

ROERICH PACT AND BANNER OF PEACE COMMITTEE

C O P Y

January 5, 1948

Editor
Time
540 No. Michigan Avenue
Chicago 11, Ill.

Sir:

Your issue of December 29, 1947 carried a most confused and misleading article about Prof. Nicholas Roerich. The first sentence is disparaging, and contains the misstatement that Prof. Roerich "spent a lifetime seeking peace". The truth is that he spent a lifetime promoting world peace. His travels in active pursuit of this aim carried him through 21 countries, where his benevolent purposes and accomplishments are attested by a host of renowned educators, artists and cultural leaders. I speak as one of a group of Americans who feel honored to carry on in this country the noble works and projects brought into life by Prof. Nicholas Roerich, the great artist, educator, humanitarian and practical idealist.

In this country, however, Prof. Roerich did find injustice, and shameful indifference to cultural values and to vandalism. It is to be regretted that our own country, traditionally open-hearted, friendly and progressive, has produced detractors, widely heard notwithstanding their ignorance and base motives, who can only write about "a twin-pronged beard" or some such absurdity as someone's wishing to be "head of Siberia".

Akbar once said "A great man casts a great shadow". The shadow cast by Prof. Roerich holds enemies, but they are greatly outnumbered by his friends.

Prof. Roerich's life was crowned with the achievement of tremendous service to humanity. It behooves us, therefore, to honor him for this achievement. His was a magnificent mission - to bring gifts of beauty and knowledge to all, and to show the world how to unite in Peace through Culture.

I am enclosing here a statement issued by the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace Committee. It speaks for one of Prof. Roerich's greatest contributions - a measure for the protection of the treasures of mankind's culture at all times, in war and peace.

Dudley Fosdick, Chairman