



# Meditation Monthly International

## 75th Anniversary of the Banner of Peace & Culture

*Letters of Helena Roerich I*, 21 August 1931. The Banner of Peace and Culture, when completely realized, will become a foundation for new creativeness. Beginning from school days, the future generations should learn about the vital significance of constructive and creative work in all its aspects. In the New World there can be no room for the luxury of destruction; ignorant, wild violence cannot exist there. Such achievements will not come at once and everywhere, but it is already possible to see where the dawn breaks.

*Letters of Helena Roerich I*, 28 August 1931. Watch out for all unusual and destructive signs in all spheres of life, and many things will be clearer to you. You will see where are the sparks of the New Era, the era of spiritual knowledge and great cooperation of peoples under the sign of culture. Realization of the coming of this great time should multiply the strength of every sensitive person and should direct him toward joyous, constructive work for the General Good under the Banner, which we shall call the Banner of Peace and Culture.

*Letters of Helena Roerich I*, 18 October 1934. The noble idea of the Banner of Peace must

gradually enter life and, as one writer has said, "Every scientist, every creator, every teacher, every pupil, everyone who thinks about the meaning and purpose of history, must hasten to follow the call of N. K. Roerich, who raises the Banner of Peace over the entire world. Of course, we realize that this peace is also a struggle. But it is not a selfish struggle, a struggle for one's own welfare, but rather a defense against the dark forces, who are attacking the treasures of the spirit.... It is not statutes that are important, but the will of the individual cultural workers. They are not yet united, but they must be merged into one current, one flowing river, surging toward the entrance into the great ocean of ideas...."



*Letters of Helena Roerich I*, 15 November 1934. There are very few whose thinking is broad enough to enable them to realize that the Banner of Peace expresses a new step in the development of the consciousness of humanity. Such consciousness will be built upon the conception and awareness of the great significance and sacred inviolability of the creations of human genius. The next step could be the acceptance of the Hierarchy of the Spirit.

## Networkers' Letter

### Dear Friends,

When I was in Geneva, last summer, meeting with Agni Yoga coworkers, we had some very beautiful discussions about the fact that this year is the 75th anniversary of the Banner of Peace. Several group leaders talked about the various celebrations they had engaged in on April 15th, the day that president Roosevelt signed the Banner of Peace document.

In our year-end issue of MMI, the WMEA staff wanted to share this information with our friends and coworkers from around the world. Personally, in the "Networkers' Letter," I would like to share what Nicholas Roerich wrote about the sacred symbol within the Banner of Peace:

"I was asked to collect information where the symbols of our Banner of Peace could be found. It turned out that the symbol of the Holy Trinity has been scattered all over the world. This has been explained in various ways. Some say it means the past, present and future, bound by the ring of eternity. Others find it more palatable to explain it as religion, knowledge and art in the ring of Culture. Obviously there were various explanations already in the ancient times, but the symbol, the sign itself had become fixed all over the world.

"Chintamani—the most ancient idea of the ecumenical happiness bears the same symbol. In China, in Temple of the Sky, you will find the same image. The 'Three Treasures' of Tibet talk about the same thing. One can see the same symbol on Christ's chest in the renowned painting by Memling. The same has been depicted on The Madonna of Strasbourg. It is on the shields of the crusaders and the coat of arms of the Templars. The famous Caucasian swords—the gurdaa—bear the same symbol. Cannot we detect it also on philosophical symbols? It is on the images of Gesar Khan and Rigden Djapo. It also is on Tamer-

lan's Tamgaa. It existed on the Pope's emblem. It can also be found on ancient canvases of Spain and on the painting of Tizian. You can find it on the ancient icon in Bar depicting St. Nicholas. The

same is on the centuries-old image of St. Sergius. It is on the image of the Holy Trinity. It is on the coat of arms of Samarkand. It is on ancient Ethiopian and Coptic antiquities. It is on Mongolian rocks. It is on Tibetan rings. The steed of happiness on the Himalayan Mountains passes bears the same flaming sign. It is on all the brooches of Lahuli, Ladakhi and Himalayan Mountains. It is on Buddhist banners. Going back to the Neolithic depths we can find the same sign in the ornaments decorating their pottery.

"And that is why the symbol was chosen for all uniting Banners, as the symbol that has passed through centuries, more exactly—millennia. The symbol was not a mere decorating ornament all over; it bore a very special meaning. Collecting all its images together, we might prove that it is the most extensively spread and ancient one among all the symbols of mankind. No one can claim that it belongs but to one religion or is based on the only one folk-lore. It would be very beneficial to glance at the evolution of human consciousness in its variegated forms.

"Where all the treasures of mankind must be saved, there one should find such a symbol that can open the inmost recesses of all hearts. The symbol of the



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Cover art by Nicholas Roerich

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## The Roerich Pact and the Banner of Peace

“Nicholas Roerich was involved throughout his career with the problems of cultural preservation. From an early age, when, as a teenage amateur archeologist in the north of Russia, he unearthed rare and beautiful ancient artifacts, he realized that the best products of humanity’s creative genius were almost always neglected, or even destroyed, by humanity itself.

“In the earliest years of the twentieth century, he traveled through the historic towns of Northern Russia, making paintings of their crumbling walls and deteriorating architecture. He then made appeals to the Russian government for efforts to maintain and restore these priceless links to the past.

“Later it was the devastations of the First World War and the Russian Revolution that spurred his own efforts. He came to realize that the cultural heritage of each nation is in essence a world treasure. And his idea of cultural heritage broadened to include more than just the physical remains of earlier cultures—the buildings and art, for example—but also the creative activities, the universities, the libraries, the hospitals, the concert halls and theaters. All must be protected from the ravages of war and neglect, for without them life would be nothing but a rude and ignorant time on earth.

“It became clear to Roerich that an international effort was required. During the nineteen-twenties, he composed a treaty with the assistance of international legal experts. This treaty came to be known as The Roerich Pact.

“The Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace movement grew rapidly during the early nineteen-thirties, with centers in a

number of countries. There were three international conferences: in Bruges, Belgium; in Montevideo, Uruguay; and in Washington, D.C. The Pact itself declared the necessity for protection of the cultural product and activity of the world—both during war and peace—and prescribed the method by which all sites of cultural value would be declared

triune nature of existence. But for the purposes of the Banner and the Pact, Roerich described the circle as representing the totality of culture, with the three dots being Art, Science, and Religion, three of the most embracing of human cultural activities. He also described the circle as representing the eternity of time, encompassing the past, present, and future. The sacred origins of the symbol, as an illustration of the trinities fundamental to all religions, remain central to the meaning of the Pact and the Banner today.

“The Roerich Pact was first agreed to by twenty-one nations of the Americas and signed as a treaty in the White House, in the presence of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on April 15, 1935, by all the members of the Pan-American Union. It was later signed by other countries also....

“The history of international treaties shows us how many of them were relevant and applicable to the times in which they were signed, but then lapsed into irrelevance. The Roerich Pact, however, has kept its heart and its life, and is linked to the needs of today’s chaotic world as much as ever. In so many countries we see a deterioration of cultural values and a disregard for the right of all cultural treasures to have their own continued existence, forever protected and unimpeded. We see destruction of life, property, and the inheritance of the creative genius of the nations. One can only hope that a greater awareness of the importance of humanity’s cultural heritage will increase, rather than deteriorate. There is no greater value to a nation than its culture.” Reprinted with permission from [www.roerich.org](http://www.roerich.org).



Shared with permission from Daniel Entin, Dir., [www.roerich.org](http://www.roerich.org)

neutral and protected, just as the Red Cross does with hospitals. Indeed, the Roerich Pact was often called The Red Cross of Culture.

“Just as the Red Cross is embodied in a protective sign and banner, so does the Roerich Pact also designate a symbol to be displayed on a banner, The Banner of Peace. This Banner, flown at all sites of cultural activity and historical value, would declare them neutral, independent of combatant forces.

“The Banner of Peace symbol has ancient origins. Perhaps its earliest known example appears on Stone Age amulets: three dots, without the enclosing circle. Roerich came across numerous later examples in various parts of the world, and knew that it represented a deep and sophisticated understanding of the



## World Activities for the Banner of Peace

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Pact and the Banner, and that Pact has, for whatever reason, seen an invigoration (if I may coin a term) that is beyond ordinary expectation. People who are involved in peace activities in different parts of the world have been coming to us to present information about their work, wanting to link with us in what is clearly a growing movement, one not being pushed by any particular authority on Earth, but growing spontaneously, following its own path.

Some people and groups are way ahead in their achievements but do not promote themselves much. The success of the group in Lithuania is a good example: They have managed to have the government declare a national day of culture, with the Banner as its centerpiece, and are enrolling and enlisting other countries and groups to do the same. Another example is that of the people in America who are promoting the establishment of a Department of Peace in all cabinets and government structures. That is moving forward, too.

There was just a big conference in Moscow, on [Nicholas] Roerich's birthday, about the anniversary of the Pact, with much discussion of its use and meaning in today's world; and the seeds



Two Russians and a worker of the American Pole Station "Amundsen-Scott" with the Banner of Peace on the South Pole, January 8, 2000

of future projects began to emerge. Many other cities have similar events. Mexico right now is perhaps the place with the most organized effort, thanks to the continuous dedication and tireless labors of Alicia Rodriguez. Every province in Mexico has had a Banner event, often with Banners placed permanently in the town plaza. There was last year a replica of an ancient Mexican ship, the Peace Ship, which carried the Banner to ports around the world. From New York to Mongolia, there are activities devoted to the Pact and the Banner.

Many people get inspired by the idea of the Banner to do something on their own. There is a woman who makes Banners and distributes them in Central Park, along with a leaflet explaining its meaning and mission. People do similar things everywhere. Many people who come to our museum purchase Banner pins, Banner cards, or actual Banners, to use in their own projects. World conditions have caused a lot of folks who ordinarily would not think about such things to develop an interest in the Banner and the Pact. Inquiries come to us regularly from individuals who feel inspired to do something and want to discuss it, to ones who don't know what to do, much as they feel inspired to, and ask us about possibilities.

We are recreating in the Museum the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace Committee, to start to connect these links and find ways of working together.

The symbol of the Banner is a very inspiring one, and means a lot to many people.

— Daniel Entin, Executive Director of the Roerich Museum, New York City

"At no time has such an ideal been more needed. It is high time for the idealists who make the reality of tomorrow, to rally around such a symbol of international cultural unity. It is time that we appeal to that appreciation of beauty, science, education which



January 28, 2000, the Banner of Peace from the South Pole is given by the expedition to Secretary Kofi Annan of the UN.

runs across all national boundaries to strengthen all that we hold dear in our particular governments and customs. Its acceptance signifies the approach of a time, when those who truly love their own nation will appreciate in addition the unique contributions of other nations and also do reverence to that common spiritual enterprise which draws together in one fellowship all artists, scientists, educators and truly religious of whatever faith."

— Henry A. Wallace, at the signing of the Roerich Pact, April 15, 1935

- Banner of Peace Day: Lithuania has great enthusiasm for the Banner of Peace Day. They celebrate it on April 15. A group from Lithuania is currently seeking to have UNESCO sponsor a day of culture

- Worldwide Web Site: The White Mountain Education Association will be creating a website to provide the public with basic information about the Banner of Peace.

- Exhibition in Russia: This past October there was an exhibition of the Banner of Peace in Russia. The grandson of Henry Wallace was invited.

- Celebration in India: In October in Naggar, India (in the Kullu district), at the Roerich Estate, there was a three-day commemoration. Representatives from various global Roerich societies attended. Celebratory activities included a children's dance troupe from

Kazakhstan; an exhibition of paintings by Russian children; and painting, singing, and dancing performed by children from nearby villages who study at the Helena Roerich Art College.

## The Banner

by

Nicholas Roerich

“In the White House today the Pact is being signed with the participation of President Roosevelt. Over our *baishin* [Mongolian dwelling] the Banner has already been hoisted. It will wave in many countries today. In many corners of the world, friends, and co-workers will gather in solemn communion and will determine the next forthcoming means of safeguarding cultural values. We shall not tire of repeating that in addition to recognition by the government active public participation is needed. Cultural values adorn and elevate all life, from small to great. Therefore an active care about them must be evidenced by all.

“No matter how many countries signed the Pact today, this day will be preserved in history as one of memorable cultural attainment. The government has lent its powerful hand, and thus many new ways have been opened for all active adherents of culture. Maybe some sinister attempts will also be revealed today. The choice between Light and darkness must arise unavoidably. This is not a division of opinions, but indeed a choice between the constructive and destructive, the positive and negative.

“The success of the signing of the Pact, and any opposition as well, should equally encourage all co-workers to further achievement. Let us cherish this day in our memory as a sign of an enlightened future, as one more impulse toward useful constructive attainments. I stress that the expression ‘division of opinions’ would be quite unacceptable at present. Light and darkness never

unite and therefore cannot become divided. But if darkness senses danger to itself, it roars, it yelps, and fights. It could never have separated itself from Light, as is generally thought, for its essence was always the opposite of Light. Likewise, it will be always a dark background upon which glowing sparks are even more brilliant.

“Let no one think that precisely today, on this day of achievement and festival, it is, as it were, unfitting to speak about darkness. For if we understand it as the antithesis of Light, as something which is dispersed by Light, then indeed on the day of the Festival of Light it can be remembered that a certain portion of darkness was dispersed today. We have never concealed the fact that darkness in its sinister aspect is strong. We have never concealed the fact that each victory over darkness will be the result of a big and difficult battle. Therefore, great is the victory of Light over darkness. Only in the full realization of the scope of this battle can we truly rejoice at each victory of Light.

“Everybody knows that the Light and darkness of which we speak are by no means abstractions. They are not only a reality, they are evident to every eye. Here on Earth we see the servants of Light in labor and struggle. And also here we perceive the evil servants of darkness, filled with hatred of all that exists. Here in life, we learn the ways of Light, and likewise we are convinced of the sinister unity of the dark legions. The latter should not cause aggravation since it is unfitting to worry and thus weaken oneself when all the legions of Light are summoned. On the contrary, one should always rejoice at each flash of Light, which like lightning clears the thickening clouds.

“Verily, today, the fifteenth of April, will and must be a memorable day. One more beacon will come into being, which will bring friends closer in

far away countries, beyond the oceans, beyond the mountains, scattered through all the byways of Earth. We shall ask them once again to express themselves about all the useful and undeferrable matters. In many countries, at least this one day will teach a great deal. If we were to collect all these tested findings, there would be a whole treasury of useful and undeferrable advices. And so, let us counsel each other, and share all our accumulations and observations. Even during ordinary days, when it would seem that nothing of special significance occurred, even then the most urgent considerations have appeared. And now, when indeed the important and the significant take place, how many new striv-



*The Dalai Lama in Dharamsala  
with Alicia Rodriguez, 1990*

ings should arise! If, during the ordinary days, signs of calamity constantly arose and undeferrable help was demanded, then the significant date should instill in all co-workers of the Pact still greater vigilance and perspicacity. Precisely perspicacity is necessary in the matter of safeguarding culture. One should foresee many consequences. The causes may be deeply concealed and painted in deceptive colors, but they could lead to shocking results. Yet, to discern where the claws are hidden will be an excellent task for all guardians of cultural values.

“We have spoken many times about a multitude of dangers for cultural values these days. Now governments offer us a powerful helping hand. We accept this support as a great possibility of new





Soviet astronauts A. N. Balancin and G. M. Strekalov with the Banner of Peace in the orbital station "Mir," August 1990 (The Banner was in space for more than two years)



1986 - Stamp for the UN International Year of Peace (Mexico).

achievements. The Pact should not remain static upon the shelf of statutes of law. Each memorial day of the Pact must become a practical means for raising and strengthening the guardian Banner.

"And so, in the desert, over a desolate *baishin*, the Banner waves. But the deserts can also be very diverse. If, somewhere, a crowd of dark ignoramuses is gathered, this will also be a desert —waterless, soulless, heartless.

"Let the Banner wave also over the hearths of Light, over sanctuaries and strongholds of beauty. Let it wave over all deserts, over lonely recesses of beauty, so

that from this sacred seed deserts may bloom.

"The Banner is raised. In the spirit and in the heart it will not be lowered. By the luminous fire of the heart the Banner of Culture will flourish. So be it!

"Light conquers darkness."

April 15, 1935



The flag is awarded by the International Committee for the Banner of Peace, an non-governmental organization officially affiliated with the United Nations and headed by Dr. Alicia Rodriguez, the first Mexican woman to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.



In the Mexican City of Saltillo, the Committee of the Banner of Peace worked with the local Department of Education and implemented a program for local schools under the name "We build world peace together."

*continued from page 2*  
*Networkers' Letter*

Banner of Peace has been spread so surprisingly far and wide that people are quite sincerely asking whether it is original or an invention of later times. We have witnessed honest wonderment after having proved its ancient origins and spread. At present mankind is beginning to think with horror like troglodytes again, hoping to safeguard their property in underground depositories and caves. But the Banner of Peace just announces the principle. It argues that mankind has to find a way to agree, that its achievements are global and belong to all the nations. The Banner says: *noli me tangere*—do not touch—do not dare to disturb, to offend the Universal Treasure with a touch of destruction."

— Nikolai Roerich, 24 May 1939

My dear friends and supporters, please let me share my deepest gratitude for your continuing support of the work of the WMEA this year. You have kept us financially stable with your financial support and volunteer work, and confident that our many present and future plans will be funded, freeing us from any worries of financial security. We celebrated the 28th year of the founding of the WMEA this year with a wonderful turnout. Soon we will be celebrating our 30th, which will be a special celebration.

As this is my "duty," perhaps "karma," please let me remind you to keep us on your list of end-of-year tax-deductible "donations." We rely on your sustained generosity and heart-filled wishes for a continuing success at distributing the Teachings of our self-sacrificing Leaders.

With love and appreciation,

Joleen D. DuBois, President



## December 2010 / January 2011



*The Florida (Sarasota) WMEA Study Group meets at 9:30 a.m., on alternate Thursday mornings in Sarasota. Please call **Ginette Parisi** at (941) 925-0549 for complete information.*

*The Ohio (Marysville) WMEA group meets monthly for Sun Festivals and classes. Please call **Kathy O'Conner** at (937) 642-5910 for complete information.*

*The Puerto Rico WMEA Group meets weekly to study the Teachings. Please call **Jennifer Santiago** at (787) 649-3817 or **Pedro Serrano** (787) 789-8692 for complete information.*

*The Colorado (Longmont) WMEA Study Group meets each month for Full Moon meditation gatherings. Please call **Doreen Trees** at (303) 651-1908 for complete information.*

### December

- Wed. 1** Class: **Agni Yoga Studies**, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 5** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“Songs of Angels”** with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Mon. 6** **Paloria Study Group**, 4–6 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 8** Class: **Agni Yoga Studies**, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 12** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“Christ in the Heart”** with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 14** **Paloria Study Group**, 6:30–8:30 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 15** Class: **Agni Yoga Studies**, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 19** **Christmas Service & Holy Communion** with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 21** **Sagittarius Solar Festival Meditation and Lecture** with Lewis Agrell, 7–8:15 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 22** Winter Vacation until Jan. 4, 2011
- Sun. 26** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“Dreams of Christ”** with Kathryn Agrell, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center

### January

- Sun. 2** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“The Teachings of Torkom Saraydarian”** with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Wed. 5** Class: **Agni Yoga Studies**, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 9** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“How to Help People Through Your Absence”** with Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 11** **Paloria Study Group**, 6:30–8:30 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 12** Class: **Agni Yoga Studies**, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 16** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“Equilibrium”** with Shary Singer, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Tue. 18** **Paloria Study Group**, 6:30–8:30 p.m., WMEA Center
- Wed. 19** **Capricorn Solar Festival Meditation and Lecture** with Rev. Joleen DuBois; 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 23** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“Renunciation”** Rev. Joleen DuBois, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center
- Wed. 26** Class: **Agni Yoga Studies**, 7–8 p.m., WMEA Center
- Sun. 30** Sunday Service: Meditation, Singing, and Lecture **“How to Develop Right Human Relations”** with Carol Woodard, 10:00 a.m., Creekside Center

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