ROERICH ACADEMY OF ARTS

February 23, 1939

Professor Robert Stanley MacCardock
Department of History
Lincoln Memorial University
Harrogat, Tennessee

My dear Mr. MacCardock:

You probably are aware of the outstanding achievements of Professor Nicholas Roerich in the fields of art, peace and education, recognized throughout the cultural world. Since his first arrival in this country, in 1921 (for an art exhibition and lecture tour under auspices of the Art Institute of Chicago), he has founded several educational and art Institutions here and has contributed vastly to the cultural life of America. He headed the Roerich-American Central Asian Expedition from 1923 to 1929, which brought to the United States a unique treasure of over five hundred Roerich masterpieces constituting a panorama of the Heart of Asia never before painted by a Western artist.

His latest achievement, which has won him international acclaim as one of the greatest humanitarian thinkers and artists of today, was his creation of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace. Three International Conferences were devoted to this noble project, two in Belgium and one in the United States.

In April, 1935, the twenty-one nations of the Pan-American Union officially accepted the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace in a solemn ceremony at the White House, President Roosevelt heading the list of speakers in a nation-wide radio broadcast.

An extensive literature pertaining to the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace has been published in several languages. There are also a great many bibliographies on Professor Roerich and monographs on his art, as well as his own voluminous writings.

Professor Roerich is a holder of most distinguished decorations of European countries and has been elected honorary member, president, advisor of numerous scientific and artistic bodies and organizations.

It has occurred to me, as an American whose work is dedicated to the fostering and promotion of Culture, that such an Institution as Lincoln Memorial University might be desirous of bestowing upon Professor Roerich the degree of Doctor of Philosophy------ Honoris Causa. Coming from your University, which is known for its noble tradition of dedicating its work and accomplishments to the memory of the Great Emancipator--Abraham Lincoln, this degree would have a deep significance especially close to Professor Roerich's heart, and would not only be welcomed by him, as I feel sure, but also would justly place the Lincoln Memorial University in the vanguard of American Institutions bestowing upon a great humanitarian of today the honor due him from America.

I shall deeply appreciate your thoughts upon this subject, and stand ready to send you publications and books as mentioned above, some written by Professor Roerich and some pertaining to his work and achievements.

Looking forward to the pleasure of your reply, I am,

Most sincerely yours,

Dudley Fosdick
Director