

Monte Rosa Institute

140 years of Educating hearts and minds

A Memorable Ceremony Crowned with a Royal Ball



1874 - 2014 : Celebrating 140 Years of Education

Montreux, Switzerland

The Monte Rosa Institute celebrated its 140 years of existence in Montreux Switzerland on the 2nd of May 2014 in presence hundreds of alumni that had come from all over the world. Amongst the distinguished guests present were Mr Laurent Wehrli

the Mayor of Montreux and President of the Parliament of Canton de Vaud, the President of European University, Dr Craen and Ambassador Aredshir Zahedi.

The graduation day is so arranged as to correspond with the annual Ball of Spring otherwise known as The Grand Ball of Sissi and

the young graduates often celebrate their achievement and their new life by attending the Ball.

Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi, Chancellor Parviz Amouzegar and Dr Abdullah in the hall of Monte Rosa Institute

This world renowned institute

was created in May 1874 by the founder family “les Essarts” . It was originally a girls school based on strict Christian belief, teaching the normal school program in addition to Music and Theatre and sports including

– Lycée D’Arvel for the girls. This was just the beginning of the idea of co-education.

They introduced intensive language courses including English, French, German, Ital-

in a "big family", they learn to live with other nationalities and begin to have a wider vision of the world and a greater understanding of new cultures. In the course of its history the institute has educated thousands of



Ambassador Ardeshir Zahedi, Chancellor Parviz Amouzegar and Dr Abdullah in the hall of Monte Rosa Institute

fencing.

It was in the year 1954 (60 years ago) when Dr. Karl Gademann and his wife Lilly, the parents of the present director, founded the “Institute Monte Rosa and Lycée D’Arvel” – Monte Rosa for the Boys including several future high ranking officers of the British, French and Italian Army and

ian, Spanish, and Dutch with the aim is of opening opportunities for children and assuring their success and achievements. The focus was on multicultural and international education.

The school is run by the family Gademann and best known for its convivial atmosphere. The students live

young girls and boys from almost every country of the world.

Going through the list of its graduates one can see the names of many great personalities of the future.

During the celebration, Mr Bernhard Gademann, Director introduced the history of the school and welcomed the numerous

guests who had come from all over the world from Los Angeles to Cairo and from Tokyo to Istanbul, including former teachers

It was Mr. Laurent Wehrli, Mayor of Montreux and President of the Parliament of Canton de Vaud who concluded the official

emony to be followed on the following day by the Great Ball.

The guests were invited to a cocktail but were delicately reminded by the director of the century old rule of the institute that the lights will be off by 10.O'Clock and guests are invited to leave the house before it happens!

On the second day of the ceremony the guest participated in the great annual ball in Montreux Palace in memory of the presence of Queen Elisabeth of Austria in the region of Territet.



*The Graduation Ceremony
on the Terrace of the Institute*

and students but also personalities directly or indirectly involved in education.

part of the warm and unique cer-

He referred to the active role of his wife and children in the management of the establishment. He concluded by quoting his grandfather who used to say:

**“If you think for a year,
you seed some corn,
If you think for 100
years, you plant a tree,
But if you think for a
generation, you edu-
cate a human being.”**



*The Graduation Ceremony
on the Terrace of the Institute*

EMPRESS ELISABETH (SISSI)

OF AUSTRIA Melancholy Lonely and Angry Queen



It is not only in the month of May and early spring, during the annual Grand Ball in Montreux Palace, that the people of Switzerland remember the legendary Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary, Elizabeth or as often nicknamed "Sissi". She is honored every year during the graduation ceremony at Monte Rosa Institute that concludes by participating in the annual Ball of Sissi.

This year the special guest of the evening was Ambassador Aredshir Zahedi accompanied by a host of his friends from different walks of life and particularly from high ranking academic, diplomatic and medical world. The Ambassador has remained loyal to this

*Mrs. Smithuis, Mr. Bernhard Gademann
Director of Monte Rosa,
HE. Ambassador Aredshir Zahedi,
Mrs. Béatrice Gademann,
Mr. Alexandre Gademann
in the annual ball*

ceremony and to the promotion of the image and memory of an exceptional queen in the history of Europe. he also has something in common with the Empress, liberal ideas, attachment to Montreux, its educational establishments and the desire to continue to play the role of an ideal host.

Mrs. Smithuis, Mr. Bernhard Gademann Director of Monte Rosa, HE. Ambassador Aredshir Zahedi, Mrs. Béatrice Gademann, Mr. Alexandre Gademann in the annual ball

The legendary Queen was born HRH Duchess Elisabeth, Amelia, Eugenie in December 1837 in Munich. From early childhood she was a rebel against the strict protocol of the royal courts and refused to follow the traditional education.

She was very tall, with an exceptional beauty and an astonishing intelligence, a lover of art, music, opera and poetry with great admiration for Shakespeare.

At the age of 16 she married Emperor Franz Joseph I, and became Empress of Austria and later on Queen of Hungary too. Her first two children were girls. This did not please the Emperor's mother and the young Empress was not



From right to left: Micheal Smithuis - Ardeshie Zahedi

even allowed to feed her daughters. The fact that she had not produced a male heir made Elisabeth increasingly unwanted in the palace.

Being left to herself she became

more and more interested in the state affairs, social activities and art. She became melancholy in that stern household where she felt nothing more than a continuing disappointment to her mother



Mr. Remy Cregut

in law and the court from which she often wished to escape. She then began to try her hand in writing some poetry, partly romantic and partly ironic on the Habsburg dynasty.

One day she found this

message on her desk most probably from Queen Mother:

"...The natural destiny of a Queen is to give an heir to the throne. If the Queen is so fortunate as to provide the State with a Crown-Prince this should be the end of her ambition – she should by no means meddle with the government of an Empire, the care of which is not a task for women... If the Queen bears no sons,

she is merely a foreigner in the State, and a very dangerous foreigner, too. For as she can never hope to be looked on kindly here, and must always expect to be sent back whence she came, so will she



Miss Vanessa – Ms Sofia Chisler

always seek to win the King by other than natural means; she will struggle for position and power by intrigue and the sowing of discord, to the mischief of the King, the nation, and the Empire.. "

On 21 August 1858, Elisabeth finally gave birth to an heir, Rudolf (1858–1889). This welcome news increased her influence at court and her liberal ideas began to spread. She played a role in reconciliation of Hungary with the Emperor and continued to defend the rights of the people, their identity and dignity. She even contributed to the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867 which created the double monarchy of



H.E. Ambassador Tarzi Afghanistan

Dr Aryn Lalani President M.S.F. Business

Austro-Hungary. Consequently, Franz Joseph and Elisabeth (Sissi) were officially crowned King and Queen of Hungary in June of the

same year.

In 1898, despite warnings of possible assassination attempts, the sixty-year-old Elisabeth travelled incognito to Geneva, Switzerland. At 1:35 p.m. on Saturday, 10

September 1898, she left the hotel on the shore of Lake Geneva on foot to catch the steamship for Montreux, the place she loved to stay for holidays and relaxation.

Since the Empress did not like processions, her servants had already been ordered to leave by train for neighboring Territet and make their way to Montreux, some fifteen minutes away on foot.



Mr. Zahedi & Ms. Waltan de Karuka : International Student Center at B.K.C. Alumni Monterosa



Right to left: Dr. Aryn Lalani + Mrs. And Mr. J. Gauer – AZ – Dr. Amouzegar

In Geneva, they were walking along the promenade to board the ship that was to take her to Montreux when the 25-year-old Italian anarchist Luigi Lucheni approached them. He originally planned to kill the Duke of Orléans, but the Pretender to France's throne had already left Geneva. Failing to find him, the assassin chose selected Elisabeth as his target when a Geneva newspaper



***Dr. Derk Crean President Europe University
A. Zahedi***

revealed that the elegant woman travelling under the pseudonym of "Countess of Hohenembs" was in fact the Empress Elisabeth of Austria. The Empress was stabbed and fatally wounded. Later, Luigi, the assassin, confessed:

"I am an anarchist by conviction...I came to Geneva to kill a sovereign,



***Left to right: Mrs. Laura and Mr. Gregory Udry, Ms. Defni Bonvin
Mrs. De la Rive – Hassan Youseff Zaii – A. Zahedi
Mrs. Genevieve Bonvin Amori***

with object of giving an example to those who suffer and those who do nothing to improve their social position; it did not matter to me who the sovereign was whom I should kill...It was not a woman I struck, but an Empress; it was a crown that I had in view."

This tragedy has inspired many artists, writers, historians and

film-makers. There are a large number of books written on the life of this legendary Queen and several movies cover the story of her exceptional life.

In the last years of her life she was suffering from tuberculosis and preferred the silence of the mountains and the quiet of the lake area. She was a frequent visitor in Rochers-de-Naye, Caux, Bex or Les Avants. Two sculptures on the lakeside streets in Territet and Geneva recall Sissi's presence in Switzerland.



A. Zahedi- Mr. Chahriar Gharibi

*Portrait of Sissi on the
borders of Lake Geneva*

