

July 20, 1931

My dear Mr. Castle

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of the progress made by the movement for the "Roerich Banner of Peace" and the "Roerich Peace Pact," inaugurated by Professor Roerich, and of which I have already spoken to you.

You will recall that it is the purpose of this Pact to protect the world's treasures of culture. The idea of the "Banner of Peace" was promulgated by Professor Roerich in 1929. Briefly, it provides that "educational, artistic and scientific institutions, artistic and scientific missions shall be deemed neutral and as such shall be protected and respected by belligerents. Protection and respect shall be due to the aforesaid institutions and missions, in all places, subject to the sovereignty of the high contracting parties, without any discrimination as to the State allegiance of any particular institution or mission."

In order to insure this, a banner was designed by Professor Roerich which could wave over the monuments of culture--universities, museums, cathedrals and proclaim their inviolability during war and peace.

I know that you will also be pleased to learn that an international conference to promote the world-wide adoption of the Roerich Peace Banner has been called in Bruges, beginning September 13th to 20th. Professor Nicholas Roerich is Honorary President of the Conference, and His Excellency, the Marquis d'Adatci, President of the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, is its Honorary Protector. The chairman of the Conference is M. Camille Tulpinck, member of the Royal Commission for Monuments and Sites, member of the Royal Academy of Archaeology of Belgium and President of the Friends of Bruges. And among those participating are the Prince de Ligne, the Nonce, Count Carton de Wiart, former Minister of State and Vice-President of the Council of Museums, and Countess Carton de Wiart, second Maid of Honor to the Queen of Belgium.

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The Trustees of the Boerich Museum are especially gratified that this plan devoted to protecting the great cultural heritage of humanity was conceived in America. We know that you will share our interest in the response to Professor Boerich's ideal of peace through culture. We shall be happy to keep you advised of the further projects of this project.

Permit me to express to you also our great esteem for the inestimable service you are rendering to our nation.

With cordial greetings

Sincerely

Louis L. Horch, President

The Honorable William R. Castle  
Undersecretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.