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MONTHLY BULLETIN

New York State Association of
Occupational Therapists

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The monthly meeting of the New York State Association of Occupational Therapists was held at the Roerich Museum, Riverside Drive and 103 St. on Friday evening Nov. 3, 1933.

Mrs. Sena Lichtmann, director of the institute conducted the members through the Museum.

The association, upon motion made, seconded and carried unanimously voted to indorse the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace. The resolution was forwarded to Washington in time for the conference on November 17, 1933.

MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR NICHOLAS ROERICH

Creator of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace

to the

**Third International Convention for the
Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace**

November 17th and 18th, 1933

Washington, D. C.

To you, who have gathered in the name of the sacred task of Peace, I send greetings. Now without cause does the world concern itself about peace, because enmity and mutual hatred have truly reached their boundaries. The violations against creative life seduced generations into the abyss of savagery. Nor can the external signs of civilization conceal the savagery of the spirit. In such hostility in the midst of earthly unrest, the true values, the creations of the human spirit, are being destroyed. Let us not look back to those dread precedents, when men were compelled to inscribe upon their tablets the memorable words: "Destroyed by human ignorance --rebuilt by human hope". But, precisely in the name of humanity's hope for a better future, for true progress of the spirit, it is necessary to preserve these true values.

I will not recount the history of our Pact, the furtherance of which has been actively moved by several Committees, by the Union Internationale and by two International Conferences. The validity of our ideal for peace is confirmed by the existence of the Red Cross. If the Red Cross cares for the sick and physically wounded, our Pact protects the values of human genius, thus preserving spiritual health.

The world is thinking of peace in many ways. In each proposal for peace is contained the identical aspiration towards world progress and welfare. Each one, in his own tongue, repeats the benevolent formula of goodwill. Thus, we also are convinced that in safeguarding all the creative values of humanity, with a special Banner similar to the Red Cross, we are thus destroying also the very concept of war. If the entire

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world will be canopied with the Banner for the protection of treasures of true culture, there will be no place for war and hostility.

There have been those who have asked why we think of protection, when it would apparently be simpler to stop war completely. But at the very moment when these voices have arisen, new treasures of Humanity were being destroyed and the earth was covered with new marks of shame. Hence first of all let us sacredly protect the creative treasures of Humanity. First of all, let us agree on that which is the most simple, so that, as with the Red Cross, the Banner may significantly summon the conscience of men to the protection of that, which in essence, belongs not to one nation alone, but to the entire world and constitutes the real pride of the human race.

We may be asked why we think of war. But no one has ever stipulated that the Banner was needed only during a formally proclaimed war. As a matter of fact the principal of the protection of human treasures is necessary also in numerous other cases of upheaval. Truly not only war, but many other human calamities and convulsions for some reason are wrathfully thrust against the monuments of culture. One may cite an infinite number of sad examples.

Somebody has mentioned that the Banner could hardly be a protection against the long range guns. But, the Red Cross is not visible at long distances, yet no one would deny the great humanitarian expedience of the institution of the Red Cross. Of course, we must not forget that at the inception of the Red Cross, there were many soulless critics, who argued against this highly humanitarian idea, but such ignorant condemnation is characteristic of each innovation. Let us not forget, that Edison's great invention of the phonograph was regarded as charlatanism by some Academicians.

Thus let us not give importance to such fettering reasoning; for the Red Cross, with its noble benefits, has sufficiently indicated, that even with long range guns, air attacks and the inhumanity of gases, the conception of the Red Cross still must be regarded as highly imperative and irrefutable. When a Red Cross ambulance rushes through the streets on its mission of salvation, traffic is arrested because everyone realizes that

something extraordinary has occurred which demands urgent measures. And now in the midst of human calamities the S. O. S. signal already resounds. The best minds have arrived at the determination of the necessity of broad measures for pacification and disarmament. But physical disarmament alone will not help. There must be a disarming of heart and spirit. Thus the World Banner of Peace, protector of the true treasures of Humanity will be a broad reminder of those forces, which must be sacredly guarded as the milestones and guaranty of a radiant future. School children must be firmly reminded from earliest childhood that where ever there flies the Banner, the protector of human treasures, special measures of preservation and special care must be exercised for the dignity and friendly cooperation, in the name of Bliss.

As with the case of the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the International Postal Union, the Red Cross,---our Pact and Banner does not represent in its essence any international difficulties. On the contrary, the Pact is a summons to one more step of cooperation; a summons to the appreciation and cataloguing of religious, artistic and scientific treasures and to the establishment of a mutual cultural respect.

We need not fear, that military authorities will raise any irresistible difficulties. Strangely enough, it is just from the military milieu that we have had no refutation; quite the contrary, we have constantly heard voices of sympathy and consideration regarding the entire practicability of the Pact. Even such undeniable authority as the Marshall of France, Hubert Lyautey, has expressed himself very definitely in favor of the Pact. It is only necessary to familiarize ourselves with the written opinions of such scholarly military authorities as Baron de Thuen, who has already introduced lectures concerning the Pact into the military schools, to see once again how apparently simple it is to carry out the humanitarian task of the Pact.

It is true that one scientist expressed the opinion that the Pact might impede military actions. But, if the Pact would not only impede but arrest military actions, then its indubitable merit would lie therein. For the entire world is now concerned only with the renunciation of mortal and fratricidal clashes.

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People understand profoundly that no official decrees alone can transform the material crisis into prosperity. For the heart of man must consent to disarmament and cooperation. And this panhuman postulate comprises everything to remind us that the true culture of the spirit, creativeness and constructiveness must be protected and affirmed.

We have received many thousands of sympathetic opinions regarding the Pact, from high representatives of the cultural world, from governmental and educational Institutions. Organizations numbering many millions of members have done honor to the project of the Pact through enthusiastic resolutions. The Museum's Commission of the League of Nations has likewise unanimously endorsed the Pact, the President of the International Court of Justice at the Hague, is the Protector of the International Union of the Pact, founded in Belgium.

Of unusual significance for me now is the Convention in America. Many formulae of a peaceful social constructiveness have emanated from America. America in her unprecedented

composite of all nations has more than once been the champion of peaceful and humanitarian ideas. Hence, I consider that the public masses of America, as well as the Government, which exemplifies the high spirit of the Nation, will actively support the Pact and Banner of Peace, for this agreement will be one added link towards peaceful world prosperity.

I deeply regret that today I cannot be with you. But with the entire power of my heart, with my entire friendship, I invoke you firmly and imperatively to erect one more mighty pillar for the flourishing of creative treasurers of the spirit. I am certain, that the Government of the United States to which you will transmit your resolution will respond to it undeferrably with its customary cordiality.

If humanity recognized the Red Cross as a protection to the physically wounded and ill, then it will also recognize the Banner of Peace as the Symbol of peaceful prosperity and health of spirit. I greet you reverently from the Himalayas and beg you to help this symbol of the health of the human spirit.