

# Peter van den Dungen

Licenciate (Economics) Antwerp University (1970)

MA (International Relations) Johns Hopkins University (1972)

PhD (War Studies) University of London King's College (1975).

Lecturer in Peace Studies, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, UK (1976-2000);

Honorary Visiting Lecturer (2000-) Visiting Fellow, Norwegian Nobel Institute (2000)  
General Coordinator, International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP) (1992-)

## Main Research Interests

- \* Historical peace research
- \* Peace movements
- \* Peace remembrance and heritage
- \* Peace museums and peace exhibitions
- \* Nobel peace prize

Peter's main research interests are in the related areas of peace history, culture of peace, and peace education and also focus on peace museums as potentially important instruments to foster peace education and the development of a culture of peace in its various dimensions for a wide public. He has been active in the professional development of both peace history and peace museums. Making peace and all this implies (including the concept and practice of nonviolence) more visible in the public domain through the cultivation of peace remembrance and the purposeful construction of a peace heritage is likewise part of this endeavour.

### \* Historical Peace Research

Peace history emerged in the 1960s as a distinct sub-discipline of both history and emerging Peace Studies. In the 1980s, Peter contributed to several key reference works such as the Biographical Dictionary of Modern Peace Leaders, a collaborative effort of the U.S.-based Conference on Peace Research in History (since renamed Peace History Society), edited by Harold Josephson (Greenwood Press, 1985), and the four-volume World Encyclopedia of Peace, edited by Ervin Laszlo and Jong Youl Yoo (Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1986). For the latter encyclopedia, Peter wrote the introductory essay 'Peace Encyclopedias of the Past and Present'. He also edited a volume which, for the first time, made widely available what is still the most extensive bibliography of the historic peace movement (before 1899), originally compiled in the 1930s by Jacob ter Meulen during his long tenure as librarian of the Peace Palace in The Hague: From Erasmus to Tolstoy: The Peace Literature of Four Centuries (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1990).

For a special issue of *Peace & Change* on peace history, he contributed a commentary 'On the Historiography of Peace' (January 1995). Together with Lawrence S. Wittner, he edited a special issue of the *Journal of Peace Research* devoted to peace history (vol. 40, no. 4, July 2003).

For a Festschrift honouring the world's leading peace historian, the late Peter Brock, he contributed 'Jacob ter Meulen and Bart de Ligt as Pioneers of Peace History' (Harvey L. Dyck, ed., *The Pacifist Impulse in Historical Perspective*. University of Toronto Press, 1996). Among his articles on de Ligt are 'Bart de Ligt, Aldous Huxley and "The Conquest of Violence": Notes on the Publication of a Peace Classic' (in *Bart de Ligt: Peace Activist and Peace Researcher*. Boxtel, Neth.: Bart de Ligt Fund, 1988) and the introduction to a new edition of Bart de Ligt's *The Conquest of Violence* (London: Pluto Press, 1989).

Peter's interest in re-discovering and re-evaluating the great classics of the literature on world peace, together with bibliographical research, has resulted in various reprints such as William Penn's *An Essay Towards the Present and Future Peace of Europe* (1693), published for the United Nations Library in Geneva in 1983 as the first in an intended series on 'Sources on the History of International Organization', as well as a reprint of the extremely rare contemporary French translation, *Essai d'un Projet pour Rendre la Paix de l'Europe Solide et Durable* (York: William Sessions/The Ebor Press, 1986). His research on the genealogy of the classic peace proposals has resulted in such studies as 'The Abbe de Saint-Pierre and the English "Irenists" of the 18th Century: Penn, Bellers, and Bentham' (in *International Journal on World Peace*, June 2000), and 'On John Bellers and his Plan for European Peace, 1710' (in Daniel Heinz & Denis A. Sdvizhkov, eds., *The Quest for Ideal: Essays on the History of Peace-Making and the Intelligentsia*. Moscow: Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of General History, 2005; in Russian). More recently, he wrote 'Erasmus: 16th Century Pioneer of Peace Education and a Culture of Peace' (*Journal of East Asia and International Law*, vol. 2, no. 2, Autumn 2009).

### **\* Peace Movements**

The history and sociology of national and international peace movements, both historical and contemporary, has been a long-standing preoccupation of Peter's research. Among his publications in this area are three edited volumes: *West European Pacifism and the Strategy for Peace* (London: Macmillan, 1985); *Peace Movements and Political Cultures* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1988, co-ed. Charles Chatfield); *Twentieth-Century Peace Movements: Successes and Failures* (Lampeter: Edwin Mellen Press, 1995, co-ed. Guido Gruenewald). Among book chapters I 'Critics and Criticisms of the British Peace Movement', in Richard Taylor & Nigel Young, eds., *Campaigns for Peace: British Peace Movements in the Twentieth Century* (Manchester University Press, 1987).

A particular kind of peace movement, both today and in the past, that Peter has researched and continues to be interested in, is the medical peace movement. Together with Peace Studies colleague Nick Lewer, he has written about an early 20th century pioneer in this field: 'Joseph Riviere: Physician and Peacemaker' (in *Medicine and War*, April-June 1990). Together, they also contributed a chapter on women physicians who were active in the peace movement: 'Frauendiplomatie - Aerztinnen gegen den Krieg' in T.M. Ruprecht & C. Jenssen, eds., *Aeskulap oder Mars? Aerzte gegen den Krieg* (Bremen: Donat Verlag, 1991). Peter has also authored 'Dr. Emil Flusser: Forgotten

Precursor of the Medical Peace Movement' (in *Medicine, Conflict, and Survival*, April-June 1996). His research for this article has been used for an exhibit on Flusser as part of a major exhibition on global health organised by the U.S. National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD) from 2008.

Another type of peace movement that Peter has researched and written about and that continues to interest him is the history of the idea of peace research, and of the peace research movement. Among his publications in this field are 'Varieties of Peace Science: An Historical Note' (*Journal of Peace Science*, Spring 1977); 'The "Scientific Pacifism" of Raphael Dubois: A Curious Episode in the History of Peace Research' (*Peace & Change*, no. 3/4, 1986); 'Initiatives for the Pursuit and Institutionalisation of Peace Research in Europe During the Inter-war Period (1919-1939)' in Lee-Anne Broadhead, ed., *Issues in Peace Research 1995-96* (University of Bradford, 1996); 'Peace Research and the Search for Peace: Some Critical Observations' (*International Journal on World Peace*, July-September 1985). He also edited a volume of selected essays by Charles Boasson, *In Search of Peace Research* (London: Macmillan, 1991).

### **\* Peace Remembrance & Heritage**

One important but unjustly forgotten precursor of scientific peace research, as well as peace lobbyist and peace educator, who accurately predicted the nature of World War I and did his utmost to prevent it, is the Polish-Russian industrialist Jan Bloch (Jean de Bloch, 1836-1902)). Starting with *A Bibliography of the Pacifist Writings of Jean de Bloch* (London: Housmans, 1977), Peter has published several studies on him, e.g. *The Making of Peace: Jean de Bloch and the First Hague Peace Conference* (Los Angeles: California State University, 1983); 'From St. Petersburg to The Hague: Bloch and the First Hague Peace Conference (1899)' (in Gwyn Prins & Hylke Tromp, eds., *The Future of War. The Hague: Kluwer Law International*, 2000); 'The International Museum of War and Peace at Lucerne' (in *Schweizerische Zeitschrift fuer Geschichte/Revue Suisse d'Histoire*, 1981); 'I. Bliokh and Y. Novikov: Russian Peacemakers at the Turn of the Century' (in Tatiana Pavlova, ed., *The Long Way of Russian Pacifism*. Moscow: Russian Academy of Science/Institute of World History, 1997, in Russian); *Jan Bloch and the Inaugural Nobel Peace Prize (1901)* (Oslo: Norwegian Nobel Institute, 2003).

Peter has promoted Bloch's legacy in several of the cities he was closely associated with. He co-founded the Jean de Bloch Society in Warsaw (1987), and organised the first exhibition on him in Russia (in the Marble Palace in St. Petersburg, 1999). In 1999, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the calling of the First Hague Peace Conference, he organised a special panel on Bloch as part of the conference organised in The Hague by the Peace History Society. In 2002, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the opening of Bloch's museum in Lucerne, he was involved in the organisation of a commemorative programme. In recent years, and taking its inspiration from Bloch, the Lucerne Initiative for Peace and Security (LIPS) has emerged to promote peace education and a culture of peace in the city and beyond (and keep alive the memory of Jan Bloch and the pioneering institution that he founded). Peter was a member of the *Comite Elie Ducommun* in Geneva which organised various commemorative events in 2002 and 2004 to celebrate the life and work of the founding secretary-general of the International Peace Bureau and 1902 Nobel peace laureate, and contributed chapters to two conference volumes.

Despite the rich and important history of peace, peaceful conflict resolution, and war-prevention, this aspect of history is hardly reflected in our culture of remembrance (unlike wars and battles, and their heroes).

Peter is an advocate of the memorialisation of peace in the public sphere through monuments, city peace paths, peace gardens, the naming of streets, anniversaries, etc. He is also involved in European-wide efforts to re-evaluate some of the many traditional monuments glorifying war, and assess their meaning in a uniting Europe. See, for example, his chapter 'Monuments of a Uniting Europe' (in Volker Rodekamp, ed., *European National Monuments in the 21st Century: National Memory and European Identity*. Leipzig City History Museum, 2005). For an international symposium organised by the city of Linz (Austria) in November 2006, held to celebrate the city's 20th anniversary as a peace city, Peter has written a history and typology of peace cities ('Idee und Geschichte der neuzeitlichen Friedensstadt – Skizze einer Typologie', in Reiner Steinweg & Alexandra Tschesche, eds., *Kommunale Friedensarbeit*. Linz: IKW Schriftenreihe, Vol. 118). In September 2007 he was invited to give the opening address at a convention held in Dayton, Ohio to promote the city declaring itself a city of peace, and also addressed various audiences in Atlanta, Georgia who are aiming for the same objective for their city.

#### **\* Peace Museums & Exhibitions**

While war and military museums are widespread in the western world, museums dedicated to peace, peacemaking and peacemakers, are rare. Many of our societies are dominated by a culture of violence, and in the process of transforming such cultures into a culture of peace and nonviolence, peace museums are potentially important instruments (as would be Departments of Peace, not only in universities, but at the level of government). With the help of the 'Give Peace a Chance' Trust, Peter organised the first international conference of peace and anti-war museums at the University of Bradford in 1992. The conference gave rise to the International Network of Peace Museums, in 2005 renamed International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP, recognised as an NGO by the Department of Public Information of the UN in New York, and since 2009 with a secretariat in The Hague). He has been INMP's general coordinator since the beginning and edited its newsletter, published from May 1993 (no. 1) until October 2002 (no. 15). He has also edited *Peace Museums Worldwide*, the first directory of peace museums, published by the Library of the United Nations in Geneva (1st ed. 1995, 2nd ed. 1998). Peter has also been involved in the organisation of subsequent conferences of the Network, in Stadtschlaining, Austria (1995), Osaka & Kyoto, Japan (1998), Ostend, Belgium (2003), Gernika, Basque Country, Spain (2005). His keynote address 'Museums for Peace: Past, Present, and Future' was published in the Proceedings of the 6th International Conference of Museums for Peace held in Kyoto & Hiroshima in 2008.

Among his publications in this field are 'Peace Museums' (in the *World Encyclopedia of Peace*, vol. 2, 1986); 'Proposal for a Peace Museum in Britain' and 'Peace Museums: Recent Developments' (both in *Medicine and War*, October-December 1991 & July-September 1994); *On the Creative Principles, Message and Thematic Content of a Peace Museum* (Malmo: Peace Education Miniprints, 1993); 'The Peace Museum in Bradford and *Peace Museums Worldwide*' (in Carol Rank, ed., *City of Peace: Bradford's Story*, 1997); 'Peace Education: Peace Museums' (in Lester Kurtz, ed., *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict*. San Diego: Academic Press, vol. 2,

1999); 'Preventing Catastrophe: The World's First Peace Museum' (in *Ritsumeikan Journal of International Studies*, March 2006); 'Towards a Global Peace Museum Movement: A Progress Report (1986-2010)' in *Peace Forum*, vol. 24, no. 34, December 2009). Together with Chikara Tsuboi, he has edited the first Japanese edition of a key work by Ernst Friedrich, an early pioneer of anti-war museums: *War Against War!* (Tokyo: Ryukei Shosha, 1988), first published in Berlin in the 1920s. For a conference on images and perceptions of peace since the modern era, he wrote 'Frieden im Museum – oder: Was stellen Friedensmuseen aus?' (published in Thomas Kater, ed., "Der Friede ist keine leere Idee ..." *Bilder und Vorstellungen vom Frieden am Beginn der politischen Moderne*. Essen: Klartext Verlag, 2006).

Peter is also co-author of several of the travelling exhibitions produced by the Peace Museum in Bradford such as 'Art of the 20th Century British Peace Movement' (1998); 'Champions of Peace - Nobel's Peace Prize: The First 100 Years' (2001); "'My Country is the Whole World": Women Peacemakers' (2005). He is a member of the Management Committee of the Bradford Peace Museum, and a director of the Peace Museum Company.

### **\* Nobel Peace Prize**

The need to remember and honour peacemakers is an essential component of the development of a culture of peace. Peter has devoted several articles and chapters to an institution which represents a pantheon of modern peace heroes, namely the Nobel peace prize (in Spring 2000, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo). He contributed the biographies of three British laureates to a multi-volume German encyclopedia on the laureates, *Der Friedens-Nobelpreis von 1901 bis Heute*, ed. Michael Neumann (1987-1995), and has also written *The Nobel Peace Prize and the Global Proliferation of Peace Prizes in the 20th Century* (Oslo: Norwegian Nobel Institute, 2000); 'What Makes the Nobel Peace Prize Unique?' (*Peace & Change*, October 2001); 'Irwin Abrams: Historian and Champion of the Nobel Peace Prize' (*Peace & Change*, January 2005).

For many years he has been engaged in research on Bertha von Suttner, the first woman to receive the Nobel peace prize (1905), and who inspired Alfred Nobel to do something for peace. His research, which has received support from the Bibliographical Society (London), focuses on her influential novel, *Lay Down Your Arms* (1889). In 1993, he contributed an article to the catalogue of the exhibition *Bertha von Suttner (1843-1914) and Other Women in Pursuit of Peace* (United Nations Library at Geneva). In 2005, he was academic convener of an international conference held in Eggenburg/Harmannsdorf (Austria) on the occasion of the centenary of the award of the Nobel peace prize to her, and contributed a chapter entitled 'The Political Engagement of Bertha von Suttner' to the conference volume (*Friede-Fortschritt-Frauen. Friedensnobelpreistraegerin Bertha von Suttner auf Schloss Harmannsdorf*, ed. by Internationaler Bertha von Suttner Verein. Vienna: LIT Verlag, 2007). He also contributed to the travelling exhibition 'A Life for Peace', commissioned by the Austrian Foreign Ministry. In a book with essays on von Suttner's famous anti-war novel, currently (2010) in press, he has contributed a chapter 'Towards a Bertha von Suttner Peace Museum in Vienna'. He is involved in plans for the opening of such a museum on the centenary of her death (Vienna, June 1914).

Since the 1980s, in cooperation with the library of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, he has developed a data-base of peace awards and peace prizes around the world. Among

his publications towards a general history and sociology of peace awards are 'The Prize of Peace: Reflections on the Honouring of Peace Work' (in *Transaktie*, 1991, in Dutch); 'Peace Prizes' (in Lester Kurtz, ed., *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict*, vol. 2, 1999); 'Honouring Gandhi and Gandhians' (in M.P. Mathai et al, eds., *Meditations on Gandhi: A Ravindra Varma Festschrift*. New Delhi: Concept Publ., 2002); 'Prizes', in Nigel Young, ed., *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010). For the same work he also contributed entries on (peace) cities, and (peace) encyclopedias.