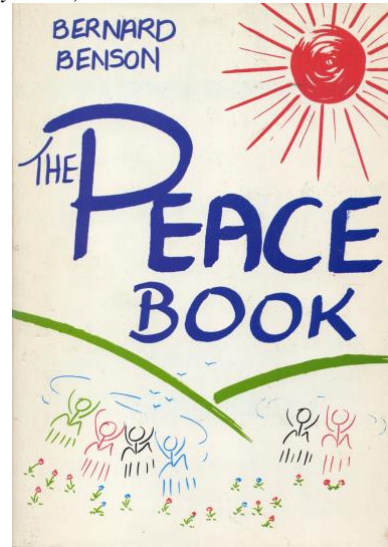


# BERNARD S. BENSON

(28 January 1922 – 15 May 1996)



– Author, [The Peace Book](#), on which [Peace Child](#) is based –

Bernard was a [fighter pilot](#) during [World War II](#), and later worked on the design of early British missiles. He emigrated to the United States where, he worked on the [Douglas F4D Skyray](#) fighter and various Douglas missiles.<sup>[2]</sup>

Early in the 1950s, he co- founded [Benson-Lehner Corporation](#). The new company was successful, as it filled a niche designing systems to provide [data input](#) and output to and from early computers

In 1961, Benson was one of the first people to warn against the [privacy risks raised by computers](#), claiming that digital data could one day be fed into a single system, leaving individuals at the mercy "of who or what controls the machine".

During the 60s he retired and moved to France where he purchased the Chateau de Chaban in the Dordogne. While living there he began writing children's books based on the philosophy of a group of Tibetan monks whom he invited to live on the estate.

In 1975 he generously offered land to the Tibetan Karmapa, Dhagpo Kagyu Ling. The Karmapa's main seat in Europe was founded there in 1976

Through his writing Bernard tried to make their philosophy readily understandable to both young and old. [The Peace Book](#), [Alice in Plunderland](#), [The Book of Life](#) and [The Minstrel](#) were all handwritten and illustrated in Bernard's distinctive style. He spent much of his later years energetically promoting his final book, [The Peace Bird](#) with a project to bring children to world leaders begging them to stop despoiling the earth and make peace between each other.



*Bernard with his wife, Maryse, at Chaban*



*Bernard with one of his Tibetan teachers*