

AIR KREMS - Brian Torrey Scott - Final Report

July 15 to August 15 2010

My experience at AIR Krems was excellent. I found that the apartment was in great condition and the support staff was very helpful and accommodating. In any case, to have a month away from regular life structures and responsibilities is beneficial for the production of creative work. Being in Krems was amazing because it was a very new experience for me; I had never before visited Austria or any of the surrounding areas. Perhaps this had some negative effect on my productivity at first, as I spent much of my time exploring and experiencing the local region, but after about 10 days I was settled in and ready to write.

When I was able to discern a certain routine, my mind became more conducive to work. My routine (regular, but with many slight variations) was as follows: 1. walk or bike to the market early in the morning to purchase my groceries for the day. 2. Write for about 3 or 4 hours. 3. Prepare lunch and eat. 4. Take a walk or bicycle ride (often across the river or into Durnstein, etc). 5. Relax in the apartment until dinner. 6. Prepare food and eat. 7. Spend the evening socializing with other residents (most notably James Voller and Robert Carter). However, there were major diversions. I visited Vienna at least 5 times, Bratislava once, I took a boat trip to Metz, and I took a couple day trips into the Salzkammergut region (Gmunden, Hallstat). These diversions were enlightening and allowed direct access to new ideas for my work.

Being alone in a foreign place was very strange at first. There is certainly an effect on the mind, and this definitely shows through in the work I accomplished while in residence. I was happy there, to be sure, but my work became very dark. Usually my writing has a distinct light side which tempers the weight of it, but the manuscript I produced in Krems is nearly humorless. I suppose that I realized a new side of my work during my residency period. I spent a great deal of time reading Julian Jaynes' *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* and Musil's *A Man Without Qualities*. These books also had a great impact on my writing to it is difficult to pinpoint the locus of my influences

I particularly appreciate the AIR Krems residency in its approach. I found that the staff can be very helpful and engaging in an accessible way, but they are very hands-off as well. I was able to work and live without distraction in Krems, without ever feeling imposed-upon. It was a very low-stress time, and I was happy to be able to do as I pleased with the knowledge that I could access Sabine or Elke at any time if I wanted or needed to.

In short, I had a great time. I was able to accomplish much, in my thoughts and in my work, and I was able to expand my cultural/creative understandings through the local and regional exposure.

Thank you! - Brian Torrey Scott