



Janusz Korczak International Newsletter

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<http://korczak.info>

Amsterdam and Paris

Dear Friends and colleagues Korczakiens,

We apologize for the delay of this Newsletter. We met with various difficulties (translations, organisation...). Nevertheless there is no risk that the proposed articles here are obsolete. The treatment of children's rights in many countries is always disheartening, and not just in countries at war such as Palestine and Israel, Irak, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Soudan, DR Congo, Ouganda, Birma, Tibet, etc. The number of children just murdered or recruited as soldiers, sex slaves, workers in factories or in mines, confined in camps, starved or convicted without basic medical care is staggering.

But Europe also mistreats children of immigrant families in an irregular situations and we are seeing a strong tendency to reproduce the logic of detention camps. Yet to be in an illegal situation does not justify to be treated as animals. Vulnerable Children and families should be treated with respect and dignity.

In addition, throughout the world, violence remains present within educational and institutional contexts including the family.

We come to the conviction shared by Janusz Korczak Associations world-wide, we should raise our voices against evil and injustice, stronger and louder than in the past. We invite you to propose initiatives.

The editors of the Janusz Korczak International Newsletter:
Theo Cappon & Bernard Lathuillere,
(Chairmen of The Netherlands & French JK Association's)

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GERMANY

International Janusz Korczak Meeting in Mannheim, combined with the 30th Jubilee of the Janusz Korczak Association in Germany. (26-28 October 2007)

Some highlights from this "Fachtagung Dreissig Jahre Deutsche Korczak Gesellschaft e. V." During the three days we listened to some very interesting presentations and lectures.

The first evening was marked by two moments:

- Siegfried Steiger, president of the German Korczak Association and leader of the Experimental Theater of Günzburg presented parts of the play "What example do we need?", with contribution of the Duo Sternschnuppe: "Korczak, also to laugh in one's sleeve".
- The lecture of Prof. Friedhelm Beiner. See the summary below:

"Alone with God". Was Korczak a religious person?

by Friedhelm Beiner

Based upon his religious disposition Korczak rejects in his works a cynical philosophy that denies human dignity granted by God. Instead he points at the diversity and intensity of human thinking and human feelings: a creature, that can feel so strongly and variety as a human being, cannot be a mere lump of earth, or a career "animal". Someone once said viciously that the world is a clod of mud, floating around in an endless space, and that man is a animal that has accomplished a career. This may be true. But in addition: this clod of mud experiences pain, knows how to love and cry and is full of longing. And the career of mankind is – after examination of conscience - dubious. (Tagebuch/Erinnerungen).

His religious disposition, that consisted of a devoutness that was not restricted ecclesiastically, was shown in his educational work. He wanted to give the orphans a spiritual support. God was to Korczak an orientation, making it possible to understand the world and to live a humane existence. Rejection of faith was for him the same as rejection of essential moral and ethical support and of human meaning of existence. How simple is the expectation of parents (not to be interpreted as progressive) that it makes it easier for children to understand the world that surrounds them by saying to them "There is no God". If there is no God, who made the world then?

Korczaks religiosity and his belief in goodness are bound with the conviction, that goodness can be searched for, experienced and achieved, even if this seems to be contradicted by the present situation in the world. It is for Korczak important to educate children to look for God and practise solidarity. Here however each child must find its own way. He writes in his farewell-letter to his pupils who are leaving the home: *"We do not give you God. You should look for Him in your own soul, in lonesome effort. [...] However we do give you one thing: the search for a better life, that does not exist yet, but that will one day, and for a life of truth and justice. Maybe this quest will lead you to God [...]"*.

Korczak did not have a clearly defined conception of God; the search for sense and goal in life were for him also a search for God. He spent his whole life in this pursuit. For Korczak God can be interpreted as a reason for existence, that can be searched for, found and experienced, but that man in his imperfection can never fully achieve. Because there is a gap between the mortality of man and the infinity and diversity of his thinking and experiencing. Korczak relates this discrepancy in existence with God:

"Among millions of people you (mother) have borne – what? A substance, dust, a mere nothing. [...] (But:) In there is something that can feel, question and search, suffer, wish, enjoy, love, trust, hate, that can believe, doubt, attract and repel. This substance with its thoughts can comprehend

everything: stars and oceans, mountains and ravines. And is the essence of the soul anything else than a universe, but without measure? Here we have the contradiction of man: created from dust, but in which God has taken refuge".

"We people are related to dust – but we harbour Divinity, that can help us to answer to and account for the challenges of life" (cf. "Die Einsamkeit des Alters/The Loneliness of Age" from Korczak, but also 'Dialogische Prinzip' from Martin Buber).

The second day was interesting for several reasons

First of all we had the meeting of the International Janusz Korczak Association (see the report of the new president Batia Gilad) in this Newsletter.

Second, we were invited for the opening of Itzchak Belfer's exposition. Belfer is a former pupil of Korczak's orphanage 'Dom Sierot'. After the Holocaust he moved to Israel where he became a famous painter and teacher of art. On many of his paintings we meet Korczak during his last days with the 200 children of the orphanage in Warsaw ghetto.

Another important moment was the lecture of Mrs Ulrich Koch: "**Reading with children Korczak's book *Kaitus the Magician***". She showed with help of a slide-show the didactic steps with the students of the Franz Ludwig Gymnasium in Bamberg. She explained the impact of this reading project, as for example: learning students's relationship with adults and the community ; learning about Korczak and the Ghetto of Warsaw ; another approach to Jewish life and culture and particular to Jewish people in their school and city. Also its colleagues in school became more and more interested in Korczak. More: see below p. 11.

The third day of the Jubilee-weekend had one interesting lecture:

"Coping strategies of children with psychiatric disturbed parents" Examples of famous Personalities, by Dr. Med. Susanne Schlüter-Müller, Child and Adolescent psychiatrist and psychotherapist in Frankfurt.

The scientific and clinical interest on children with psychiatric disturbed parents increased in the last years. Those children belong to a high risk population so that prevention is urgently indicated. Research of resilience factors gives us important information about resources and coping-strategies which can be used clinically. It therefore compliments the research of vulnerability in a clinical relevant way.

On the basis of biography of the surrealist painter René Magritte who lived with a psychiatric disturbed mother who committed suicide when he was thirteen it is demonstrated how this stress maybe unconsciously forced his artistic way of painting. On the basis of some paintings of the artist the supposed connection between his work and unconscious coping mechanisms is worked out. Besides parts of the novel 'Eine Geschichte von Liebe und Finsternis' of the Israelite writer Amos Oz are analysed in which he firstly writes about the depression and later suicide of his mother and how much it influenced his whole life. [*English summary by Susanne Schlüter-Müller*].

We had a wonderful meeting with a lot of new and old friends. It gave us a lot of new inspiration.

Special Korczak Bulletin of the German, Austrian and Swiss Korczak Associations

It is the Jubilee Bulletin on the occasion of 30th anniversary of the German Korczak Association, issued October 2007 and presented during the combined German and International Korczak Meeting in Mannheim, November 2007. We like to give you a short survey of the articles in that Bulletin.

After an introduction written by the chairman of the German Korczak Association, Siegfried Steiger, we meet the first author in the Bulletin: Janusz Korczak with the short story "**My Alarm**" (Mein Wecker). Korczak makes a comparison between an alarm and a writer. When a writer makes critical alarm people get angry, and when a writer keeps silent people throw him away.

The second article is written by Siegfried Steiger: "**What kind of example we need?**". Korczak warns us for copying other educators and pedagogues. The first rule is: Know yourself before you try to understand children. Your own example is the best but to find that way is difficult. You'll make many mistakes but finally you are an adult that is real, consistent and coherent.

The third article has the title: "**Alone with God. Was Korczak a religious man?**", by Friedhelm Beiner, president of honour of the German Korczak Ass.

The second part of the bulletin is for **memories**. We made a selection.

"**How I found Korczak**", by Erich Dauzenroth (1931-2004). In this article of course connections with Poland and the Polish Korczak friends, Erich tells about Dr Jozef Bogusz, from Warsaw who called Korczak the 'pons inter nationes'. Finally Erich Dauzenroth became the bridge between Poland and Germany himself.

"**Admiration. A note for Janusz Korczak**", by Wolfgang Pelzer. Korczak was for Pelzer like a mentor. The most important experience was for him the way Korczak wrote about the every day's reality of pedagogues and teachers. Still every day he is listening to Korczak questions: 'Do you know what Respect really means? Do you really understand what means, The Right to Respect for each child? Can you keep it up everyday? Pelzer recommends us to read Korczak's letters to his friends in Palestine: *"We admire Korczak not because of the insignia of a successful life but because of his relation with life, his availability, his wishes for a better future, and his solidarity"*.

"**Visions and Hopes**", by Werner Licharz. Korczak is for Werner Licharz a bridge builder: a bridge between children and adults; between adults and old people; between weak and strong; between East and West; between religions and cultures, etc.

"**On Korczak's tracks**", by Michael Kirchner. Kirchner explains what he learned from Korczak as father of the family and as medical doctor. Korczak meets each unique child in a special way, its own way. Keyword was careful observation. The right of the child on respect means a deep understanding and meeting of the child. Kirchner speaks about the 'ethics of the others'. It is this ethics that is only based on the call of the other, i.e. the child. The meeting of the child from **face to face**.

At least:

"**Working for Korczak in the DDR. A personal retrospective vie**", by Barbara Engermann-Reinhardt. Aside from the publication of the Korczak biography written by Olga Mortkowicz-Olczakowa (1963), Janusz Korczak was unknown in fact in the DDR (Eastern German Democratic Republic).

Thanks to a coöperation with Günter Schulze, Barbara Engemann, living in the DDR, started research on Korczak. In 1975 they published under the title "**The love for a child**" the most important Korczak texts. As pedagogical literature this book was very unusual and it founds its way to the general public. During her research she came in contact (thanks to Ida Merzan from Warsaw) with Hanka Daube, the only survivor of Korczak's orphanage living in Germany. This lady became the heart of the Korczak research team in Berlin. In 1978 the book 'When I am little again' was published and a one year later "**King Matthew**".

(The authorities changed their tack, because the book was already translated into six Russian languages). Important was the start of the official Korczak Research Centre (community) on the 12th of September 1980.

The main aim was the introduction and promotion of Korczak's ideas for education and upbringing. Not so easy in a system with centralized political and even pedagogical directives. Many seminars, meetings and discussions took place. *"We found a special 'niche' in our society and our approach was delicate"*.

In that period we had two seminars a year for study and exchange of experiences. Barbara remembers how often students had chosen Korczak for their diplom referat. Important was of course the impressive film 'Ich bin klein aber wichtig' produced and directed by Konrad Weiss. This film about Korczak received the "Golden Sparrow" for the best movie for children.

Contacts with the West were nevertheless difficult, sometimes not possible at all. Travelling and correspondence for instance were not desirable or forbidden.

Interesting and inventive were the New-Years cards the Korczak Circle in the DDR sent to all the friends and contacts in Eastern Germany and abroad. They took Korczak quotations and printed them on their official paper. These cards with official stamps were sent to many countries. One example:

"It is not only important
what a man is saying,
but also
what he is thinking and feeling
and why is he is just so
and not someone else".

After the big change in 1990 the DDR friends decided to merge in the all German Janusz Korczak Association.

Summary and translated by Theo Cappon

More: http://www.deutsche-korczak-gesellschaft.de/Test/?page_id=27

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THE NETHERLANDS

Report of the Janusz Korczak International Youth Meeting 18-22 September 2007, The Netherlands.

(A summary. The full report will be published in January 2008. To be ordered via info@korczak.nl.
You will receive it in digital format)

The Janusz Korczak Association offered herself a jubilee-present. We celebrated this year our 25th birthday and the best way was an International Conference for young people, working in the field of education, childcare, upbringing, children's rights, public health service etc.

Let me repeat our aims and context of this conference.

After the Janusz Korczak International Meeting in 1995 in The Netherlands, it became evident that the approach of youth -care in the Eastern and Western European countries, as well as in the countries in South-America, Asia and Africa, differs a lot. During this conference there was a strong demand for exchange of practical experiences and ideas in the field of youth-care, education and children's rights

(special youth at risk). The Janusz Korczak Associations in the different countries have their own, specific manner of dealing with the problems of offering support to children and youngsters in threathend situations (in the family, i school, in the peer-group, etc.).

During that conference in 2005 the reciprocal inspiration was highly appreciated and of course also the inspiration by Korczak's work and ideas. Specially the young educators and groupleaders need know-how and encouragement for their daily work in the institutions, schools and children's houses. Important was (and is) the coherent continuation in their work. That involved in the obligation for more exchange, study and support at the long term.

For this purpose, the conference in 2007 will give an impulse. It will bring together young professionals, volunteers and experts.

We had 8 important pedagogical themes with high relevance for people from so many different countries, like:

- Growing up in two cultures; Problems vs positive experiences in a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society
- The need of education for citizenship; active participation of children in society.
- Children and multimedia (tv, internet, video-games, mobile telephones); risks and opportunities; influence of consumer society.
- The right of children on sexuality.
- Learning for life. How can children be active in their own learning process?
- Integration of disabled and chronic ill children in society
- The right of children to mental and physical protection
- How can we help children and young people to deal with aggression?

People came from Bangladesh, Brasil, Burundi, Czech, France, Germany, Ghana, Holland, India, Kirgistan, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, and Poland. We stayed 6 days in a nice house near the beach of the North Sea and the water temperature was perfect for swimming.

If you are thinking of conferences, often boring, long-winded speeches come in memory and passive listeners.

In our case we followed a different approach. For each topic a specialist worked together with the participants in an inter-active way. It were real workshops and the participants put their own experiences and know-how into the workshops. Each workshop took two morning-sessions. So, after two days another topic could be chosen.

Each time people came to us to tell how much such a workshop meant for them. There was a great commitment among the participants. If you live 6 days together, day and night, a strong tie and trust between people is growing.

And than, the afternoon-session. We had the so-called creativity workshops in which we appealed on other aspects of one's competences, perhaps unknown abilities like music, sculpt, producing animatio films, playing in theatre, etc. These discoveries in yourself supported in turn the workshops in the morning sessions.

Very special were the 'Open Stages' during the evening. Everybody could present their own specialities or projects. We listened to the story of Colette Charlet from France who worked in the project 'Children's city in Rosario (Argentina); to Julia Fishman and Vladimir Vyzotski from Kiev who told us about the Jewish Welfare Work 'Beitenu'; to Nilufar Karim from Bangladesh who showed us her work in Dacca; to Sylvia Guimaraes from Sao Paulo who told us about 'Projeto Anchieta' in one a the biggest slums ('favela') of that city; to Irina Gurvich and Natalia Levkova who explained us the importance of the Center fo Tolerance in St-Peterburg, etc. etc. People were very much interested in these stories and the 'Open Stages' always went longer than expected and were followed by questions and discussions.

During that week we had some special highlights. First of all the breathtaking concert by Shura Lipovsky, famous singer of Yiddish Songs and storyteller. We had beautiful excursions to the North of

Holland (The Dutch struggle against the water) and the old centre of Amsterdam, including a visit to the Anne Frank house. Some of the participants rent a bike and made nice trips to the forest and little villages.

What was the result of the Conference?

- First of all we noticed that the 8 themes were recognizable for the participants with so different backgrounds. Topics like 'The impact of media on children', 'growing up in a multi-cultural society' or 'the right of children on a harmonious sexuality' proved to be relevant and of current interest everywhere.
- Participants received new 'baggage' for their work, but in the mean time they contributed to the colleagues their own know-how and experiences. The workshop leaders offered opportunities for this exchange and participants were very pleased with the level of the workshops.
- One important thing was the renewed and widened knowledge about Korczak's life and work. Not all participants were familiar with Korczak's ideas and during the workshops, the 'open stages', discussions and the morning texts, we tried to connect Korczak with our daily work or study. Besides that we had a reading-centre with books of Korczak, or about Korczak in several languages. Some were surprised that they could read about Korczak in their own language, like the 'The King of Children' in Russian or texts of Korczak in Portuguese. Students told us that these texts were real eye-openers for them and they discovered how Korczak was ahead of his time.
- It is difficult to put into words the personal emotions and experiences of the participants during those days. Mutual recognition of problems but also support, solidarity and connection. Long talks till deep in the night or walks along the beach made one big family of us. Material or businesslike contacts but most of all friendships and of course many invitations belonging to them.

We'll put in the full report the comments of the participants and details of the workshops. The say goodbye on Friday morning was not easy; many thankful embraces.

Theo Cappon

SWITZERLAND

Read in "La Lettre" no 56, Nov. 2007, from the Swiss Korczak Association

In his editorial, the chairman, Daniel Halperin, wrote about **"Populism and Xenophobia: a threat to the rights of children"**

"I always do my best (almost) to politicize neither the articles in 'La Lettre', nor the Korczak Association. The Korczak movement is a-political, isn't it? Not because it is indifferent to public matters, but because its legitimacy is to publicize and promote a way of thinking which is fundamentally universal and unprejudiced. Paramount in this way of thinking are ideas that are both simple and complex, strong and fragile: that children are full value human beings; that they are no more grown-ups in the making, than elder people are adults in regression; that their present moment is not the porch of a soon-coming adulthood, but is a reality that matters now; that children have rights that are no second to the rights of man, woman or citizen.

Well then, the recent success of populist right in Switzerland's legislative elections which was in large part based on fear of the others and on a self-centered behaviour, poses a real threat to the rights of children. It was observed already last year that, under the influence of the same political party, new laws and acts were accepted by the Swiss people. On the ground of these new laws, foreign families and their children whose asylum request was rejected no longer have access to social services; minor foreigners can be under arrest for one year just because their documents are not fully correct; and children born out of a complacency marriage can now be deprived of their paternal

filiation. A society that enacts such laws loses its sense of humane values, perverts democracy, and may further deviate towards injustice. Such as the injustice that would result from the systematic expulsion of foreign juvenile delinquents and their families, or from the deprivation of offenders and their families, of their freshly obtained Swiss passport.

We don't want, as do the persons we just criticized, to make people worried. We are not fear promoters. But we have to stay alert and follow the processes in our society. Because, where the rights of some children are not respected, the rights of all children are in danger.

P.-S.: It is remarkable to see that Switzerland adheres to this populist and xenophobic tendency at the very time when Poland, the homeland of Janusz Korczak, tries to make an end to this way of thinking. Will we be clever in the near future to turn of the tide?"

Dr. Daniel Halperin, translated by Theo Cappon

Quick news

Europe – The Korczak COE's Thomas Hammarberg appeal

"Children have the right to be heard and adults should listen to their views"

On the 20th November, the Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg came especially to Warsaw following the footsteps of Janusz Korczak to deliver an important political speech for the recognition of active children's rights, calling for his work to serve as a model in ensuring that children are actively involved in decision making processes.

The ceremony was organized by the Shalom Foundation in cooperation with Council of Europe, the Capital City of Warsaw, the Polish Janusz Korczak Association as well as with the Korczakianum Centre for Documentation and Research. The meeting was organized under the Patronage of Mayor of the Capital City of Warsaw, Mrs. Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz. The Commissioner stressed that children should be involved in on all matters that affect their lives, adding that *"decision making bodies should organise a system where children have the possibility to express their views. This concerns national Governments, Parliaments, local and regional authorities, as well as international organisations"*.

The day before [19 Nov. 2007], in his "Viewpoint", the Commissioner had payed tribute to Janusz Korczak and called for his work to serve as a model in ensuring that children are actively involved in decision making processes. *"All sides stand to gain of adults learn to support children in the exercise of their rights"*, said Thomas Hammarberg.

- Commissioner's Warsaw keynote speech:

<http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1213789&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679>

- Commissioner's "Viewpoint" about Korczak:

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/071119_en.asp

IKA

On 27 October 2007, the IKA has held its General Assembly in Mannheim. Of the 22 or 24 national associations identified, 10 were present: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine. Each of them presented their activities report.

The interim President, Batia Gilad mandated by the previous meeting at Slubice on 25th November 2006 to prepare for the rebuilding of the IKA, has proposed and enacted its restructuring plan. *"Since Slubice the main effort was to continue and organize the continuation of the International Association in a way of finding out who are the national Associations that are taking part in the IKA, to redefine the aims, updating the IKA articles and to find an administrative center for our association"*, she said.

Participants adopted new statutes (not yet published) and took the following decisions. All of them stressed the friendly atmosphere and very constructive this meeting.

- The new headquarters of the IKA was established in Warsaw, at the APS (Akademia Pedagogiki Specjalnej im. Marii Grzegorzewskiej) where sit the UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair, at the invitation of its Rector, professeur Adam Fraczek, who said: "There is a lot to do in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair and the IKA".
- An annual fee has been set for associations (120 euros)
- Authorities IKA were elected :
 - Honorary president: Benyamin Anolik (Israel)
 - President: Batia Gilad (Israel)
 - Vice President: Jadwiga Binczycka (Poland)
 - Secretary-General: Theo Cappon (Netherlands)

Korczak witnesses: A recent interview

"In Orphans' Twilight, Memories of a Doomed Utopia", By Dina Kraft, January 23, 2008, New York Times, Middle East, Tel Aviv Journal

Its article devoted to three witnesses of Korczak among the last still alive: Nadel Shlomo Yitzhak Belfer and Yitzhak Kalka, all aged 85 years, looks to have been loads of interest by The New York Times readers. "The inspiration for the piece came after reading your collection Loving Every Child" (see below), wrote Dina Kraft to Sandra Joseph. Excerpt:

" *'It was a utopia'*, said Shlomo Nadel, 85, one of the surviving orphans who managed to flee Poland before the Jewish orphanage was forced into the ghetto. Mr. Nadel and the others were witness to life on 92 Krochmalna Street in Warsaw, the orphanage that became a laboratory for Korczak's democratic educational theories, boasting a court and parliament run by the children. *'A child is a person at every stage of his or her development and has rights, the same rights as an adult, and needs to be treated accordingly'*, said Yitzhak Belfer, 85, who can recite by heart the system of points and punishment meted out by the children's court. [...] Korczak's ideas for a declaration of children's rights were posthumously adopted by the United Nations, and dozens of Korczak associations exist worldwide". (Thanks to Sandra Joseph and Dina Kraft)

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/23/world/middleeast/23korczak.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

Switzerland: Creation of a Korczak prize in Burundi

In "La lettre" no 55, the Swiss Korczak Association announced the creation of a Korczak prize awarded annually to a student at the State University of Burundi. The prize should be awarded for the first time in June 2008 to reward a text in connection with Korczak and/or children's rights.

Together with Joel Hakizimana, a student from Burundi in Geneva, member of the Korczak Swiss Association since 1999, and in partnership with the International Institute on the Rights of the Child in Sion (Switzerland), contact has been established with the authorities of Burundi. On May 10, 2007, Burundi's ambassador to Switzerland, Paul Mahwera, welcomed this *"bridge between cultures: [...] This award promotes children's rights in a country where children and young people are the majority of people [...]. It encourages creative writing in a country where everyone can not read and write. It therefore encourages education [...] because the power of knowledge can lead us to the stars"*.

It is very interesting to see the development since 2006 the relationship between the IKA movement and African NGOs mobilised for the defence of children's rights in their country. This is already the case in Ghana (Yakubu Iddrisu who attended the Dutch seminar), DR Congo in the heart of the crisis region of the Great Lakes (AFJK/Children's Voice, visit at: <http://children-voice.org>), and Burundi too.

Books and materials

Canada - "The promise land of Maly Przegląd"

Maly Przegląd was a national and unique Polish newspaper "To the children with the children" established by Korczak and published every week at 150,000 copies from 1926 to 1939. In The Newsletter of the J. Korczak Association of Canada No 5 from September 2007, we found the interesting testimony of Ryszard and Ludwik Mirabel, two distant cousins who both wrote early in the Korczak's magazine without knowing each other : Ludwik, who was 15 years old, published among other things an amazing interview with Korczak, and Ryszard who was an active member of the editorial board under Jerzy Abramov's (Igor Newerly) supervision, from 1935 to 1937.

To order, please contact: jkorzakassn@shaw.ca

England - "Loving Every Child: Wisdom for Parents"

by Sandra Joseph and Janusz Korczak, January 2007

Excerpt: *"No Book is a substitute : I want everyone to understand that no book and no doctor is a substitute for one's own sensitive contemplation and careful observations. Books with their ready-made formulas have dulled our vision and slackened the mind. Living by other people's experiences, research, and opinions, we have lost our self-confidence and we fail to observe things for ourselves. Parents find lessons not from books, but from inside themselves. Then every book they read can be considered to be of small additional value; and this one, too, will have fulfilled its given task if it has managed to contribute to bringing this idea home. Know yourself before you attempt to get to know children. Become aware of what you yourself are capable of before you attempt to outline the rights and responsibilities of children. First and foremost you must realize that you, too, are a child, whom you must first get to know, bring up, and educate".*

To learn more about this great editorial's initiative, you will find in the article below a long and very interesting audio interview of Sandra Joseph about her book and Korczak's legacy (the publisher, NPR, is an internationally acclaimed producer and distributor of noncommercial news):

"Parenting Advice from a Polish Holocaust Hero", review and excerpt to read and to listen, on NPR.org, March 3, 2007: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=7669479>

France – Two articles about or by Korczak

"*Les parlottes du Vieux Docteur à la radio Polonaise*", and "*Les bagarres*" by Lydia Walerysak,

The author is a literary translator also professor at the University of Lille III. She recently wrote a very interesting 18 pages review article on the Radio broadcasts of Korczak and his collaboration with the Polish radio from 1930 to 1939, from his book: "Teaching with humor...", including his famous emissions on loneliness and about children fights (to see in Polish in Korczak *Dziela*, t. X & XI):

In French [PDF, 388 Ko, 18 p.]: <http://www.meirieu.com/PATRIMOINE/korzakradio.pdf>
[PDF 88 Ko, 6 p.] <http://www.meirieu.com/PATRIMOINE/lesbagarreskorczak.pdf>

Germany - An educational project

"*Mit Kindern Korczaks Kaitus lesen*", by Mrs Ulrich Koch, to high school students. This very interesting lesson from a famous Korczak's children essay has been already mentioned above p. 3 on Mahheim report (second day).

More: <http://homepage.bnv-bamberg.de/deutsch-interaktiv/lektueren/korzak-kaitus/index.htm>

The Netherlands – 2 new books

- "*Het recht van het kind op respect*", by Janusz Korczak (1928/29), Ed. SWP and Rene Görtzen, Amsterdam, April 2007, 238 p. ISBN: 978-90-6665-394-8

The right of the child to respect, the famous Korczak's fiery indictment against childhostility of society is integral in this book appears, with 24 others still drafting, stories and essays from the period 1898-1938. In his fascinating introduction Rene Görtzen show seeds of Korczaks radical views as early as 1904 in the summercolonies. There he learned what it means to be educators. The book ends with a comparative study of Korczak and Montessori.

- **"Man Janusz Korczak. (Auto) Biographical moments"**, by Rene Görtzen, publisher: Janusz Korczak Foundation - To order, please contact JKSJN: info@korczak.nl

This Yearbook 2007 is the result of an initial search for the child Henryk Goldszmit in complicated adult Janusz Korczak. This is done through seven translated texts of Korczak and a four reflections on the man who he was And how it works in his writings. Central Korczaks feelings of sadness and loneliness that made him sensitive to the suffering of human beings, particularly of the child.

Poland – 3 new books (among others)

- **"KORCZAK DZIELA, T. XI, vol. 2 and 3"**, Two new books to the collection of the Korczak complete works, edited by Marta Ciesielska, published by KORCZAKIANUM (OSRODEK DOKUMENTACJI I BADAN KORCZAKIANUM) - Devoted mostly to the Korczak Little Review (Maly Przegląd above mentioned)

- **"Nasz Dom - zrozumiec, porozumiec sie, poznać"**, Maria Rogowskich Falska, tom 1 (2007), KORCZAKIANUM - Z kregu Korczaka. Tematy - Ludzie - Dokumenty (The Korczak Circle - Issues - People - Documents)

Without having yet received this work, we assume that is a reprint of the precious book written by the manageress of the second koczakian orphanage in Warsaw "Nasz Dom" (Our House"), opened in 1919 for children of the Catholic faith, completed with a new selection of texts. Maryna Falska describes the educational approach of Korczak with many examples drawn from the daily life of the orphanage during the first eight years of its existence. It begins with an excellent introduction of Janusz Korczak justifying his choice of self-directed learning. This text (Nasz Dom) has been translated into French by the French JK Association (AFJK) and is still unpublished. To read in French the two introductions by Korczak and Falska, visit: <http://korczak.fr>

To order, please contact: korczakianum@mhw.pl
http://www.korczakianum.mhw.pl/mhw/index.jsp?place=Menu07&news_cat_id=248&layout=6&lang=en

Russia

"The Happiness of a Child as the Goal of Humanistic Upbringing". The acts of its international symposium held with students in Kazan lasting three days in February 2007. This is a book of 200 pages in Russian. Roza presents it to us as a summary in English, with a explanation of each of the numerous contributions and interesting topics (to see on the blog).

You can order it from Mrs. Rosa Valeyeva valeykin@yandex.ru
 Absalyamova str. 28-77, 420066 KAZAN – TATARSTAN
 Tel: + 906 11 37 120, GSM: + 7 843 294 38 19

Switzerland

A new collection of unpublished articles and short texts by Janusz Korczak. The Swiss Korczak Association had developped this interesting collection available on its French site. The texts are translated from Polish by Lydia Waleryszak, the French literary translator also professor at the University of Lille III already mentioned above. Beginning 2008, the collection has 10 titles.

- To read in French: <http://www.aidh.org/korczak/10inedits.htm>

Upcoming

Israel and Poland: Kites for hope

For a long time, Yad Lazeled The Ghetto Fighters's Museum and the Janusz Korczak in Israel have proposed each year kite flying event as a homage to Korczak. In 2008, they suggest every school across the world to join the celebration on 21, 22, 23 March. The Polish Korczak Association decided to do it on the 19th may. There are three goals: 1) Learning about Korczak by collecting information and sharing. 2) Declaration of Children's Rights. 3) Constructing and flying kites, which have a quotation from Korczak on them.

The animator wrote: *"Students make kites to fly as a massive tribute dedicated to advancing the cultural and social dialog, a symbol of bridging the gap and understanding the "other". This will hopefully become a continuous tradition of flying kites with personal and group images of our dreams for a better world, a world of coexistence, tolerance, acceptance of the "other" and peace"*.

More: <https://media.learns.org/node/198>

USA: Korczak's Orphan opera

This new opera project is still in its composition and development phase. In April & May 2008, The Opera Company of Brooklyn (OCB) will present a semi-staged piano's vocal production of Korczak's Orphans. This will be the first time that the newly-complete opera is heard in its entirety, and will reunite many of the performing and artistic personnel of the OCB's 2007 performances of Korczak's Orphans excerpts.

Website: <http://www.adamsilverman.com/korczak/workshops-productions.html>

Germany/France/Poland: "Little king Macius", the film

"Der Kleine König Macius" - "Le Petit roi Macius", director: Sandor Jesse & Lutz Stützner; producer: Studio achtundachtzig GmbH, KiKa - Der Kinderkanal, HR; Co-producers: Saxonia Media - Home Made Movies -Studio 88- Orange Studio, Ellipsanime, Disney Channel France, Telewizja Polska SA; 2006-2008, Making of by Frank Stender.

A wonderful animated fun for youngsters about generals, children's parliaments and the realization that one needs good friends in order to become a good king. Based on the international hit Korczak children's book "**King Macius the 1st**", also a famous cartoon series, with 26 episodes each 13 min., produced since 1999. We are pleased to learn that the film has been awarded the "Audience Award for Best Children's Feature Animation" from the ANIMA 2008 festival in Belgium, the 9th February 2008. It is on the screens in Germany since November 2007 and its release is expected in France and Poland in 2008.

More: A notice <http://www.bavaria-film-international.de/htmls/bfi/index.php?site=program&id=239>

European Children's Film Association: <http://www.ecfaweb.org/ecfnet/films.php?e=l&f=229>

Macius king German website (by the producer): <http://www.macius.senator.de>

Macius king French website (by AFJK, with a new version expected): <http://roi-mathias.fr>

Ressources

International newsletters

- **UNICEF e-newsletter** is interesting to better known challenges, hope and progress for children worldwide and the impact of UNICEF's work. It is available free in many languages:
<http://www.unicef.org/e-newsletter/index.php>
- **DCI (Defence for Children International)** based in Geneva, Switzerland, currently produces two bi-monthly newsletters available in English, French and Spanish:
 - **The DCI Newsletter** aims to disseminate news about key developments in the field of children's rights, particularly those which occur at the international level.
 - **The juvenile justice newsletter** aims at bringing the latest discussions on juvenile justice that take place at the national, regional and international level to the attention of professionals or any other person with a particular interest in the subject. It's free.
<http://www.dci-is.org/newsletter>

Focus

Initiatives of Change

Based in Caux, Switzerland, Initiatives of Change International is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, is a diverse, global network committed to building trust across the world's divides. It comprises people of many cultures, nations, beliefs and backgrounds who are committed to transforming society through changes in individuals and relationships, starting in their own lives.

Following World War II, Moral Re-Armament (MRA), as it had become known, launched a programme of moral and spiritual reconstruction to foster change in private and public life based on a change in motivation and character. It worked for reconciliation between France and Germany, and between Japan and many other Asian neighbours. It was involved in the process of decolonisation, and in forging industrial teamwork and harmonious race relations. It was also active in inter-religious relations and in the struggle for the rights of indigenous peoples. Also has an extensive program for a peace education for school children and teachers.

<http://www.iofc.org/en>

***Help us make the “korczak.INFO” site & blog
more attractive and useful!***

How can we do this? Send your contribution, as Quick news, posts or articles, preferably in English, by e-mail, with any useful attachments as texts, documents, photos, etc.

Please, don't forget to add a direct access to your sources (address, phone, etc.: we must be able to validate it). However, you can send it in your own language; but in this case, please add a good summary in English : after validation, it will be displayed in your own language.

Regards from the JK International Newsletter on-line team on <http://korczak.info>

Please use our special e-mail address for the newsletter and the website,
or also the Contact form of the site, to send us your articles,
photographs, videos, mp3, poems, etc! (until 10 Mo)

ikanews@gmail.com

With your participation, the next letter would be sent in June 2008
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To know more about Janusz Korczak, please contact the nearest correspondent of the international JK contact list: Thank you to update your web site page links or our blog with "korczak.INFO". Exchanging links is profitable for the whole Korczak movement.