

1958 PFEIFFER – THE UNNAMED EXPERT WITNESS

"In 1958 Rachel Carson wrote Spock and Richards in February at a time when they were preparing evidence for the trial. At least 57 letters have survived from Carson to Spock and Richards. The letters have subsequently been deposited at the Beneke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale Collection of American Literature, of Yale University."

In a letter Carson writes "many thanks for the... Very excellent Pfeiffer paper... With its many references. It is a gold mine of information" (Carson, 1958). In the same letter, Carson states "You have been so enormously helpful to me, and apparently are so familiar with the vast amount of material." (Carson, 1958).

The "Goldmine" to which Carson refers was the Winter issue of *Bio-Dynamics*, #45.

"Many of the references and authors cited by Pfeiffer later reappeared in Carson's reference list. Of one of his references (viz., Read, and generally, 1956), Pfeiffer (1958) commented, "this is one of the most comprehensive reports, with almost 1000 references" (page. 19 39). It reappeared in Carson's references. In her exchanges with Spock, Carson makes multiple references to Pfeiffer to his correspondence (. We Spock and Richards as intermediaries Pfeiffer was queried by Carson about sources, references, and his own tests and experiments, although he received no acknowledgment in *Silent Spring*."

Pfeiffer also appeared as an expert witness in the Long Island Spray Trial (Spock and Richards, 1962). When he was challenged by a defense attorney as to what fee he was receiving, he responded that no fee was involved; and when further challenge as to why he was there, he risked responded, "because I am interested in the future of the human race" (page. 25).

One can see the influence of Rudolf Steiner's "biological thinking" on which Pfeiffer's work is based and it flows through to Carson's work when you read *Silent Spring*.