

## ❖ GUNILA CEDRENIUS

## “ALMOST AS LONG AS THE PAX ROMANA: A VISION OF THE FUTURE SWEDISH PEACE MUSEUM AT UPPSALA CASTLE”

### INTRODUCTION

The first Swedish Peace & War Museum is still a dream. The idea, is not so much a matter of establishing a museum for peace as strengthening the significance of a famous castle as a historical attraction.

I think those who took the initiative have got it right: the former County Governor (Mrs Ann-Cathrine Haglund) and the Director of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (Olle Nordberg), in tandem with a newly created Peace Museum Association.

They have altered the theme and emphasised the fact that the Swedes have had and extremely long period of peace – creating a different attitude to war as compared with other countries. The Peace Museum Association is now working on a museum concept which will make this vision come true. Now I'm going to give the floor – or actually, the screen – to one of the members of the working team.

Speakertexta

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### FILMSCRIPT

Good morning, everyone! This is Magnus Silfverhielm, and he is the architect in the working team for a Peace Museum at Uppsala Castle in Sweden. He says, “Establishing a Peace & War Museum at Uppsala Castle and finding a niche for it has kept me and the whole team busy under the leadership of Gunilla Cedrenius.

Now I'm going to tell you a bit about my thinking as an architect. First we need to take a bird's eye view of Uppsala

And what do we find? Well, a fantastic museum landscape with the Castle as a nodal point, right at the centre of things.

Here we see the University library, the cathedral, the county museum, the museum devoted to the famous Swedish artist Bror Hjorth, and a brand new children's museum. The Castle already houses Uppsala Art Gallery.

What could be better than the Art Gallery sharing a joint visitor entrance with a Peace & War Museum, at the absolute hub of the Uppsala museum landscape?

So, we find our Renaissance Castle up on the boulder-ridge which ends in the town. It's quite hard work getting there, and if you are old you probably won't make it.

It would therefore be good if a regular bus service stopped near the entrance. We're working on it!

Up on the top you will get a closer view of the Castle –rather different compared with the perspective from the city centre.

Far away on the flat country around, you can see the imposing silhouette of the Castle from almost all points of the compass... . Nowadays we see it in terms of advertising value! To the west are the Botanical Gardens, which Linnaeus revived in the middle of the 18th century. And this area is still the focal point of student festivities on Walpurgis Night, to celebrate the coming of spring, though at other times of year it is deserted and forgotten.

The Castle, however, continues as the residence of the County Governor, with a banqueting hall and the Art Gallery in the South Wing.

What we have done in the project group is to create a theme for this magnificent building, its position and potential.

In the basement of the South Wing is a suite of rooms which could be reached by an extended lift shaft. These ancient vaulted rooms are more than 400 years old – some have earth floors and some are tiled. A real museum experience!

But there's snag with access. If we are all to enter the museum together -young and old, babies and children, and handicapped people- the main entrance will have to be built through

the only available door in the courtyard. I am therefore suggesting the idea of a beautifully designed ramp, which will both attract the public and make want to know more about what is inside.

At this point you go into the museum complex and buy a ticket to look at the art collection, or walk down to the basement and visit, for example, the exhibition of the Swedish UN Peacekeeping Troops, put together in cooperation with the Peace Berets of Sweden, which has over 8000 members.

We can also find out about the life of the former Secretary General of the UN (United Nations), Dag Hammarskjöld.

He was the son of the County Governor, and grew up at Uppsala Castle. In my mind's eye I can see him sneaking around out of curiosity in the dark boiler room, discovering the world –as all kids do.

What we have done to make the basement as effective as possible is to open up passages between the rooms, then we can get access to a series of exhibitions with keywords like: Memory; Peace; The Congo; Swedish Peace History; Peacekeeping Actions; Dag Hammarskjöld; and a room to be known as Who Cares? It will be a room for discussion of current topics of interest. This will not be for the students, pensioners or middle-aged women who usually make up the most dedicated museum visitors. It will be for young people who are concerned about these matters, but also disorientated, both in time and the community in general, those the Police and Social workers have called to our attention. Everyone needs and arena. So why not call it, Who Cares?!

Facts, figures and artefacts will be presented in this potential basement level area. Some of the rooms have windows and daylight, while others are dark –with the perfect atmosphere for dramatic stories and events. From a Swedish point of view the UN mission in the Congo of the Sixties is one such experience. It was in Africa, too, that Dag Hammarskjöld met his death. These and many other things might well be revealed in the museum.

Peace and War is the name we have given the museum in this, the first phase. And that will do!

If it could be made attractive to all categories in society

If the public transport authorities are willing to change their routes in order to bring as many visitors as possible to this fine museum landscape

If the city, the university, the church, and the military could be persuaded to support an idea which would increase the cultural potential of the fourth largest town in Sweden.