

The Carnegie-Wateler Peace Prize



In 1927, the Dutch banker J.G.D. Wateler bequeathed a substantial sum to the State of the Netherlands for the awarding of an annual prize to private persons or institutions, alternately Dutch and foreign, who had furthered the cause of peace. In 1930 the Carnegie Foundation became the beneficiary of the legacy. From 1931 to the present day the prize has been awarded yearly. In 2004 the Prize was renamed Carnegie-Wateler Peace Prize, to be awarded every second year. Among its laureates over the decades are Lord Baden-Powell (1937); Jean Monnet (1953); Mrs. Martin Luther King (1969); Henry Kissinger (1975); Max van der Stoep (1995), Theo van Boven (2004) and Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (2006). Among the institutional laureates are Unicef (1957); La Communauté de Taizé (1967); The Salvation Army (1980); Doctors without Borders (1989); the Permanent Court of Arbitration (1998) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).



Carnegie Foundation

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CF Carnegie Foundation

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1904

EU - IGO
UN - NGO
Status
Foundation (Dutch)

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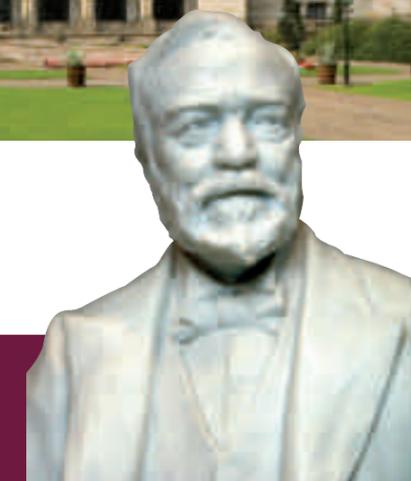
Structure
• Supervisory Council
• Board
• Directorate

Staff
45 permanent

Budget
2008: € 6,000,000



City of The Hague



The Carnegie Foundation

Mission

In 1903, the Scottish-American entrepreneur and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated a stupendous US \$ 1.5 million to the State of the Netherlands for the construction of premises to host the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the institution that was born out of the First Hague Peace Conference of 1899. Pragmatic considerations dictated that the administration of the gift be entrusted to a Foundation. Over the past century, the "Carnegie Foundation", which was established in June 1904, has acquitted itself of this assignment. The Foundation directs the overall management of the premises, including the renowned Peace Palace Library. Members of the Board also constitute the Administrative Council of the Hague Academy of International law. The Foundation directs the work of the international courts hosted in the grounds: the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the International Court of Justice. Priding itself on its illustrious pedigree, the Carnegie Foundation confidently aspires at securing the pivotal role of the Peace Palace as the world's foremost symbol of peace and justice and figurehead of the international renown of The Hague.

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The Peace Palace: Building History

The building history of the Peace Palace was not unproblematic. The search for an appropriate site and the subsequent international prize competition among architects prompted considerable controversy. On 30 July 1907, in the midst of the Second Hague Peace Conference, the cornerstone of Louis Cordonnier's Palace was laid. On that occasion, the 44 attending nations pledged themselves to submit raw materials for the construction of Carnegie's Peace Temple and to offer specimens of their arts and crafts to decorate the Palace and grounds. On 28 August 1913 the Peace Palace was solemnly inaugurated. With Queen Wilhelmina attending, Andrew Carnegie and his spouse featured as guests of honour.

Administration

The complexities involved in the stewardship of Carnegie's gift over the past century have been numerous. From the records of the Carnegie Foundation emerges a panorama of human endeavour to uphold an ideal amidst the often sobering realities of life. Lack of funds have often impaired the Board's aspirations. Maintenance and restoration of the Palace turned out to be a cumbersome process. In recent decades, however, an ambitious programme was developed to match the rapid expansion of the institutes operating within the Palace grounds. New wings were built to harbour the International Court of Justice. Again, both the exterior and interior of the Palace were restored and renovated. To crown the process, in 2007 Michael Wilford's state-of-the-art conference centre was opened on the grounds. It now harbours the celebrated Hague Academy and Peace Palace



Organization

The Carnegie Foundation is a Dutch institution, governed by a Board and a Directorate. The Board consists of seven Members, including a representative of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

On a regular basis, former Prime-Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs have chaired the Board; Messr. van der Stoep, Kooijmans, van den Broek and Bot are recent examples. Since 1974 the day-to-day management of the Foundation is entrusted to a General Director. The Advisory Council of the Foundation is presided over by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the Ministers of Justice, Finance and Education, along with the Presidents of the Chambers of the States General, the Vice-President of the Council of State, and the President and Attorney-General of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands. The Carnegie Foundation is one of the founding members of the Hague Academic Coalition.

Library and, through the year, hosts a range of international venues. In spite of security restrictions, the Foundation ensures the opening of the Palace to guided tours on working days. It also harbours a small Museum which encapsulates "The Hague Tradition", and the history of international law and organization, and of peace studies.

Charms

The many charms of the Peace Palace are undisputed. In terms of style, the building mirrors the Belle Epoque and the transition period of old and new paradigms of art. Its conference rooms and corridors reflect the sincere aspiration to synthesize endeavours and outpourings from all over the world - no less of a challenge in terms of art as in legal or political terms.

Gardens are traditionally the realm of philosophers. At the Peace Palace.

The classical style of the Peace Palace gardens and rosaries was arranged by the celebrated British landscape architect, Thomas H. Mawson. Over the decades, judges and arbitrators, diplomats and conferees have sauntered along the winding lanes in the grounds, savouring the glorious palette of colours, the exotic fragrances and a cosy chat.

