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****Second Edition*****

ROERICH, NICHOLAS. Russia, United States, India

#20. Birth of the Elements. 1924. Oil, 46 x 29. Owner, Baltzar Bolling.

Roerich lived many years, at the end of his life, in the beautiful Kulu Valley of the Punjab, below the majestic and never-satiating grandeur of the snow-capped Himalays. As the Psalmist "lifted his eyes to the hills" for Divine strength, ~~his~~ Roerich declared, "From the peaks come revelation." (P. Yogananda, Autobiography of a Yogi, 27.) His experience confirmed the ancient occult tradition that mountains symbolize the steps of spiritual ascent. Roerich indeed realized "a Himalayan soul".

As a painter, he is "A Master of the Mountains" (Barnett D. Conlan). His abiding love for "the primordial architecture of the earth," for wondrous rocks and vast expanses, is manifest in the mysterious and monumental mountains which glorify nearly all of his paintings. "His distances bespeak infinity."

He knew ^{that} the Divine Power operates throughout the total universe. He was aware of the inner forces of the earth: geological, archaeological, spiritual. He sought "to reveal the spirit of the cosmos." In this painting, out of an invisible subterranean kingdom, emerge, with musical accompaniment, three charming goddesses (probably Venus, left, ~~Isis~~ Isis, and Ashtar: respectively Roman, Egyptian, and Babylonian). The serpent-like dragon cavorting through the sky is a favorable omen (see #23). The catalog title of this work is The Serpent. Some other paintings in this series, "Banners of the East", are: Mother of the World, Signs of Christ, Buddha the Conqueror, ~~Lao/Tse~~ ⁱⁿ Lao-tzu.

Roerich stressed ⁱⁿ his works the spiritual, beautiful, universal, cultural. Most of his subjects are sacred in theme and mystical in appeal. The golden yellow which adorns ^{many} ~~most~~ of his paintings symbolizes, in occultism, intelligence or mind, and is ^a vitalizing, refining color. In Christian tradition yellow means glory,

fruitfulness, and goodness. Here in this painting we behold indeed The Birth of the Mysteries (alternative title).

"Roerich's religious beliefs is something that saturates all his art and writing and at every moment of the day." (Barnett D. Conlan). "He understood the greatness of ecclesiastical art and predicted its wider appreciation. As he proclaims: 'The sign of Beauty will open all sacred gates. Beneath the sign of beauty we walk joyfully. With beauty we conquer. Through beauty we pray. In beauty we are united.'"¹⁶ (Roerich, vii, ix; published ~~by~~ by Corona Mundi, Roerich Academy, 319 W. 157th St., N. Y. City.) He affirmed "the coming apotheosis of art." Some other works: And We Are Opening the Gates, Bridge of Glory, Miracle, The Unknown Singer, Heaven's Battle.

Biography. 1874-1947. Born in St. Petersburg (Leningrad). ^{Descended,} ~~Descended~~ through his father, from ~~Nordic~~ Nordic Vikings. Studied ~~law~~ ^{archaeology} law, art. 1920: to U. S.; 1923, to India, to "discover the fabulous character of Asia." His years were packed with extensive ~~travel~~ ^{travel} travel, archaeological exploration, founding institutions, writing (eight books), lecturing, and, most of all, painting (about ~~5,000~~ ^{about 7,000} ~~works~~ ^{works}). Always his activity was intense, versatile, romantic, creative, mystical, and humanitarian. He affirmed, "You shall know that in that country where Knowledge ^{Beauty} and ~~Beauty~~ will be reverenced there will be peace." (Silpi, Indian art magazine, Oct. 1947, 125). His son's address under Svetoslav Roerich.

*Initiators of the
International pact for the protection
of Cultural Treasures, now
accepted by all the Nations.*

#27 PICTURE INTERPRETATION p.1

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ROERICH, NICHOLAS, Russia, United States, India

#27. Birth of the Elements. 1924. Oil, ~~11 1/2 x 29 1/2~~ 46 x 29 1/2 Owner:

Baltzar Bolling. (Mr. Bolling, is 1925 painted on picture? Catalog #30, ed. 8, p. 24: 1924)?

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As a painter, he is ~~the~~ "Master of the Mountains" (Barnett D. Conlan/). His abiding love for "the primordial architecture of the earth," for wondrous rocks and vast expanses, is manifest in the mysterious and monumental mountains which glorify nearly all of his 5,000 (?) paintings. "His distances bespeak infinity."

He knew that the Divine Power operates throughout the total universe. He was aware of the inner forces of the earth: geological, archaeological, theological. He sought "to reveal the spirit of the cosmos." In this painting, out of an invisible subterranean kingdom, emerge, with musical accompaniment, three charming goddesses (probably Venus, left, ~~Isis~~ and Ashtar; respectively Roman, Egyptian, and Babylonian). The serpent-like dragon ~~is the serpent~~ dashing through the sky is a favorable omen (See #26). The catalog title of this work is The Serpent. Some other paintings in this series, "Banners of the East", are Mother of the World, Signs of Christ, Buddha the Conqueror, Lao Tze.

or Conqueror of the Serpent: ~~King of the World~~
Nagarjuna.

Roerich emphatically desired his works to be spiritual, beautiful, universal, and cultural. Most of his subjects are sacred in theme and mystical in appeal. The golden yellow which adorns most of his paintings symbolizes, in occultism, intelligence or mind, and is a vitalizing and refining color. In Christian tradition yellow means glory, fruitfulness, and goodness. Here in this painting we behold indeed The Birth of the Mysteries (alternative title).

"Roerich's religious belief is something that saturates all his art and writing and at every moment of the day/" (Barnett D. Conlan). "He understood the greatness of ecclesiastical art and predicted its wider appreciation. As he proclaims: 'The sign of Beauty will open all the sacred gates. Beneath the sign of beauty we walk joyfully. With beauty we conquer. Through beauty we pray. In beauty we are united.'" (Roerich, pp. vii, ix; published by Corona Mundi, 310 Riverside Drive, N. Y. City.) He affirmed "the coming apotheosis of art." Some other important paintings are: And We Are Opening the Gates, Bridge of Glory, Miracle, The Unknown Singer, Heaven's Battle.

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