

translation of this pamphlet, which gives a brief overview of the themes, and identifies many of the persons and spiritual beings depicted. The huge later painting, some 6 metres long, was eventually placed in the Hamburg Steiner School. Hauschka writes, "*It was a painting that filled an entire wall, the size of which I estimated was 2.5 to 3 metres high and 6 metres long*".² In the 1940's, this school, together with this painting, was destroyed during the fire-storms created by Allied bombings. What happened to the magnificent, original 2.5m painting is unknown. But it is very fortunate for people interested in deeper spiritual understanding of Christianity, that a colour photograph taken of this original 'sketch', by the mother of Margaretha Hauschka, and later made available as a poster, survived the wars in Europe. The artwork presented in this book is the result of scanning a reproduction which was made from the poster.

This image has been very carefully enhanced, and compared to the glass-plate photograph from 1912,³ to clarify as many of the details as possible, and allow the viewer to see the fantastical array of divine beings, spiritual energies and human beings that it portrays - without altering any of its details. During this work, some details remained slightly blurred or faded, since the camera lens could not possibly register in full clarity all of the intricate details in such a large painting. In keeping with what is such an esoteric work of art, Rudolf Steiner advised Anna May that when the painting was complete, it would need a very special kind of frame. As Margueritha Hauschka reports it should be,

A broad frame of wood, somewhat arched and vault-like. Below, it should have a kind of ledge, like a broad altar. The entire wooden frame itself should be bright and lustrous, but with an indigo-blue stain. In the arch above, the zodiac should be depicted, the constellations however, lightly enveloped, with the images depicted there like a golden mist, in which the stars shine forth.

Just what zodiac images Rudolf Steiner intended for this frame, is unknown. It could be traditional zodiac imagery, or it could be the images that were being painted onto the ceiling of the Centre in Stuttgart, at this same time. These images, and the entire building, were destroyed in 1937; but they are available again in my book, *The Lost Zodiac of Rudolf Steiner*.

With regard to clarifying some of the details of the 100-year old image, I carried out further work on them, to enhance their visibility, taking particular care not to actually change any image. There are also some details which only became visible when parts of the painting were examined under a magnification, or when its colours were given more contrast than the dark background, on a computer. The few instances where I have enhanced a detail shall be clearly identified as we explore the painting.

² From "Das Goetheanum", the weekly publication from Dornach, 15th.June 1975.

³ Due to the kindness of Herr Norbert Reininger, I was able to see a copy of the original glass plate photograph.