

## **Verbundkatalog Kalliope**

### **Kinderdorf Pestalozzi in der Schweiz.**

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Ladies and gentlemen.

Before going into my report proper, I should like to tell you about two experiences I've had on my recent trip to Europe. The two are outstanding in that one constitutes my best, my nicest, ~~most~~ cheerful and most encouraging memory, whereas the other's dreadfulness will never cease to haunt me in my dreams. I dare say that nothing I saw and went through during the war - and I saw and went through a lot - came anywhere near the accumulated horror embraced by this second experience. <sup>2</sup>Despite their utter disparity, however, the two have one important feature in common: they are both - each in its own way - admirably suited to help promote a clearer understanding of the European scene, as well as of some of the challenges that confront us today.

It was by chance that I heard of the Kinderdorf Pestalozzi, <sup>the</sup> der international children's village which had come into being at Trogen, Switzerland and which was appropriately christened after the great Swiss 19th century paedagogue and writer Heinrich Pestalozzi the ~~visionary and human~~ <sup>visionary and human</sup> revolutionizer of Swiss education <sup>not merely</sup> whose influence reached far beyond the boundaries of his tiny country, just as his humanity was all-embracing and unwilling to stop at national, racial, religious, or social ~~frontiers~~ <sup>frontiers</sup>.

High up in the mountains above St. Gall in the Canton of Appenzell the Kinderdorf looks as if it had been created along with the landscape. Its wooden peasants' houses seem to belong with the trees and the grass and the myriades of alpine flowers that grow here ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> and ~~children~~ <sup>children</sup>, ~~too~~ <sup>too</sup>, appear to be part of the enchanted whole.

They <sup>are</sup> war orphans, brought here, not for a few weeks holidays, but to grow up in ~~these~~ <sup>these</sup> lovely and wholesome surroundings where, it is hoped, they will eventually <sup>fully</sup> recover from the unspeakable that lies behind them. A few large <sup>substantial</sup> donations and countless small contributions

from Mr. and Mrs Swiss ~~habenhabenhabenhaben~~ <sup>of the L. League</sup> financed the building which was carried out, largely, by hundreds of Swiss volunteers and scores of voluntary helpers from all parts of Europe. By selling Kinderdorf pins ~~aha~~ <sup>every</sup> in ~~aha~~ City~~ah~~ and town~~ah~~ of their country the children of Switzerland, too, ~~hhhhhhhhhh~~ helped set up the village has been living thus far which ~~hhhh~~ on the continued generosity of the Swiss people

Apart from wanting to rescue at least some of the child victim of this war, the initiators and sponsors of the Kinderdorf pursued at two fold purpose: 1.) the children - about 400, some 120 of whom have arrived up to now, are to be brought up in an atmosphere of democratic freedom and tolerance and international cooperation. While everything is being done not to alienate the youngsters from the lands of their origin, they will learn to understand, like, and get along with, each other regardless of nationality so that when their time has come to go home, they will return as responsible citizens of their own respective nation as well as of this one world of ours. ~~They~~ <sup>They</sup> will not, of course, be ~~strong enough~~ strong enough in numbers to exercise much of a beneficial influence over their <sup>own</sup> compatriots. But the educational advantages they enjoy, <sup>and</sup> they learn and the knowledge of other nations they acquire <sup>may enable</sup> them ~~to~~ <sup>one day</sup> ~~embark~~ say - to ~~embark~~ embark on diplomatic careers or join the foreign ministries of their countries ~~and help promote a better understanding between their own governments and others.~~ <sup>friendly relations</sup> and help promote a better understanding between their own governments and others.

Even so, the Kinderdorf's sponsons are quick to admit ~~that~~ that ~~the~~ <sup>Woburn</sup> ~~second~~ or rather third objective ~~is~~ is rather more important:

they wish to set an example. Even one successful experiemtn such as the settlement at Trogen, may call into existence an ever increasing number of similar establishments <sup>and not only for refugees -</sup> both in Switzerland and elsewhere the total human output of which might eventually grow into a real force in Europe. Already the Kinderdorf has aroused not only the enthusiasm of the

entire Swiss people, but also the curiosity and interest of educators, intellectuals and humanitarians the world over, many of whom, having visited the place, gladly agreed to <sup>back the idea</sup> ~~the~~ the Kinderdorf <sup>likely</sup> ~~which~~ which, they felt, was as ~~likely~~ as any to assist in the preservation of peace.

Of the twenty for houses which will eventually form the village, <sup>9</sup> 8 have thus far been completed. They are at present inhabited by French, Polish, Austrian, Hungarian and German children and their teachers. While each national contingent occupies its own house or houses, ~~where~~ where it speaks its own language and is being taught by its own teachers, all unite when it comes to sport, music, art, or any other activity which doesn't necessitate a common language. Meals are being served "at home" but "guests" are always welcome and more often than not, eaters of three or more nationalities will sit down at one table. Thus, after a few months, most of the children <sup>can now</sup> ~~have~~ can express themselves in at least a couple of idioms. Even so, however, it is planned to introduce one Kinderdorf language binding to all. Because of its relative simplicity <sup>is likely to be the</sup> ~~esperanto~~ <sup>more desirable but less simple alternative</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>be</sup> thought best, ~~with~~ ~~english~~ ~~as a second and by no means improbable choice.~~ ~~intricate~~ ~~task.~~

The teachers at Trogen are faced with an uncommonly ~~task.~~ ~~Through the~~ ~~damage done to the small ones is relatively quickly repaired, the~~ ~~mental~~ ~~agony~~ ~~they suffered~~ ~~linger on and make these~~ ~~children~~ ~~a somewhat unbalanced and strangely unpredictable lot.~~ ~~Take Stanislaw,~~ ~~for instance, the 11 year old~~ ~~pole,~~ ~~who lived through the Warsaw insurrection~~ ~~of August 1944.~~ ~~In the course of the punitive actions that followed the~~ ~~illfated revolt,~~ ~~Stanislaw was shot by the Germans, together with his~~ ~~parents and his baby brother~~ ~~taggio.~~ ~~The family were dead and Stanislaw~~

injured  
appeared to be dead. Badly ~~injured~~ he crawled away as soon as the  
~~injured~~  
Germans' backs were turned. Partisans bandaged his wounds and whenever  
they could manage, which wasn't often, looked after him till the end  
of the war. Ever since that day in August 44 he'd been <sup>living</sup> in the  
ruins of Warsaw or in the ~~Partisan's~~ Partisan's woody hideouts. But he  
could not forget; even now he can't forget; while at times he acts  
like a perfectly normal child of 11, playful and given to happy  
pranks, at others he is silent, grim and unapproachable, <sup>tragically experienced man</sup> ~~like~~ a ~~child~~  
~~whose~~ <sup>fearful</sup> ~~memories~~ <sup>seem to</sup> stand for ever between him and the  
rest of humanity. He screams in his sleep. The bullets he stopped with  
his thin little body hurt less than his mother's brains that <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~  
blown out and into his face, as he stood there waiting for death. Like  
his friend and contemporary Tadek, Stanislaw is a "black Pole"  
which means that he has dark hair <sup>considered worthy to be</sup> and was not therefore taken to Germany  
to be <sup>whatever</sup> ~~nordified~~, Germanized or ~~like~~ the abandoned ones called it.  
Tadek is happier than Stanislaw. ~~He, too, like Stanislaw~~ comes  
from Warsaw where <sup>at least of late</sup> he lost all that was dear to him, his family, his home,  
~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> most of his friends, ~~but he's found a way to~~  
unburden himself without talking <sup>confiding in</sup> to others which he, like the rest of  
the children, <sup>he seems</sup> are loath to do: he paints, his pictures that have been  
shown at exhibitions where they <sup>rightly</sup> earned ~~almost~~ <sup>praise</sup>  
~~shown~~ <sup>reproduced</sup> what he's seen, they are one and all portraits of his life.  
NEW No ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> shocking sight can be imagined - Warsaw  
in flames, Polish women dragged through the ~~burning~~ <sup>burning</sup> streets by  
German tanks, two SS men, shooting a child corpses littering the ground  
and swastika <sup>adorned</sup> <sup>every</sup> planes overhead, like carrion - vultures circling over  
their prey. Tadek paints in silence and fails to answer when he is  
talked to. Wholly dedicated to his obsessed doings, he seems to see  
nothing and nobody but the scenes in his mind and heart. But when,  
after an hour or two he throws away his brush and mingles with the

✓  
after  
war?



and a few days ago my children came and asked for permission to clean what we call the German ho use and to get it ready for the <sup>have n't come</sup> ~~hhhhhhhh~~ the Germans' arrival. Well they ~~hhhhhhhh~~ yet and <sup>some</sup> ~~hhhhhhhh~~ once they are here, <sup>prove</sup> trouble may yet ~~be~~ unavoidable. <sup>He'll get over it though!</sup> But I've done my best and if you'll forgive my saying so, I found it <sup>regarding</sup> tough going, ~~hhhhhhhh~~ the children, ~~hhhhhh~~ and even regarding myself."

I could go on for <sup>an hour</sup> ~~hours~~ telling you about the Kinderdorf, its problems and worries, its hopes and actual achievements. The history they teach here in all classes and ~~hhhhhh~~ tongues is "denationalized history" <sup>centered around men and his past</sup> ~~meant to provide its students with a true picture of man's~~ past rather than with a glorified account of national exploits. Those at the Kinderdorf are modest. "We do not" they say ~~hhhhhhhh~~ <sup>But</sup> "expect to serve as anything like a model. Others may learn from our mistakes and failures as well as from our successes and little triumphs. In Italy plans have been drawn up for the establishment of a Kinderdorf. In France, too, ~~hhhhhh~~ they'd like to have at least one village des enfants. The idea is alive and as time goes by its realisation at Trogen will <sup>be</sup> ~~hhhhhh~~ strengthen and broaden its impact."

I <sup>+</sup> was a happy day that I spent at the Kinderdorf. <sup>on this depressed and depressing world</sup> ~~hhhhhh~~ Here at last was a binding promise and a promising start, something that you could say "yes" to without any "buts" and <sup>it's</sup> ~~"wait and sees"~~ something to be liked and admired and - yes to be believed in - if not as a <sup>major</sup> ~~hhhhhh~~ factor in the fight for peace, at least as <sup>a</sup> ~~hh~~ courageous step in the right direction.