

# INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PEACE MUSEUMS

*Newsletter No. 2 - December 1993*

*Dear Peace Museum Networkers!*

The first anniversary of the 1992 Bradford Conference 'Bringing Peace To People' has just passed, so it is certainly appropriate to plan ahead for a follow-up conference! It seems that Verdun is unable to provide accommodation, so the earliest date we are now looking for will be September 1995. We are open to offers to host the conference and provide accommodation, probably still in Europe for the time being,

The opening of the Bertha von Suttner Exhibition on 9th June in Geneva provided an opportunity for network members to meet again. Amongst those present were Franz Deutsch, Peter van den Dungen, Margaret Glover, Anne Kjelling (whose report on the opening appears later in the newsletter), Adolf Wild and the exhibition's organiser Ursula-Maria Ruser.

Contacts made through the Bradford Conference have resulted in several peace museum tours this summer. Friends of the Bridge of Remagen Peace Museum led by Hans Peter Kürten travelled to various museums in Germany, France and Switzerland (details under Network News). Peter van den Dungen undertook a study tour of peace museums in Germany at Remagen, Lindau, Berlin, Meeder bei

Coburg and Sievershausen and at Wolfsegg in Austria.

Shigeo Nishimori, Director of the Grass Roots House, Kochi City, Japan made a peace trip to Vietnam earlier this year. Kazuyo Yamane, also from Grass Roots House, has visited peace museums in Europe including Un Musée pour la Paix at Caen, France. Both Kazuyo and her husband are studying literature and peace studies at London University until January 1994. Her temporary address can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Despite such encouraging news of links being forged between network members, we obviously have not yet found the right logo. Leonard Wechs from Lindau Peace Museum has kindly sent in another possibility printed at the end of this newsletter. This would be number 8, and there is another Hans Schenk design, number 9, which can also be seen on the cover of the Wolfsegg catalogue.

You will receive, either with this newsletter or shortly after, the catalogue "Ein Friedensmuseum - A Peace Museum" from Franz Deutsch in Wolfsegg, Austria. Franz sends a personal message to all network members "dedicating the gift of his



catalogue as a small contribution towards developing our great aim."

On behalf of us all I would like to thank Franz for his catalogue with its inspiring text and beautiful illustrations.

The post will also bring you a questionnaire devised by Amanda Taylor on the educational role of peace museums. Amanda is studying for a higher degree at the Department of Peace Studies, Bradford University and your assistance in responding would be much appreciated.

From peace museums already in existence to one at the embryonic stage, we have received good wishes for the establishment of a peace museum in Great Britain from Mrs Billie Laniado, Director of Public Relations at YAD VASHEM, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. Their full address can be found at the end of this newsletter.

It is particularly encouraging to hear from museums which were not represented at the Bradford Conference, so do join in the exchange of news and ideas worldwide which this newsletter hopes to generate.

## UPDATE ON NEW MUSEUMS

### BRITAIN

Despite an initial lack of success with funding from charitable trusts, the Give Peace A Chance Trust is proceeding with a Project Office in Bradford to develop the planning for the Peace Museum. This will be funded from the accumulated funds of the Trust and staffed by a part-time administrator under the guidance of a Steering Committee.

Thanks to all of you who have sent items for inclusion in this newsletter. There is such considerable scope for news of exhibitions, articles, reviews and special features of interest to us all that I can see the potential for our newsletter progressing into a more substantial publication. For this we will definitely want our LOGO ... so a gentle reminder to let us have your creation or your choice, please!

Finally our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Hans Peter Kürten following his recent illness.

Shireen Shah  
c/o Peter van den Dungen  
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The University  
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UNITED KINGDOM



International Network  
of Peace Museums



## *KARLSKOGA, SWEDEN*

Give Peace A Chance Trust has received a letter from Curt Morsing who had heard about the Bradford Conference and hopes to plan a peace museum in Karlskoga which was the centre for Alfred Nobel's work during his latter years. Curt would welcome contact with others in the Museum Network. His address is: Trestegsv. 29, 691 54 Karlskoga, Sweden.

## *DENMARK*

Holger Terp has written to us as follows: "I became interested in the history of the peace movement around 1980 after I had been working in the anti-Vietnam war movement in Copenhagen as well as being a conscientious objector. During the last decade I have collected some 3-4000 books and pamphlets, 900 posters, 2-3000 pictures and archive collections from both Danish and international peace groups.

During this time I studied to become a librarian and I produced a bibliography of Danish peace and security literature, recording books and magazines from the beginning of peace work in Denmark. Later, I wrote a booklet and a thesis on the Danish peace activist, Ellen Horup, and now I'm writing her biography and working on a further bibliography on the history of the peace movement."

Holger's address is: Strandbyparen 4. 1 tv, 2650 Hvidovre, Denmark Telephone 31 78 40 28

## **NETWORK NEWS**

### *BERLIN*

Jochen Schmidt has produced yet more exhibitions. One is entitled "The Dream of Another Germany" and it reflects young people's resistance to Nazism in the period 1933 to 1945. Another commemorates the 50th anniversary of the death of Simone Weil in exile in Ashford, England. So, what did Jochen do? He created an exhibition and brought it to Ashford where it was on display for a month!

### *CHICAGO*

The new executive director at The Peace Museum is Diane Grams who takes over from Peter Ratajczak. She has written about the opening of their new exhibition site known as "The Peace Museum Archive" which "allows us to develop our vision in programming and exhibits while maintaining much of the elements of past successes".

"Drive-By Peace" is an educational initiative to engage children in a creative challenge that involves thinking about peace rather than violence and gang warfare. There has again been a series of successful exhibitions through the year and Diane says she has put the Peace Museum Network members on Chicago's mailing list.



## *DETROIT*

Swords Into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery SIPPC celebrated its seventh birthday on 19th February 1993 and the Report sets out an impressive list of activities undertaken since its previous birthday. Our thanks to Jo and Jim Bristah.

*KOCHI CITY*, Grass Roots House, Japan

We are delighted to have received two English language newsletters.

The Kochi City Peace festival was held this summer and included exhibitions on War and Journalism, the Japanese Constitution and its Origin, Peace and Art, the Kochi Air Raid Exhibition and four British anti-nuclear banners sent by Thalia Campbell. Over a million origami cranes were folded throughout the festival. The Festival was also celebrated with film, poetry and theatre performances.

*KYOTO*, Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University

The Museum celebrated its first birthday on 19th May 1993 and issued an eight page publication which was sent to us with an English language summary. The cover shows an Anne Frank rose in full bloom. A cutting from the garden in Holland was sent to a church in Kyoto in 1973 and they in turn gave a cutting to the museum. It shared their vision of a peaceful world by coming into full bloom on their first birthday.

The publication gives details of their programme of special exhibitions and, most importantly, the numbers of visitors who were attracted by them. Our thanks to Kimio Yakushiji.

## *LINDAU*

In cooperation with the Jewish Museum in Munich, the Peace Museum in Lindau held an exhibition on Raoul Wallenberg from 26th June to 24th July 1993. A Swedish diplomat, Wallenberg was known as 'The Angel of Budapest' because of his work in Hungary during the Second World War rescuing ten thousand Jews.

## *RETAGEN*

At the end of June, Hans Peter Kürten took 50 Remagen citizens on an extensive tour which included the Peace Museums in Verdun and Lindau, the Albert Schweitzer House near Colmar, the Red Cross Museum and the United Nations in Geneva. The trip was highly successful and inspirational.



On 20th November 1993 they held a meeting on Rigoberta Menchu and Guatemala and the next day there was a meeting of former German prisoners of war. In March/April 1994 the Bertha von Suttner exhibition from Geneva will be on show.

#### *BUDAPEST CONFERENCE, November 1993*

At the conference of the European section of IPRA (International Peace Research Association) two papers on peace museums were given. One by Kazuyo Yamane of Grass Roots House, Kochi City, and the other by Terry Duffy from Northern Ireland.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST

A review of the opening of the Bertha von Suttner Exhibition in Geneva by Anne C. Kjelling:

On 9th June 1993 the exhibition entitled "Bertha von Suttner and Other Women in Pursuit of Peace", organised by Dr Ursula-Maria Ruser, opened at the United Nations in Geneva, on the 150th anniversary of Bertha's birth. The opening was very well attended and, besides some network members, included peace historians Irwin Abrams, who gave a lecture of the 11th, and Brigitte Hamann.

The exhibition consists of 16 showcases and a lot of wallboards. The first 8 showcases review Bertha von Suttner's life and work, from her birth, through her authorship and involvement with the peace movement, participation in peace congresses, the Nobel Peace Prize award in 1905, to her death in 1914. Her life and work are well documented, with many interesting items on show.

The rest of the exhibition shows other women in pursuit of peace, from the early 1800s up to our time, including other female NPP laureates. Disarmament, environment and human rights are causes of great importance. The catalogue for the exhibition contains many scholarly articles and will be a lasting source of information.

Peace Museums as a Potential Instrument for Peace Education. Copies of this brief questionnaire available from Ake Bjerstedt, Peace Education Commission, School of Education, Box 23501, S-200 45 Malmo, Sweden. Fax: 46-4032 52 10.

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## PUBLICATIONS

The Bertha von Suttner Exhibition catalogue has been sent from Geneva by Ursula-Maria Ruser to network members.

Copies of Franz Deutsch's catalogue, **EIN FRIEDENSMUSEUM** have been sent to network members by the Trust.

Franz would like to draw our attention to the words of Peter Rosegger printed on page 45 and suggests we should follow this up "to establish a Worldwide Peace Movement considering the enormous possibilities of modern communications". This theme is explored by Franz Deutsch in one of the 70 Friedensblätter (peace leaflets) he has written and for which he is seeking a publisher.

Chikara Tsuboi's conference paper, "Peace Museums in Japan: Numbers, visitors and types" has been published in *Jinbungakkai Kiyo: Journal of the Society of Humanities*, December 1992, No. 52 (Sapporo Gakuin University, Ebetsu).

"A Time For War, A Time For Peace" by Dr Peter van den Dungen published in the *Museums Journal* Volume 93, no. 7, in July 1993 argues that the time is now right for a peace museum in Britain.

"Free As A Bird" by Beverley Butler, also published in the *Museums Journal* for July 1993, outlines some of the problems of turning a revolution into an institution.

A copy of both articles may be obtained by writing to Peter van den Dungen, Department of Peace Studies, The University, BRADFORD BD7 1DP, UK.

A Peace Museum: Grass Roots House. A leaflet describing the activities of the Grass Roots House, Kochi City, Japan is now available in English.

### AMENDMENTS TO ADDRESS LIST IN BRADFORD CONFERENCE REPORT

Kazuyo Yamane (until 24th January 1994) Flat 1, 24 Church Crescent, Muswell Hill, LONDON N10 3ND, Tel: 081 883 1402.

YAD VASHEM, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, PO Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Tel: 751611, Fax: 433511.

German post codes have all changed this summer and so far we have received changes from:

- Thomas Wechs, Burgkmaierstr. 14, D86152 Augsburg.
- Peace Museum Lindau: D88131 Lindau am Bodensee.
- Peace Museum Bridge of Remagen: D53424 Remagen

ANNE FRANK STICHTING, PO Box 730, 1000 AS Amsterdam (for correspondence). If you are visiting, the address of the museum is: Anne Frank House, Prinsengracht 263 and the offices are at Keizersgracht 192.

Tel: 020 556 7100 Fax: 020 620 7999

CHICAGO The Peace Museum Archive, 350 West Ontario, 60610 Chicago,  
Tel: 312 440 1860