



OFFICE OF
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
NEW YORK DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

April 22, 1925.

Mr. R. S. Sharp,
Special Agent in Charge,
Department of State,
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

Supplementing my report of this date regarding the ROERICH MUSEUM:

ROERICH is reported to have left Russia in 1914. He has since sojourned in England and the Scandinavian countries and since 1919 has been in the United States.

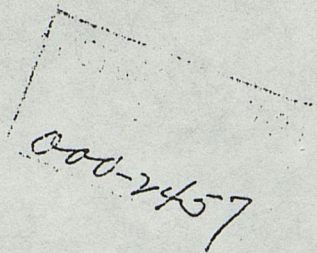
ROERICH is said to have been invited to come here by the Chicago Art Institute for the purpose of showing his paintings throughout the United States. He is also understood to have received similar invitations from certain Museums in this country.

ROERICH complied with the invitations referred to and made a tour of the United States for the purpose of exhibiting his works of art and showed them in about 30 different museums.

I am told that all of the contributors mentioned in my previous report of this date, are native-born American citizens except Maurice Lichtmann, who is a native of England and a naturalized American. The informants at the Museum also declared that the ROERICH institutions are American throughout, being managed and supported by Americans with the exception, of course, of ROERICH himself.

The purpose of the expedition to Thibet is said to be solely in order to collect art objects and to enable Prof. ROERICH to make paintings of the wonderful and unusual natural scenery and rare and beautiful architecture which is not found in any other part of the world and of which there are now available in the United States very few drawings or paintings. They want to give Americans the benefit of the wonderful views and art works to be found in Thibet.

Respectfully submitted.



~~1921~~ Founded ~~1921~~
November 17
~~1921~~ 1923 ~~1921~~
New York

LOUIS L. HORCH
President
MAURICE LICHTMANN
Vice-President
FRANCES R. GRANT
Executive Director

TELEPHONE ACADEMY 3860
310 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK N. Y.

Mr. Louis L. Horch \$500,000.
27 Pine Street, N.Y.

Curt M. Rosenthal 150,000
526 South Irving Blvd.
Los Angeles, Cal.

Sidney Newberger 100,000
46 West 83 Street, N.Y.

Edward ^{Harry}/Bloomberg 50,000
1482 Bdway., N.Y.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Elias Silverstein | 50,000 |
| 252 West 85 St., N.Y. | |

✓ Frances R. Grant 25,000
610 Riverside Dr., N.Y.

Howard F.Clark 25,000
6 Washington Terrace,N.Y.

X F. W. Trabold X 25,000
141 Bdway., N.Y.

John Hoyer 25,000
27 Pine Street, N.Y.

X Salary
X supplies
Banker empty
Lover



OFFICE OF
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
NEW YORK DIVISION

V
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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100-2457

April 22, 1925.

Mr. R. J. Sharp,
Special Agent in Charge,
Department of State,
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

I beg to report as follows regarding the ROERICH MUSEUM of 310 Riverside Drive, this report, as directed, to be in the nature of a preliminary report:

In beginning the investigation, as the result of consultation with certain prominent artists, art galleries and public museums, it was found that NICHOLAS ROERICH, the leader and prime factor in the ROERICH MUSEUM, Master Institute of United Arts, the Corona Mundi International Art Center and other similar institutions which ROERICH has established in the United States, is a genuine artist and apparently devotes his entire time to such endeavors. He is said to be a native of Russia, a Russian citizen and to have appeared and become well known in the United States several years ago, at which time he exhibited a number of his paintings and was successful in making sales to prominent individuals and art galleries.

Evidently ROERICH is an artist of high caliber, in view of the fact that in every quarter wherever his name is mentioned, he is always well and favorably known as an artist.

Yet at the same time practically nothing seems to be known anywhere regarding the ROERICH MUSEUM and its allied institutions, such as the Institute of United Arts &c.

In my preliminary surveys I had a very interesting talk with Dr. Wm. H. Fox, Director of the Brooklyn Museum, who seems to have had some acquaintance with ROERICH, made an inspection of the numerous paintings on display in the ROERICH MUSEUM and later on, invited ROERICH to participate in an exhibit of the works of Russian Artists, which Dr. Fox held at his Museum. But for some reason, which Dr. Fox has never become aware of, ROERICH failed to participate in that exhibit.

I learned from Dr. Fox that a special and unusual interest had been taken in ROERICH by Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Sutro, Sutro being a very well known Jewish banker of this city. A similar interest in ROERICH had been dis-

played I was told on the part of the well known N. Y. Jewish philanthropist, Adolph Lewisohn.

It also developed as a result of these preliminary surveys, that it is sometimes customary for artists to engage in expeditions to foreign lands and out of the way places in distant parts of the world, in the pursuit of their artistic endeavors, but such undertakings are rather rare, and their rarity is attributed to the circumstance that the expenses of such an undertaking are so great as to be ordinarily prohibitive. A person doing such a thing must either be very wealthy or enjoy almost unlimited financial backing.

As to why ROERICH and his associates should be manoeuvring around over in India and Thibet, my informants claimed to be unaware and unable to furnish a plausible and acceptable explanation.

The above mentioned Dr. Fox told me that prior to the time I had made my inquiry, the idea of the ROERICH EXPEDITION had impressed him as rather far fetched.

I made some slight inquiry through friendly Russians at New York, who were immediately available, concerning the personal and political status of ROERICH, also at the same time touching on his financial standing. They tell me that he stands very well in Russia; that he is a famous Russian painter; is regarded as not only really talented from an artistic standpoint, but has prospered financially as a result of successfully disposing of his numerous works of art. It is believed that he is not active politically, and in Russia would be regarded as having no connection with the Soviet regime and I got the impression, is an outright anti-Soviet.

Several years ago ROERICH held an exhibition of his work at the Kingore Art Galleries of this city, and sold a number of his paintings at that place. Because of the urgency for an early report on this matter, I was obliged to suspend further inquiries through outside sources and yesterday made an immediate call at the ROERICH MUSEUM for the purpose of a direct inquiry and survey.

This Museum is located on the north-east corner of 103d Street and Riverside Drive. The building which it occupies is a very large and rather sumptuous old mansion-house. The house is three stories high, with a large basement and attic, is on a fairly large-sized plot of ground and contains about 25 rooms. I would roughly place the value of this property at at least \$500,000.

I was received at the Museum by the Executive Director, Miss Frances R. Grant-- this in the absence of the President Mr. Horch. I had some talk with Miss Grant and was later joined by Mrs. Horch and Louis L. Horch, the President. These people informed me that there are on the premises in addition to the ROERICH MUSEUM, the Master Institute of United Arts and the Corona Mundi International Art Center, all of which were founded by Prof. Roerich and all of which are interallied institutions. They are incorporated under N.Y. State laws. The pioneer of the organization is the Institute of Arts, which

was established in 1921. This was followed in 1923 by the Corona Mundi International Art Center and by the ROERICH MUSEUM in the same year.

The institute of United Arts is claimed to be an Art School which gives tuition in all of the arts such as Music, Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Dancing, Drama, &c. I am transmitting herewith a prospectus which goes into full detail concerning the aims and activities of this organization. I would invite particular attention to page 3, which I have marked in red, which refers to a Rabindra Nath Tagore Scholarship.

The purposes of the International Art Center are to hold Art Exhibitions arrange Touring and Loan Exhibitions, to buy and sell Art Treasures, to organize Artistic and Archeological Research Expeditions, to establish Agencies and Branches in all foreign countries &c. I would invite special attention to the two last named purposes. I attach hereto a pamphlet going more into detail with respect to the objects of this organization, and have marked p. 3, for special note.

I also attach hereto a pamphlet concerning the ROERICH MUSEUM, which contains on the back of the cover a list of officers and honorary advisers. I mention as of possible particular interest, the last page of this pamphlet which gives a number of Prof. Roerich's academic affiliations.

The officers of the aforementioned organization are the same in each case. ROERICH is the Honorary President.

Louis L. Horch, President, is a banker and foreign exchange broker by occupation and a member of the firm of Horch, Rosenthal & Co., of 27 Pine St., New York City.

Maurice Lichtmann is reported by the informants at the Museum as a musician by occupation.

The ROERICH MUSEUM I am told is conducted as a free public museum and is utilized as a means of displaying the works of Prof. ROERICH and art objects which are gathered by the Roerich Expeditions and other organizations as well as providing a means of exhibiting the products of the students of the Institute of Art.

The Museum and the other institutions are not self-supporting, although it is hoped to make them so. These enterprises are therefore dependent for financial support upon interested parties who are in a position to put up the necessary funds to keep the good work going.

In response to an inquiry as to who are the financial supporters or contributors to the ROERICH undertaking, I was told by informant that such a list would be quite extensive and that it was not immediately available, but they might be able to give me a few names offhand, which are as follows:

Louis L. Horch, Exchange broker, 27 Pine Street, New York City,

Sidney Newberger, Foreign Exchange broker, 27 Pine Street, New York.
Frederick W. Trebold, Vice Pres., Guaranty Trust Co., New York City.
Maurice Lichtmann,
Alfred C. Booson, 640 or 680 - 5th Avenue, New York City, Architect.
Murt Rosenthal, a foreign exchange broker, Los Angeles, California.
Geo. T. Johnson, banker, Paris, France.
The Reverend Hall, Phila. National Bank, Philadelphia, Pa.

The foregoing seem to be about all the names that were forthcoming for the time being, but I have been promised a complete list of the contributors and the same is expected momentarily.

During the talk about the financial support for the ROERICH organizations I was told, in response to a query, that the organizations own the premises at 310 Riverside Drive, and have purchased the adjoining premises on Riverside Drive for the purpose of enlarging the Museum and other establishments, in the near future. I made mention of the fact that inasmuch as these activities were not self-sustaining, a great deal of money must be required to maintain them, this, in addition to the necessarily large outlay which must have been required for these luxurious properties.

The informants readily and seemingly enthusiastically agreed with me regarding this, and made a great deal of the circumstance that many many thousands of dollars have already been expended by them in connection with the present ROERICH EXPEDITION to Tibet alone. They seemed to like to talk big money and proudly pointed to the fact that so far at least \$200,000 has been put into the present ROERICH EXPEDITION and it is calculated that at least \$1,000,000 will be required to complete this Expedition and it is their intention to actually spend at least that much on it before the Professor gets back to America.

In connection with these huge financial outlays, I casually remarked that in connection with such large enterprises of this kind, a person usually and naturally expects to see prominently identified therewith as a contributor, at least some of the names of our well known millionaires and philanthropists, such as Mr. Rockefeller or Mr. Otto H. Kahn or Mr. J.P. Morgan, or Mr. Adolf Lewisohn, or possibly the Warburg family, or at least some very wealthy person in a position to lay out large sums of money in this kind of work, but that I did not notice any such names as contained in the list of contributors which had been given as above. The informants said that was quite true, but apparently had no explanation to offer nor did they contend that the names which have been mentioned, are of people in a position to supply such large amounts of money.

Concerning my mention of the name of Adolf Lewisohn and the Banker Swtro and Soris and Otto Kahn, the Warburgs &c., the informants were quick to acknowledge very enthusiastically that although these gentlemen did not appear to be financial backers or contributors, they were very, very dear and interested friends in ROERICH and the ambitions and undertakings of the several different ROERICH enterprises.

I would explain that the discussion of the interest or lack of interest on the part of those prominent Jewish bankers who have been mentioned, was brought about in the most adroit way possible, so as not to give the impression that we have any suspicion that those gentlemen are interested ~~within~~ in any ulterior way, and I am positive that the questions could not have been construed by the informants to have such a meaning.

Regardless of the denial of the informants, it is your Agent's emphatic opinion that the Jewish bankers above mentioned actually are contributors and financial supporters of these institutions.

During my call at the Museum, I was peculiarly impressed by the fact that every one whom I saw there or with whom I came in contact was either a Jew or Jewess. The whole organization seems to be thoroughly koshered, and I would not feel comfortable in placing much credence in the representations of the informants.

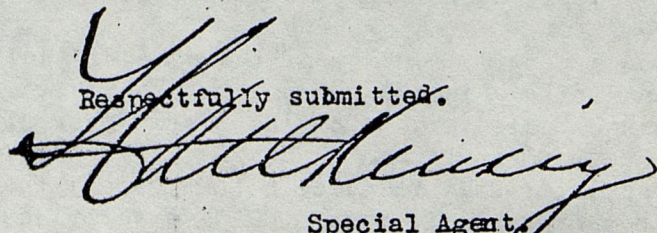
Based on what I have seen and heard, I cannot believe that these enterprises are solely artistic and not for financial gain, the informants to the contrary. There is in my opinion, certainly a purely business ambition on the whole behind these undertakings, also it is clear from an examination of the prospectus that the ramifications of these societies is to be not only national but international, and it seems to be an outstanding circumstance that the managers are not in any way cramped for funds, but have practically unlimited money at their disposal.

I would place the present investment in the ROERICH institutions, including real estate, furniture, art works, expeditionary expenses &c, at about \$5,000,000 --to say the least, yet in the preliminary list of contributors which has been submitted, I do not see the name of one millionaire, although I may be in ignorance of the true financial standing of the obscure names which appear therein. I am therefore of the opinion that there are actually behind these enterprises financial interests which are as yet unknown to us.

I made a personal examination of the interior of the Museum at 310 Riverside Drive and would say that it has many aspects of a real museum; there are many beautiful paintings and art objects on display there. There is also a display of the works of some of the more advanced students of the Art School. I also saw in operation in other parts of the building small classes in Sculpture and Music, but these classes were very sparsely attended and there is only a negligible amount of activity in that regard.

I am informed that the personnel of the present Expedition of Prof. ROERICH to Thibet consists only of himself, his wife, his son George and something like 30 natives who serve as guides or servants.

Respectfully submitted.



Special Agent.

HK/CB