

Austrian Peace Society - Bertha von Suttner

People basically want to live peacefully with each other, even if disputes can occur again and again in interpersonal relationships, for example in marriages or families. Quarrels are not war, even if the term "war of the roses" suggests it. War usually ends with the death of the opponent, unless peace agreements are reached first. It would make sense that there would be no wars and that one would negotiate before a possible outbreak until the disputes are settled.



Postal stationery from Vienna 1905 with advertisement for the Austrian Peace Society to Prof. Dr. Vinzenz Brehm (1879-1971), specialist for plankton crabs, taught as high school teacher in Pettau, Elbogen and Eger. Postage due 3 Heller for domestic printing matter. I could not find out the meaning of the number on the lower left.

Bertha von Suttner (1843-1914) was an Austrian writer who made a name for herself especially with her novel "Die Waffen nieder" (= weapons down) in 1889. In a report in the Neue Presse, Vienna, in September 1891, when she writes the article "The next peace congress in Rome" she calls for the founding of a Society of Friends of Peace [ÖFG]; the call is successful - the initiator becomes president and remains so until her death in 1914. But it is a flash in the pan without embers. 2,000 members, many friends of the president, journalists, scientists and writers are a modest beginning; workers'





and women's movements develop a momentum of their own that is absent from the peace movement. Despite being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1906), Bertha von Suttner thinks of resigning in 1913. In her speech to the Nobel Prize Committee, she formulated her demands to the community of states: arbitration treaties between states, a peace union of all states, an international institution that would represent the law of nations as a court of justice.

In 1911, when the first bombs are dropped from an airplane on people in the oasis of Ailsara during the Italian-Turkish war, the Italian newspapers exult in "torpedine del cielo," while Bertha von Suttner warns of future criminal wars of extermination. 1914 - months before the start of the war in Europe, Bertha von Suttner dies in Vienna - her nightmares come true...

Literature:

<https://ww1.habsburger.net/de/kapitel/die-osterreichische-gesellschaft-der-friedensfreunde-eine-nur-kurze-geschichte>