

ICASSI 1976, Vienna, Austria

ICASSI '76 in Vienna, the birthplace of both Alfred Adler and Rudolf Dreikurs, was a rich experience for over 300 participants representing, once again, more than 10 countries.

One special highlight was the Adler-Dreikurs tour guided by Eva Dreikurs Ferguson, with the help of Dr Dreikurs' Viennese cousin, Rudolfine Dreikurs Wejrowsky, and Mrs Rudolf Dreikurs. The trip spotlighting the homes Dr Dreikurs lived in as a boy and as an adult, the schools he attended, the clinics in which he worked, and the places he frequented. The tour included a stop outside the house in which Adler lived and had his practice, and participants avidly photographed the sites in which Adlerian teaching had taken place in this fabulous historic city.

ICASSI'76 was planned to precede the conference in Munich of the International Association of Individual Psychology, which meets every three years. This afforded an opportunity for Dr Kurt Adler, son of Alfred Adler, to address the ICASSI group in Vienna. Professor Ringel also welcomed and addressed the participants.

The two-week conference was fully packed from early morning until late evening. The Staff held meetings the three previous days for intensive sharing, planning and discussion. A number of innovations were introduced to the program. Experimenting with a new morning format, classes in Adlerian theory were held in small groups, rather than the day starting with a general session of all the participants. Extended "special interest sessions" were offered, which lured many away from the leisurely afternoon break, and the Youth Program encouraged youths to share their talents and time in activities and guiding of the smaller children.

A daily Newsletter was published, which outlined the events of the day in both German and English. Another highlight was the North American Indian dances by authentically costumed Gilbert and Floy Pepper.

Apart from the intensity of this ninth Summer Institute, with evening presentations and demonstrations, and the many recreational facilities available in the beautiful parkland setting, there were many added optional attractions. These included a walk in the Vienna Woods; a boat trip down the Danube River; tours; shopping; operettas; Cathedral organ recitals; Viennese dining and dancing; the Conditorei on every street; village tavernas in Oberla where the Farewell Party was held; and even for some, a day in Budapest. After-conference days added the possibility of visits to "Sound of Music" Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz, and the beautiful Tyrolean district.