



„The Story of the Mount of Truth“

“Mount of Truth” (Monte Verità) at Ascona, canton of Ticino, Switzerland “The place where our forehead touches the sky” *)

The Italian speaking canton of Ticino (Republica e Cantone Ticino), the most southern part of Switzerland, is a canton of present Switzerland since 1803.

On its cantonal territory the Gotthard Pass is the most important north/south passage crossing the Central Alps. (As of coming December it will be possible to pass underneath the Gotthard Massif through the longest railway tunnel (57,1 km) in less than 20 minutes.

At the upper end of the Lake Maggiore lies the municipality of Ascona, with its well-known Monte Verità.

In the 19th century the area around Locarno and Ascona was a collection zone of anarchists, freethinkers, poets, painters and other artists. (A listing of all the persons having left their marks cannot be considered within the frame of this essay. As representative only the writer and poet Hermann Hesse (1877 – 1962) is mentioned.) Many people recognize the principles and objectives of the pioneers of Monte Verità as the origin of today's naturism.

HOW EVERYTHING BEGAN

Summer 1899. In the former Austrian City of Veldes (today's name Bled, now part of Slovenia), the Flemish young person Henri Oedenkoven (1875 – 1935) met his soul mate Ida Hofmann (1864 – 1926).

Henri Oedenkoven, born in Antwerp, was the son of a wealthy Belgian industrialist and ship owner. He grew up in the conventional environment of a spoiled and bored society class. Not worrying of anything he enjoyed all the pleasures, the good life without any responsibility and goal. Suddenly he sees through the scam of civilisation. He calls for conversion.

Ida Hofmann, born in Transylvania, taught in Cetinje (today Montenegro) as an educator and piano teacher, the princesses of the aristocracy in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Now she is on vacation. She is depressed. She feels the discrepancy between the society and the laws of nature. Grief and resignation darken her life. She knows no way out.

The two were looking around for other supporters. The Hungarian Lieutenant Karl Gräser enjoyed special sympathy. He, too, had been in Veldes during summer 1899.

Then Lotte Hartmann, a pretty mayor's daughter and Gustav Gräser, the younger brother of Karl, also joined the group.

LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE PLACE

Oedenkoven, who had travelled a lot, suggested a charming spot at the middle of the Lake Como: Lenno. By foot and, for those days, dressed unusually, the group made its way. Especially the women attracted the attention of the people on the way. This, because they dared to renounce a corset and they let their hair hang down, the way God had let them grow. The men had the courage to walk in knee-less pants. It was Gustav Gräser who was dressed particularly noticeable. He was even less embarrassed than the others. With naked legs, he had draped a long hair-made tunic in a picturesque way. A wide leather lace, looking like a diadem, restrained his abundant but straggly hair.

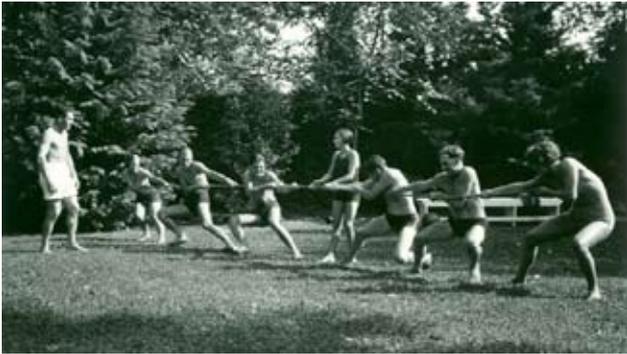
Most of time the group was walking barefoot, rarely they put on their sandals. Once arrived at the planned site, they were not sure whether they should buy the chosen property or not.

Oedenkoven stayed, so to keep the place warm. The others continued so to visit further places in the Italian Lakes area.

BUILDING THE ARTISTS' COLONY

It was during the year 1900 that the Five were able to agree to purchase land in the area of Monte Monescia near Ascona and to put their plans into actions. They changed the name into Monte Verità and founded a so-called “vegetal Cooperative”. A settlement community, first on a vegan, later on a vegetarian base. It was not the claim of the new owners to be in possession of the truth that was hidden behind this name change. The new name rather should express the effort to truly live.

They eagerly built, planted and began to practice agriculture. These activities had been carried out mainly totally naked.



Needless to say, that this had caused quite a stir for the local residents and that the place became a popular destination for excursions. For the financing, later on a sanatorium, a hotel and a restaurant were built.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE FOUNDERS

1920: various disagreements between the former founders and the newly joined supporters caused Henri Oedenkoven to leave Monte Verità. This together with his wife Isabelle. Oedenkoven had met the English lady Isabelle Adderley during the first years of war, and later had married her.

Their first destination was Spain. An already purchased land had to be returned to the government, as a railway was planned to be built there. With the profit out of the sale, Oedenkoven immigrated with his family to Brazil.

As Ida Hofmann was unable to live without her soul-mate, she also joined the group. However, a planned new foundation according to the ideas of Monte Verità (Monte Sol) failed, due to climatic conditions.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Initially, the site was taken over by Robert Landmann, (pseudonym for Werner Ackermann 1892 – 1982). But as he was unable to continue with the previous successes of the former founders, he decided to sell the whole site and to immigrate to South Africa (Swaziland).

In 1926 the Russian painter Marianne von Werefkin called the attention of the German banker Eduard von der Heydt to the former living colony, at which she herself had participated before. Baroness Werefkin eventually managed to convince von der Heydt to buy the legendary mount.

Von der Heydt bought the land still during the same year for the amount of 160.000 francs (today's value about one million euros) and realigned the grounds.

But von der Heydt was not able either to recover the importance of the Monte Verità of its founders. His greatest legacy was only the fact that he

succeeded to set some accents as to architecture and museums. For example the newly built hotel in the Bauhaus style or his collection of objects from Far Eastern Asia.

After his death in 1964 von der Heydt bequeathed the grounds of Monte Verità by testament to the canton of Ticino.

In 1989 the Ticino Parliament transferred the property to a specially established foundation (Fondazione Monte Verità), which provides the facilities to the ETH in Zurich for seminar activities. The existing premises have been completed by a new auditorium, according to plans by the architect from Ticino Livio Vacchini (1933 – 2007).

MONTE VERITÀ TODAY

During Spring 2006 a tea-park has been opened at Monte Verità. The tea plants (*Camellia sinensis*) can also be purchased here. A Zen-garden and a teahouse (in the Loreley building), where tea ceremonies and seminars on Green Tea are held, complete the park.

During 2007/08 the only truly original hotel building from the period of the "New Building" in Switzerland has professionally been restored with the support of international experts. At this occasion all materials, but also the furniture (beds, tables, chairs and lamps) in the guest rooms have been restored and renewed. For this extraordinary performance the hotel received the ICOMOS award as Historic Hotel of the Year in 2013. The firm is member of Swiss Historic Hotels already since 2008.

CONCLUSIONS

At the end the cohabitation failed only because of continuous tensions and conflicts among the people.

As example one may state:

- The lack of Statutes, that means a formal and binding regulation, accepted by all members.
- The lack of the smallest common denominator, the rejection of the bourgeois world proved to be a too frail basis for a sustained prosperity of the colony.
- Objectives and demands set too high. Conflict between idealism and realism/pragmatism.
- The requirement of the vegan persons for a change from leather-made sandals (animal product!) to vegetable-made footwear could not be realized, due to lack of equivalent plant materials.

- Not all colonists were able to comply with the demands by the vegetarians and to feed themselves exclusively as vegetarians.
- Similar wise, not all the colonists were willing to immediately and continuously refrain from luxury items (above all tobacco, alcohol, coffee and tea) (abstinence).

Publisher: Rolf Hostettler, President of the Naturist Association of Liechtenstein (LNV)

*) quotation by Harald Szeemann

Sources::

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- www.monteverita.org/de/29/geschichte.aspx
- Ascona – Monte Verità
Auf der Suche nach dem Paradies
Robert Landmann
(Pseudonym für Werner Ackermann
Huber & Co. AG, Druck und Verlag, CH-8500
Frauenfeld (2000) Reichbebildert mit
Originalfotos aus der Gründerzeit
ISBN 3-7193-1219-4



„Possible revolution in skin cancer research“

Oncologists discovered how the aggressive form of skin cancer infect other organs

Jerusalem/Heidelberg – The statistics are alarming: In average, every 52 minutes a person dies of a melanoma disease. In cooperation with scientists of Heidelberg, Israeli cancer researchers have now discovered how the aggressive form of skin cancer infects other organs. This could revolutionise the treatment of this often life-threatening disease, the Tel Aviv University announced on Tuesday.

The researchers were able to show that malignant melanomas emit tiny bubbles, called vesicles, to prepare other organs to receive metastases. Simultaneously they discovered chemical substances that suppress this progress and “could hereby become promising elements of future medications”, according to statements by the researchers.

HOPE FOR REMEDIES

Recently the Israeli scientists, in collaboration with their colleagues from the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg, published their results in the scientific journal „Nature Cell Biology“. „We hope that our findings will help to

make melanomas easily curable diseases“, explains Carmit Levy, the Head of the Research Team in Tel Aviv. In fact, the life-threatening part of melanomas is not the original tumour that is visible on the skin. „The danger comes from the metastases that the tumour cells send out to settle in vital organs, like the brain, the lungs or the liver“, explains Levy. The recently published study is „an important step on the way to a final cure“. When malignant melanomas are detected early during a preventive medical check-up, the chances for a curative treatment are good. However, when the spread of metastases has already started, the disease is usually fatal.

Worldwide, the number of new cases with malignant melanomas is increasing dramatically. (APA, FP, 24.8.2016)

Original research:

Melanoma miRNA trafficking controls tumour primary niche formation

Source:

derstandard.at/2000043265816/Forscher-sprechen-von-Revolution-in-der-Hautkrebsforschung



„Naked in Denmark“

In Denmark, we have obtained an official endorsement of the right to be naked, not only on beaches but also in state forests.

The good news, which was published in May, is described in this article. Also included two suggestions for pictures of nakedness in Danish nature.

Official endorsement of outdoor naturist activities in the forests and beaches of Denmark

By Thomas Frisendal, Danish Naturists

A posting from The Danish Nature Agency on it's website May 2016 states that it is legal to be naked in the woods and on the beach. The Danish Outdoor Council agrees and encourages naturists to use the opportunity to enjoy nature. See their posting, in Danish, here:

<http://www.friluftsraadet.dk/nyhedsoversigt/2016/maj/noegeniskoven.aspx>

In English:
<http://www.friluftsraadet.dk/indhold/om-friluftsraadet/english.aspx>

This is not a new law, but a clarification of existing rules. It is an important endorsement by a govern-

ment agency as well as by the umbrella organization for outdoor activities in our country.

The Danish Nature Agency (Naturstyrelsen) is an organisation under the Danish Ministry of Environment. The Nature Agency implements the government's policies concerning nature and environment in areas such as clean water, protecting and securing nature, planning for cities and landscape, outdoor activities and information to the public about nature.

The Danish Outdoor Council (Friluftsrådet) is a non-governmental organisation, today with 94 national member organisations, which covers practically all types of outdoor recreational activities as well as nature protection interests.

The Danish Nature Agency puts it this way on its website: „... The forest guests are allowed to be naked, but they must behave decently ... Nudity in nature is never in itself illegal. This was stated by the Ministry of Justice back in 1976. Since then it has been legally established that for example nude



swimming or sunbathing without clothes cannot be considered to be indecent behaviour. As a consequence you will get nothing out of protesting against naturists. And you must not molest or harass naked forest visitors, e.g. by lurking."

With The Nature Agency's announcement, it is now not relevant to obtain a permit or notify the police before being naked e.g. for a hike in state forests. This has been the practice of Danish Naturists, when the organisation in recent years has arranged nude hikes. It makes it much easier for the general forest guests to use the freedom of being naked in nature.

The Danish Outdoor Council agrees with The Nature Agency and publishes the news in their newsletter: "We are pleased that the authorities now clearly state that it is legal to be naked in the woods and on the beach. We have the experiences that there are is room for all outdoor activities and



we also believe that naturists are quite good at taking the necessary account of other beach and forest visitors", says Anker Madsen, chief consultant at the Danish Outdoor Council.

Danish Naturists (DN) is a member of the Danish Outdoor Council and we are extremely excited about The Danish Nature Agency's positive announcement:

"The Nature Agency's approach to naked guests in the woods is good news for the freedom to experience nature nude," says Mette Duekilde, chairman of the Danish Naturists.

"Obviously we welcome that it is now generally acceptable to walk naked in nature, as is the situation on Danish beaches. There's enough space in the forest for all, so we think it is quite natural to use the same practice for the freedom to dress in the forest as on the beach. It is a special experience to feel nature with your whole body, rather than being wrapped up. So I think we have many nature lovers who will take advantage if weather invites to it - if they realize that the possibility exists, that is."

Danish Naturists recommend that INF-FNI federations in other countries engage in working with government and leading non-governmental organisations (such as the Outdoor Council in Denmark) with the purpose of getting endorsement of outdoor naturist activities. Our strategy has been to arrange nude activities, e.g. as part of the official programme of the annual "Day of Nature" to which all outdoor organisations can contribute.

Info Focus December

Deadline to remit articles: 20. November
Release of Focus latest: 05. December

Near the Alps, at 25 km from the center of Turin, 20 minutes from the airport Caselle. Caravans, plots for Recreation Vehicles and tents, completely equipped bungalows, caravans with chalet. Pool, solarium, jacuzzi and sauna. Clubhouse restaurant, petanque, mini-tennis, table tennis, Volleyball. Mountain bike circuits and trails in the Park Mandria

Sights: Venaria Royal Palace and Park, St. Michele Abbey, Rivoli Castle, Mole Antonelliana, Egyptian Museum, Piazza S. Carlo, Basilica of Superga.

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„Austrian naturists declare their solidarity with the “Free the nipple” movement.“

The Austrian Naturist Federation (ÖNV) can presently listen up with an unusual action. Because the Austrian friends of nudity draw attention to the action “Free the nipple”. This action, originating from the USA, fights its own way for gender equality. Women in particular plead for the right to show the nude body.

“The Free the nipple- action has a clear political message”, notes the INF-FNI President Sieglinde Ivo. The issue is that women must be entitled to get the same rights as men. An uncovered breast in public has nothing sexual, but gives the individual an inner freedom.

Men can be in public with nude torso (shirtless) without any problem. But the naked female torso is always connected to something sexual, regrets Ivo.

By a photograph competition Sieglinde Ivo wants to draw attention to the “Free the nipple” movement beyond the national borders of the Austrian naturists. She wants to encourage women and men to photograph their own female or male breast. In order to give it a specific emphasis, she has thought over with colleagues to photograph the naked torsos during sports or in some sports context.

“The purpose is to draw attention to the “Free the nipple” action by positive messages and also to set naturism in a friendly light”, says the ÖNV President Ivo. She rejects any kind of voyeurism. The action like the photograph competition shall motivate people in the present to ponder on gender relations and on their own relationship with the naked torsos.

Already last year the Danish naturists called to be in solidarity with the „Free the nipple” action. They wanted to bring the naked torsos into every day’s life and had found a lot of sympathisers and supporters. „We thought about to combine the naked torsos with the sports, so to give new aesthetics to the whole special action”, said Ivo.

For that reason the curiosity was large at what ideas men and women would come up. Whether the nude torsos would be photographed during sports or be set in scene at a particular sporty ambiance, would remain a moment of creativity.

WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE?

The photograph competition „Free the nipple and sport” will last till 31st October 2016.

FOR THE 1ST AND 2ND PLACE THERE WILL BE A VOUCHER FOR A ONE-WEEK STAY AT THE CAMPING IN THE NATURIST HOLIDAY RESORT RUTAR LIDO IN EBERSDORF IN CARINTHIA

Alternatively, a three-day stay in the hotel at the same naturist village is also possible. www.rutarlido.at.

For the 3rd place the photographer will be rewarded by another naturist surprise. The three winners will also get the honour that the pictures will be used as covers for the magazine “Nahtlos braun” of the ÖNV.

The photographers are invited to send their pictures for the competition to president@inf-fni.org.

This email address is protected against spam bots! To display, JavaScript must be switched on! Simultaneously the declaration of consent to use the photographs in Internet and as duplicates for press must be joined as pdf.

More information to the „free the nipple” movement on the internet:

<http://freethenipple.com>

<http://www.naturister.dk/freethenipple/>

We are looking forward to numerous, creative pictures. Good luck :)

Events October

21.10. - 23.10.: EUNAT Swimming Gala 2016

Events November

06.11. - 06.11.: FBN-Bowling

16.11. - 20.11.: INF-FNI World Congress 2016