



# The Mt. Tron Mail

March 2000

Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

No. 1, Volume 3

**With a bird's-eye view into the new millenium!**



*Mt. Tron seen from south-west, with the centre of Alvdal and with the river Glåma in the foreground, on Saturday the 25th of March 2000. Air photo by BP. Pilot Svein Ellingvåg.*

In this millenium it is going to happen, and within the next ten years the Mt. Tron University of Peace will be built and established! In august this year the local council of Alvdal will start working on the Mt. Tron area in their resumed and now ongoing work with the municipal area plan of Alvdal.

In the forthcoming process with the completion and sanction of the municipal plan, it is important both for the politicians, the civil employees and the local people in general, to adopt the wide view of the bird and to have lots of air under the wings! It is important to see the great possibilities - both locally, regionally and nationally - which an international university of peace on Mt. Tron will provide. The Mt. Tron University of Peace will represent something completely new and constructive - really a new

optimism to the whole mountain region with many positive consequences. It will be something which the local people of Alvdal will be proud of and which will really mark Alvdal on the map of the World. A fantastic national attraction which will give meaning and a new hope. A beautiful and grand building in magnificent and natural environments on a majestic mountain, where knowledge of man, peace, human rights and art of life will be in the centre of activity and attention.

All who are broad-minded and far-sighted, and who are interested in the University of Peace, are called on to support the project by showing sympathy and good-will in various ways which will carry the project onward. Help us to join forces now for the common benefit and future delight!

## The University of Peace on Mt.Tron

A letter from the future. By Knud Larsen

*The Mt.Tron Mail has received an article from Knud Larsen which is rather long and which therefore will be divided and published in several issues. Knud is a professor at the NTNU and is responsible for the drawing of the existing plans for the University of Peace on Mt.Tron. Here, in the form of a letter, he expresses his vision of the more physical aspects of location and shaping of the university. The article started in issue 1/99.*

*(Continued from 3/99).*

The fitting up of the room is simple. Two beds, desk, spindleback chair, a bookshelf and a small inbuilt cupboard which is not visible. When I describe it in this correct manner, it sounds like a prison. But it is very cosy and practical, and I really like it here. What is important is that everything is made in nice materials and colours. The floor is real wood. The beds are locally made in massive wood. They are almost in level with the desk and underneath are practical drawers for clothes and bags. The desk is a massive wooden plate two inches thick and carved from a single log. The shelf is a lovely little box made of polished heartwood pine, hung on the roughly plastered, white outer wall. The outer wall is very thick and the window sill is therefore extra deep. Often a cold wind is blowing from the west straight on the room wing and that is the reason why the windows are minimal. The opening of the window is about 60 cm in square and is placed just opposite your face when you sit by the desk. And what a view! In front the great plain of the 'Peace Plateau' which is sloping down towards Alvdal. Then the mountains of western Alvdal and behind them the mighty Mt.Rondane. The frame is small, but how great the contents are! The white painted, slanting window frames gives a pretty good daylight, and the fair desk also helps to reflect light into the room.

My room has a slanting roof and a small loft-room with an extra bed, because it is on the upper floor. I like the airiness this gives, and I am especially enthusiastic about the small peep-hole in the roof towards the east (above the small loft-room) which lets in a stripe of wonderful morning sunlight which actually lights up the whole room. For the beds, which are as much for sitting as for sleeping, special handmade carpets have been made by Tibetans in Nepal. Each of the carpets has its special pattern in the traditional bright colours which are used in Tibet. Some have conventionalized flower patterns and other symbols from various world religions. I prefer the familiar patterns which resemble tiger skin. So during day-time I have a four metre long bunk with a tiger skin at my disposal. On the one side I've stacked my dear books which I cannot avoid dragging

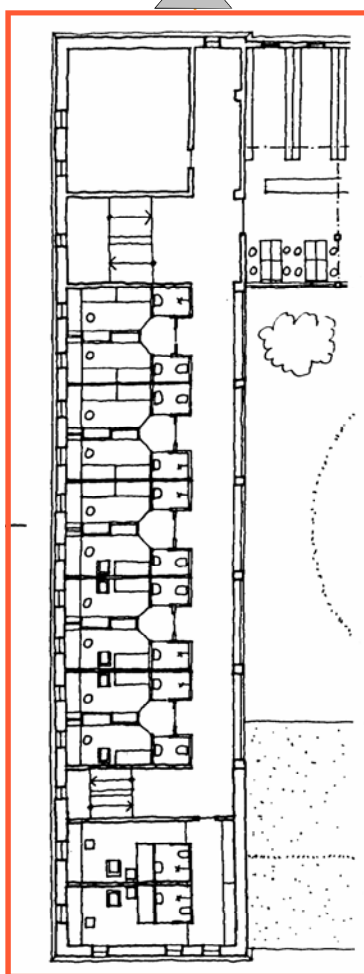
along, and here I have also put a small Tibetan meditation carpet. It is square and just big enough to sit on cross legged. The edges of the carpet are thick by lots of remaining, long, woollen threads which resemble thick fur. When one sits there inside the thick woollen Tibetan cloak which goes all the way up to the ears and is well fitted down round the carpet, then the room may be as cold as only possible. And cold it easily becomes during winter. But it is only good to keep the head cool when one is to keep awake. On the wall straight out from the small carpet, hangs my thinka. It is good to have something to look at which continuously gives you new experiences. I think my Green Tara is almost alive. Every day she has a slightly different expression, and she shows me something I didn't see before.

You know all this technological ironmongery better than me, but I can tell you that here one always tries to get the most out of what one can afford to purchase at any time. It isn't that bad, either. Now, f.inst., I can take the remote control inside my Tibetan cloak, roll down the wall screen and dictate this letter to you while I see it in front of me. I can ask for nearly any kind of literary work and then see it on the wall. There is constantly some difficulty with the old Tibetan letters and other minor language areas. The automatic translator doesn't always make meaningful sentences out of the text when it has never been translated before, and as you know, there are still huge amounts of scriptures which have never been properly translated. But in any case it is good that they are preserved and available, and as a rule it is always possible to get something interesting out of them.

I have nearly quitted watching TV. The freedom of choice is still too bad and I nearly always feel manipulated. I prefer to choose myself between films and plays. Especially, I like to go about in small art collections which have been collected by a little eccentric persons, like f.inst. in the house of Sir John Soanes in London. This was much about a small room, but as you understand, I spend a lot of time here and it is an important part of the life here at the Mt.Tron University of Peace.

When I walk out of the room, I look out in the wide corridor. But first there is a small entrance area from which I can either go to the toilet or to the bath-room. Those rooms I share with the neighbour. The entrance area is a nice crossing to the private rooms. Here we also hang wet raincoats and put aside rubber boots.

*(Continuation in the next issue).*



*The Western Wing with rooms. Section from scetch by Knud Larsen, April 1996.*



## Swami Sri Ananda Acharya

### A short biography by Bjørn Pettersen \* Part I: From Bengal to Alvdal

(Continued from 3/99).

#### Norway

The journey went by ship from Newcastle and became unusually long due to the war danger, but after many hours Sri Ananda could eventually put his feet on Norwegian soil for the first time, a dark December night in 1914.

In the beginning of 1915 he started his series of lectures at the old assembly hall of the university of Kristiania. As with all his lectures, this was also held *ex tempore*, i.e. without manuscript, and notes were written down by a friend during the lectures. These notes were then compiled into a book called 'Brahmadarsanam - or Intuition of the Absolute', which was later published by Mcmillan in London in 1917, and distributed, beside Great Britain, also in India, USA and Canada. This was his first book which was published and distributed by a well reputed publishing company, and the book instantly harvested lots of unusually good critics in all the countries it was published. For the first time in the Western World, those interested in Philosophy were served a systematic presentation of Indian philosophy by an Indian philosopher, which, in addition, was a sannyasin and thus in direct spiritual lineage with the originators of these philosophies. The book was published in Norwegian in the autumn 1915, in both Norway and Denmark. During the very first lecture in this series at the university, Sri Ananda met the English professor-daughter Miss Amy L. Edwards

together with the Norwegian engineer Einar Beer. They soon became his very close friends, and as time passed they became two of his three closest friends through the rest of his life.

The summer of 1915 Sri Ananda spent at Tuddal Mountain Hotel in Telemark, where he lived alone in a small rented hut a little away from the hotel. There he worked with the translation of the great national epic Bhagavadgita (usually only called 'Gita' in India) from original Sanskrit into English. This work was already started in London in 1912, and in Norway he seized every opportunity to continue the work when he had longer, undisturbed periods.

In January 1916, Miss Amy L. Edwards got him over to Stockholm in Sweden for holding a longer series of lectures at the university there during spring. She went with him herself on this tour as his secretary and to help arranging the lectures. After that, she almost always accompanied Sri Ananda on all his tours. Miss Edwards was three years older than Sri Ananda, born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1878, and came from Bath in England. She was a genius of languages who studied all the indoeuropean languages, and at

that time she mastered at least French, German, Russian and Greek, probably also other languages. She noted down all the Stockholm lectures which was later compiled and published in 1921 under the title 'Tattvajnanam - The Quest of Cosmic Consciousness'. But soon after the lectures were ended, enthusiastic listeners made requests for the permission to translate them into Swedish. This was granted and the translation completed in 1917, the same year as it was published in Stockholm.

The summer of 1916 Sri Ananda spent at the farm Tullin in the Gudbrandsdalen together with Miss Edwards, where both worked on the translation of the Gita. While the autumn of 1916 with the oncoming winter, and the spring of 1917, for a greater

part was spent in the work of going through 'Tattvajnanam', and to control the Swedish translation which had been done by two young Swedish ladies. The summer of 1917 Sri Ananda and Miss Edwards continued the translation of the Gita. For adequate quiet and inspiration, the place of choice for this demanding work, this time fell on Hotel Framnoss at Tyin in Jotunheimen.

In the mean time Sri Ananda had spoken with the engineer Beer. Einar Beer, born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 1887, was son of N.S.Beer, one of the richest and most prosperous business men in the country at that time with big stone quarries and export of stone constructions all over the world. At that time Einar

was employed in the direction of his father's business as a newly educated engineer from Dresden in Germany, married to an aristocratic and wealthy man's daughter from Dresden, with whom he had two small daughters, together with the fact that he was on the top of his career as an elite sportsman with three straight Nordic championships in tennis. He lived together with his family in a newly built house at Vettakollen in Kristiania (Oslo). When he heard the lectures of Sri Ananda, he was deeply touched, started to meet with Sri Ananda privately to get guidance for his spiritual life, and gradually became his close friend. After Sri Ananda came back to Kristiania from Stockholm, he told Einar Beer that he was now tired of city life and wanted to settle down for good somewhere in the Norwegian mountains, for which he had already developed much love. He then asked Beer if he could find such a place for him in the mountains. Beer answered confirmingly, but asked in return as to where he should search. Sri Ananda then turned towards north-east, straightened his arm in front of himself and only said that he should search in that direction - towards north-east.

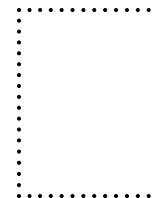
(Continuation in the next issue).



*Sri Ananda at Tyin in Jotunheimen in the summer of 1917, shortly before coming to Alvdal. To the right is seen Miss Edwards. He used to row out on Lake Tyin in the bright summer nights to get inspiration, whenever he got stuck in the translation of Gita.*

# The Mt.Tron Mail

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## The Mt.Tron Mail

**The Mt.Tron Mail** - The newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt.Tron University of Peace

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## News from Mt.Tron

### New drawings

During these days the sketch project for the University of Peace, by the architect Knud Larsen, is being upgraded. The whole project is now being some enlarged compared to the earlier scetches. But the most important is the compilation of room programmes and functions.

### Environmental aspect

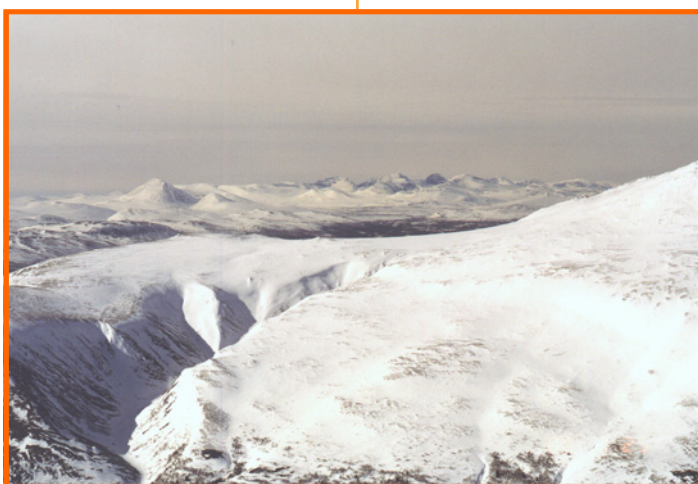
Also the planning of the energy and environmental aspect of the project, are being worked on, which will be very alternatively directed with completely new solutions for constructions of such dimensions in Norway. The University of Peace will as such become an environmental pilot project in this country - also considering its location.

### Ground tests

The Foundation wants to make tests as to the quality of the ground on the 'Peace Plateau' in the summer. And in this connection an application for approval to the joint ownership of Mt.Tron, will be forwarded.

### Cultural festival

A committee for the annual 'Days of the poet Garborg' is planning to have parts of their festival programme on the 'Peace Plateau' this summer - on the spot of the planned Peace University - on friday night on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August from 7 p.m.. Focus will be laid on the poet's involvement for peace together with his cooperation with Sri Ananda. The festival programme contains among other things Indian dance, and lastly a short information about the University of Peace.



*The 'Peace Plateau' seen from north-east, with the brooklet Grøtåa in the foreground and Mt.Rondane in the background.  
Air photo by BP. Pilot Svein Ellingvåg.*