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Mr. Roerich's: "The Buried Cultures"

In reading Mr. Roerich's "Buried Cultures" I was particularly impressed by the eager enthusiasm of the author, his interest in his work, and his desire to describe it. For one who has known English so short a time the result is little short of marvellous.

A book of this kind, written by a man wrapped up in his subject, has two perils to avoid, Scylla on one side and Charybdis on the other. If, in the eagerness to lay bare his subject, the author forgets that his readers are put to it to keep up with him; he is likely to run away from his reader completely, leaving the latter panting far behind to say, "Oh well, that was altogether too dry for me, anyway!"

The other peril to avoid, is much less dangerous. It is merely to avoid certain awkwardnesses of expression, which come largely from unfamiliarity with the

use of written English.

My only criticism ~~is this~~ to Mr. Roerich is this: "Get hold of your reader. Remember you are not writing to a group of scholars who take a great deal for granted, but to men who know little or nothing about it. Don't be "scientific" in words or expression. Write as you would talk. Look out for awkwardnesses in expression."

Roch
by

R.F. Bradford

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