

Hand-out for:

Financial Literacy and Waldorf Teachers

How to teach finance to young people

A conversation with Christopher Houghton Budd, PhD.

Economic and Monetary Historian / Convenor – Economics Conference of the Goetheanum

An online event / Saturday, 22 August 2020

Rudolf Steiner pointed out that money is bookkeeping – always has been, always will be – although the form of this bookkeeping changes with the changes in consciousness as humanity individuates. This is the reason for describing financial literacy as “the ability to speak and read the language of bookkeeping and accounting”. It is this also that places Rudolf Steiner at the centre of discussions in today’s professional monetary debates, not outside or in opposition. A sign of individual sovereignty, Steiner also pointed out that no teacher should stand before a class of children today who does not possess basic financial literacy or is unable to represent it.

Christopher is an economic and monetary historian with a special focus on Rudolf Steiner’s socio-economic works. He has been an entrepreneur all his life and given many courses on finance to young people, both inside and outside Waldorf contexts. He was for some years a primary school governor, so has direct experience of state-funding. As an economist, his main concern is to find ways to base both the teaching of finance and the financing of education on Rudolf Steiner’s suggestions, especially in English-speaking and Latin American countries, where the historical and cultural background is very different to that of Central Europe.

The conversation will draw on work done over many years, under various headings:

*Freeing the Circling Stars – Pre-funded Education.**

Curriculum-neutral Capitation – The financing of education in England since the 7th century (A study carried out for the European Union. In preparation)

Wrongly Thought, Wrongly Taught – A critique of financial literacy in the Waldorf movement.

Air beneath Your Wings – a workshop for young people aged 15-18.

In recent years, together with Fionn Meier in Switzerland Christopher has brought this to a certain focus and culmination in the form of two books which directly explore Rudolf Steiner’s statement that money is bookkeeping:

Perspectives in Finance – Contemplating Double-Entry Bookkeeping. Fionn Meier and Christopher Houghton Budd.*

Money as Accounting – From Ancient Mesopotamia to 2008 and Beyond. Fionn Meier.*

As colleagues in the Economics Conference of the Goetheanum, Fionn and Christopher are co-working with the Pedagogical Section on how financial literacy is taught in Waldorf schools. (A seminar on this will be held at the Goetheanum on 17 October.)

* Available at www.associative-economics.com.