

Biography work as the youngest daughter of Anthroposophy, in the stream of the Christmas Conference of 1923/1924

Opening lecture at the WBC 2026 in Quenca, Spain on Wednesday 20 May 2026

Biography work appeared in the world in the 1980ies as the *youngest daughter of Anthroposophy* and has become by now a worldwide movement of *practiced anthroposophical spiritual science*.

Starting in the *Medical Section of the Independent University of Spiritual Science* at the Goetheanum with Bernard Lievegoed, Michaela Glöckler and Gudrun Burkhard, biography work has developed in a peripheral way being brought to many countries on all continents by individual professionals, mainly from England, the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland

As main organ until now, the biography work movement developed the *Worldwide Biography Conference WBC*, which happened the last few years every second year in different parts of the world: Switzerland (Goetheanum), England, Germany, Hungary, Finland, Japan, Spain.

By now, it has emancipated from the Medical Section and has become an internationally active but not yet fully recognised member of the *General Anthroposophical Section of the Independent University of Spiritual Science*.

The worldwide biography work movement has in its development by now reached the point where the anthroposophical movement was standing at the Christmas Conference end of 1923, facing the question of how to become a *worldwide community of collaboration* in service of “Anthroposophia”, the spiritual being of anthroposophy, without exertion of power in form of centralism, hierarchy or regulation.

The answer to this question was given by Rudolf Steiner at the *Christmas Conference 1923/1924* with the foundation of the *General Anthroposophical Society* with its *constitution or statute with 14 articles* on one hand and the donation of the *spiritual foundation stone* in form of the *foundation verse* in four strophes on the other hand.

The General Anthroposophical Society was – and spiritually still is – the “*most modern society in the world*” (Rudolf Steiner, GA 260) in which – in service of “Anthroposophia” – the members collaborate as equals on the base of mutual trust and the *principle of “largest possible publicity and deepest most truthful esotericism”* (Rudolf Steiner, GA 260) without hierarchy or regulation.

The General Anthroposophical Society of the Christmas Conference was hindered to fully incarnate in the world and held back in the spiritual world – wherefrom it nonetheless always occultly affected the anthroposophical movement – by the substitution of its own constitution with the constitution of the administrative association of real estate of the Goetheanum, an association under Swiss federal law originally based on the roman law with its principle of hierarchy and private property. By this, the esoteric General Anthroposophical Society with its esoteric board transformed into the present management society with its management board.

To give its answer to this same essential question, hundred years after Rudolf Steiner’s answer with the Christmas Conference, the worldwide biography movement can use the General Anthroposophical Society of the Christmas Conference as a *role model* for finding its appropriate form corresponding to its being as a daughter of anthroposophy relating to its mother in its own way, free of centralism, hierarchy or regulation.

Worldwide Biography Conference 2026 in Quenca, Spain

In the lecture we will explore the relationship between biography work and its worldwide movement on one hand and the GAS of the Christmas Conference with the Independent University of Spiritual Science and the worldwide anthroposophical movement on the other hand and how the worldwide biography work movement may *develop further in the spirit of “Anthroposophia” and the Christmas Conference 1923/1924*.

Philip Jacobsen, March 2026

Literature to the topic:

1. The Christmas Conference for the Establishing of the General Anthroposophical Society 1923/1924; GA 260
2. The Statutes of the General Anthroposophical Society of the Christmas Conference 1923/1924
3. The Constitution of the General Anthroposophical Society and the School of Spiritual Science, The Reconstruction of the Goetheanum 1924–1925; GA 260a
4. Last remarks on the Christmas Conference, in: The Constitution of the General Anthroposophical Society and the School of Spiritual Science – The Reconstruction of the Goetheanum – 1924–1925; GA 260a; pp. 380 – 386 → [Link to pdf](#)
5. Comparison of the statutes of the GAS of the Christmas Conference with the statutes of the present GAS; paper by Philip Jacobsen; 2026 → [Link to pdf](#)
6. On the Christmas Conference 1923/1924; paper by Philip Jacobsen, 2026 → [Link to pdf](#)