

Banner of Peace in New York and the comite pourle pacte Roerich in Paris took place .In 1931, was established the Union headed by Mr. Camille Tulpinck, with its seat at Bruges. Roerich the ~~rai~~ originator of the Pact was honoured with the permanent Presidentship of the Institutions.

The Pact is a summons to the appreciation and cataloguing of religious, artistic, and scientific treasures and to the establishment of mutual cultural understanding and appreciation. Convinced of the inestimable mission of the Pact, twenty-five countries expressed their loyal support to the Pact the very year it was announced !The same year, the Roerich Pact was endorsed by the Governments of China, New Zealand, Panama, Japan, Persia, New Foundland, Poland, Turkey, Indo China and San Salvador. All the leading Museums endorsed the Pact and encouraged its immediate adoption. Two international conferences for the promulgation of the Roerich Pact, were held in the heroic city of Bruges--which towers immortally as the inspiring symbol of a rich multitude of beautiful names and events-- in 1931 and 1932 in which delegates from over twenty-five countries actively participated. The ROERICH PACT ~~BOOK~~ has been enthusiastically welcomed by men of light and leading in all walks of life throughout the world. The ROERICH PACT BOOK records the appreciations of eminent people .Such high priests of Culture, as Rabindranath Tagore, H.M King Albert of Belgium , Maurice Materlinck, Mrs Franklin Roosevelt, President Roosevelt, Sir C.V .Raman, Upton Sinclair, Sir J.C. Bose, Sir S. Radhakrishnan to mention but a few of the outstanding thinkers who have endorsed the Pact -- have expressed their enthusiasm for the Roerich Pact.

It is stimulating to review some of the opinions beautifully expressed by distinguished savants .

Maurice Materlinck writes:--"With all my heart am I with the advocates of the Roerich Pact...Let us group all the moral forces which we are able to gather around this noble vision."

Rabindranath Tagore says :--"I have keenly followed your most remarkable achievements in the realm of art and also your great humanitarian work for the welfare of the nations of which your peace Pact idea with a special

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Banner for protection of Cultural treasures is a singularly effective symbol. It is interesting to learn that the Pact has been definitely favoured by military authorities who have endorsed the entire practicability of Roerich's altruistic proposals. Hubert Lyautey, the former Marshal of France, vigorously supported the Pact and Baron de Theun the great military authority has introduced lively lectures on the Pact in military schools.

In his untiring effort to promote and safeguard the progress of mankind, Roerich has created the triune Banner of Peace for the protection of the cultural treasures of the world. The Banner is emblematic of the spirit of the Roerich Pact. The Banner is intended to be hoisted over all cultural institutions in every country. The idea has been welcomed in the highest quarters as a very practical intelligent one. The Banner of Peace, represents a trio of spheres within a circle, in majenta colour on a pure white background. The Banner is a symbol of unity, eternity, culture and humanity, past, present and future. The artist of the banner holds that it is "imperative to take immediate measures to preserve the noble heritage of our past for a glorious posterity" and adds that "the creation of culture ..... belongs to no one but to the world." The banner with an inscription is indicative of a great idea. The Roerich Banner of Peace has been unfurled over a large number of institutions throughout the world. By this and other equally powerful means, Roerich the great Apostle of Peace has awakened in the hearts of the people of the world a reverence for Cultural Treasures which <sup>o</sup>from the noblest and most precious heritage of humanity.

Referring to the Pact and Banner, Dr. George Chklaver opines:-

"Seldom are all nations of the World stirred by the same thought, seldom are they united by the same endeavour. It was given to Nicholas Roerich to create a Movement which has won the enthusiastic support of the Governments and peoples alike: thus it was proved once more that Beauty, Knowledge and Culture are the best means to bring together the Membra disjecta of humanity".

Leon Dabo, the renowned Artist expressed his appreciation thus:-

"If we can have this Banner accepted by all nations to protect the beautiful, the precious, the exuberance of the human soul as expressed by brain and hand of man, it will be the greatest contribution of the spirit of humanity and the spirit of Culture which man has introduced into the world in the last thousand years....."

November 1933 marked an important milestone in the progress of the Roerich Banner of Peace. The convention at Washington which took place on the 17th November 1933 in honour of the Roerich Peace Banner was a mighty achievement. Thirty-four nations took active part in the Convention and all unanimously accepted the Pact and Banner. Dr. James Brown Scott, a world renowned authority on International Law, and the Director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, made a powerful speech at the Convention vigorously supporting the Pact, and urging its prompt and immediate adoption. Following the encouraging and unanimous adoption of the Roerich Pact and Peace Banner by the third International Convention, the Plenary session of the Pan-American Congress definitely took the lead in supporting the noble cause by adopting the Pact. The Roerich Banner of Peace is an epoch-making symbol of Culture and when it comes to be accepted by the whole world, it will be forever more a guarantee against the vagaries and vandalism that have been the bane of Art and Culture in the past. Under shelter of the Banner, as the XXXX sponsor of the Pact confidently hopes, humanity will march to "Culture and Peace"--the most sacred goals of man. Positive creativeness which is the fundamental quality of the human spirit, has been largely and richly manifested by Roerich in the Banner of Peace. It marks a most luminous role in the creativeness, progress and unity of Roerich's strenuous endeavours in establishing peace and goodwill among men and rendering their lives sweet.

At the second Indian History Congress at Allahabad, Dr Tara Chand moved and Rai Bahadur Brij Mohan Vyas seconded a motion for the endorsement of the Roerich Pact and the following resolution was unanimously passed: "Resolved

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that the Second Indian History Congress held at Allahabad approves of the International Pact for the protection of artistic and scientific institutions, historic monuments, missions and collections, originated by Nicholas Roerich and records its support of the said Pact". Rai Bahadur Brij Mohan Vyas in seconding the motion paid a tribute to Roerich and mentioned that the Pact has already been adopted by 21 countries and a very large number of learned societies and associations. He stated that ~~xxx~~ he had not doubt that by solemnly endorsing that great Pact in the cause of Peace and culture that most distinguished and learned assembly of scholars from all over India would not only be following foot-steps of similar assemblies and organizations in other parts of the world, but would be lending support to a most emergent and significant measure.

The twenty-one republics of the Americas, under the leadership of the United States signed the Roerich Pact, on April 15, 1935, at Washington whereby monuments of art and institutions of Culture are placed beyond the objectives of warfare and adopted the Roerich Banner of Peace as their protective symbol. "For the first time in the history," said the Minister of Panama, "the neutrality and protection of Culture are incorporated into one single and complete body of Conventional and international law."

In addition to the many previous adoptions, the Roerich Pact has also been recently unanimously endorsed by two International Congresses in Paris: The International Federation of Art, Literature and Science, and the First Congress of International Studies.

The late Rev. Dr. Norwood, the inspired spiritual Messenger of America, on the Roerich Banner of Peace Day consecrated the Banner thus:-

"We shall have peace, Beautiful Flag, and it will come to us one day, We send you thus forth on your mission at this moment. We send you forth and we pledge ourselves that we who touch your folds, that we who look upon your whiteness, shall consecrate ourselves, our souls and our bodies, to the adoration of God, in the Highest, the height of human hearts. And so it shall

come to pass that Peace shall come at last to humanity through the victo-<sup>rious</sup> folds of your whiteness, the challenge of your colour, and the completeness of your symmetry. Go forth and conquer in the name of love.....

Roerich's infinite faith in his noble mission of World Peace is strengthe<sup>ning</sup> ~~xxx~~ as days roll on, as will be best seen from the following concluding passage extracted from his solemn message to the Washington Convention: "Verily humanity is ~~xx~~ tired of destructions, vandalism and negations. Positive creativeness in the ~~d~~ fundamental quality of the human spirit. In our life, everything that uplifts and ennobles the spirit most hold the dorma<sup>nt</sup> place.... Be assured it is not a truism to speak about the undeferable and urgent strivings of culture...."

....Let there resound once again the mighty prayer for peace of the entire world. As the Red Cross affirms physical health, so may the Banner of Peace establish and affirm the spiritual health of mankind."---

Nicholas Roerich "one of the most amazing of our contemporary geniuses, one who by versatility by universality of his works joins the processional of such men as Leonardo, Pyth<sup>a</sup>goras, Blake, Goethe and numerous others" and a genius who stands for constructiveness and spirituality, has made a permanent contribution to the values of life and to the enrichment of human society by and through his enlightening Pact and appealing Peace Banner which, as Miss Francis R. Grant observes, are "the latest superb expressions of his genius."

The Roerich Pact and Roerich Banner of Peace passionately plead for stopping the waste of vandalism, for outlawing the destruction of objects of artistic imagination and production, and for casting a lasting ostracism against the wilful, the ignorant or the vicious who destroy or who would destroy, "the frozen music of architecture," the magnificent structures of science, the wonderful creations of sculptors, painters, musicians and poets who have translated their noble ideals and imageries into something good, true and beautiful. In choosing for the first time

a standard fully symbolic of man's spiritual expression as revealed in his artistic and scientific attainments .Nicholas Roerich has ~~pro~~ proclaimed a new cultural covenant for humanity .The sign of the trial in the Roerich Banner of ~~Peace~~ Peace is most universal in character.This symbol is of immense antiquity and nothing could be more suitable for uniting all races. The call of a integration and of world unity pronounced by Roerich is an invocation to harmony synthesized by a great spirit and it would prove a welding force among nations, and <sup>create</sup> ~~great~~ a New Humanity that would guard and strain to fulfil the divine charge of Brotherhood among men.As a true guardian of high culture,the Roerich Banner of Peace shall warn every assailant : "Noli me tangere--" Do not treat the world's treasures in a sacrilegious way".

historical cities of great antiquity as well as his excavation and exploration all associated with traditions ancient and glorious --convinced Roerich of the undeferable necessity for making arrangements to protect cultural treasures. In 1904, Roerich addressed the Society of Architects in St Petersburg, calling attention to the deplorable and frightfully tragic condition of architectural monuments and urging the Assembly to take urgent measures to protect the edifices. In 1914 Roerich suggested to the Grand Duke Nicholas the Supreme importance and immediate need of protecting the architectural monuments which were fast perishing. The late Emperor heartily appreciated Roerich's intelligent proposals. During the beginning of the great War, Roerich the Prophet of Universal Beauty, emphasized repeatedly the urgent need for protecting artistic and scientific treasures. But the war-crazy world did not hear the prophet's call. The grand idea of protection of cultural treasures was most ably and convincingly propounded by the gifted and persuasive speaker in his spirited address at the Exhibition which was most representative and greatly appreciated. The Nations which participated in the meeting went with the burning thought that the protection of cultural treasures was a 'sacred reality in the world'. The elite of humanity which attended the Exhibition heard Roerich's impassionate call and realised that no real evolution is ever possible without the accumulation of Culture.

In 1930, Roerich proposed to the nations to establish a Pact for the preservation of all Art and Science Treasures of Humanity through the New York Times. The article was a trumpet call to the intelligentsia of the world to realise that "constructive work is a true prophecy of a new era, and to make them feel the imperative necessity and undeferable desirability for a great peace that will tame the belligerent instincts of humanity by the resplendent and joyous creations of the spirit." The same year Dr. George Chklaver, Doctor of Laws and Professor of the Paris University was commissioned by Roerich to draft the legal <sup>o</sup> <sup>of</sup> the Pact. In 1930, the Pact won the wholehearted approval of the League of Nations and that year the founding of the Committee of the Roerich