

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PEACE MUSEUMS

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NETWORK NEWS

Austria: Schlaining

On 9th December 1995 many Austrian and foreign dignitaries attended a ceremony in the castle on the occasion of the presentation of the 1995 Unesco peace education prize to the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, and the European Peace University. In his address, Unesco Director-General Dr. Federico Mayor stressed the centrality of education in the building of a culture of peace.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. **Gerald Mader** (founder of both institutions) drew attention to the plan to turn the Schlaining 'Peace Castle' into a comprehensive peace exhibition and peace museum which would portray the past, present and future of peace, and to the contribution towards this goal made by the International Conference of Peace Museums held in Schlaining in August 1995.

The ceremony was widely reported in the Austrian press; press comments and the texts of various speeches are reprinted in the February 1996 issue of Friedensforum, the journal of the Austrian Study Centre.

Austria: Wolfsegg

The founder-director of the First Austrian Peace Museum, **Franz Deutsch**, is currently writing up his experiences as a young teenager in the Austrian resistance during 1944-45 and as a school-teacher in remote villages during the years of Russian occupation. At the same time he is continuing his collections of thoughtful and inspirational 'Peace

leaflets' and 'Key-experiences'. The former now number almost eighty, and await publication. (A listing of the titles/subjects is now available also in English).

They aim to provide impulses for communication and discussion, especially in schools and similar educational institutions as well as in peace museums and peace academies. The foundation of the endeavour to promote peace has to be the realisation on the part of every individual that he or she can make a contribution to peace - an idea which the 'leaflets for peace' encourages.

France: Verdun

Denis Marechal, director of the World Centre for Peace, Freedom and Human Rights in Verdun, has sent us an interesting article which appeared in the leading French newspaper, Le Monde on armistice day (11th November 1995). It focuses on the centres of remembrance opened in recent years in Caen, Peronne and Verdun and notes that they not only give an account of past tragedies but also provide food for thought on present-day conflicts. In the words of the title, 'The new war memorials aim also to be museums of peace'. The article concludes by quoting Denis Marechal: 'Caen, Peronne and Verdun are exceptions but should be the rule. There are very few places in which people can actually reflect on war. The Verdun Centre is the first one to escape fully from the fascination with battle and warfare'.

From an accompanying article in the same paper we learn that the Peronne Historial attracted 68,000 visitors in 1994, whereas almost ten times that number visited the Caen Memorial in the same year (the anniversary of the Normandy landings). The

World Centre in Verdun attracted 20,000 visitors in the period July 94 - July 95 (when it was hardly operational). No doubt many more of the 500,000 people who come to visit the battlefields of the Meuse region every year will find their way to the Centre in future years.

Copies of the two articles (in French, or English translation) are available from **Peter van den Dungen** at the editorial office (address at the end of the Newsletter).

Germany: Lindau

Lindau (Lake Constance) is not only the home of a Peace Museum but also the venue where, since 1951, Nobel laureates in Medicine, Chemistry, and Physics annually meet in turn. On the occasion of the 46th meeting (16th meeting of laureates in Medicine), the **Peace Museum** organised two lectures on 2nd July 1996. **Peter van den Dungen** (Univ. of Bradford) spoke on 'Medicine and Peace: A Short History of Medical Peace Efforts', and **Anne C. Kjelling** (Norwegian Nobel Institute) on 'The Nobel Peace Prize: History and Standing'. The choir of the city's two gymnasiums performed peace songs ranging from Mozart to Bob Dylan.

Germany: Remagen

In the Newsletter of the **Bridge at Remagen Peace Museum** which appeared in December 1995 (Issue no. 30), **Hans Peter Kurten** could report a very satisfactory year for the Museum as regards attention in the media and visitors (nearly 30,000). The main item in the Newsletter is a harrowing and deeply moving account by Bernhard F. Frahling of his experiences as a POW in Remagen-Sinzig in 1945. Together with more than 100,000 other German POWs, this 18-year old lived through hell on earth, even though the war had ended. Fifty years on the author felt compelled, if only out of a moral duty towards his comrades who perished in the camp, to chronicle their fate at the hands of American and French guards. It was for him also a way of overcoming his bitterness that history seemingly was going to be oblivious to all this, as if nothing had happened. The significance of the memorial which H.P. Kurten has erected on the site of the camp in

order to remind posterity also of this part of the Remagen story is emphatically demonstrated by Frahling's account.

There is also a report on the international symposium on 'The Presentation of War in Museums' which was held in Berlin in November (see item in previous newsletter).

Japan: Kochi City: Grass Roots House (GRH)

The most recent issue of the GRH Newsletter in English (no. 8) appeared in June. Among other items, it reports on the programme for 1996 (which is 50 years after the proclamation of the Japanese peace constitution). GRH is endeavouring, e.g., to preserve the house of Emori Ueki, a famous peace pioneer from Kochi. He drafted a democratic constitution for Japan in 1881, which significantly influenced the draft of the present Constitution. He put forward the idea of the renunciation of war and rejected the maintenance of war potential.

Kazuyo Yamane has written a short article in English introducing three leading Kochi peace pioneers: Emori Ueki, Kou Makimura, and Shigeo Nishimori. Makimura was an anti-war poet; his protest against Japan's war of aggression resulted in his imprisonment and early death in 1938, aged 26. The director of GRH, Shigeo Nishimori, has not only recently published a famous manuscript of Makimura but follows in his footsteps as an anti-war poet from Kochi.

In February GRH published a book on Japan's aggression against China, based on the fourth peace trip to China organised by GRH in August 1995. The book, entitled I'll Never Forget (in Japanese), contains Chinese eyewitness accounts of Japanese atrocities.

Kazuyo Yamane reports that she had an opportunity to listen to Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara whose husband Chiune (then Japanese consul in Lithuania) was one of the most important rescuers of Jews during WWII. Sometimes referred to as the Japanese Schindler, his moving story is told by her in Visas for Life (available from Edu-Comm. Plus, 236 West Portal Avenue # 249, San Francisco, CA 94127. The book costs \$ 29, incl. postage).

Japan Nagasaki

Nagasaki's new **Atomic Bomb Museum** was opened on 1st April, after five years of preparation. In the months leading up to the opening, some exhibits had to be altered in order to appease nationalists. Even so, compared to other official accounts of the war, the remaining exhibits are still exceptionally strong in portraying Japanese aggression. See the following interesting articles in The Independent newspaper (London) by Richard Lloyd Parry: 'Nagasaki stirs right - wing rage over museum' (26th March) and 'Imperial past casts shadow over Japan's monument to peace' (1st April).

The new Nagasaki museum is also commented on in **Terry Duffy's** report of his visits to various peace museums in Japan (see p.7).

Netherlands

The plans to establish an Anti-War Museum (Anti-Oorlogs museum) are making good progress. In January, a special meeting was organised in Amersfoort to attract voluntary workers for the six working groups which have been set up. In April, the Museum organised and sponsored the showing of a special exhibition, borrowed from the Berlin Anti-War Museum and Peace Library. Entitled 'Repression and Liberation', it tells the moving and forgotten history of war resisters and deserters of the Nazi period.

After being shown in Amsterdam, the exhibition was also shown in Nijmegen and other localities.

Many national and local papers have carried reports on the Anti-War Museum. So far some 650 individuals have made financial contributions towards the Museum, amounting to fl80,000 - which is adequate for the purchase of the boat although not for its re-building and adaptation as a floating museum. In April, the second issue of De Vredesboot appeared, reporting on the above developments.

Switzerland Geneva

The Library of the United Nations at Geneva (**The League of Nations Archives**) organised an exhibition on the League under the heading "Images: Portraits, Caricatures and Treaties for Peace". It was held in the Museum of the League of Nations in the Palais des Nations from 11 January until 23 March. The first part featured portraits and caricatures of League officials, Members of the Secretariat, and outstanding representatives of Member States. The second part presented a selection of treaties so as to document the large variety of aspects of international relations the League was involved in. An attractive folder was issued to accompany the exhibition.

A second exhibition opened in April and will last until 15 December 1996: "The League of Nations 1919-1946: Organisation and Accomplishments. A Retrospect of the First Organisation for the Establishment of World Peace". It celebrates the League's history through visual imagery and a catalogue which also contains articles by an international array of scholars. **Ursula-Maria Ruser** reported on the exhibition and on the significance of the Archives of the League in 'A synthesis of past and present' in UN Special, May 1996, No. 541.

The second **International Conference of the Artists for Peace Association (AfP)** took place in Darmstadt (24-27 May) under the title: "There is no Peace without Beauty". Music, painting, embroidery, dancing.... these and other art forms were all represented and allowed participants to deepen their understanding of them as well as appreciate the contribution art can make to peaceful living and personal fulfilment.

The third International AfP Conference (together with an exhibition featuring works of AfP members) will be a joint venture with artists from Samarkand, and will be hosted by the Museum of Peace and Solidarity in Samarkand in March 1997. Further details can be found in Artists for Peace Journal (Geneva, December 1995, No. 1) or can be obtained directly from AfP President Dr. Ursula-Maria Ruser (League of Nations Archives, UN, Geneva).

United Kingdom: Bradford

The city council is currently exploring the possibility of Bradford becoming recognised as a 'city of peace'. The peace museum project office is playing a central role in this process and the project officer, Dr. **Carol Rank**, has written a paper setting out the claims of Bradford as a city of peace, and the future peace museum's role in building a culture of peace.

The **Bradford Peace Museum Project** has recently been offered the 3.5 million Declarations of Public Conscience which the World Court Project had gathered in support of its worldwide campaign to have nuclear weapons declared illegal by the International Court of Justice in The Hague. This valuable and historic documentation (which did not go unnoticed by the Court in its recent landmark decision of 8th July) will eventually be the subject of a display in the Bradford Peace Museum. The local Telegraph and Argus newspaper reported on the subject in an article, 'Petition mountain for new peace museum' (10 July). Earlier in the same week it carried a full-page article introducing the plans for the creation of the museum: 'Museum that would give peace a chance' (8 July).

An overview of the main developments of the Bradford project is contained in the annual report for 1995 of the **Give Peace A Chance Trust**, entitled 'Peacebuilding: National Peace Museum & Peace Education Centre'. Copies are available from the Trust (see address at end of newsletter).

Bradford has been short-listed as one of six possible locations for the planned northern branch of the **Imperial War Museum** (IWM, to become known as the Imperial War Museum in the North). It is expected that a final choice will be made late in 1996. The remit of the IWM is to record and display the history of conflict around the world in the 20th century.

London

The IWM of the North is not the only planned expansion of the IWM. Last year the museum announced its plan to build a £7 million extension devoted to genocide in general, and the Holocaust in particular.

USA: Chicago

The Peace Museum's new address is: 314 W. Institute Place, Chicago, IL 60610 (just north of Chicago Avenue between Franklin and Orleans Streets). Tel. remains as before 1-312-440-1860.

From 4th May until 27th July the Museum organised its fourth annual Drive-By-Peace Exhibition - a fun and interactive exhibition for children and their parents. Activities empower children with creative tools to imagine peace, to identify alternatives to conflict, and to use nonviolent conflict resolution skills when road blocks to peace arise.

Detroit

Swords into Plowshares Peace Center & Gallery (SIPPC) celebrated its 10th birthday on 15th March. Congratulations to **Jim and Jo Bristah** and all their supporters, who had another good reason to be smiling: in March & April SIPPC showed an exhibition on Humour and War.

The Spring 1996 issue of SIPPC's Harbinger newsletter announces forthcoming exhibitions entitled Transcending Violence (sculptures), Peace Quilting, and Landmines (photo exhibit).

Lincoln

The Prairie Peace Park ('Where Children's Visions Come to Life') has produced a new flyer which details some 30 exhibits, most of which are arranged along the walking path. They provide an inspiring, educational, and fun-filled experience for the entire family, including various mazes, paths, maps, sculptures and exhibits.

Please note the Office Tel: 01-402-466-6622.

New York

Sandy Hinden reported in the first issue of **Metropolitan Peace Museum (MPM) News** (November 1995) that the inaugural meeting of the MPM Advisory Council, held on 23rd October 1995, 'was supportive, encouraging and creative, filled with "Good magic" as the Council members helped

turn the MPM dream into an entertaining and educational reality'.

The March-April 1996 issue of MPM News details the work which is taking place in the various committees which have been established and the goals which the MPM Committee aims to achieve during 1996 (including the location of a building in Manhattan).

Among the various documents produced by MPM is a Committee Directory (April 1996) which shows the impressive range of creative talent and professional expertise available. MPM is expected to open its doors in approximately three years.

Following a suggestion by Sandy Hinden that the International Network of Peace Museums become affiliated with the Department of Public Information (NGO Section) of the United Nations, an application has been submitted; he has kindly offered to serve as the Network's NGO Representative in New York City.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Germany

An association has been formed in Nurnberg to establish a peace museum in the city (**Friedensmuseum Nurnberg**). The museum aims to be a centre for peace education for old and young and will offer seminars and training in nonviolence. The museum will also document the history of pacifism and anti-militarism in Germany over the last 100 years and more. Particular attention will be paid to the activities of the peace movement in Nurnberg since 1945, and the role which women have played in it. The museum is currently looking for accommodation and financial sponsorship and is concurrently preparing a first and small exhibition on the history and activities of the peace movement in the city since 1945. The project is not linked to any political party or religion. Address: **Friedenmuseum Nurnberg e.v., c/o Elke Winter, Saubertstrasse 3, D-90429 Nurnberg. Tel. 49-0911-289650.**

South Africa

Launch of South Africa's Nobel Laureate Peace Park, March 1996

Terry Duffy notes the recent inauguration of South Africa's first Peace Park in Johannesburg as part of its Human Rights Day celebrations. This exciting project which focuses on nonviolence and mediation, was formally inaugurated by South Africa's four Nobel Peace Laureates.

Each Peace Laureate has donated something symbolic of past tragedy and the message of reconciliation. From Nelson Mandela came a piece of brick from his former prison on Robben Island; FW de Klerk presented a graffiti covered piece of the Berlin Wall; Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu gave some nails from the original Coventry Cathedral which was destroyed by bombing raids during WW2; and Dr Albertina Luthuli, daughter of Albert Luthuli, former President of the ANC, donated fragments from her father's "pass-book"-that symbol of Apartheid in South Africa so often burnt during public protests.

The Peace Park is a project of the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre which authorities in the Apartheid era attempted to intimidate and eventually ban. The Centre has a strong religious and reconciliation focus, reflected in its proposal of the park as a place of contemplation for the "Peace Pilgrim". The park, which lies near the Kloofendal Nature Reserve, will be linked to a new **Peace Academy** which will develop contacts with peace centres throughout the world.

For more details, readers may write to the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre, PO Box 81, Roodepoort 1725, South Africa.

The editorial office of this Newsletter would be glad to have details of Peace Parks in other countries.

OTHER MUSEUMS OF INTEREST

USA: Atlanta

Museum of the Jimmy Carter Library

Terry Duffy recently met officials of the Carter Centre which is based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The Centre is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation founded in 1982 by former US President, Jimmy Carter, and Rosalynn Carter. The Centre is dedicated to resolving conflicts and fighting poverty and oppression throughout the world. The Jimmy Carter Library, and its museum, which adjoin the Carter Centre, is owned and operated by the National Archives of the USA. It features exhibits on the American Presidency, on the Carter administration, and especially on Jimmy Carter's peacemaking efforts. As Jimmy Carter made a significant contribution to international peacebuilding, this museum may be of interest to members of our network. For more details, readers may write to The Jimmy Carter Library, One Copenhill, 441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta GA 30307, USA.

Washington: Woodrow Wilson House

The Woodrow Wilson House is the principal USA presidential museum dealing with the second American president to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (and with the organisation of which he is the chief architect, the League of Nations). Wilson moved into his Washington home in 1921 and the House contains objects, associated with his life in Washington D.C. from 1912 until his death in 1924. In his acceptance message to the Nobel committee (1920) Wilson said: '... it is the better part of wisdom to consider our work as only begun. It will be a continuing labor. In the indefinite course of years before us, there will be abundant opportunity for others to distinguish themselves in the Crusade against hate and fear and war. ... Whatever has been accomplished in the past is petty compared to the glory and promise of the future'.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the award of the (1919) Nobel Prize for Peace to President Wilson in

1920, the Medal and Certificate returned to his home for exhibit during November 1995 (on loan from the Library of Congress).

Michael T. Sheehan, Director of Woodrow Wilson House, is interested in promoting tourism visitation of the House as one of the world landmarks of peace history, or at least of famous people associated with peace causes. He is currently collecting details on other historic USA sites associated with American Nobel Peace laureates. Address: 2340 S Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. Tel.1-202-387-4062; fax 1-202-483-1466.

PUBLICATIONS

Professor Chikara Tsuboi's presentation, 'On the War Dead's Memorial Peace Prayer Hall' at the Second International Conference of Peace Museums in August 1995 in Schlaining has been published in English in Jinbun Gakkai Kivo no. 58, December 1995 (Sapporo Gakuin Univ.), pp. 155-161. Copies are available from the author or from the editorial office.

Professor Nigel Young led a fourth Northern Europe Peace Studies Tour in March-April 1996 with 23 students from Colgate University (New York). They visited many war memorials and peace museums and his concise but inspiring report on the tour appears in the Spring 1996 issue of Friends of Colgate University Peace Studies.

Readers may like to know of the existence of the Peace History Society (PHS). Members of the Society receive the excellent quarterly journal Peace & Change as part of their membership fee (only US \$25 p.a.). This is the only scholarly journal devoted to historical peace research (including peace education) and should be required reading for anyone associated with peace museums. Further details are available from the editorial office, or directly from the secretary-treasurer of the Peace History Society at the following address: PHS, Sina Dubovoi, P.O.Box 5874, Bethesda, Maryland 20824, USA. Fax: 1-202-483-1466.

PEACE MUSEUMS IN JAPAN

A Short Report by Terry Duffy

For peace museum advocates, Japan is a "place of pilgrimage" - a commitment that has its origins in the terrible legacy of the A-Bomb. This report of my recent visit covers many of the new developments since my last mission in 1993. Japan inspires this still embryonic field, and many of the Prefectural governments are very supportive. With emerging new projects, there is much to interest peace researchers and the general public alike.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Places for Peace

Hiroshima and Nagasaki are "vision carriers" of the ideal of world peace. The tragic history of the Atomic Bomb has given these two cities an eternal significance. Appropriately, the ultra-modern Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum is split between Hiroshima's growth, and its nuclear destruction. Its Atomic Peace Park site symbolically borders the A-bomb's epicentre. The exhibitions include A-bomb ephemera, data screens in various foreign languages, and even translations of the voices of A-bomb survivors. The original Museum was established in 1955, perpetuating the reality of the nuclear bombing "to future generations". In recent years, it has been substantially renewed as Mayor Hiraoka's "peace city" makes an increasingly public appeal against nuclear weapons. Indeed, the museum's exhibitions are strongly focused on the nuclear issue and the effects of the A-bomb on Hiroshima. That could explain why the "renewal project" for this museum attracted less critical attention from the Japanese "right-wing", than the recent opening of the A-Bomb Museum in Nagasaki.

The original Nagasaki International Culture Hall was also founded in 1955, to symbolize Nagasaki's reconstruction in peace. In April 1996 this marvellous facility opened a spectacular new museum under the aegis of the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. For visitors who recall the earlier,

traditional structure with its bland array of photographic materials, the Atomic Bomb Museum marks a remarkable metamorphosis into one of the most exciting galleries of its kind. The section, "Towards a World Without Nuclear Weapons", is particularly thoughtful. Hiroshi Matsuzoe's famous depictions of Nagasaki, "The Ruins at Dusk" and "The Ruins at Dawn", are the main features of an entrance-hall that leads off to state-of-the-art viewing rooms documenting the A-Bomb tragedy through a striking combination of salvaged objects and modern audio-visuals. It is not surprising that the new museum has aroused the Japanese "right" given the implicit criticism of Japanese militarism. The museum planners are to be congratulated on their efforts. Mayor Itoh's Nagasaki, with its Atomic Bomb Museum and Atomic Peace Park, truly embodies the struggle for world peace.

Peace Museums in Other Parts of Japan

Outside the "peace cities" of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there are a growing number of peace museums. As early as 1967, Saitama's Maruki Gallery opened, exhibiting Iri and Toshi Maruki's sombre Atomic bomb scenes interestingly juxtaposed with paintings from Auschwitz, Minamata, and Nanking. The Gallery grows from strength to strength. The same can be said of Tokyo's Display House of the 5th Lucky Dragon that was exposed to the US hydrogen bomb test on Bikini Atoll in March 1954. This wonderful small museum addresses the fundamental issue of achieving a world without nuclear weapons and, given renewed French nuclear testing in the region, its concern for the "Hibakusha in the Pacific Ocean" is highly topical.

I remain a little disappointed that the great hope for a major Peace Museum in Tokyo is still unfulfilled. The Japan Peace Museum Project commenced in

1983 with its "Photographic Record" and "Peace Tile" campaigns. The project has a fine exhibition of photographs, films and other educational tools at its offices, not far from the major landmark of Tokyo Tower, but a full-scale museum seems a long way off. Sadly, much depends on the policies of individual Prefectural Governments, and indeed in the Tokyo area there are suggestions that Japanese "right-wing" influences will sponsor their own museum for the "war dead".

In 1989 the Osaka International Peace Centre was established on a magnificent site close to Osaka Castle. This Peace Foundation offers modern, multimedia exhibitions which include galleries on the Osaka air raid, the fifteen years' war, and the "aspiration for peace". However, developments since 1993 seem limited and I was surprised that the Summer exhibition on Okinawa was only catalogued in Japanese. Also, for a Centre with such a great site, its staple visitor-pool remains the ubiquitous Japanese "high-school" groups. This aside, "Peace Osaka" remains one of the most beautifully creative peace museums in Japan, and should be on the mainstream tourist trail.

This was my first visit to Kochi and I strongly encourage colleagues to go. Grassroots House was founded there in 1989 and intermingles exhibits on nonviolence with environmental issues. This museum challenges past history with a main exhibition on the aggressive wars of Japan, in which the modern Japanese constitution and its renunciation of war, is seen as representing hope for the future. Director Shigeo Nishimori, and International Officer, Kazuyo Yamane, point to new ways in which the concept of peace can be realized at local level. The nearby Kochi Liberty and People's Rights Museum was founded in 1990 and neatly complements the work of Grassroots House. This elegant museum elucidates the remarkable contribution the "Tosa region" has made to peaceful protest. No-one seems to know precisely why this part of Shikoku was such a bastion of precocious "democracy" but both museums are well worth visiting.

1992 saw the opening of the impressive Kyoto Museum for World Peace, and also of the

delightful Kawasaki Peace Museum. The former, the responsibility of Ritsumeikan University, provides a global understanding of the importance of establishing world peace. Its director, Professor Ikuro Anzai, has made an enormous contribution to the peace museum idea. Encouragingly, the Kawasaki Museum also conceives of peace in global terms with exhibitions that range from indigenous peoples to nuclear pollution. Both museums are interesting and well researched.

Peace Museums for the Future

It is an indication of the vitality of the peace museum concept that new Japanese projects continue to develop. In 1993 the Peace Museum of Saitama opened, exploring Japanese history since the Showa era. This is a well organised museum which attracts many visitors. Sadly, I could not include Okinawa in my itinerary but it looks set to become a significant centre, as a major new Prefectural Peace Museum should open there in the late 1990s. Planned for 1997 in Yokohama City, is the Kanagawa Plaza for Global Citizenship which will provide the first major peace facility on Tokyo's doorstep. I remain sad that Tokyo awaits a full-scale peace museum of its own, but I am convinced that the wait will not be long. Indeed, from the tragic experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has come the inspiration for flourishing peace museums throughout Japan, and which offer great encouragement abroad. With such exciting projects, Japan has done much to further the maturity of the peace museum idea.

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