

**ERSTES ÖSTERREICHISCHES FRIEDENSMUSEUM  
FIRST AUSTRIAN PEACE MUSEUM**



FIRST CIRCULAR LETTER

*"If all lovers of peace join the 'friends of peace club,' we shall be the biggest club in the world."*

*Peter Rosegger, 1892*



Dear Friends of Peace in all corners of the world,

The First Austrian Peace Museum, lacking a specific vehicle for communication, has created a new tradition—that of circulating “peace leaflets.” These leaflets have been conceived in order to provide topics for discussion and circulation among peace activists, editors and publishers.

In disseminating our writings, we hope to communicate our thoughts on all peace-related matters here at the First Austrian Peace Museum. We also hope to strengthen the conviction that efforts for peace are necessary in small and big communities, so that we may steer our wonderful but threatened world through the new millennium. Beyond that, they should also reinforce the idea that a large community of peace lovers can influence the mighty. After all, the mighty in this world depend on voters.

One of the main reasons we have felt compelled to send out our peace pamphlets is the current precarious state of world politics. As we all know, wars do not start on battlefields but in the heads of fanatics. By that same token, peace too, must begin in the minds of individual persons. This idea is illustrated quite clearly by the First Austrian Peace Museum's logo. It is also demonstrated in the UNESCO preamble: "Just as wars begin in the minds of people, so too the efforts for the defense of peace must also occur in the spirit of man."

To try to fight terrorism with wars is counterproductive. Doing so fosters hatred while ignoring the true causes of conflict. It further enhances the ominous partition of the world into good and evil, faithful and infidel.

Marktgemeinde Wolfsegg, A-4902 Wolfsegg, OÖ, Telefon: ++43/(0)7676 / 7355-0 oder:  
Konsulent Franz Deutsch, Initiator des Friedensmuseums, Graben 20, A-4902 Wolfsegg, Tel.: ++43/(0)7676 / 7271  
Internet: [www.friedensmuseum.at.tf](http://www.friedensmuseum.at.tf) - mail: [gemeinde@wolfsegg.ooe.gv.at](mailto:gemeinde@wolfsegg.ooe.gv.at)

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There is no just war! There is also no "casus belli" as long as we set our trust in the power of dialogue.

With kind regards,

Franz Deutsch  
Director  
First Austrian Peace Museum  
Wolfsegg, Austria