

# Danish Peace Academy Report for 2011

by John Scales Avery

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## **Holger Terp and the Peace Academy Website**

The website continues to be the center of the Danish Peace Academy's efforts, and Holger Terp continues to maintain and develop it almost single-handedly. Recent additions to the website include:

1. "Skjalden sang fredssangen og slagget stoppede... Bemærkninger til dansk fredsmusik's historie" ("The bard sang a song of peace, and the battle stopped... Remarks on the history of Danish Peace Music"), by Holger Terp, 429 pages. This is an enormous, beautifully illustrated and scholarly book. It is with certainty the definitive work on the history of Danish peace music, and it makes a very significant contribution to the culture of peace.
2. "Nuclear Weapons Production in the US, 1941-2011", by Holger Terp, 442 pages. This is another enormous and scholarly work, with many illustrations. But unlike "Skjalden sang fredssangen..." it is not delightful to read, but horrifying, since it shows the huge extent of the nuclear weapons complex, and the degree to which it has infiltrated the academic world and the economy of the United States. The book shows us what we are up against as we strive for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. The book has great value because of its accuracy and objectivity.
3. "Goliath v. David: A Short History of the Fight Against Organized Peace Work", edited by Holger Terp, 86 pages. This is another important contribution to the history of the peace movement.

4. "The Arms Race or the Human Race", by Erik Bernstorff and Erik Philipsen, 2nd Edition, edited by Holger Terp, 281 pages. This is an anthology about the dangers of the arms race, and prospects for the peace process. It contains numerous illustrations and active links to other peace-oriented sites. Although the message is serious, the book is entertaining to read. The book can be found in the book section the Peace Academy website.
5. "Crisis 21: Civilization's Crisis in the 21st Century", by John Scales Avery, 348 pages. The aim of this book is to explore the links between the various problems facing the world today. These threats include, 1) Threats to the environment, 2) Growing population, vanishing resources, 3) The global food crisis, 4) Intolerable economic inequality, 5) The threat of nuclear war, 6) The military-industrial complex, and 7) Limits to growth. Holistic solutions to these problems are proposed. "Crisis 21" can be found in the website's book section.
6. "Fredskultur", by Holger Terp and John Macko. This is a unique multimedia presentation of peace songs. One has to be patient with the initial loading process, because it takes one or two minutes, but the experience that follows is more than worth it!
7. "Danish Peace History", by Holger Terp. After an initial discussion of the first student rebellion, which took place in the 17th century, this beautifully illustrated and scholarly history of the Danish peace movement goes back to the Viking age, and traces the developments up to the present time.
8. "Peace in Print", by Holger Terp, a bibliography of peace literature containing 1889 entries.

### **Holger reaches 60**

Wednesday, February 29, was Holger's 60th birthday. All of his many friends, from Denmark and from other parts of the world, sent congratulations to Holger for his past achievements in creating a culture of peace, and wished him even more success in the future.

Holger Terp completed his education as a librarian in 1992. In 1996, he participated in a course on Internet and Presentation Technique at the Academy

of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. However, in 1999 he suffered a stroke, which made him blind in one eye and almost blind in the other. The stroke also affected Holger's speech, so that it was difficult to understand him when he talked. Instead of giving up, as many people would have done, Holger resolved to devote the remainder his life to the cause of world peace. Despite his severe handicap, he has achieved almost incredible results, a full account of which can be found on the link [www.fredsakademiet.dk/ht.htm](http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/ht.htm).

Holger's greatest achievement has been to found the Danish Peace Academy and to single-handedly create its enormous website. The website, [www.fredsakademiet.dk](http://www.fredsakademiet.dk), contains more than 16,000 files related to peace, in Danish, English and German, and it is currently visited by approximately 4,000 different people each day. Many of the visitors are from schools and universities in various parts of the world, who use the information on the website as a part of their studies.

In creating his website, Holger has used both his training as a librarian and the knowledge that he gained from the 1996 course at Copenhagen's Academy of Fine Arts. As a result, many parts of the website have great visual beauty because of the liberal use of images. For example, one can enjoy Holger's "Greenham Common Songbook", which is an account of the successful efforts of the woman's peace movement in England to prevent common land at Greenham from being used as a base for nuclear weapons. The songbook is a piece of history, illustrated not only by the songs, which the visitor to the website can hear performed by such artists as Peggy Seeger, but also by countless beautiful posters and photos from the era. Other special features of the website are numerous books, articles, poetry and song collections, a peace-related encyclopedia, and a timeline showing the history of the peace movement, from the middle ages up to the present.

Holger himself is the author or editor of numerous books, and he has translated Gandhi's autobiography into Danish. The example of Gandhi's life has always been a guide for Holger, and perhaps Holger's life can be a guide for our own efforts, as we strive to work for peace. If he could achieve so much with such a severe handicap, then the rest of us ought to be able to do something too.



Figure 1: *Holger*.

## **Holger Terp fylder 60 (Danish translation by Frands Frydendal)**

Den internationalt kendte fredslærer Holger Terp fylder 60 år onsdag d. 29. februar. Alle hans mange venner ønsker ham tillykke i anerkendelse af alt det, han har udrettet for at skabe en fredskultur, og vi ønsker ham endnu mere held og lykke med det i fremtiden.

Holger Terp er uddannet som bibliotekar i 1992. I 1996 deltog han i et kursus i Internet og Præsentation ved Kunstakademiet i København. Imidlertid fik han et slagtilfælde i 1999, så han mistede synet helt på det ene øje og det meste af synet på det andet. Også Holgers stemme blev påvirket, så det blev vanskeligt at forstå når han talte. I stedet for at give op, som mange ville have gjort, besluttede Holger at vie resten af sit liv til verdensfredssagen. På trods af hans svære handicap har han opnået de mest utrolige resultater, og man kan læse om dem alle på [www.fredsakademiet.dk/ht.htm](http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/ht.htm).

Holgers største bedrift er at grundlægge af Det Danske Fredsakademi og helt alene at opbygge dets enorme hjemmeside. Hjemmesiden omfatter mere end 16.000 filer om fred på dansk, engelsk og tysk, og den bliver for tiden besøgt af cirka 4000 mennesker om dagen. Mange besgende kommer fra skoler og universiteter over hele verden og bruger hjemmesiden i deres studier.

Ved opbygningen af hjemmesiden har Holger både brugt sin uddannelse som bibliotekar og det han lærte på Kunstakademiet i 1996. Holgers omfattende brug af billeder har gjort store dele af hjemmesiden er meget smukke. Man kan for eksempel nyde Holgers Greenham Common Songbook, som beskriver, hvordan kvindernes fredsbevægelse i England havde held til at forhindre at fællesejet land i Greenham blev brugt som base for kernevåben. Sangbogen er et stykke historie, illustreret ikke bare med sangene, som de besøgende kan høre fremført af kunstnere som Peggy Seeger; men også med de utallige smukke plakater og fotografier fra perioden. Hjemmesiden rummer i øvrigt mangfoldige bøger, artikler, digte og sangbøger, et fredsleksikon og en tidslinie som viser fredsbevægelsens historie fra middelalderen og til nutiden.

Holger har selv skrevet eller redigeret talrige bøger, og han har oversat Ghandis selvbiografi til dansk. Ghandis eksempel har altid været en inspiration for Holger, og også Holgers liv kan være en inspiration for vores egne anstrengelser, når vi stræber efter freden. Når Holger allerede har kunnet opnå så meget på

trods af sit handicap, må vi andre også være i stand til at udrette noget.

## **United Nations Day Student Peace Prizes**

In collaboration with the Danish National Group of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and with the help of the Hermod Lannung Foundation we offered prizes to students at 10 Danish gymnasiums for projects related to global problems and their solutions and to the United Nations. These projects were essays, dramatic sketches, videos, websites, posters, etc., and they were judged on UN Day, before large audiences of students.

The background for this project is as follows: In 2007, in collaboration with the Danish Pugwash Group several other NGO's, we arranged a visit to Copenhagen by Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, the Mayor of Hiroshima. In connection with his visit, we arranged a Peace Education Conference at the University of Copenhagen.

In connection with Dr. Akiba's visit, we also arranged a day of peace education at Copenhagen's Open Gymnasium. About 15 people from various branches of Denmark's peace movement arrived at the gymnasium at 7.00 a.m., and between 8.00 and 10.00 they talked to 15 groups of about 25-50 students about topics related to peace. At 10.30, all 500 students assembled in a large hall, where Dr. Akiba gave an address on abolition of nuclear weapons. A chorus from the gymnasium sang, and finally there was a panel discussion. The students were extremely enthusiastic about the whole program.

The success of our 2007 effort made us want to do something similar in 2008, and perhaps to broaden the scope. Therefore we wrote to Bertel Haarder, who was then Minister of Education, and proposed that October 24, United Nations Day, should be a theme day in all Danish schools and gymnasiums - a day devoted to the discussion of global problems and their solutions. We received the very kind reply. The Minister said that he thought our idea was a good one, but that he did not have the power to dictate the curricula to schools. We needed to contact the individual schools, gymnasiums and municipalities.

In the autumn of 2008 we arranged a United Nations Day program on October 24 at Sankt Annæ Gymnasium with the cooperation of Nørre Gymnasium. We offered prizes to drama students at the two gymnasiums for the best peace-related dramatic sketch, a condition being that the sketches should be performed and judged before a large audience. Our judges were the actress Mia Luhne, Johan Olsen, the lead singer of Magtens Korridorer and the dramatist Steen Haakon Hansen. The students' sketches and the judges speeches about the meaning of peace were very strong and moving. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the day. The judges have said that they would be willing to work with us again on peace-related cultural events.

Our successes in 2007 and 2008 have made us wish to continue and possibly expand the idea of making United Nations Day a theme day in Danish schools and gymnasiums - a day for discussion of global problems and their solutions, with special emphasis on the role of the United Nations. The Hermod Lannung Foundation supported our project for extending this idea to 10 Danish gymnasiums in both 2010 and 2011.

Gorm Gunnarsen was very helpful in arranging the event at Christianshavns Gymnasium, and Holger Terp arranged for the well-loved Danish folk singer Fin Alfred to take part. Finn Ekman, Bodil Cermak Nielsen and John Avery from the Peace Academy also participated.

#### Gymnasiums participating in 2011

1. Sankt Annæ Gymnasium Contact: Lektor Louise V. Mathasen
2. Niels Stensens Gymnasium Contact: Lektor Anne-Louise Abegg
3. Københavns Åbne Gym. Contact: Rektor Anne-Birgitte Rasmussen
4. Christianshavns Gymnasium Contact: Rektor Troels Vang Andersen
5. Aurehøj Gymnasium Contact: Rektor Marianne Zibrandsen
6. Frederikssund Gymnasium Contact: Lektor Dorte Heister Jønsson
7. Bagsvrd Kostskole og Gymnasium Contact: Lektor Charlotte Moltke
8. Ingrid Jespersens Gymnasium Contact: Lektor Anne Müller
9. Askov Højskole, Contact: Forstander Ole Kobbeltgaard
10. The International People's College. Contact: Principal Søren Launbjerg

The Hermod Lannung Foundation has generously awarded us funds to continue the project in 2012. The Danish United Nations Association worked



Figure 2: *UN Day student peace prize presentations at Christianshavns Gymnasium. Members of one of the competing groups make their presentation.*





Figure 3: *UN Day at Christianshavns Gymnasium. Folksinger Fin Alfred sings during the intermission while the judges confer.*



Figure 4: *UN Day at Sankt Annæ Gymnasium.*



Figure 5: *Pernille Frahm*.

with us on this project in 2011, and we hope that they will help us to expand it in the future, with additional funding from the Ministry of Education.

### **New board members**

We are very happy to have Ida Hillerup Hansen and Pernille Frahm as new board members.

Pernille Frahm has served as a famous and popular member of the Danish Parliament, and she is a close family friend of Ruth Gunnarsen. We are extremely honored by her participation in our work at the Peace Academy.