

## The Hague Peace Conference of 1899

### Postcards of the Conference

#### Historical Background

In 1897, Russian Tsar Nicolas II (1868-1918) attempted to introduce a new foreign policy of European pacification by promoting disarmament at an international conference. He offered his proposal to 59 nations in 1898. Queen Wilhelmina (1880-1962) of the Netherlands agreed to host the conference in the *Huis ten Bosch* (House in the Wood), the royal residence in The Hague. The International Peace Conference of 1899 was a first step toward organized disarmament and peaceful arbitration of conflicts between countries. The Conference began on 18 May 1899 and was the first truly international effort to include countries outside Europe to end the arms race, codify the laws of war and form a Permanent Court of Arbitration.

#### Exhibit Treatment

The conference also provided an opportunity for artists and publishers to depict the people and events of the day. This commemorative postcard guide reflects on the remembrance of the conference for visitors to the Hague. It provides a glimpse into that time through the beautiful miniature artwork depicted. A major goal is to fill a philatelic literature void where nothing currently exists.

Subject areas are presented as a thematic thread for readers, allowing a story to be told rather than only reflecting a catalog listing. Full color, high resolution illustrations throughout add to the visualization of the art. Titles, sub-titles, chapter titles and page numbers are clearly placed on the pages. Short write-ups include pertinent subject and philatelic information. A guide to using the work is included with explanations of abbreviations, terms and translations of foreign languages.

#### Originality, Significance, and Research

The challenge and significance of this monograph is very high as no other information exists on these cards. The only two articles associated with the conference are published by the United Nations and Dutch philatelic societies. The original research factor is high due to the sheer number of cards described and detailed information provided. The United Nations (U.S. and German) and Dutch philatelic societies also provided assistance and review.

#### Technical Matters

Standard pages are used for the introduction, table of contents, credits and index as well as associated pages such as a price guide (created by the author) and a list of diplomatic representatives.

#### Production

The work is self-published using Amazon's '*Kindle Direct Publishing*' services. Typeface, size of text and the use of color throughout were major concerns in the form factor for the monograph.

#### Literature References

- Schraer, Konrad:  
The Hague Peace Conferences and the Establishment of the International Court of Justice  
"The Journal" (United Nations Philatelists, Inc), Vol 6, #3, February 1983
- Schraer, Konrad: De Tweede Haagse Vredesconferentie, "De Postzak", #205, November 2008