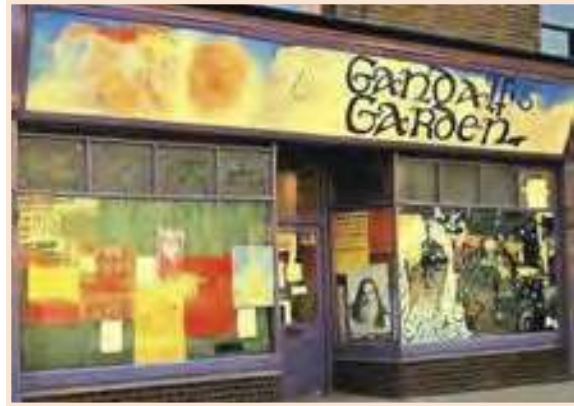




Pink Floyd's first public concert in London's All Saints Church hall in Talbot Street, Notting Hill, 1966



Gandalf's Garden store in Chelsea, London, late 1960s

customers needed to take care to keep their balance when rummaging through the extravagant clothes. Barry Miles and John Hopkins published the *International Times*. To inaugurate this first underground magazine, they gave a party at the legendary Roundhouse in Chalk Farm on October 15, 1966, a vacant locomotive hall, where Miles personally handed out well-dosed sugar cubes to the nearly two thousand visitors.

The fourteen hour *Technicolor Dream* at Alexandra "Ally Pally" Palace on April 29, 1967 was the largest underground psychedelic event in London with nearly ten thousand attending and comparable to the Acid Test parties in the USA. All the bands that started their careers in the UFO Club played. Even Pink Floyd, who had played a gig in Holland the previous evening, caught a ferry back to England and with their introduction to "Interstellar Overdrive," brought the crowd out of their pleasant LSD-induced trance around three-thirty in the morning. "Then came the rebirth of energy, another day, and with the sun a burst of dancing and enthusiasm." (Miles 1997, 181)

## Trips Around the World

The psychedelically inspired youth movement of the 1960s, which began in the USA and England, quickly spread to the European continent and soon thereafter around the world. In Holland, Amsterdam became a meeting place for international hippies with its newly created cultural centers: The Melkweg in a former milk processing factory, and the Paradiso in a former church, and as the home of the Netherlands' "oldest hippie," Beat poet Simon Vinkenoog.

In West Germany, these years were marked by the economic miracle of the 1950s, and increasing prosperity provided distraction from coming to terms with the Nazi past. Consequentially, the growing counterculture was increasingly politically motivated. The antiauthoritarian opposition coalesced in universities and found expression in a powerful student movement. More light-hearted but no less influential impulses came from the music scene. The Beatles began their career in Hamburg's "Star Club." In all the larger cities, young people flocked to rock

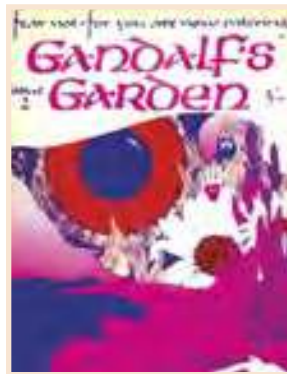
concerts in newly opened cellar clubs. The psychedelic music scene was extremely diverse. Student and hippie communes caused a stir as did artists with their Happenings.

Several thousand Danish hippies founded the Freetown Christiania, an alternative residential and working settlement in Copenhagen in 1971. Based on self-regulation and democracy, it operates independently of state authority. The motto of the nine hundred persons belonging to the community today is: "Freedom, Love, Harmony." An essential principle in Christiania is that drug consumption be done freely and self-responsibly.

In Switzerland, the stories of folklorist Sergius Golowin concerning magical realism and "forbidden fairy tales" inspired a group of young, fanciful hippies. They called themselves "Härdlütli" as the "good folks" or nature spirits are called who, according

to one legend, live deep beneath the rock cliffs upon which stands the city of Bern. Together with the musician Polo Hofer, they ran for a seat on the Bern city council in 1971 and in 1979. At Golowin's suggestion, they reintroduced Fasnacht (Carnival) to Bern in 1979 after a gap of one hundred and fifty years, because, as they remarked, "the authorities in a city are only as good as their carnival is."<sup>14</sup> Although such achievements may seem inconsequential, it should not be overlooked that the tiny Alpine

country was no less psychedelic in the 1960s than other Western countries. In any case, at the end of 1971, Swiss authorities refused to cooperate with a U.S. request to extradite Timothy Leary who had fled after a minor marijuana offense and spent nearly two years in Switzerland. This did not go unnoticed by Albert Hofmann who expressed his satisfaction to Leary a few days later in a greeting card.



Gandalf's Garden magazine cover, September 1968

Swiss airlines began offering a direct flight in 2010 from Zurich to San Francisco. The California city still is associated with freedom, love and flower children. To advertise the service, Swiss decorated an Airbus A-340 in the style of a VW bus of the hippie generation and used the song "If you're going to San Francisco" in radio ads. The "Flower-Power Jet" flew for a year and a half and was also available as a model airplane.

