

**NYANAPONIKA MAHATHERO
KALYANAMITTA**



Ven. Ayya M. Vimala Königsberg

Königsberg University

NYANAPONIKA MAHATHERO

KALYĀṆAMITTA

© AUTHOR

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The Hermitage

A HOMAGE TO

VEN.NYANAPONIKA MAHATHERO

July 21st 1901 - 19th October 1994

On the 25th DEATH ANNIVERSARY it is my heartfelt wish to express my deep gratitude and boundless affection I had for my Venerable Teacher.

As his disciple I felt it is my obligation and my privilege to offer this book in his memory.



As gods their homage pay to
Indra,
So should one give
Reference to him
From whom one learned
The Dhamma

Sutta Nipata
Vers 316



A typical city scene of Hanau/ Hessen

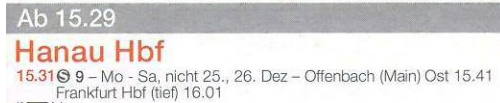
Birthplace of the **GRIMM** Brothers famous for
their well - loved fairy tales

PROLOGUE

There are outstanding eminent German Scholars like Oldenberg, Geiger, Bechert and many more:

But here I am particularly concerned about my Master

Venerable Nyanaponika Mahathero
born July 21st in Hanau,



and passed away on October 19th 1994 in Kandy.

Since his ordination in 1937 until his passing, the
Venerable Mahathero completed 57th Rains Retreat.

Venerable Nyanaponika's 93rd Birthday has been celebrated with the Buddhist Publication Society staff and friends, with his health in remarkable good condition: unfortunately it would become his last birthday.

On October 23rd 1994 the Cremation has been performed attended by religious and lay dignitaries. His ashes have been layed to rest on January 29th, 1995 at the Island Hermitage in Dodanduwa.

May the Venerables' outstanding contribution of the Dhamma
inspire future generations.

The German-reading followers as well as the English reader should be forever grateful to Ven.Nyanaponika Mahathero for transmitting the
WISDOM of the **DHAMMA**.



IT ALL BEGAN IN KÖNIGSBERG



BUDDHISTISCHE BÜCHEREI

KÖNIGSBERG I. PR.

Kopffurmsstr. 12/I
Leihstelle: Siegmund Feniger, ~~Vorstädt. Langgasse 61 (Laden)~~

Leihstunden: ~~Montag und~~ Donnerstag ~~13-19 Uhr.~~ *19 1/2 - 21 Uhr.*

Die Benutzung ist unentgeltlich.

Wem aber die Bekanntschaft mit dem Buddha-Wort zum geistigen Gewinn wurde, möge der Bücherei helfen, die Lehre auch anderen zu vermitteln.

The Lending is free:

But to whom the acquaintance of the Buddha Word turns out of mental/intellectual benefit, may help the library to pass on the Dhamma.

Königsberger Allgem. Ztg.

Buddhistische Bücherei
Königsberg.
Unentgeltlicher Verleih jeden Montag 13-19
Uhr, Freitag 8-11 Uhr durch Siegm. Feiniger,
Vorstadt, Langgasse 61 (Laden).

9. XII. 1931

Buddhistische Bücherei
Königsberg
Unentgeltlicher Verleih jeden Montag
und Donnerstag 13-19 Uhr durch
Siegm. Feiniger,
Vorstädtische Langgasse 61 (Laden).

22. XII. 1931

Buddhistische Bücherei
Königsberg
Unentgeltlicher Verleih jeden
Montag und Donnerstag 13 bis
19 Uhr durch Siegm. Feiniger,
Vorstadt, Langgasse 61 (Laden).

Volkzeitung 23. I. 32.

**Buddhistische
Bücherei**
Königsberg.
Unentgeltl. Verleih
jed. Montag 13 bis
19 Uhr, Freitag 8
bis 10 Uhr durch
Siegm. Feiniger,
Vorst. Langgasse 61
(Laden).

Köber. Tageblatt Jan. 1932

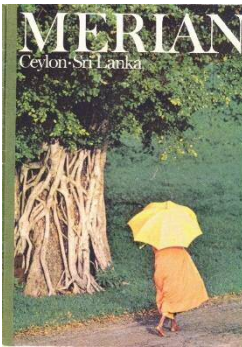
MY PERSONAL REMINISCENCE

If it were not to have taken a vacation to Ceylon in December 1983/84 instead to India, to which I felt a great affinity, being an admirer of Tagore and Yogis, practicing myself Yoga, I would not have met by chance Venerable Nyanaponika Mahathero.

Actually not by chance, rather of karmic bond with a premonition in the guise of three-time same dream.

To prepare my vacation trip ahead for the winter-season, I had bought the famous Magazine MERIAN among many others available, but the cover seemed to be more attractive. Taking time in the evening to have a first glance, an unbelievable surprise lay ahead: in the middle two pages impinging my eyes " Deutscher Buddhistischer Mönch "

Nyanaponika auf Ceylon!



After the first week Island Round-trip, we spent three days in Kandy. I found my way to the Buddhist Publication Society (BPS), in anticipation to see the Venerable Mahathero. But I was told that I would need to take a ride to the Forest Reserve Udawattakele up to the Hermitage.



The next day the Queens Hotel Travel Counter had arranged a Taxi to the Hermitage, luckily the driver knew the place.

And there I was, so very excited. But the warm welcome greeting made me feel at ease. With a book as a gift, the German issue '*Geistestraining durch Achtsamkeit* ', reluctantly I left the Venerable and the peaceful Forest.

The next day we had a long bus ride to the very south for a one-week Beach Resort. Beside enjoying beach and sun, with curiosity I began reading the book. Because of my ZEN practice I had been familiar with 'Mindfulness ', but here the presentation was in such an elaborated detail, unbelievable interesting, just couldn't stop reading. So by the time two days before the return flight, I had the strong wish and desire to see one more time and visit the Venerable Mahathero.

So one night, in the still dark time at 3a.m., I walked from the Hotel to the main road to catch the Bus to Colombo. At the Terminal I found the Kandy Bus and arrived at 12o'clock. As I knew the Queens Hotel, I could refresh myself and enjoyed a tea with a sandwich. The Travel Desk arranged for a Taxi and we arrived at the Hermitage ca. 1:40. p.m. Although the Resting Time is till 2p.m., hearing a car, the Venerable Mahathero opened the door and was surprised to see me back so soon.

While enjoying the offered cup of tea, reporting that with great interest I had read the book, I had also to mention, that I could stay only about an hour as I had to go back all the way. The hour passed too fast and with another book gift, I had to say farewell and goodbye.

Not too long I received a letter from the Venerable Mahathero writing in his own words: "*I have been deeply moved that you had undertaken such a long journey for such a short visit*". Subsequently there has been no other way to come back again and again.

Thus I found my Teacher and became his disciple. My life had taken a quite different turn as I followed in his footstep.

Ven.Bhante was very pleased how earnestly I engrossed myself into the Dhamma study. In between the many happy and blessed times spending at the Hermitage with my venerated Mentor, 'thousand questions of many topics left open' and found their ways as letters to the Hermitage. And 'thousand questions' in reply found their ways to Germany, precisely said over 50 in course of time.

Some signed with

"in cordial Dhamma friendship, yours"



Not a day is passing that I don't remember how blessed and happy I was of the time I was able to spend with my venerated teacher and receiving study instructions, sometimes in the old traditional way.

One amazing coincident is, that he has been living in Königsberg although twenty years earlier before I was born in Königsberg: what a surprise this was for us.

Being the last German link, I will dedicate my effort to provide a sustainable connection with one of the most famous University in Berlin for mutual benefit and a successful relationship.

Now I would like to offer some of Bhante's life events:

THE JOURNEY UNFOLDS

IT ALL BEGAN IN KÖNIGSBERG, inspired through the acquaintance with the famous scholar Indologist Helmuth von Glasenapp (1891-1963) Professor at the University of Königsberg, East Prussia, which must have made great impression on him.

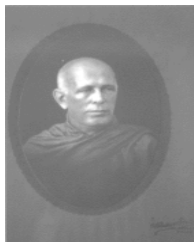
As I mentioned elsewhere, Königsberg was not only famous at that time because of the University, but because of the great famous philosopher Immanuel KANT (22.04.1724 - 21.12.1804).

While writing on my book about German Buddhist Scholars, I discovered that not less than five scholars were from East Prussia like: Liebenenthal, Franke, Dahlke, Glasenapp & Krauskopf, (see " Visit to Burma.")

But actually, a first glimpse took place in 1916 when Siegmund began an apprenticeship at a book store, where he discovered the "Wisdom of Asia." When in 1920 his parents moved to Berlin, Siegmund followed them. Here, in Berlin, he met Buddhists, like Martin Steinke and Dr. Paul Dahlke, the founder of the "*Das Buddhistische Haus*" in Berlin - Fronau. And here, most important, he discovered the name *Nyanatiloka*, his writings and translations from the Pali, which had already been published in German Language.

The late Ven. Nyanatiloka was born in 19th February 1878 in Wiesbaden Germany. In his early years, first by private tuition, he continued his study at the Conservatory (Music Highschool) playing Violin and Piano. He also developed a great love for philosophy.

The book "Buddhist Catechism" which he received from his Violin Teacher inspired him to become himself a monk. Thus in 1903 he arrived in Ceylon. About his life in detail please see "The Life of Nyanatiloka Thera" The Biography of a Western Buddhist Pioneer. (BPS)



1878-1957

Ven. Nyanatiloka Mahathero at the Forest Hermitage Kandy.

NOW WE ARE BACK TO KÖNIGSBERG

His parents made another move from Berlin to Königsberg in 1924 and again he followed his parents. Beside of Professor von Glasenapp, he also made the acquaintance of Georg Krauskopf, as well as originally from East Prussia.

Krauskopf had established a 'Buddhist Circle' with several members participating. They conducted regularly meetings, discussing and reading on discourses. Thus he wrote his first article on Majjhima Nikaya I 74.

One member of the group, Julius Lenga (1890-1965) has been a monk before the WW I under Ven. Nyanatiloka. And it was from him, that Siegmund became to know about the Island Hermitage in Polgasduwa. This was a monastery for western monks established by Nyanatiloka. With the news, that Nyanatiloka returned from Japan in 1926 back to Polgasduwa, the idea to become a monk gradually took shape. It was in 1931 that his father died after long illness. Now, not to leave his mother alone, he postponed his plan. A year later they moved back to Berlin. There he came in contact with a small group called "Buddhist Brotherhood".

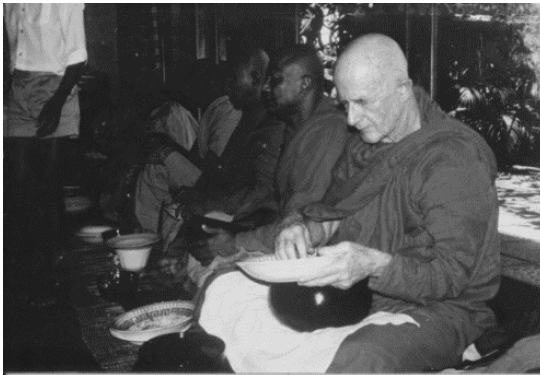
Well, around 1930 life in Europe took a dramatic turn, Antisemitism increased to a level that they left Germany in 1935 and moved to relatives in Vienna.

Believing that his mother is safe, he revealed to her about his wish to become a monk in Ceylon. Seeing that it is his heartwish, she gave her consent.

After Siegmund had received from Nyanatiloka Mahathero his consent, he left from Vienna to Marseille, and from there together with Peter Schoenfeldt, embarked on January 16 , 1936. On February 4th 1936 they arrived in Colombo, where Nyanatiloka personally came to welcome them. Thus on the full moon day of June, Siegmund received the novice ordination with the name Nyanaponika. One year later in 1937 he received the ordination as a Bhikkhu. \

The instruction on Pali study began promptly. Soon he learned also English. During his early schoolings, classes included Greek, Latin and French.

At Polgasduwa, which is in the south, hot and humid weather is in the norm and can be healthwise difficult. Thus Nyanaponika moved to a more healthy climate to the upper highland. There, in Gampola, he lived alone at a deserted bricks factory within a rice field. In the mornings he would go on pindapatha for his food. He considered those six months as the most happiest time in his life. Beside the meditation, he continued his studies on the sutras. Here he began writing his first book, the translation of the Samyutta Nikaya, which Wilhelm Geiger left unfinished.



Ven. Nyanaponika partaking Dana at Gampola

During the summer 1939 he moved with two Sinhalese monks, Soma and Keminda to the new constructed huts near Gampola, which they named Mahanadi Ashram. For this occasion he had invited his mother to come to Ceylon. As her life was also not anymore safe in Austria, he was able to arrange her immigration to Ceylon, staying with friends in Colombo.

Due to a Malaria outbreak they moved further to Bandarawela and settled in an abandoned tea factory. There Nyanaponika began his German translation of the Satipatthana Sutta (M.10) and commentary, while Bhikkhu Soma translated the text into English. It was also at this time, that Ven. Soma introduced Nyanaponika to the meditation practice he had learned while living in Burma in 1936.

Another outbreak of war, the II WW 1939, did bring again considerable changes. All German citizen had been consigned to internment by the British, first in Colombo and then in Diyathalawa. After Japan captured in February 15, 1942 Singapore and advanced to Burma, Ceylon was considered as war zone and experienced also airstrikes. Thus 44 interned German have been transferred to India. There the British had setup an "Civil Internment Camp" in October 1941 north of Delhi, a few kilometers outside of the great city Dehra Dun. The camp was surrounded by tea plantions with a mild climate.

The hutted camp was surrounded with double barbed wire, which within consisted of "8 wings" each as well with barbed wire, four of them intended for the Germans. Nyanatiloka with his eldest student Vappo remained in the Indian-German wing, whereas Nyanaponika choose the Antifashist wing. There he met (the today famous Ven. Lama Govinda (1898-1985), a former student of Nyanatiloka, and shared with him for about three years the shack.



Ven. Nyanaponika and Ven. Lama Govinda, probably at camp in India

From Govinda he learned Sanskrit and translated with him part of Ariyadevas Catusataka into German. Both celebrated the full moon day in front of Govindas little Tibetan Altar.

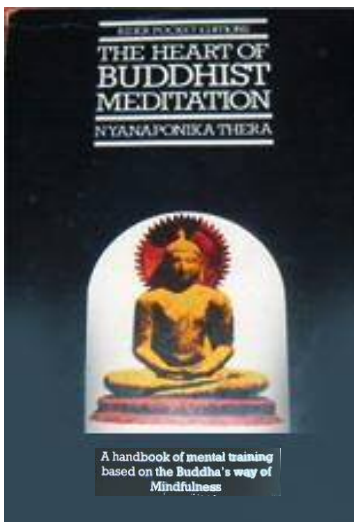
Ven. Nyanaponika used the time for literary work by translating the difficult 1149 verses of the Sutta Nipata new into German, to be more precise, word-for-word than K.E. Neumann (1865-1915 Vienna), who's translations are more poetic.

Another translation has been the Satipatthana Anthology which later became his well-known book *"Der Einzige Weg"* (The Only Path).

When Germany on May 8th 1945 capitulated and Japan on August 15th 1945, everyone hoped for the German to be able to repatriate.

Eventually Lama Govinda, as a British citizen, has been released in July 1945 due to illness. If Nyanatiloka and his students have been spared from deportation to Germany, they owe this entirely to the Buddhist solidarity of the Young Men Buddhist Association in Colombo. Thus after eight years they have been able to return.

In 1949 Ven. Nyanaponika wrote his book about Satipatthana in German language which was completed in 1950. The English translation *'The Heart of Buddhist Meditation'* appeared in 1953, from which the German edition *'Geistestraining durch Achtsamkeit'* became another of his well-known books.



Published 1962 Rider & Co. London

Again as earlier, now in advanced age, the costal heat became a burden. To find a more suitable residence, his searching led him to Kandy. Here he met an elderly American, Dhammadinna (1881-1967), who was ordained in China as a Buddhist Nun. She was living, which was then the Kings Park Udawattakele, now a Nature Reserve, in a house called Forest Hermitage. As it was her intention to immigrate to Australia, she offered him the house, if the owner agrees. Well, the owner was that kind to offer the house to the Sangha. Thus, Ven. Nyanatiloka and Ven. Nyanaponika had been able to find a more comfortable residence. It became the Venerable's last residence for over 40 years, till his passing.



A rare photo of Ven. Nyanatiloka and Ven. Nyanaponika together at the Hermitage.

VISITS TO BURMA - MYANMAR

In November 1951 Ven. Nyanatiloka and Ven. Nyanaponika received an invitation to join the preparation committee for the 6th Buddhist Council at Rangoon. The aim was to prepare a unified English translation of the entire Pali Canon. While Venerable Nyanatiloka returned to Ceylon in February 1952 and since then lived at the Forest Hermitage, Venerable Nyanaponika remained visiting Mandalay and Moulmein. In addition he attended a one week Satipatthana course by Mahasi Sayadaw (1904-1982) one of the well-known meditation teacher of Burma. The experience had left a deep impression on him.

At the opening of the Council in 1954 in Yegu - Rangoon, both left again to Burma, but this time, for the first time by airplane. They have been the only Western Thero's, who have been present as members of the Council. Because of Ven. Nyanatiloka's indisposition, Ven. Nyanaponika read his English speech of welcome. He had also, by surprise, the pleasure to meet again Georg Krauskopf, whom he saw last time in Königsberg in 1932 !! The next trip to Burma was to participate at the 3rd World Fellowship of Buddhism in December 1954. His last visit has been in 1956 to participate at the concluding Ceremony of the Council at Vesak.

BUDDHIST MISSION TO GERMANY

In September 1952, Ashoka Weeraratne founded the Lanka Dhammaduta Society in Colombo and the first Three Thero's were selected for the Mission.

On August 7th 1956 Ven.Nyanaponika delivered the opening speech on the occasion of the official opening of the House in Colombo.



Ven. Nyanaponika receiving gift form Mr. Weeraratne

It was in 1957 that Mr.Weeraratne heard about an magnificent estate with an impressive Villa in Berlin, which belonged to Dr.Paul Dahlke. After his death in 1928, Mr. Weeraratne took care of the renovation in 1957 and acquired the property on behalf of the Lanka Dhammaduta Society, which was later renamed German Dhammaduta Society. The Temple came to be known as the

Berlin Buddhist Vihara



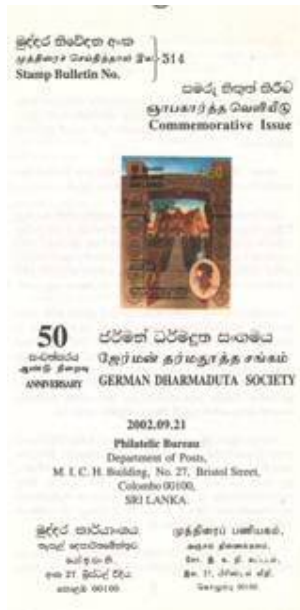
The Entrence of Buddhist Vihara Berlin

Later a beautiful Meditation Hall in Japanese style have been added. The Vihara also offers an extensive Library with a beautiful Buddha Statue. The Temple is open to the public.

As I have spent myself a considerable time at the BBV, I can only say :
 'beautiful, inviting, peaceful !



The Beautiful Large Garden of the BBV,



THE BUDDHIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

IN THE BEGINNING:

On January 1958, two Sinhalese laymen, Mr.Karunarathne and Mr.Abeyssekera pondered with Ven.Nyanaponika, seeking him to be the spiritual director and editor, how about to start a Society for publishing Buddhist Literature in English language. As the respond was beyond their expectations, they continued with a small size 'Bodhi Leaves' and the little larger 'The Wheel'.



As the president and editor, Ven.Nyanaponika applied himself with great enthusiasm of translations and own writings.

The bare electricity in the forest and writing by Kerosene lamp would gradually lead to blindness in his later years.

In 1984 he retired as editor and 1988 as president.



A NEW HOME for the BPS: As the work continued to expand, it became apparent that a larger quarter was needed. Thus in 1981 the new headquarter was completed with a ceremony on April 26th. The ceremony began with the arrival of the President Jayawardena.

Ven.Nyanaponika then presented the President Jayawardena with the first copy of the Society's Anniversary Volume

'The Road To Inner Freedom'

At present the BPS has more than 200 foreign members as far as Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Japan.

THEN



AND NOW



A GERMAN BUDDHIST PUBLISHER

VERLAG BEYERLEIN & STEINSCHULTE

Not only in Germany, but also in Switzerland, Buddhism took roots as early in 1942 by Max Ladner. He founded a Buddhist Group in Zuerich in 1942. From 1948 till 1961 he published the Buddhist Journal "Die Einsicht". In 1978 the Swiss Buddhist Union was founded by the Czech Buddhist Mirko Fryba, ordained as Bhikkhu Kusalananda.

Here we meet Kurt Onken, born 1914, the son of engineer Franz Onken, who moved with his family from Germany to Basel, Switzerland in 1990. His friends called him affectionately Kuno. He was to become a good friend and supporter of Ven. Nyanaponika Mahathero.

Kuno's father was not only a freedom-loving man, but also had played an important role for his interest in Buddhism. His sister Erna, called Ay, was married to Dr. Ing Paul Christiani.

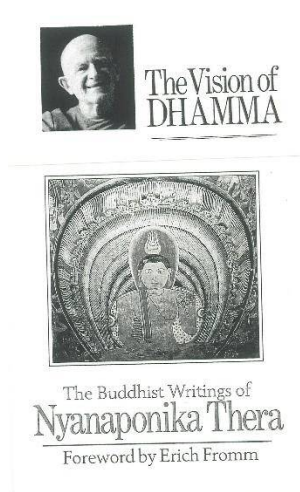
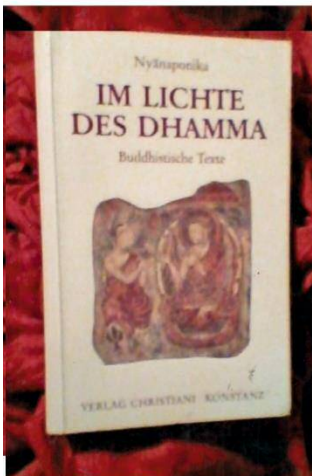
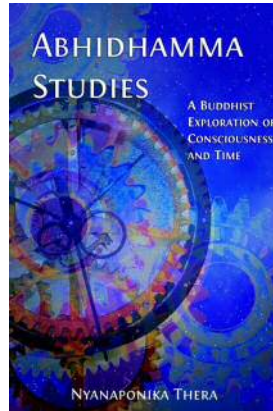
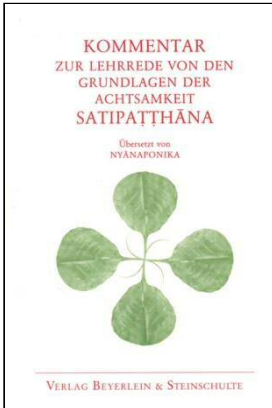
At the request of Ay, Paul Christiani, who had also dealt intensively with Buddhism, extended his Publishing House to include a small Buddhist department. From 1953 to 1984 the Christiani-Verlag included the book series "Buddhist Handbibliothek" with eleven valuable Theravada Buddhist publications.

Another Publishing House "The Conrad", took over the Christiani Publishing House 1994 and wanted at first to hire the less lucrative Buddhist department. A member of the Conrad family did not want to take over the Buddhist department and asked Kuno, if he wanted to continue to serve them, which Kuno refused. But through his mediations, the Conrad Publishing House handed over to Mr. Raimund Beyerlein the printing rights of the Buddhist department in 1994 for the symbolic price of " a *Deutschmark* "

This is how the " Beyerlein & Steinschulte-Verlag" was born. The German translations of the Pali Canon have now been reissued and completed by

Beyerlein & Steinschulte-Verlag. Today, almost the entire Pali Canon is translated into the German language and is available at the BSV.

The friend of Remo Beyerlein, Mr. Fritz Steinschulte is the owner of a beautiful bookstore in Berlin, who distributes all books on Theravada Buddhism including all sorts of gift items.



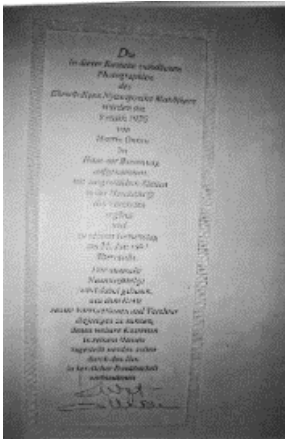
FIRST TRIP TO EUROPE

Venerable Nyanaponika's first visit to Germany was in 1970 followed by 1971 and 1973.

He also had a chance to visit the Buddhistische Gesellschaft in Hamburg, founded in 1954. From 1968 each year, the Venerable made a trip to Switzerland, supported by his friend Kurt Onken.

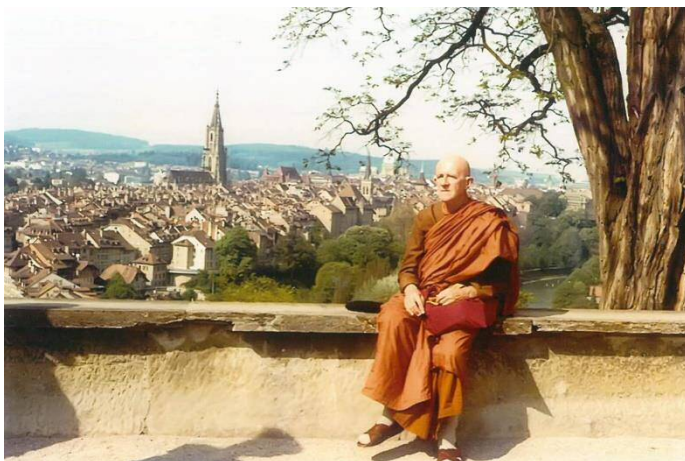
In the following years till 1981, invited by his friend Dr.Kreutzberger, he visited Locarno as well as the Haus der Besinnung in Dicken, both in Switzerland.

On the occasion of Venerable Nyanaponika's 90th birthday, Kurt Onken presented the Venerable with a beautiful Cassette of several photos taken in 1976 at the 'Haus der Besinnung '.

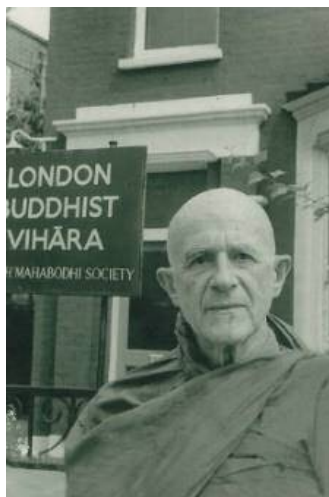
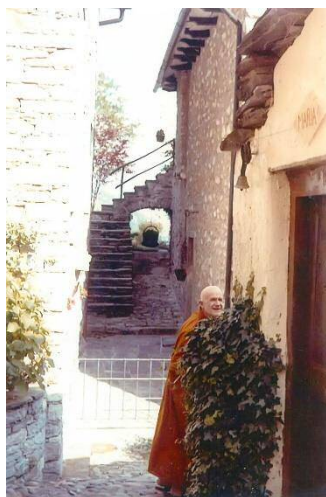


Mr. Onken requested the Venerable to name those admirers to whom he would like a cassette be given in his name.

I was very happy that this cassette became one of my precious belongings!



May be either Locarno or Dicken Switzerland.



THE ONE AND ONLY INTERVIEW

WHAT was the reason Ven.Nyanaponika granted an interview?

In those earlier days, sometimes I would buy a Travel Journal, if it is about a country I've not been. This time it was about ASCONA, Switzerland. Well, it's nothing new or surprising, that there might be something related to my interests. And there was the head-line :

CASA ANATTA - MONTE VERITA!

How strange to see a PALI term! I contacted the Museums Guide, which would be Mrs.Hetty Rogantini, who in response provided me with lots of material, one with a complete wrong translation /interpretation of anatta. Which in respond I had sent some articles and explanations.

Another time it was a Magazine including a TV program. Well, as I said before, what impinges my eyes: 'World Religion' BUDDHISM!
Reading the summery, seeing one name made me almost faint: **NYANAPONIKA!** I had just returned several months ago from my first vacation trip to Ceylon in December 1983/84. How exciting, what happiness, having been myself also at the Venerable's Hermitage. Immediately I wrote a letter to the TV Station to inquire how and where I would be able to obtain a copy of the recording. Not too long I received a reply whom to contact in Vienna (Austria). Only a week later the copy was in my hands, by order of Dr.Holl personally.

Later I donated the Video to the Buddhistische Gesellschaft, Hamburg, Germany.

The reason of granting the interview with Dr.Holl, who himself filmed the documentary, was, that Dr.Holl has been a Catholic Priest,

Dr. of Theology and Philosophy as well as Chaplain of the University of Vienna.

Because of conflicts with the Church authorities in regard to deviational doctrine opinions, he was suspended from his teaching and priestly duties.

He began a successful career as an Theologian Writer.

16.04 Religionen

Fünfteilige Reihe

4. Teil: Buddhisten

Film von Adolf Holl (Wh. von 1982)

Anschl. **heute-Schlagzeilen**

1. März tagsüber **DO**



Religionen 4. Teil: Buddhisten

16.04

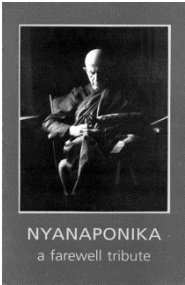
Rund dreihundert Millionen Buddhisten gibt es zur Zeit auf der Welt. An zwei Beispielen zeigt Autor Adolf Holl ihr Leben, ihre Denkweise: In einer kleinen Waldeinsiedelei auf Sri Lanka (Ceylon) filmte er eine Mönchsgemeinschaft. Auch ein Deutscher kommt dabei zu Wort: Priester **Nyanaponika**, der als einer der bedeutendsten buddhistischen Gelehrten gilt. Die zweite Hälfte des Films dokumentiert das wachsende Interesse der Europäer am Religionsstifter Buddha (ca. 500 v. Chr.). Gedreht wurde im österreichischen Scheibbs. Hier existiert schon seit fünf Jahren ein buddhistisches Zentrum



Prof. Dr. Adolf Holl - Vienna

13.5.1930-23.1.2020

A Farewell Note by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi Reflecting Six Years of Passing



As I write (April 2001), it is almost exactly six and a half years since Ven. Nyanaponika left his mortal body, and only three months short of his hundredth birth anniversary. I sit in the very seat at the Forest Hermitage where he himself had sat almost every day for close to forty years. Though I am using a new chair, I write in the same spot, leaning over the same desk, in a room that has changed very little since his passing.

Having lived here from 1952 until his death, Ven. Nyanaponika established an indissoluble bond between himself and the Forest Hermitage, between himself and the Udawattakele forest. He was utterly determined that, in case he fell seriously ill, he should remain at Forest Hermitage and should not be brought to a hospital for longer than emergency treatment. Fortunately, we were able to help him realize his wish, and it was in the same room that he lived and slept that he breathed his last. Following his death, his form became one with the forest. While most of his bodily remains were brought to Island Hermitage for interment, the bone matter he left exceeded the capacity of the casket purchased for that purpose. We therefore pulverized the remaining bone matter and scattered the powder over the hills of Udawattakele. Thus the substance of his own body, his residue of bones, lost its identity as bone matter, its identity as Nyanaponika. Inundated by rain, baked in the hot sun, shrouded in mist, strewn about by the winds, it became soil, became earth, became forest. Nyanaponika disappeared, but at the same time he persisted, his absence transformed into the presence of the great silent hills at the heart of this beautiful forest.

Since his demise, other writings of Ven. Nyanaponika that had previously reached only a limited readership are now receiving the wider distribution they deserve. The collection of his essays from the BPS Wheel and Bodhi Leaves series, *The Vision of Dhamma*, was issued in an enlarged second edition by the Buddhist Publication Society (BPS) at the Venerable's 93rd birthday celebration in 1994, just three months before his death. Late last year this work appeared in a parallel American edition by BPS's U.S. offshoot, BPS Pariyatti Editions, which should help to make his thought better known in the Americas. In 1996, I collected into a single volume all the Wheel booklets on the lives of the Buddha's great disciples, which included Ven. Nyanaponika's moving study of Sariputta Thera and his substantial contributions to the other life studies authored by Hellmuth Hecker. This book, *Great Disciples of the Buddha*, is published jointly by Wisdom Publications and the BPS. It is also available in German and French translations.

The following year there appeared a new edition of Ven. Nyanaponika's wonderful *Abhidhamma Studies*, which first came out in 1949 and was reissued in an enlarged, polished edition by BPS in 1965. The new edition is again published jointly by Wisdom Publications and BPS. Through this book, the Venerable's profound insights into the great philosophical enterprise called Abhidhamma have become better known in the West and are helping to stimulate a keener interest in this ancient system of philosophical psychology. The Venerable's three Wheel booklets, *An Anguttara Nikaya Anthology*, are now issued in a single handsome volume, published under the auspices of the International Sacred Literature Trust under the title *Numerical Discourses of the Buddha*.

In the German-speaking world, the works of Ven. Nyanaponika still continue to be influential. They are maintained in print largely due to the enthusiastic dedication of Beyerlein-Steinschulte Verlag, which has inherited the old Verlag Christiani line of Buddhist books. It is heartening, too, to know that Ven. Nyanaponika's German translations of the *Atthasalini* and the *Dhammasangani*, for too long almost unavailable, are soon to see the light of day. All that is needed now to complete this circle is a German translation of *Abhidhamma Studies*.

Through his books, the great Mahathera has not been consigned by death to silence, but even beyond death continues to teach the Dhamma he loved so much and understood so deeply. While his physical form is no longer in our midst, his erudition and insights, his benevolent counsel and compassionate concern, spread out in widening circles, establishing more firmly his stature as one of the foremost Buddhist thinkers of our age. Erich Fromm described his writings as "a Guide for the Perplexed" in the last quarter of the twentieth century. No doubt they will still fulfil this function at the beginning of the twenty-first century, too.

SPECIAL HONORARY

On the occasion of being appointed as a Honorary Member on April 30, 1978 by the German Oriental Society, the Laudatio in recognition of the Venerable's outstanding scholarship has been presented.

The Distinguished and Outstanding
Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft
German Oriental Society

was founded in October 1845 in Leipzig as a scholarly organization, dedicated to oriental studies. Beginning in 1921 every two or five years, the DMG has organized a Congress, also open to foreign specialists in this field.

The Venerable Mahathero has also been honored in 1987 from the Pali University of Sri Lanka with the Honorary doctorate Dr.lit.h.c.', as well as in 1990 from the University of Peradeniya.

In 1993 the Amarapura Nikaya conferred on him the honorary title of 'Amarapura Maha Mahopadhaya Sasana Sobhana ', the Ordens fraction of the Amarapura Nikaya.

SPECIAL NOTE

A Homage :

This photo has been taken by myself immediately after presenting as a gift this more stable chair with cushion and clothcover.

Later visitors had taken similar photos

Front Cover Photos :

Showing from the entrance of the Reserve several spots of the path driving up to the Hermitage.

Backside photo shows the small garden in front of the Hermitage.

Because of the COVID outbreak the publication is delayed for more than two years, unfortunately!

Acknowledgement

A special appreciation goes to Kaveen for scanning photos, corrections, layout and final formatting

DHARMA HERITAGE

The Heart of Buddhist Meditation

Geiststraining durch Achtsamkeit
Kommentar zu Satipatthana

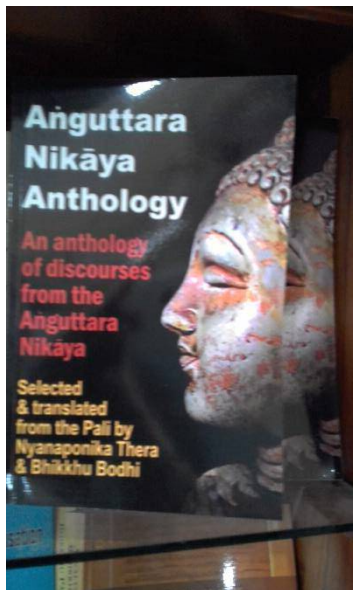
The Vision of Dhamma (Im Lichte des Dhamma)

The Road to Inner Freedom

Abhidhamma Studies

Sutta Nipata (translated into German language)

And much more



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ayya Mié Vimalā (Yogini, Mystosoph and Poet) was born in 1943 in Königsberg, East-Prussia (the city of the German philosopher E.Kant). The first time she did hear the word 'Buddha' was when she was only nineteen. Then in course of time her first direct connection and practice has been with the Japanese Soto-Zen school in 1968. From the mid 70th she began intensive with her Yoga practice.

But in December 1983, on a visit to Sri Lanka, she became a follower of Theravada Buddhism under the late German Scholar-monk, Ven.Nyanaponika Mahathero and became his disciple, continuously visiting him at his Hermitage in Kandy, to deepen her Dhamma studies. She received the Anagarika precepts and in 1992 Samaneri precepts at the Thumpane Temple, Malwathu Maha Viharaya, Kandy.

She spent a period of time abroad at Palma de Mallorca in Spain, Los Angeles, USA and Mt.Hiei, Kyoto, Japan. Since 1996 she visited regularly the winter season's in Honolulu, Hawai'i due to a personal commitment.

After spending five years back in Kandy (2013-17), where she is affiliated with the Buddhist Publication Society, she returned to Hawaii. There she looked forward to see again her close related Temple's, the Chinese Nunnery 'Yuk Fut ' and the prominent Japanese Temple, Honpa Hongwanji with it's beautiful White Dome.

As a Life-member of the Maha Bodhi Society, Colombo, she was looking forward to be back in Colombo to join events related to the Anagarika Dharmapala Trust as well as Mary Mikahala Foster.

Due to the sudden outbreak of COVID and no flights available, she was finally able to return to Colombo in May 2021 to continue with her Dhamma work.

By the same Author:

Maranaanussati: Contemplation on Death in Buddhist Literature publ. by V. Yapa
Mary Mikahala Foster, The Noble Hawaiian Lady publ. by V.Yapa
German Scholars in the Field of Pali Buddhism, publ. by Honolanka Publishing
Nyanaponika Mahathero Kalyanamitta, publ. by Honolanka Publishing

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Heritage Garden