

Post Cards of the 1899 Hague Peace Conference

Introduction

This exhibit focuses on the picture post cards of the First Hague Peace Conference of 1899, its patrons, international delegates and site.

In 1897, Russian Tsar Nicolas II (1868-1918) introduced a policy of pacification by promoting disarmament at the first international peace conference, 18 May - 28 July 1899. He offered his proposal to 59 nations in St. Petersburg on 24 August 1898 and 46 nations attended.

Queen Wilhelmina (1880-1962) of the Netherlands, agreed to host the conference in the 'Huis ten Bosch', the royal residence in The Hague.

Exhibit Plan

Precursor Card
Forerunner Cards
Promotional Cards
Conference Card
Patron Cards
Delegate Cards
Site Cards
Epilogue

Precursor (1897)

Tsar Nicolas II (1868-1918), the last emperor of Russia, promoted the ideals of peaceful negotiations between nations to resolve conflicts and was honored by peace societies for his efforts in 1897.

Tablet text

*"Oh Will of the people, Fill the sails!
The ship of peace has a new captain...
We see land!" - Bertha v. Suttner*



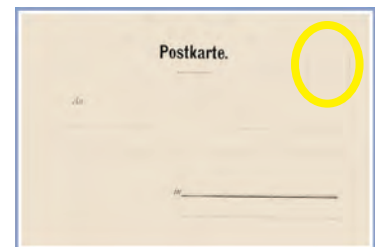
Nicolaus II. Emperor of Russia, Wiesbaden Society of Friends of Peace (publisher), Card 219

Forerunners (1898)

Allegorical representations of *Peace, Law and the Arts* surround Tsar Nicolas II of Russia while the Greek god *Hermes*, on the far right, brings the Tsar's message to the addressee. The image of *Peace* in triumph over *War and Injustice* on the left completes the concept of the card's imagery. This full color design was published in 1898.

'Lay Down Your Arms!'
Helios Publishing Company, Munich. Number 5.'
(publisher - left margin)

The card reverse has an uncommon dotted square for stamp positioning.



Reverse
Text in German
'Postcard'

The French language card is identical, but with an additional line of text, printed in French, above the German text on the front and reverse.



The text, *Die Waffen nieder!* (*Lay Down Your Arms!*), refers to the novel by the same name, first published in German in 1889. The book was authored by the Baroness Bertha Felicitas Sophie Freifrau von Suttner (1843-1914), an Austrian pacifist and Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1905.

Promotional Cards (1898)

To promote the Peace Conference, this design depicting an allegorical figure representing *Humanitas* was published in 1898. The design was produced in four languages, French, German, Italian and Russian.



Reverse
Text in French
'Postcard'



French



German

Italian

'1898

*In Honor of Tsar Nicolas II
the Initiator of the Idea
of Universal Disarmament
Officine Wild&C. Milano
1899 De Paoli & Fiecchi - Venezia (publisher)
Rights Reserved - Reproduction Forbidden'
Signed by artist H. Rossi (lower left)*

Promotional Cards (1899)

Tsar Nicolas II issued Peace Conference invitations to 96 international representatives in Saint Petersburg in August 1898. A post card appeared shortly thereafter depicting a parody of Tsar Nicolas and *Lady Peace*. In this instance, leaders of various countries discuss joining Tsar Nicolas and *Lady Peace* for the international conference. The card is dated February 1899, four months before the conference began.

*'Number 3.
The Dish of the Day
February 1899.'*

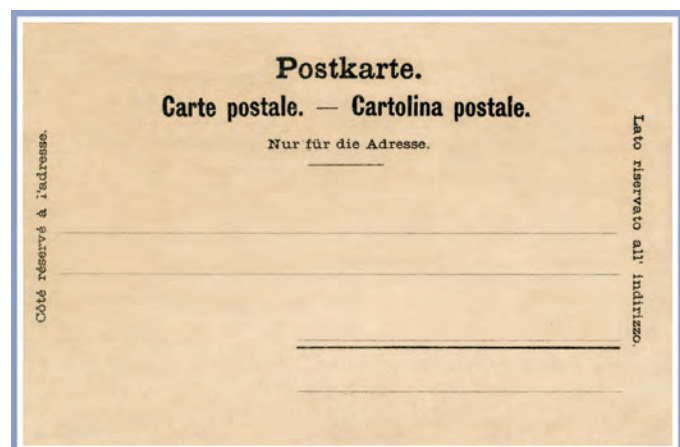


*“Peace. — ‘Am I not Jolly Enough?’
‘No one is following us!’”
“The Tzar. —!”*

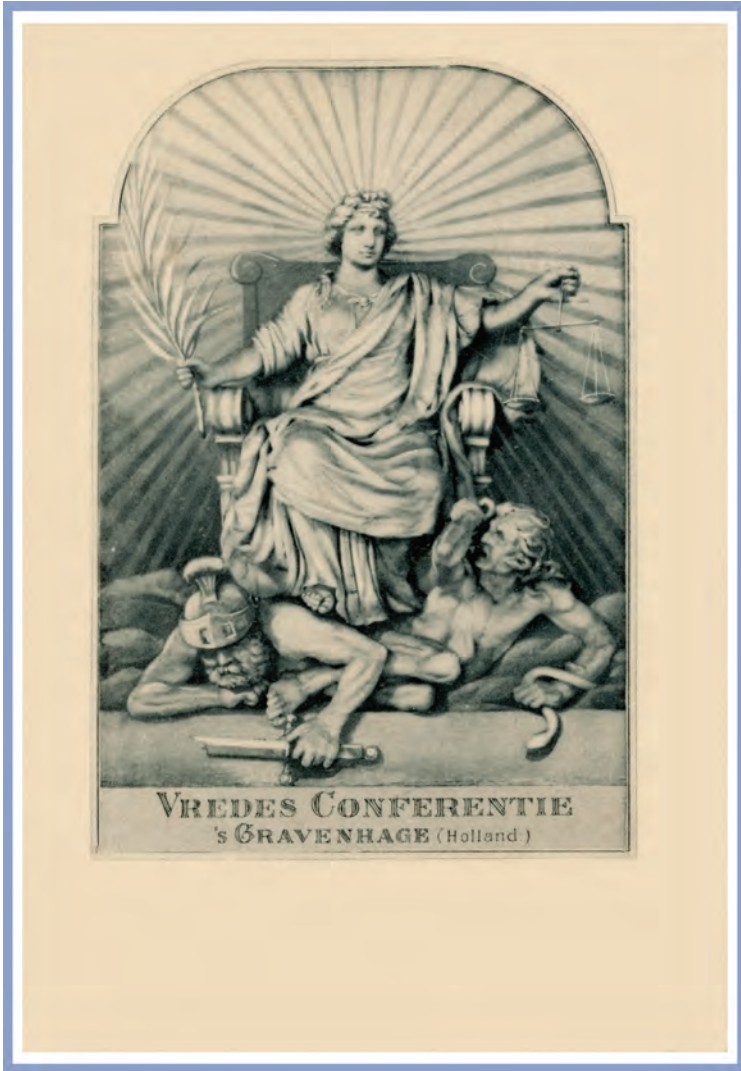
Swiss Art Poster Society, Geneva, A.N. (publisher)

Reverse
Text in
German, French and Italian
*‘Postcard
Side reserved for the address.’*

French text appears on the left side.
German text in the center.
Italian text on the right side.



Conference Card (1899)



Only one design pointedly honored Disarmament and Justice, the true motivations behind the peace conference. The card is very symbolic in that it includes an illustration of allegorical figure *Peace and Justice*. She radiates enlightenment while sitting on a throne with her right foot resting on the figure of *War* and the left on *Injustice*.

*"Peace Conference
The Hague (Holland)"*

Reverse
Text in
Dutch and French
'Postcard
Universal Postal Union
Side reserved for the address
To'



Patron Cards (1899)



Portrait of Tsar Nicolas II
published in 1899



Enlargement of border text

*"Peace Conference
The Hague, Holland"*



Reverse design of both cards is identical.

*"Peace Conference.
the Hague, Holland"*

The most beautifully designed and executed of these cards is this one with images of Queen Wilhelmina, Tsar Nicolas II and the *Huis ten Bosch*.

Portrait of Queen Wilhelmina, Tsar
Nicholas II, coat of arms & flags
view of Het Huis ten Bosch



Patron Cards (1899)

A pair of cards depicting the royal patrons were published in 1899 and are identical front and rear with the exception of different portraits. The images include the entrance and garden views of the Huis ten Bosch.



Portrait of Tsar Nicholas II

Tablet text
*"In memory of the
 International
 Peace Conference in
 The Hague,
 on 18 May 1899,
 under the reign of
 Her Majesty
 Wilhelmina -
 Queen of the Netherlands"*

Text on left side
*"Compagnie Comete
 (Edouard de Toussaint
 et Comp.) Paris."*
 (publisher-left margin)



Reverse
 Text in Dutch and French
 'Postcard
 Universal Postal Union
 Side reserved for the address'

Portrait of Queen Wilhelmina



Delegate Cards (1899)

*“Peace Conference.
the Hague, Holland”*



Reverse
Text in Dutch and French
*‘Postcard
Universal Postal Union
Side reserved for the address
To’*

*2 examples of this
card are recorded.*

*The second is in the
German Postal
Museum in
Bonn, Germany.*



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Huis ten Bosch (Netherlands) | 2. Tsar Nicolas II (Russia) |
| 3. Baron de Staal (Montenegro and Russia) | 4. Mr. Arthure Raffalovich (Russia) |
| 5. Capt. Scheine and Col. Jilinsky (Russia) | 6. Captain Augusto de Castilho (Portugal) |
| 7. Dr. Dimitri I. Stancioff (Bulgaria) | 8. Major Christo Hessaptchieff (Bulgaria) |
| 9. Chevalier Louis Zuccari (Italy) | |



A series of five
cards depict many
attendees in a
similar format.



Reverse
Series cards share design
Text in Dutch and French
or French and Dutch

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Huis ten Bosch, Site of Conference (Netherlands) | 2. Sir Julian Pauncefote (United Kingdom) |
| 3. Sir John A. Fisher (United Kingdom) | 4. Mr. Andrew M. White (United States) |
| 5. Mr. Seth Low (United States) | 6. Dr. Arnold Roth (Switzerland) |
| 7. Mr. Edouard Odier (Switzerland) | 8. Baron Carl N.D. de Bildt (Norway) |

Delegate Cards (1899)



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Tsar Nicolas II (Russia) | 2. Baron de Staal (Montenegro & Russia) |
| 3. Mr. Fedor Fedorovich Martens (Russia) | 4. Mr. Léon Victor A. Bourgeois (France) |
| 5. Baron d'Estournelles de Constant (France) | 6. Rear Admiral Pephau (France) |



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Queen Wilhelmina (Netherlands) | 2. Count de Grelle - Rogier (Belgium) |
| 3. Mr. Auguste Beernaert (Belgium) | 4. Jonkheer A.P.C. van Karnebeek (Netherlands) |
| 5. Mr. Tobias Michael Carel Asser (Netherlands) | 6. Mr. Willem Hendrik de Beaufort (Netherlands) |
| 7. Baron Edouard E.F. Descamps (Belgium) | |

Delegate Cards (1899)



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Orange Hall, Deliberation room (Netherlands) | 2. Mr. Yang Yü (China) |
| 3. General Riza Khan Mirza (Persia) | 4. Baron Tadasu Hayashi (Japan) |
| 5. Mr. Nuvatr Phya Suriya (Siam) | 6. Mr. N.P. Delyanni (Greece) |
| 7. Mr. Turkhan Pasha (Turkey) | |



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Kinderdijk, Children's Dike (Netherlands) | 2. Baron von Stengel (Germany) |
| 3. Count Münster (Germany) | 4. Mr. Alexandre Beldiman (Romania) |
| 5. Duque de Tetuan (Spain) | 6. Count A. Zannini (Italy) |
| 7. Count Constantino Nigra (Italy) | 8. Count R. von Welsersheimb (Austria) |
| 9. Count de Macedo (Portugal) | |

Assembly of Delegates (1899)



Camera angle

The delegates assembled as a group on the entry steps to *Huis ten Bosch*. Photos were taken from different positions and used on postcards and by the media.

"Delegates to the Peace Conference in The Hague"
"Photo by BOON'S Illustrated Magazine, Amsterdam." (publisher - left margin)



Reverse
 Text in Dutch and French
'Postcard
Universal Postal Union
Side reserved for the address
To'

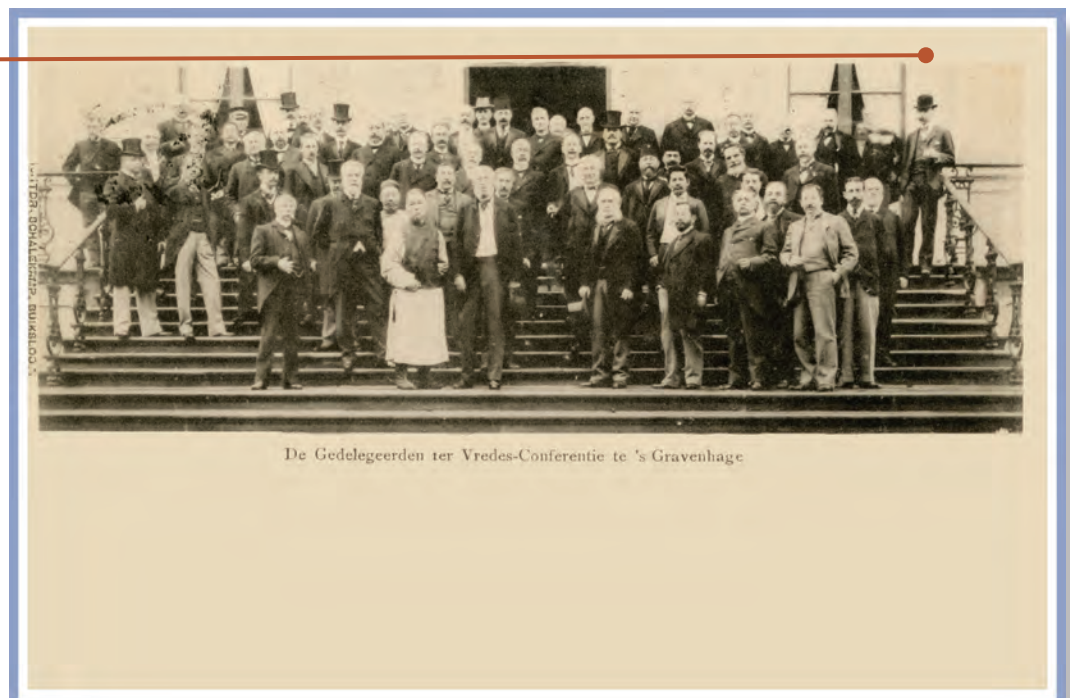
The image of the second card is similar to the first in that it is wide. However, the top and bottom of the image below is cropped. They were taken from slightly different positions, to the right of and directly in front of the delegates.

Camera angle



Reverse
 Text in Dutch
'Postcard
To'

"The Delegates to the Peace Conference in The Hague"
"Lichtdr. Schalekamp, Buiksloot."
 (publisher - left margin)



Assembly of Delegates (1899)

This image differs slightly from the previous ones as the photograph appears to have been taken from a position to the left of the group and includes more of the building above and steps below.



Reverse
Text in Dutch and French
*'Postcard
Universal Postal Union
Side reserved for the address'*

"The Delegates to the Peace Conference"

Single line text under image with blank message block to right of image

Camera angle



Reverse
Text in French
*'Republic of France
Postcard
Side reserved for the address'*



*"The Delegates to the Peace Conference
The Hague 1899."*

Double line text under image with blank message block to right of image

Site Cards (1899)

The *Huis ten Bosch* (House in the Wood) was an occasional royal residence for Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. The conference took place in the *Oranjezaal* (Orange Hall).

*'House in the Wood
The Hague.
Conference Building 1899.'*

Top card has shallow writing area at bottom.

Bottom card has taller writing area.



Reverse
Text in Dutch and French
*'Postcard
Universal Postal Union
Side reserved for the address
To'*

*'House in the Wood - The Hague.
Peace Conference Building 1899.*

Firm Mevr. A. M. Amiot, The Hague.' (publisher - lower left)

Site Cards (1899)



'Peace Conference - The Hague'

'House in the Wood'

'Firm J.H. Schaefer 1899 design protected copyrighted'

(publisher - lower left)

Text under image is aligned differently on each card.



Reverse
Text in Dutch
'Postcard
To'



Reverse
Text in Dutch and French
'Postcard
Universal Postal Union
Side reserved for the address'



'House in the Wood - The Hague (Meeting place of the Peace Conference.)

Logo of Firm H.v.o.M., card 987'

(publisher logo - lower left)

Site Cards (1899)



A similar design to previous cards but with wider aspect of Huis ten Bosch.

Windows on right are complete.

'House in the Wood - The Hague. Meeting place of the Peace Conference. Logo of Firm H.v.o.M., card 987.'
(publisher logo - lower left)



Reverse
Text in Dutch and French
*'Postcard
Universal Postal Union
Side reserved for the address'*

'The Hague. House in the Wood - Meeting place of the Peace Conference. Logo of Firm H.v.o.M. (publisher - lower right) Autochrome (marking - center left margin)



Epilogue (1905)

Although Tsar Nicolas co-sponsored the 1899 peace conference in the Hague, the Russian revolution was sparked in January 1905 by an incident known as 'Bloody Sunday'. An original promotional card was overprinted with a question mark dripping blood.



Overprinted original card
Overprints are recorded only on cards with Italian text
Source of the overprint is unknown



Red overprint (50% actual size)



Reverse
Text in Italian and French
'Postcard'

The symbolism of a question mark dripping with blood refers to soldiers of the Russian Imperial Guard, firing on unarmed civilian demonstrators killing hundreds. The overprint questions whether the peace conference had any real meaning to the Tsar.