

NICHOLAS ROERICH

Nicholas Roerich, one of the greatest leaders of world culture, in whose honor the Roerich Museum in New York has been built, has won international renown as artist, author, archaeologist, and philosopher.

Of a family, dating on one side to the Eighth Century, to the Vikings of the North, and on the other to the most ancient Slavic tradition, Roerich was born in St. Petersburg, October 10, 1874. From his earliest years Roerich demonstrated his passion for knowledge and beauty, and his great archaeological achievements may be traced from his boyhood excavations which laid the foundations for his remarkable Stone Age collections and his present authority as one of the great archaeologists of his time.

Equal genius was demonstrated in his art, both under Kuindjy in the Academy in Russia and later under Puvis de Chevannes and Cormon in France. In deference to the wishes of his father--one of Russia's greatest attorneys--he also went to the University, graduating from both with honors. Roerich's pre-eminence in the educational and art life of his native land was demonstrated as the Director of the School for the Encouragement of Arts; as First President of the Mir Isskustva; in his brilliant work with the Moscow Art Theatre and the Diaghileff Ballet; and as leader in innumerable cultural movements of that brilliant period.

Roerich's masterpieces are in the leading museums throughout the world, such as the Louvre, Luxembourg, Victoria and Albert, National Museum in Rome, etc., and more than 1000 of his works are in the permanent collections of the Roerich Museum in New York. There are also Branches of the Roerich Museum, dedicated to Roerich's art, in Benares, Allahabad, Riga, Paris, Bruges, Belgrade, Zagreb, Buenos Aires, and other countries.

Roerich was in London in 1919 when the Chicago Art Institute invited him to come to America for exhibitions of his works throughout the United States, under its auspices. Shortly after his arrival he also founded the Institution which now bears his name--The Roerich Museum--with its twenty-four story building in New York and comprising wide-spread cultural endeavors in New York as well as in its 72 branches in 24 countries of the world. Roerich's last ten years have in great part been spent in Asia, where he completed his historical Central Asiatic Expedition with its vast accomplishments of 500 paintings of Asia, and obtained other unprecedented scientific material, as a result of this Expedition. Roerich also founded the Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum in Kulu, India, where a far-reaching program of scientific research work is carried on.

This veritable epic has brought Roerich to the latest aspect of his work--that of world cultural leader. His latest creation, one which places him in the vanguard of cultural forces of our day, is his plan for the Roerich Pact with Banner of Peace, for which the third International Convention was held in Washington, D.C., in November, 1933. This Pact, devoted to the Preservation and Protection of the world's cultural treasures and the agreement among the nations of the earth, of their inviolability, has already been unanimously endorsed by King Albert of Belgium, Pope Pius, Einstein, Tagore, President Masaryk, Maeterlinck, the International Red Cross at Geneva, and numerous other official and cultural bodies and individuals. Three International Conventions have been held for the

Roorich Pact, the first two in the City of Bruges, 1931, 1932, when Dr. Adatei, President of the International Court at The Hague, was Protector. The Third International Convention for the Roorich Pact, was held in Washington, in November 1933, under the Protectorate of The Hon. Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, when the Roorich Pact was unanimously recommended for adoption by the Governments of the World. The Seventh Pan American Congress, held in Montevideo in 1933, has also recommended it unanimously for adoption by the American Governments.

Through his wide fields of creation, Nicholas Roorich has thus arrived at his great cultural leadership, confirming the words of the Hon. George Gordon Battle, one of America's outstanding statesmen, has written: "Nicholas Roorich is unquestionably one of the greatest leaders of history. Combined with his extraordinary breadth of mind, there is a sublime sympathy with the opinions of, and tolerance for the prejudices of others. He has a marvelous equipment to be the leader of an international movement. He has power not only to plan but to act. He can translate his dreams into action."

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R E R I C H , Nicholas K. (1874). Academician. Academy Fine Arts under Kuindji
1897. Graduated St.P.University in Law 1897. Completed art.education in Paris under
Comon & Puvis de Chavannes. Director School of Soc.for Encouragement Fine Arts.
Since 1907 - academician. Founder of: "Master Institute of United Arts", NY (1921),
"Corona Mundi" Inter.Art Center (1922), "Urusvati Himalayan Research Inst.(1928).
Roerich Pact & Banner of Peace for protection of cultural world treasures.Hon.Mem.
Yugoslav Acad.of Science & Art. Mem.Rheims Acad. Hon.Mem.Maha Bodhi,Benares.Hon.Mem
Russian Cult.Hist.Museum,Praha.Hon.Vice-Pres.Mark Twain Soc.USA.Hon.Mem.Eose Inst.
Calcutta.Mem.Royal Asiat.Soc.Calcutta.Mem.Salon d'Autumne,Paris etc. Headed 2 centr
Asiatic Expeditions 1923-29 & 1934-35. Roerich Museums in:Paris,New York,Riga.Roe-
rich Halls in:Brugge,Benares,Allahabad,Praha,Zagreb,Trivandrum,Kyoto,Buenos-Aires
etc.Paintings in:Louvre,Victoria-Albert (London),Vatican,Tretiakov Gallery,Russian
Museum,Nat.Museum Stockholm,Athaeneum Helsinki & other museums & collections in
Europe,Asia & America.Theatr.productions:Moscow Art Theatre,Diaghilev Ballets,Co-
vent Garden London,Chicago Opera,Metropolitan New York,Comedie Francaise Paris,etc.
Writer. (Adv.:Naggar,Kulu,Punjab,Brit.India).

Nicholas Roerich

Nicholas Roerich, one of the greatest figures of Modern Art, artist, philosopher, educator, archaeologist and explorer-his numerous paintings form part of all the leading museums of the world, as well as of the most important collections. Here in India they can be seen in the museums of Allahabad, Benares, Mysore, Travancore etc. The municipal museum in Allahabad, the Kala Bhawan in Benares and the Citralayan in Travancore have special halls dedicated to them.

Nicholas Roerich is a member of four academies-in Russia, France, Portugal and Yugoslavia. As an educator Nicholas Roerich founded numerous institutions dedicated to culture, besides he is the author of a large number of books and essays. The most important books being "SHAMBHALA" "Heart of Asia", "Altai Himalayas", "Adamant", "Fairy Stronghold" etc.

Nicholas Roerich is the author of the "Peace Pact for the Protection of Cultural Treasures", adhered to by twenty two countries. He has played a leading role in the Russian Ballet and theatre. Heralded as the Wagner in painting, his settings were acclaimed throughout the world and are well known to all theatre enthusiasts.

His Ballet the "Sacre du Printemps", which he produced in collaboration with Stravinsky, the famous composer, marked the turning point in new conceptions. His settings include: "Sacre du Printemps", "Prince Igor", "FUENTE OVEHUNA", "Snow Maiden", "Tzar Saltan", "Princess Maleine", "Sister Beatrice" and all Wagners Operas, etc.

Over 500 essays have been written and published on his art, besides ten large monographs.

He led two expeditions to Central Asia in 1924-1928 and 1934-1935, covering Mongolia, Tibet and China.