

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PEACE MUSEUMS

Newsletter no 4

February 1995

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PEACE MUSEUMS

As was announced prominently in the July 1994 issue of the Newsletter, the Second International Conference of Peace Museums will take place from 16th to 20th August 1995 in Schlaining, Austria. It is pleasing to note that a good number of museums and individuals have confirmed their participation or expressed strong interest in the Conference. Peace museums, or planned museums, which intend to participate include museums from Austria (Schlaining, St. Radegund, Wolfsegg), France (Verdun), Germany (Berlin, Lindau, Remagen), Japan (Hiroshima, Kochi, Kyoto, Osaka, Saitama-Maruki, Tokyo), Norway (Oslo), Switzerland (Geneva).

A formal invitation is currently being sent to all interested parties by Dr. Gerald Mader, President of the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Schlaining, which is hosting the conference. Peace museum directors, or their representatives, and other main speakers will be provided with free board and lodgings for the duration of the Conference, by courtesy of the Center.

The Give Peace A Chance Trust in the U.K. which sponsored the first conference in Bradford in September 1992, and which is assisting with the organisation of the second conference, has submitted an application to the European Union in Brussels for financial assistance for the conference under the Kaleidoscope Scheme for the promotion of cultural co-operation through networks. If the application is successful, it is possible that some travel funds will be available for participants from member states of the European Union.

Anyone seriously interested in attending the Conference - whether as speaker or observer, and whether representing a peace or other museum, or as an independent participant, and who has not yet contacted the conference organiser, should do so as soon as possible. This will enable the early drafting and circulation of the Conference programme and is also necessary for room bookings at Schlaining. Contact: Peter van den Dungen, Dept of Peace Studies, The University, Bradford BD7 1DP, U.K., telephone 44 1274-733 466; fax: 44 1274385 240

DIRECTORY OF PEACE MUSEUMS WORLDWIDE

All network members should have received - and returned! - a questionnaire about their peace museum, or museum project, from which a Directory of Peace Museums will be compiled. This will be published by the Library of the United Nations in Geneva, chief archivist Dr. Ursula-Maria Ruser, in time for the Second International Conference. The questionnaires have been distributed by Thomas Wechs, director of the Lindau Peace Museum in Germany, who is also designing the format for the publication. The returned questionnaires are being edited and, if need be, translated in Bradford.

Some 50 questionnaires have been sent out; at the time of writing well over half have been returned. Many thanks to those who have completed them. Reminders have recently been sent out to all those who had not responded by 15th December, which was the original deadline given in the questionnaire. For those who have not yet returned the questionnaire, please do so now and so help make the Directory as complete and as useful as possible.

NETWORK NEWS

Detroit, USA

James Bristah of the Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery, sent some perceptive comments on the various designs printed in Newsletter No. 1 for a possible network logo. This is perhaps a matter which can be the subject of discussion in the margins of the Schlaining Conference.

The Gallery's 1993-94 Outreach Report, covering the period from July 1993 to June 1994, makes inspiring reading. Increasing group visits and greater use of travelling exhibits and programmes have resulted in considerably greater exposure of the Gallery's art and other programmes. Appreciative visitor comments testify to their educational value. On 23rd October a "Pablo Casals Peace Concert" was held for the benefit of the Center & Gallery.

A Kathe Kollwitz exhibition, to mark the 50th anniversary of the great artist's death on 22 April 1945, will be held from 3rd March to 5th May.

In the summer the Center & Gallery will have an exhibition on the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. James Bristah would like to hear from network members (museum or individual) who are able to loan a work of art concerning those events. Contact James Bristah, Swords into Plowshares Peace Centre & Gallery, 33 East Adams Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226, USA. Tel: 1 313-965-5422.

Geneva, Switzerland

Ursula Maria-Ruser (League of Nations Archive) reported in December on the success of the Bertha von Suttner travelling exhibition which has now been shown across the length and breadth of Germany, from Hamburg in the north to Rastatt in the south, and from Remagen and Koblenz in the West to Berlin and Dresden in the east. Before returning to Geneva, the exhibition will be hosted by the State Archives in Bern in May and June of this year. The feedback from host institutions and from exhibition visitors has been very positive and should encourage other museums to organise similar tours for their temporary exhibits.

The Artists for Peace Association (AfP), of which Ursula-Maria is president, has celebrated its first anniversary and organised its first exhibition. An inaugural gathering will be held from 16th to 18th June in Ferney-Voltaire, France, to bring together artists and others who are interested in new ways and means of pursuing peace through the creative arts. Details are available from AfP, 1 avenue du Bijou, F-01210 Ferney-Voltaire, France.

AfP will hold its second exhibition from 3rd to 17th October on three South African artists. It will take place under the auspices of the South African Mission to the UN Office in Geneva. For 1996, AfP is planning an international Fair and Art Festival in Frankfurt and performing artists, as well as artists who would like to show or sell their work, should contact Artists for Peace, Case Postale 181, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

Kochi, Japan

Shigeo Nishimori, Director of Grassroots House Peace Museum, is planning a peace trip to China for members of the museum's association. This year is not only the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, but also the 100th anniversary of the ending of the Sino-Japanese War on 17th April 1895

Kochi City will also host a national meeting of the Association for Recording the War Damage and Air Raids of World War II.

Article 9 of the Japanese constitution renounces the use of war but most Japanese politicians want to change it. Grassroots House, as part of its programme to protect Article 9 is planning to plant a "Forest of the Constitution" starting on May 3rd, Constitution Day. They plan a million trees, not only in the Forest, which will be in the Prefecture of Kochi, but symbolically all over Japan.

Grassroots House is also much involved in the issues concerning compensation claims, especially from China.

They are busy with a programme of public lectures, so that young people can know about pioneer pacifists. There was also a talk by Jing Fu He from the "Museum for Recording Japanese Gas and Germ Warfare in China". The address is: 300 Building 232 Youxie St, Ping Fang Du, Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, China 150060.

We thank Kazuyo Yamane for her very informative English language newsletter.

Kyoto, Japan

We extend our sympathies to the citizens of Kobe, Kyoto and Osaka following the earthquake in Kobe on 17 January. It seems that no personal or material loss affected the Kyoto Museum for World Peace or the Osaka Peace Center.

Professor Kimio Yakushiji has been succeeded as Planning Director of the Kyoto Museum (a rotating position) by Professor Kentaro Hayashi, who will be representing the Museum at the Conference in Schlaining. We look forward to welcoming him there and are delighted that Kimio Yakushiji will continue to stay in touch with the Network.

Remagen, Germany

Issue no. 28 of the Newsletter of the Bridge of Remagen Peace Museum appeared in December. It provides, as usual, interesting news about the Museum which will be especially busy in the coming months. The 50th anniversary of the capture of the Bridge by the allies will be commemorated on 7th March and various meetings have been planned. Commemorative coins in silver and gold, showing the peace museum on one side, are being issued and a video showing the history of the capture of the Bridge, as well as the history of the Museum, will be ready.

Hans-Peter Kürten is also pleased to be able to report that the famous pieces of stones from the bridge, the sales of which helped finance the establishment of the Museum and which sold out

a long time ago, will again be offered for sale from 7th March.

The Museum and the Black Madonna Peace Chapel nearby, on the site of a prisoner of war camp for German soldiers, will feature in a documentary on the fate of German PoWs at the end of the Second World War, which the Japanese Broadcasting Association (NHK) will transmit on 15th August. A team from the national TV company filmed in Remagen in June 1994.

Another commemoration, this time concerning the PoW camp and the tragedies which took place there following the end of the war, will be held in Remagen on 17th June.

The newsletter from Remagen also contains a full translation, in German, of the international network's previous newsletter (July 1994). Many thanks to Hans-Peter Kürten, for so fully informing Friends of the Remagen Museum of what is happening in other peace museums worldwide.

Verdun, France

The World Centre for Peace, Freedom and Human Rights, which opened on 1st July 1994, has just produced a colourful and informative brochure in English. The Centre's address is: Palais Episcopal, F-55105 Verdun, France. Tel. 33-29 86 55 00; Fax. 33-29 86 15 14.

Wolfsegg, Austria

Franz Deutsch reports that the first governor of Upper Austria visited the Peace Museum in November and expressed his support. The second governor had already visited the museum on 6th August 1992 and warmly welcomed its establishment. The Museum is currently being renovated and is receiving support from the Education Department of the Provincial Government. An increasing number of schools are discovering the museum and that is very heartening.

United Kingdom

In 1993 the Greenham Common Airbase was declared surplus to military requirements. This was formerly the site of US Cruise Missiles and of the famous Women's Peace Camp established in 1981-82 and maintained throughout the 1980s to protest against the siting of the missiles. Newbury District Council is now actively pursuing the possibility of establishing some kind of museum at the former airbase, such as that of a museum devoted to the women's peace movement. In December 1994, a delegation from the Council travelled to Bradford to explore this idea with

members of the National Peace Museum Steering Committee.

Following our report in the previous Newsletter of calls for a Holocaust Museum in Germany, proposals for establishing a similar museum in Britain are gaining force. Dr. David Cesarini, director of the Wiener Library in London, has made a powerful plea for the need for such a museum at a time when racism and fascism are on the increase throughout Europe. In a recent BBC television documentary entitled "Bringing the Holocaust Home", he points out that whereas there are over 100 Holocaust museums in the U.S., there are none in Britain, despite this country's intimate involvement in 20th century Jewish history.

The Give Peace A Chance Trust has commissioned the production of a business plan for the proposed National Peace Museum in Bradford. The plan focuses on establishing the Museum initially in a five floor former warehouse in the city centre and indicates the commercial feasibility of the project. A feasibility study on the conversion of the property is now underway.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Israel

The Turjeman Museum in Jerusalem wishes to tell the story of the city of Jerusalem from 1947 until the present day, concentrating on the relationship between Arabs and Jews. Their aim is to establish the museum as part of the new world trend in museums that is defined as "the Peace Museum" concept and combines the discussion about war with the significance of peace. In Jerusalem's case, they will seek to examine the meanings of conflict and co-existence. Along the thread of time, these features are in constant interplay and it is vital to examine and understand the links between them. Conflict must never be allowed to result in victory and defeat, but in co-operative co-existence. Turjeman House itself expresses the problems of the city's situation. It was designed and built by Andoni Baramki, an affluent Arab architect, for his family. In the war of 1948 it was abandoned and became an Israeli border post until 1967. Though many houses along this past border have been demolished, the Turjeman House survives. It symbolizes the city's contradictions, telling the story of the past and reflecting upon the future. Contact Address: Mrs Efrat Ben Ze'ev, Tower of David, Museum of the History of Jerusalem, PO Box 14005, Jerusalem 91140. tel: 972 2 274 111 fax: 972 2 346 547

CONFERENCES

Japan

The first national conference of peace museums took place in Hiroshima on 13th and 14th September 1994. Seven peace museums, from Hiroshima, Kawasaki, Kyoto, Nagasaki, Okinawa, Osaka, and Saitama, participated. The main aim of the meeting was to generate greater co-operation and plan a symposium for 1995. The prospect of international co-operation was also on the agenda.

Malta

The XVth General Conference of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) was held in Valetta from 31st October to 4th November. One of the sessions of the Peace Education Commission was entitled "Visuals and related methods in peace education" and included papers by Anne Kjelling on the proposed Nobel Peace Prize Museum in Oslo and by Peter van den Dungen on Japanese peace museums. Highly interesting and unusual presentations were given by two peace historians. Irwin Abrams of Antioch University, Yellow Springs, Ohio illustrated the use of postage stamps in peace education and Verdiana Grossi (Geneva) showed a rare slide collection, produced in 1902, to illustrate her presentation on the early days of audio-visual communication in peace education. Copies of these papers are available from Peter van den Dungen.

PUBLICATIONS AND MATERIALS

Impressive sets of three 8-foot long photo-panoramas of the destruction of Hiroshima, produced by the Hiroshima Panorama Project, at US\$25 per set, are available from: Near Shima Hospital, 20 Linda Lane, Normal, Illinois 61761, USA.

Gaynor Kavanagh, lecturer in the Department of Museum studies at the University of Leicester (UK), has published "Museums and the First World War" (Leicester University Press, 1994). This book contains, inter alia, a detailed and fascinating history of the Imperial War Museum in London. The author will be speaking at the Conference in Schlaining.

Peter van den Dungen's survey, "Peace Museums: Recent Developments", was published in "Medicine and War", vol. 10, nr. 3, July-Sept. 1994, pp. 218-229.

ADDRESSES

Kazuyo Yamane, of the Grassroots House peace museum in Kochi, moved house in May 1994. Her new address is:
2-1205-3 Yokohama Shinmachi,
Kochi City 781-02, Japan
tel & fax: 81 888-48-0197

Corrections

Several addresses of Japanese peace museums reported in the previous issue may not have been sufficiently detailed to guarantee postal delivery. Correct address are as follows:

Kanagawa Plaza for Global Citizenship, 1
Nihon Odori, Naka-ku, Yokohama 231
Kawasaki city Peace Museum, 1957-1
Kizukisumiyoshi-cho, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki
Maruki Gallery, 1401 Shimokarako,
Higashimatsuyama, Saitama
Peace Museum of Saitama, 241-113 Iwadono,
Higashimatsuyama, Saitama

UK Telephone and Fax Numbers

After dialling the international number for the UK (44), all UK numbers will now continue with a "1" followed by the number in your record. (Remember the "0" at the very beginning of a number is used only within the UK.) You will note that Peter van den Dungen's phone and fax numbers earlier in this Newsletter are given in the new format.

This Newsletter is published by the Give Peace A Chance Trust, 20 The Drive, Hertford SG14 3DF, United Kingdom.

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