhard Reisch ... and now, in her own words she wants to be "united with Gerhard".

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Contents Page

In Memoriam - AnneGret Reisch 1926 - 2006	1
The Foundation lives on ...	3
Reviewing 2006	4
And now ...	4
... a greeting from Gerhard Reisch	4

In Memorium AnneGret Reisch 1926 - 2006

by Hellmut Voigt



AnneGret Reisch 1963

When I had the opportunity of getting to know AnneGret Reisch better, a few weeks before she took her leave of the earth, I met, lying in a hospital bed, a small almost inconspicuous figure, on which the years had left their mark, etching many tiny wrinkles into her face. But already with the first words that we exchanged she blossomed, her eyes shone, her voice sounded almost youthful and in her words there reigned a positive, astonished openness, yes, even enthusiasm, for everything that she was now about to experience in the vicinity of the threshold. Here was revealed the fruit of a lifelong struggle to find her inner relationship to the world of spirit, as it works causally in all realms of existence.

On the 8th April 1926, AnneGret was born into the Helmert family of Wittstock on the Dosse in Silesia (then German territory now part of Poland). Both parents were from priests' families. Her father was a school inspector.

Her earliest memory was of her joy at being able to walk. Her experience of the radio around three years old announced her lifelong interest in all things technical. In her fifth year destiny brought her to Grünberg in Silesia, the town where Gerhard Reisch was born and grew up. When she was seven her brother Uli was born. Her childhood was beautiful, secure and fulfilling.

In her eleventh year came her first conscious meeting with Gerhard Reisch, who at that time (age c. 37) was living, together with his first wife Editha, in a little house which he had built on a hill. AnneGret had been given the task of delivering a cake which her mother had baked. A deep feeling of reverence awoke in her. She experienced his immediate recognition. During about two years she watched him painting on many occasions and learned also to be artistically creative.

When she was fourteen, the Second World War broke out. Her father became an officer. A profound sense of shock at the fighting, the destruction and the human suffering overwhelmed this young soul. So at fifteen she became a Red Cross nurse, a very important step in her life.

At age seventeen she was required to fulfil social labour services, now she also became acquainted with homesickness. At this time death touched her personal destiny: her boyfriend fell at the Front. As the war was drawing to a close in 1945, AnneGret was eighteen, and among the events of the capitulation the cry went up on all sides "every man for himself"! Shortly after the end of the war (by now she was nineteen) she had to cope with the death of her mother (brought about by the trauma of exile from her homeland in Silesia): 'the dearest and best in life is gone!' With her father and younger brother she ended up in Nordhausen (then to become a part of East Germany after the Partition).

Life had to go on, however, after having been 'forced' to react to the circumstances around her, it was now a question of creating something for herself. At age twenty AnneGret began an apprenticeship as a gold- and silversmith in Erfurt; but there was a shortage of precious metals, and copper and brass were being used instead. After two years she completed her apprenticeship. With twenty-three years she moved to Potsdam to her grandmother's home, but instead of creative work she was employed "threading beads onto necklaces".

Not surprisingly, considering the difficulties of that time in destiny during the post war period, her life was marked by various illnesses. An attack of appendicitis brought her into a Catholic hospital, where she came into contact with a superior nurse of the order, who was to become very significant for her. Indeed she was ready to help others, that was a better motivation than pursuing the drudgery of an unimaginative craft! She wanted to work in the hospital laboratory, but her (Protestant) grandmother forbade it. Making a swift decision, AnneGret moved out in the middle of the night and went to the sister-nurse in the hospital.

At twenty four she then contracted a severe ear infection. The bone of her skull behind both ears had to be chiselled open; her life was in acute danger. Expecting her to die in coma the Catholic Church took it upon itself to 'save' her soul; but then, as if by a miracle, a spontaneous healing occurred. The following Autumn she became jaundiced, and once again, during an absence of consciousness induced by the illness, the Catholic Church exerted itself to 'save' her soul. Then she was encouraged to enter a convent. Perhaps here an old destiny was knocking once again at her door?

In order to get from East into West Germany, AnneGret finally crossed the border zone 'unofficially'. Even though the guide which had been organised reneged in the last moment, she walked alone through a great forest, singing aloud as she went. She managed to reach the convent hospital Ehrenbreitstein near Trier, where the mother superior from Potsdam had meanwhile become the head of nurses' training and employed AnneGret in the laboratory again. But then she had to undergo surgery on her head in Koblenz, to remove remaining bone splinters; to be followed by two more such operations, involving many complications and a lot of pain. Thus the whole of the fourth seven-year span of AnneGret's life was permeated with the restrictions of illness and pain; it seems as if her future destiny was trying to fight its way through. Around this time (1955) her father and brother also successfully crossed the border from East to West. AnneGret's father found work once again as a teacher in Langenberg.

Aged twenty seven, AnneGret went to live with her father in Langenberg, where the two of them had at last found an apartment. After three years, following her father's retirement at sixty eight, the question arose as to where they should live and work in the future. Spontaneously, with closed eyes, AnneGret stuck a needle on a map directly into the city of Freiburg in the south of Germany. Destiny was now steering a new course!

In Freiburg AnneGret began work at a laboratory for cancer research in the university clinic. She administrated the library of the professor, and was able to participate during operations in

connection with the research work. All of this, however, was only preparation. In 1961, almost thirty five, she met Editha Reisch "quite by chance" on a tram. Editha mediated a job in artistic design and decoration. She left the laboratory and engaged herself joyfully in being able to be creative again. But of far greater significance was that in this way the connection with Gerhard Reisch had been re-established.

The following year Gerhard and Editha decided to go their separate ways. AnneGret and Gerhard Reisch gradually became closer; stimulating each other creatively. AnneGret accompanied Gerhard in all his activities and supported him in many ways. In 1962 they married. Now AnneGret was blissfully happy, although her husband's circle of friends found it difficult to get used to the new situation. Gerhard Reisch introduced her most intensively to anthroposophical spiritual science. Often this was almost too overwhelming for her. Nevertheless she strove to follow him joyfully along the new path. Time and again she had to battle with exhaustion.

In 1965 AnneGret is thirty nine years old, and the couple move in with her father in Waldkirch (near Freiburg), to be joined a year later by Aunt Gertrud. Despite a very modest life style, it is possible to travel a lot and share enriching experiences. In 1970 AnneGret's father dies; she is forty four. Now she concentrates all her attention on Gerhard Reisch, who is ill (his health was seriously undermined by imprisonment in Siberia at the end of the War); she cares for him during the last five years of his life.

In 1975 Gerhard Reisch dies. For AnneGret this is also a threshold experience.

More and more people come seeking this individuality, wanting to meet his creative work and wanting to work with his pictures. The formative character of his Life Work in the field of human development, whilst not being widely known, had not been hidden. AnneGret, however, is not used to dealing with and making decisions concerning worldly

Pictures with Godparents

The following original pictures in the archive may be reproduced individually on 280 gramme card in A4 and A3 formats and in the original size.

Please place your orders with Gerhard Reisch Publishing. Images can be viewed any time on the internet at www.gerhardreisch.com

Prices excluding post and packing are A4 @ €10 and A3 @ €15. Prices for original sizes will be quoted on request. Each image will be 'freshly' printed. Sizes are given in centimetres.

Nature and Elemental Beings

Two Gnomes 1967 (73 x 68) NE 03
King Laurin (no date) (73 x 68) NE 06
Christ in the Elemental Realm 1969 (86 x 62) NE 40

Path of Knowledge

Holy Grail 1969 (73 x 68) EW 17
Guardian with 'I-Ball' 1958 (86 x 63) EW 31
Soul seeks the Holy Isis 1966 (85 x 60) EW 34

Human Development and Community Building

Sun setting the Star Free 1967 (86 x 62) MG 18
Student of the Spirit 1965 (68 x 73) MG 20
Master and Pupil 1970 (86 x 62) MG 21
Evolution (no date) (75 x 68) MG 26
Christ in Rose Aura 1954 (86 x 62) MG 36
Inverted Cultus 1964 (86 x 62) MG 38k
New Community 1958 (75 x 55) MG 39

Healing and Adversary Beings

Lesser Guardian 1961 (73 x 68) HW 05
Dance of Death 1968 (86 x 62 cm) HW 19
Guardian with Golden Cross 1949 (86 x 63) HW 31
Earth Mother 1965 (62 x 86) HW 36
New Isis 1962 (73 x 68) HW 37k

High Festivals and the Seasons

Child of Light 1962 (65 x 50) HJ 08
Easter Imagination 1960 (86 x 62) HJ 19
Whitsun 1954 (86 x 62) HJ 00
Midsummer Imagination 1965 (62 x 86) HW 36
Michael Imagination 1961 (80 x 62) HJ 28
Michael - Signs of the Times 1957 (81 x 62) HJ 29

Death and Incarnation

On the Way to the Other Side 1965 (86 x 62) TI 02
Corpse 1950 (65 x 50) TI 07
Moment of Death 1967 (68 x 73) TI 09
Soul Rising at Dawn 1965 (86 x 62) TI 11

Conditions subject to Change

matters. She wants to harmonise everyone's needs. It takes time to grow into the task. Gradually she becomes the main person through whom others can approach the Work of Gerhard Reisch.

Destiny is generous now to her, in that a close friend of her husband places his house at her disposal to live in and to house the legacy of Gerhard Reisch. The most varied groups of people come towards the Work and thus also make AnneGret's acquaintance. In 1981 it is recommended that she protect everything pertaining to the complete Life Work of Gerhard Reisch for the future, by setting up a charitable foundation in his name. Courageously she takes this step. It is almost a wonder that this succeeds even though there is no capital or other material value involved. The following years are however characterised by the ongoing striving amongst friends concerning the disposition of her husband's Work. AnneGret goes through a painful separation of her domicile from the pictures; even as a dear friend makes it possible for her to have her own apartment.

Again and again during the 1990s old and new friends seek out the Work of Gerhard Reisch. Many strive, together with AnneGret, to mediate his Lifework in the world.

In 1997 AnneGret goes through a serious illness. Now in the seventy first year of her life a question becomes more urgent: "What will become of the Work, especially the pictures, when she is no longer able". The circle of people sharing responsibility around AnneGret grows, all striving to strengthen their initiatives.

By the age of seventy two AnneGret fulfils her wish to move to Lake Constance. She had already visited Meersburg and the surrounding countryside with Gerhard Reisch, which had long been familiar to him. In Uhlhingen-Mühlhofen, close to good friends, she finds her last home, with an open view over the Lake to the Island of Mainau. After the 100th birthday celebration of her husband with a major exhibition at the Albertus Magnus Haus in Freiburg in 1999, the estate of Gerhard Reisch follows her, when the Foundation moves to the neighbouring district of Salem.

Through deeds of truly leonine bravery on her part, AnneGret, now aged seventy six, is finally able to hand over the responsibility which she had courageously carried in the Gerhard Reisch Foundation for twenty one years, in devotion to her beloved husband. Still nimble in her outer movements and always awake for new possibilities, she accompanies all the developments to do with the Lifework, as a trustee of the Foundation, right up to the end of her life.

In 2006 AnneGret celebrates her 80th birthday with friends at the Kaspar Hauser School in Überlingen and an exhibition of a series of pictures by Gerhard Reisch with the theme "Bridge of Colours". Her only wish now is that the furthering of his Lifework will be strengthened by its friends. In retrospect she also experiences this gathering as her farewell celebration.

Although in 2005 blood tests again give AnneGret cause for concern, she stands freely by her decision to forgo the mistletoe therapy which had been prescribed for many years. In the knowledge that "all has been settled - I want only now to be reunited with Gerhard at last", with great composure she enters into the process of dying over many weeks.

At the same time she spreads around herself an unbelievable positivity and openness to what is to come.

At the beginning of July 2006 she moves to her last living quarters in the Franziskus Hospice in Friedrichshafen by Lake Constance. While there she gives of her wisdom with generous hands, and tries to mediate and comfort others, even though her bodily forces are visibly fading. Thus during the night from 7th to the 8th of September AnneGret Reisch completes her earthly journey.



AnneGret Reisch
Juli 2006

The Foundation lives on ...

Now AnneGret will work from the spiritual spheres.

Already in 2004 she personally asked *Jehanne Mehta* to be ready to work as a trustee of the Foundation, when the time came. In complete agreement with this, *Christopher Bee* und *Ilse K. Müller* welcomed *Jehanne Mehta* as a member of the board of trustees.

Jehanne will already be known to you from earlier newsletters. Through her translation of five volumes of *Words for Living* (2002, 2003, 2004) and *A Book of the Dead* (2005) she has brought the Work of

Gerhard Reisch further into the sphere of the English language.

We are very happy to be able to integrate her courageous sensibility for spiritual deeds into the further development of the Gerhard Reisch Foundation.

Pictures without Godparents

Digital photographs of the following original pictures have already been archived. When you become Godparent to a picture, as an individual or as a group, it then becomes available for reproduction.

Images can be viewed
any time on the internet at
www.gerhardreisch.com

Sizes are given in centimetres.

Nature and Elemental Beings

Madonna in the Meadows 1958 (77 x 68) NE 01
Nymph at the Jordan Spring 1961 (68 x 73) NE 12
Noeck 1973 (86 x 62) NE 17
Blossom Elf 1970 (86 x 62) NE 25
Spirit of the Elements 1961 (68 x 73) NE 38
Hierarchies and Elemental Being 1968 (86 x 62) NE 32

Human Development and Community Building

Soul in Music of the Spheres 1968 (86 x 62) MG 10
Human Being and Angel 1960 (86 x 62) MG 13

Healing and Adversary Beings

Lucifer 1969 (86 x 62) HW 08c
Spiritual Imprisonment 1964 (86 x 62) HW 09
Temptation 1959 (86 x 62) HW 10
Destiny 1961 (86 x 62) HW 11
Ahriman's Realm 1956 (84 x 60) HW 18
Outlook over the next Decades 1963 (73 x 68) HW 22
The Second Golgotha 1966 (73 x 68) HW 23
Catharsis in Central Europe 1. 1963 (67 x 79) HW 34

High Festivals and the Seasons

Holy Family 1961 (86 x 62) HJ 03
Christmas 1966 (86 x 62) HJ 05
Isis Sophia 1963 (85 x 60) HJ 09
Madonna 1965 (86 x 62) HJ 12
Midsummer Imagination 1960 (86 x 62) HJ 23

Death and Incarnation

Experience of Death 1959 (86 x 62) TI 08
Wake 1970 (68 x 73) TI 10
Soul Rising at Dawn 1965 (86 x 62) TI 11
At the Graveside - All Souls' Day 1953 (67 x 47) TI 12
Funeral (Acanthus) 1965 (65 x 50) TI 13
Souls of the Dead Rising 1959 (68 x 73) TI 17
Student of the Spirit Watching 1969 (68 x 73) TI 18
Charon with an Awakened Soul 1958 (62 x 78) TI 20
Soul in Dream Sleep 1959 (68 x 73) TI 23
Soul Awakening 1970 (68 x 73) TI 24
Experience of the 'I' in Death 1958 (62 x 86) TI 25
Flight of Souls into Eternity 1968 (86 x 62) TI 28
Feeding the Souls of the Dead 1961 (86 x 62) TI 32
Soul in the Spheres (no date) (86 x 62) TI 33
Guardian with Souls 1954 (86 x 62) TI 36
Cosmic Heart (with Lemniscate) 1966 (86 x 62) TI 37

Conditions subject to Change

Reviewing 2006

It comes as no surprise that this year actually became dedicated to the *Book of the Dead*. At the beginning of the year articles about the English publication of *A Book of the Dead* appeared in *Anthroposophy World Wide* (6/06 1/06) and in the international journal *New View* (1/2006). Orders for both German and English editions keep on coming.

We have been asked if we will publish *A Book of the Dead* in yet other languages. Already in November *Triade Editions, Cluj* published the Romanian translation with images. 'Officially' there exist now translations of *A Book of the Dead* from original German into English, Dutch, French, Romanian, and Portuguese. When we have established the "salon for communication between friends of the Work" at www.gerhardreisch.com, we will make available all 'recognised' Translations, also of the Portfolio *A Path of Knowledge in Pictures*, as pdf-text-files which can be freely downloaded.

On several occasions during the year it has been possible to further growing interest in the Work in **Romania** by working with various applications of the images in the portfolio *A Path of Knowledge in Pictures* and *A Book of the Dead*, particularly in *Bucharest* and *Timisoara*. Also in other neighbouring **East-European Countries**, as well as in **Russia**, new Friends are looking at how to establish and support such work.

Through contact with friends in **Brazil** in March, it was possible to experience again the gratitude for what has been achieved so far through promoting the Work there. Since 2004 portfolios and books have found their way into different regions; the work with images and texts continues in a wide variety of different ways.

In Spring an article about *The Healing Power of Art* by way of an example in the Life Work of Gerhard Reisch appeared in *Die Welle (The Wave)* as an introduction to this journal of events and initiatives which is in circulation around **Lake Constance** (see also www.gerhardreisch.com) - *AnneGret* was particularly moved by the content whilst we were preparing the exhibition in honour of her 80th birthday in *Überlingen by Lake Constance*. At this time it was also possible for guests at the 25th anniversary celebrations of the neighbouring *Emmaus Church* of the *Chrisian Community* to view the pictures.

In the **Netherlands** in June some old and many new friends were very glad to be able to work with a large selection of original pictures in *A Book of the Dead* and the theme of *Dying, Death and the Hereafter* in the *Andries Church* of the *Chrisian Community* in *Amsterdam*. For this initiative we thank *Marijcke van Hasselt*, who also personally made sure that around 50 bookshops nationwide have stocked *A Book of the Dead*. 'Dying is coming into vogue ... ☺!'

In July in *Haus Rüspe, Kirchhundem, Germany* pictures were exhibited for a seminar facilitated by *Anton Kimpfner* about *Protection and Help coming from the Realm of the Angels*. There was also time for participants in concurrent seminars to view this large series of original pictures.

Imprint
Wayfarer

an organ of communication for the

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At the beginning of October, during the *Michaelmas* period it was again possible, after many years, for original pictures to be viewed in the centre for culture and community *Eulenspiegel* in *Wasserburg near Lake Constance*, thanks to the initiative of *Barbara Wagner*.

In the middle of November original pictures were exhibited and involved in a workshop, during a 'Day for Meeting' dedicated to the theme *Hold tight! What is Anthroposophy* at the *Andreashof, Überlingen*. Also in **Germany**, as increasingly in other countries, a younger generation of spiritual researchers are discovering the deeper potential of the Work of Gerhard Reisch.

During the year groups meeting at the *Camphill Community, Lehenhof, Deggenhausertal near Lake Constance* and in *Michael Therapeutikum, Heidelberg in Baden-Württemberg*, continued their ongoing research and schooling work with original pictures in the series *A Path of Knowledge in Pictures*. Guests are always warmly welcomed. It is particularly gratifying when they decide to become a regular participant of a group. Thus the work is enriched and carried further.

And now ...

In the seventh year of *Wayfarer* we are allowing ourselves a little 'Pralaya'. The work of the Gerhard Reisch Foundation is familiar to all friends of his Life Work. Naturally we will keep www.gerhardreisch.com up-to-date during the course of this year. Everything continues steadily. We will work especially to widen the circle of Godparents around the pictures. There will come a time in which the need to meet this Work will become greater. By then it should be possible for all the images to be available to 'Everyman' through the appropriate media. This is what we want to achieve. *And of course, as always, original pictures are accessible for accompanied viewing by prior arrangement.*

... a greeting from Gerhard Reisch

With these words he introduces *A Book of the Dead*



Dear souls of friends,
uniting with me in earthly life,
you will I seek
when, freed from my body,
I am living in the realms of spirit.
And I will help you,
I will bring you the light of understanding.
For this I am preparing in my earthly life.
The host of light bearers must grow
in the spiritual spheres,
so that in the future souls may no longer
have to suffer hindrance,
in the land of spirit.

On behalf of the whole Life Work of Gerhard Reisch
you are warmly invited to continue your participation.
With our gratitude and peaceful greetings,

Christopher Bee Ilse K. Müller Jehanne Mehta