

NICHOLAS ROERICH: A Portrait Sketch.

By Kailash Nath Mehrotra.

"There is no other way, O Friends scattered,
May my call penetrate to you!

Let us join ourselves by the invisible threads of the Beautiful. I turn to you, I call to you, in the name of Beauty, and Wisdom, let us combine for Struggle and Work. During the days of Armageddon, let us ponder, on Eternal Values, which are the Cornerstone of Evolution.

Satyan, Shivan, Sundaram. "

The savant who summed a whole treatise on Eternal Values, in these few words, was a Russian Artist Nicholas Roerich, who exerted a new type of Divine Vision, on contemporary art and culture.

Nicholas Roerich, son of _____ was born 1874. His father, who had begun his career as _____ subsequently became _____. Later he was appointed _____ and there he died when Roerich was only _____ years old.

Roerich received his early education in Russia. Later, he proceeded abroad to widen his knowledge.

He also attended the School of Law, the Faculty of History and Philology, the Academy of Art and the Institute of Archaeology, besides hearing Lectures on different aspects of Art.

He went to Paris also where he studied under Cormon. Thereafter, he undertook a tour of Europe. He studied the art and culture of many countries, and prepared a solid ground for the creation and discrimination of culture.

Later on, Roerich went to United States of America, where he acquired a new vision of men and things.

He was an aesthete of very high order. His creations received wide acclamation, and the United States Government, requisitioned his services for leading Archaeological expedition to India.

As he possessed a philosophical bent of mind, he studied India philosophy. He was deeply interested in Hinduism and Buddhism.

In 1928, he happened to go to HIMALAYAS, and was so charmed with the sight of eternal snows, and so inspired that he uttered the following mysterious words of prayer:

"HIMVAT, the Beautiful!

Thou hast given us our greatest treasures, and for ever, thou shall remain the guardian of the greatest mystery, the holy

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marriage of Heaven and Earth".

The calmness of spiritual atmosphere, prevailing in the Kulu valley of the Himalayas, appealed to him and there he built a beautiful Ashram (Hermitage) with a view to settle down permanently

A visit to the Ashram revives his memories, and is a place of pilgrimage for Art lovers. For, at this Abode of Peace, he passed the last 19 years of his life, engrossed in producing his immortal works of art. His creative power knew no bounds. He ~~PRINTED~~ about 2,000 paintings, all of exquisite beauty.

During the ~~waving~~ ^{his} years of his life thoughts turned towards humanity, beset with hatred and jealousy. He was pained to know of so much selfishness and discord, among nations of the World, and started formulating a plan for creating peaceful atmosphere. He promoted "Roerich Pact", and "Banner of Peace" and verily so brought a change in the atmosphere that people called him "Apostle of Peace".

But he is best remembered for the sheer artistry of his paintings.

Forsythe, an Art Critic of ~~Repute~~ ^{Repute}, who would never praise anything wholeheartedly, writing in his 'vocabulary', says:

Roerich's paintings are permanently admirable"

— This is the highest praise ever given ^{by} that ~~she~~ ^{wise} ~~we~~ ^{man}.

Roerich had achieved celebrity at an age when other young painters have yet to learn and master their art.

As the years went by, a series of magnificent paintings came out of his brush.

The world of Roerich ~~teems~~ ^{scenes} with mountains, sky, objects of Spiritual beauty and exquisite ~~scenes~~ of Nature. "Colour", they say, "is the language of the God". And Roerich has used this language to convey the message of Gods to humanity. Movement of his brush with colour, resulted in colourful appeal for union and understanding.

He resembled the Apostle, Leonardo da Vinci, not only in his inspired spirit, but also in the four fold power of his mind.

Roerich is ever living in four forms of Art, where he attained unparalleled distinction. Due to this, he is often called as "A Man with Four Souls".

And verily, there lies an element of reality, for he laboured incessantly, in the four fields of Archaeology, Science, Painting and Writing.

It may be observed, that for the greater part of his life, Roerich was a painter. Few painters have achieved recognition in Tempera technique like Roerich.

There is hardly an important city or museum, where his paintings do not exist. A large collection of his paintings is displayed in Roerich Museum, New York, Moscow, Washington, Paris, London, Louvre, Vienna, Burges, San Francisco, Rome, Leningrad, Buenos Aires, and in other Art galleries, both private and public.

Important cities in India possess finest specimen of his studies of Indian scenes.

Even in the Allahabad Museum there are 17 pictures exhibited in a special room, called Roerich Hall. His pictures mainly deal with Indian mythology and religion as well as eternity.

In the Allahabad Museum, one may see two fine paintings of his illustrious son, Dr. Svetoslav, Roerich, who like his own father Prof. Nicholas, is a great painter.

The one is a Tibetan Monastery, and the other is a fine portrait of his own father Prof. Nicholas, painted in brilliant colours.

Here people may see, how he inherited the best motives of his great father with his distinct technique.

Dr. Svetoslav has walked into the steps of his father. He married Devika Rani, grand-niece of Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore. She is a great inspirer to her noble husband.

The great Nicholas Roerich, who was a revolutionary painter was greatly influenced by the philosophy of Dr. Tagore. They exchanged spiritual messages through letters and talked on problems of peace and unity amongst the Nations of the World.

Nicholas Roerich lived to the ripe old age of Seventy-three. His death was a great blow to the Culture.

He was a genius, the first Russian, who brought the soul of Russia and the Spiritual Culture of India, together, through his artistry, and interpreted the same in his pictures, and propagated his missions throughout Europe and America.

He painted gloriously and left the world as a wise sage.

The world is still searching a man, possessing the Roerich Spirit.

Kailash Nath Mehrotra

PRABHAT HOTEL 4
ALLAHABAD-2
U.P.
2-6-1964

Dear Mrs. Roerich,

Herewith I am returning the
book "NICHOLAS ROERICH MEMORIAL VOLUME."

I am enclosing my article
"NICHOLAS ROERICH: A Portrait Sketch" for
favour of perusal by Dr. S. Roerich and yourself.
Of course, it is subject to your revision and
addition of matter pertaining to the great
Artist's life. Please find out some photo-
graphs done by Prof. Nicholas and send the
same along with my ARTICLE to me
to enable me to get all the material
published in an Illustrated Magazine.

I understand that you are a
talented lady who once dominated in
the Film World. I, therefore, would like
to write an article on yourself and Dr.
Svetoslav, if some material is made
available to me.

I would be thankful to you, if
you could send me autographed photographs
of Prof. Nicholas, Dr. S. Roerich and yourself
for my Album.

With respect,

I am,
yours sincerely,

To, Mrs. Devika R. Roerich,
C/o The Indian Bk. Ltd.
Bangalore.

Kailash Nath Mehrotra

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PRABHAT HOTEL,
Colonelganj,
Allahabad-2.
27-7-1964.

Mrs. Devika Rani Roerich
C/o Dr. S. Roerich
Indian Bank Ltd.
Infantry Road,
Cantonment,
BANGALORE.

Dear Mrs. Roerich,

I sent you a Regd. Parcel containing "Roerich Memorial Volume" and an article, on June 3, 1964.

But I am in suspense whether you received it or not.

I request you to return the article with your comments and Dr. Roerich's approval.

Please also send some photographs to enable me to get the article published.

With my respects to Dr. Roerich.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Kailash Nath Mehrotra
Kailash Nath Mehrotra.