

Acknowledgements

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p. 27-29, 34, illus., port. _Person as author: Nadeau, Maurice 1983

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***“Art flies around the truth but with the
determined intention not to get burned.”***

Franz Kafka, Oktavheft 7

FRANZ KAFKA (1883-1924)

The devil's pay

by Maurice Nadeau

The UNESCO Courier

Kafka Triptychon

by Christoph W. Band

UNESCO Club Vienna



'The image which remains with us a hundred year after his birth is as composite as the multitude of interpretations his work has inspired. We have long been familiar with the sanatorium patient, ravaged by guilt and illness, dying of consumption without ever having succeeded in really living, with illness serving as a symbol for the profound evil which he tried to exorcise through writing.

It is amazing to learn from witnesses that he was a vigorous, athletic young man who drew gusts of laughter from his writer friends when he read them the first chapter of *The Trial*. Without denying the existence of a fundamental despair in Kafka, one of these friends adds, "he had weapons with which to defend himself: they were humour, irony, and hope." He did not hesitate to assert that "hope finally triumphed; he possessed a literally messianic force." Setting aside the religious connotation, Kafka gave his friends an impression of force, and it is not pity he called for, but the admiration we feel for those who have had the courage to take the measure of their evil, of our evil, and who struggle with their might to overcome it.'



The *Kafka Triptychon* by Christoph W. Band, consists of an original piece of wood measuring 260 x 90 x 12.5 mm from the balcony of the former "Hoffmann" sanatorium, where FRANZ KAFKA died in 1924. Donated to the artist by Dr. Manfred Müller from the Austrian Franz Kafka Society.



The leather-bound triptych includes a laser-etched drawing of an angel with a lantern by Band to pay homage to Kafka the seeker.