



The Mt. Tron Mail

June 2000

Mt. Tron University of Peace Foundation

No. 2, Volume 3

Cultural arrangement on Mt. Tron - on the spot of the planned University of Peace!

On Friday the 4th of august at 7 PM, the organisation Garborgdagane holds a cultural arrangement on the 'Peace Plateau' in Alvdal at 4265 feet height. Garborgdagane are arranged annually, and this year the organisation has chosen to focus on the peace engagement of the poet Arne Garborg, and his collaboration with Sri Ananda Acharya.

The arrangement will also be going on Saturday with a seminar in the House of Culture at Tynset, where among others the former Foreign Minister Knut Vollebæk will be participating. And also on Sunday the traditional trip to Kolbotn at Savalen, will be arranged.

The programme contains among other things a causerie by the chief of culture at Tynset, Jon

Ole Hokstad; recitation by the well-known actor Svein Erik Brodal; and song by Knut Stiklestad. The most exotic element will never the less be performed by altogether eight Indian dancers headed by Shikha Chandra.

After that there will among other things be information about the plans for the University of Peace by the chairman of the University of Peace Foundation.

There will be busses up to the 'Peace Plateau' from Tynset at 6 PM, and from Alvdal at 6.15

PM. Busses will return at 10 PM. It is recommended to bring warm clothes!

Tynset
4.-6.
august

Garborg-
dagane
2000

Fredstankar
i fjelluft

eit bogespenn frå
Gaurisankar (7145 moh)
til Tron (1666 moh)

Organisasjonen Garborgdagane har som formål å spreie kunnskap om og kjennskap til Arne og Hulda Garborg og deira livsverk, ved å ta opp tema som dei var opptekne av, og som framleis er viktige i vår tid. Det heiter i vedtektene at organisasjonen skal arrangere Garborgdagane kvart år. Tradisjon og nyskaping skal vere rettesnor for arbeidet.



Organisasjonen
GarborgDagane

Vi håpar du vil bli medlem og medspelar i eit spennande tiltak.



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

(Continuation from 1/00)

There is still much time before meal at 11 AM. I have now described my room and the corridor outside it, and a little of the Meditation Hall, but actually I have not told anything about how the rest of the building is arranged. Perhaps you remember that I showed you a plan of the construction some years ago before the erection. It was I who made the first sketches to the present building a long time ago - I think it was in 1994 - after Swami Paramananda's directions.

Here I have to express a couple of deep sighs. It is about to improve (and this conference is an example of just that), but for me and many other architects it has for a long time been a want of universal laws for good building tradition based on an expanded understanding of reality, which was long forgotten. Think about Feng-shui which was brought to light again at the end of the nineties, and of the English 'lay lines', often from the neolithic times, which connect constructions in the landscape by straight lines over great distances. Think about the cosmic connections to age-old constructions like Stonehenge and the location of great monumental buildings, like f.inst. Delfi, in wild mountain landscapes.

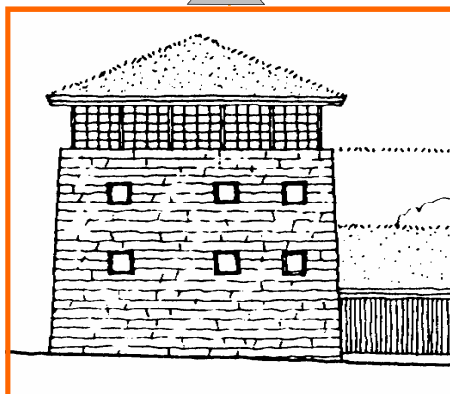
I am not at all any expert on this, but there is no doubt that our culture lost something of importance when we forgot the knowledge which lies behind such constructions. We have become poorer, and our environments have become vulgarized. In earlier days the architects were among those who knew the rules for harmony and beauty, but in accordance with the disappearance of these rules, other rules have taken over. Those are short-sighted rules based on economical profitability, and here the architects have little to say. It is therefore that it was so boring to practise as an architect, and therefore that our environments were so badly littered during the eighties and nineties, and in fact up to now.

I know very well that you for the most agree with me in these things, and I will not bother you more with reflections that belong more to a cronicle in *Aftenposten*, but it was only to put Swami Paramananda's input into a relation. His few, simple rules are taken from the old Indian Vedas, and he himself used them on his ashrama-buildings in West Bengal. The construction should be square. In the middle there should be an open outdoor courtyard with water. The main entrance should face East, while another entrance could face South. The fire place has to be in the Sout-Eastern corner, the dining room to the East, the temple in

the North-Eastern corner, the library to the North, rooms with water (bathing/washing, etc) in the Nort-Western corner, sleeping rooms to the West, and store-room in the South-Western corner. The hight of the building should rise from the lowest part over the kitchen, towards the highest over the store-room.

If you study the plan you will see that we have succeeded quite well in the making of it. About the localizing of the building on the 'Peace Plateau', it was decided by Sri Ananda nearly a hundred years ago. His detailed grounds for the exact placement is not known to me, but I am convinced that he was very far sighted, and it was crucial for him that the construction be situated high and detached. Most probably a geomantic will be able to demonstrate relations with other constructions which are not so obvious to see for us common people.

But now I thought of taking you on a small tour in the building (while I'm sitting here in my little cave). If we go by the corridor to the right, we'll soon come down to the corner-tower. The south-western corner is formed as a tower. One thing is that the construction should have it's highest point here, another thing is that it is always attractive to come up high to have a view. In any case, if you are in a highly situated monastery in Tibet and very close to "heaven", you can always go up on the higher, flat roof and have a view over the landscape. It seems to be a universal need.



The tower in the buildings south-western corner, southern face. Part of a sketch by Knud Larsen, 1996.

On the 'Peace Plateau', in that height, it will usually not be very pleasant to be outdoor, and therefore there is a room on the top of the building surrounded with windows. It is an empty, square room with windows all the way down to the floor. There is no furniture, only a pile with square sitting pillows and heating in the floor. The room can be used for many purposes: One can come here to sit in the silence; one can play music; one can practice Tai-chi in a group; visiting lecturers can receive special guests here; it can function as dormitory in case of extra many visitors, etc.

At the very top there is a little room where the roof can be opened for a small, but powerful stellar telescope. Only a few people will be able to be there at the time, but that is ok, because it is a rather cold delight to sit there under the open sky. On the contrary, there is nothing to complain against the view. You certainly know that the starry sky appears exceptionally clear on high mountains far from the towns. Often I have taken "leave" from the everyday routine to get another perspective on the Earth life after a couple of hours by the telescope, well wrapped in sheep furcoat and cap. The school sometimes comes with interested pupils, and I also know that there has been an amateur astronomer from Alvdal who for a long time has had a project and has come up here several times a week. During the later years amateurs have contributed much to the surveillance of the outer space.

(To be continued).

Swami Sri Ananda Acharya

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

(Continuation from 1/00).

Tronsvangen

With a north-eastern direction in sight, Einar Beer started from Kristiania and travelled up

Elvedal (later Alvdal) which was for sale. Einar Beer then entered the sidecar of the motorcycle and together they drove to Lille Elvedal. The same evening they walked up the mountain side to Tronsvangen underneath Mt. Tron, and met with



Gudbrandsdalen, over Dovre and down Folldalen towards Nord-Østerdalen - all the time with a suitable place for Sri Ananda in mind. He also made a short halt at Arne Garborg's 'Kolbotn' at Savalen, but found that the place didn't fit as a winter residence. Down Folldalen Mr. Beer drove with a local car and driver, and some kilometres down the valley, he had a puncture. While the driver changed wheel, a motorcyclist with a sidecar stopped by and offered to help. It then turned out that the motorcyclist was an old friend of Mr. Beer who now practised as a vet in the district. Mr. Beer then told him his errand, and the friend immediately informed him about a 'seter' (mountain farm) on Tronsvangen in Lille



Ingrid Tronsvang in the two-storied boarding house 'Ingridsæter'. Old Ingrid received them gladly and was at once willing to sell the old draughty log house. And the buy was settled shortly afterwards when Sri Ananda arrived at the mountain farm.

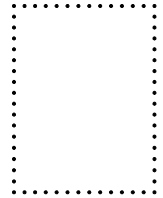
Sri Ananda received the message about this while he was in Tyn, and travelled directly from there to Lille Elvedal together with Miss Edwards. On the 28th of september 1917 he arrived Tronsvangen and that mountain farm which was to be his place of residence for the next 27 years.

(End of Part I).

Sri Ananda on Tronsvangen 1917. In the picture to the top left is seen Sri Ananda on the stairs to the then "Ingridsæter", by the end of september. In the picture to the top right is seen Ingrid Tronsvang (?) in the middle together with Miss Edwards and Sri Ananda on Tronsvangen shortly after the arrival. The bottom picture is showing Sri Ananda outside on his renamed property "Gaurisankarsæter" one early day of spring in 1918. All photos: Einar Beer.

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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

Publisher: Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation
Editor: Bjørn Pettersen
(Chairman of the Foundation)
Issues: Quarterly 4 times a year
Languages: Norwegian and English
Prices: Subscription of support NOK 250,-/year
Single copies NOK 30,-/piece
Address: "Shantibu", 2560 Alvdal, Norway

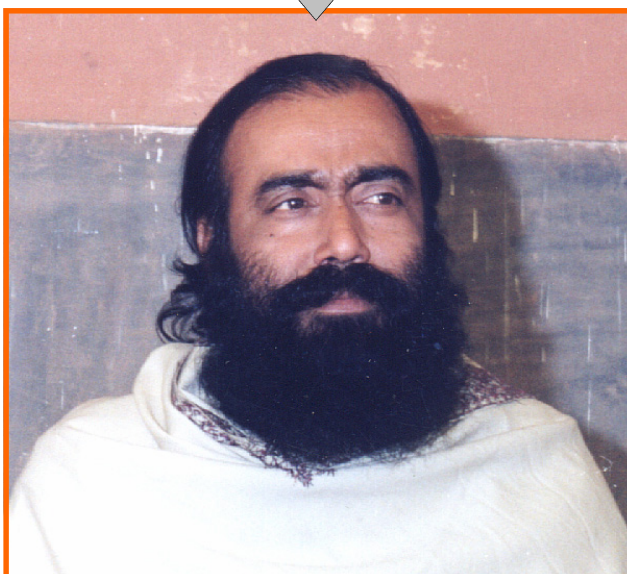
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News from Mt.Tron

Visit from India

A visit from Swami Parameswarananda, or Trishan Maharaj, as he is better known, is expected by the end of July this year. Trishan has since the start in 1978, been the daily leader of the Paramananda Mission, and has appeared as the natural leader of the trust after the demise of the founder Swami Paramananda.

Trishan is born in Burdwan district in West Bengal, and is 44 years old. He was one of the first of all in the later inner circle, to meet with Swami Paramananda, and has always since functioned as the right hand of Swami Paramananda. His enormous



Swami Parameswarananda, better known as Trishan Maharaj, in Banagram Paramananda Mission, at the change of the Millenium 1999-2000.

capacity of work and incessant self-sacrifice, is widely known and respected.

Besides Norway, Trishan intends to visit also England and USA, and perhaps Germany. He plans to spend about two months here in Norway, mostly at Shantibu in Alvdal, but it is also expected that he will visit other places here.

All who wish to meet with Trishan, is heartily welcome to visit him here at Shantibu this summer! Contact the Foundation and inform well in advance before the end of July, so that the visits may be fitted into his programme.