

ASPECTS OF A CREATIVE LIFE

by

SVETOSLAV ROERICH

Prof. Nicholas Roerich was born in 1874 in St. Petersburg and he received his early, as well as higher education in that city.

As a student he simultaneously attended the Academy of Art, the Historic and Philological courses of the University of St. Petersburg, the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Archaeology. Later he went to study abroad.

This varied training was the foundation which gave him that marvellous breadth of vision and understanding to build his beautiful edifice of achievement. His heart and thoughts belonged to all humanity, to all peoples.

As an artist he painted over 7,000 paintings dealing with a wide range of subjects from historic large compositions painted in the academic and more realistic style influenced by the late 19th century, to his later highly decorative colourful and unique paintings - depicting Man's higher aspirations and strivings.

He took his themes from the Great Book of Life, The Quest of Man, Philosophic Doctrines and Religions, and in the later years along with his imaginative paintings he also painted the sublime landscapes of the Himalayas which he loved so much and which made him known as "Master of the Mountains".

His paintings hang in the leading museums as well as in the most important private galleries of the world, here in India they form part of many State collections and Travancore has a separate building dedicated to them, while separate halls have been set aside at Allahabad and Benares.

He was an outstanding mural painter and his monumental murals for the Kazan Railway in Moscow and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Talashkino, near Smolensk, are the better known among his murals. He also designed many mosaics.

His contributions to the stage was likewise very important. He painted settings for practically all the Operas of Wagner and for many Operas of Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, Moussorgsky as well as for Maeterlink and others.

His work for the ballet was no less significant, his Danse Polovtsienne and Sacre du Printemps have become classics of the stage.

As an author and scholar his published works include some 27 volumes mostly dealing with Cultural and Philosophic and Pan-Human subjects.

Besides, he wrote innumerable articles for leading periodicals of India and abroad. His poems were published both in Russian, in which language they were written by him and other languages. The English translation was in the rendering of Mary Siegrist. Several unpublished manuscripts were left by him.

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'DECCAN HERALD'
Bangalore,
October 4, 1964.

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CHAIRMAN
DR. B. V. KESKAR

M.C. Minocha,
Secretary.

नेशनल बुक ट्रस्ट इंडिया,
23, निजामुद्दीन ईस्ट, नई दिल्ली-13
NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
23, Nizamuddin East
NEW DELHI - 13

No. F.N.B.T./6-1/65/2183
January 21, 1966.
Magha 1, 1887.

Dear Smt. Devika Rani,

with thanks!
As desired by our Chairman, Dr. B.V. Keskar, I am returning herewith the newspaper cutting of the "Deccan Herald" containing the article "Aspects of a Creative Life" by Svetoslav Roerich.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M.C. Minocha)

Smt. Devika Rani Roerich,
C/o. Indian Bank Ltd.,
Infantry Road,
BANGALORE-1.

Encl: As given above.

T.S.B.

संस्कृत पुस्तकालय
22, ब्रिजवाडी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110
NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA
22, Brigidin Road
NEW DELHI-11

M.O. Minocha,
Bombay.

श्री श्री श्री
DR. S. V. KESKAR

NO. 1, N. D. 1100
11. 11. 1100

Dear Mr. Devika Devi,

As desired by our Chairman, Mr. ...
I am returning herewith the ...
paper cutting of the "Hindu Herald" ...
containing the article "Hindu ..."
sent by your Secretary.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M.O. Minocha)

Mr. Devika Devi
National Book Trust
22, Brigidin Road,
New Delhi-11.

Encl. 1. Hindu Herald.

11. 11. 1100

The Horses of Good Omen



Painting by Prof. Nicholas Roerich whose 90th birth anniversary is being celebrated this week.

Mystic - Dreamer Master - Painter World - Citizen

MYSTIC-DREAMER, master-painter and world-citizen, Nicholas Roerich was one of the outstanding personalities of this or any other century.

UNQUESTIONABLY, one of the greatest and most interesting of the world's master artists, his large canvases run to several thousands, and each one a masterpiece of daring composition, pulsating colour-harmony and massive effect. "Himalayan" is

ther he painted a gorgeous Himalayan landscape or wrote a short message to a school magazine, he gave it the same attention and care, a trait of true greatness. He resembled the late Dr. Annie Besant in this respect.

INDIA had a special place in his affection, and to India he looked for the spiritual regeneration of the world. Hence his home in the land of the rishtis, the Himalaya. His illustrious countrywoman and spiritual mentor, Madame Blavatsky, introduced him to India and her wisdom, as she did to the other great



By G. Venkatachalam

the word not only for his soul but for his art as well.

HE was as daring a pioneer as mystic, poet, thinker and scientist, and his output as a writer was as great as it was voluminous. From his mountain retreat in Kulu, he kept himself in touch with every progressive idea and movement in the outer world and often guided them with wisdom and practical help.

HIS versatility was amazing and his capacity for work was prodigious; his interest in small things was as great as in big things, and as enthusiastic. When

Russian composer, Scriabine, one tribute paid to Roerich by Maxim Gorky, himself another immortal. The late Annie Besant hailed him as "a painter of titanic stature and a revealer of the hidden beauty of nature." He certainly belonged to that mighty brotherhood of creative geniuses like El Greco, Leonardo de Vinci and Michael Angelo, bringers of light to a dark world.

"ONE of the greatest intuitive minds of the age," was the tribute paid to Roerich by Maxim Gorky, himself another immortal. The late Annie Besant hailed him as "a painter of titanic stature and a revealer of the hidden beauty of nature." He certainly belonged to that mighty brotherhood of creative geniuses like El Greco, Leonardo de Vinci and Michael Angelo, bringers of light to a dark world.

"When I think of Nicholas Roerich I am astounded at the scope and abundance of his activities and creative genius. A great scholar and writer, archaeologist and explorer, he touched and lighted up so many aspects of human endeavour.

"The very quantity is stupendous — thousands of paintings and each one of them a great work of art. When you look at these paintings so many of them of the Himalayas you seem to catch the spirit of those great mountains which have towered over the Indian plain and been our sentinels for ages past.

"They remind us of so much in our history, our thought, our cultural and spiritual heritage so much not merely of the India of the past, but of something that is permanent and eternal about India, that we cannot help feeling a great sense of indebtedness to Nicholas Roerich who has enshrined that spirit in these magnificent canvasses."

—Jawaharlal Nehru

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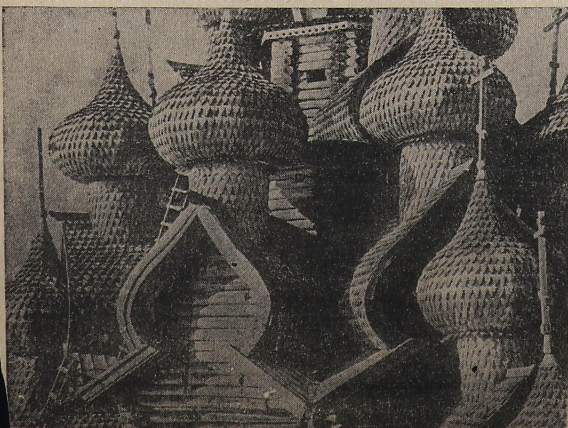
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A fine specimen of Russian wood art

G. VENKATACHALAM.

TOTALITARINISM: By Rajendra Verma, Published by Asia Publishing House, Bombay. Price. Rs. 10.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE was never a political leader like Gandhi, nor was he 'wholly political' even in his earlier years. But there was a stain of politics in his life's work.

His Santiniketan, Viswabharati, Sriniketan and allied educational-sociological missions sprang up because of a general discontent with the plight of the Indian bound by alien rule. His drama, prose and poetry sent out sparks of political fire now and then. To study these stray writings and bring out their *dhwani* is the task undertaken by Dr. Rajendra Verma.

TAGORE was more of a political prophet than an active politician. Unbound by the narrow patriotism of a single country, he envisaged a World Union. Few indeed of our time could lay claim to his god-like universality. Just a while before his passing away, he wrote in sonorous Bengali a lyric of *abahaava*:

Today the gates of night's
fortress
Crumble into the dust—
On the crest of awakening
dawn
Assurance of new life
proclaims 'Fear Not'.
The great sky resounds with
paens of victory
to the Coming of Man.

NO wonder he considered that totalitarianism meant death to the Soul in Man. In his lifetime totalitarianism had taken the form of the giant cloud. Fascism. This creed darkened the countries outside India. And inside India? The pure Nationalism of the earliest days had ripened into the cult of Bharat as Divine Mother in Bankim Chandra, to be crystallised into the active contemplation of Freedom in Bhawani Mandir. Dark forces besieged this temple of Purity, and

Kitchen garden

TARAKARIYA BELE (The growing of vegetables) by U. K. Subbarayachar; Published by Suruchi Prakashana, Saras-watipuram, Mysore-5. Pages. 28; Price 75 P.

THE book contains brief and useful notes regarding the growing of vegetables, and will be a valuable guide to those who desire to cultivate a small kitchen garden. Needless to say, it is a hobby well worth cultivating in these days of scarcity. The book carries illustrations of the different vegetables mentioned.

K. S. G.

in and outside Congress.

TAGORE was deeply pained by this extreme form of Nationalism which falsified freedom itself. This Nationalism was a cur-

Books received

INDIA A WORLD IN TRANSITION: By Beatrice Pitney Lamb. Published by Orient Longmans Ltd., Mount Road, Madras-2. Price, Rs. 15.

THE ROMANCE OF TEACH-
ING: By Muriel Wasi, Published
by National Council of Educa-
tional Research & Training,
New Delhi. Price. Rs. 2.50

GENERAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS CLASSES — I — VIII: Published by National Council of Educational Research & Training, New Delhi. Price Rs. 2.25.

GENERAL SCIENCE HANDBOOK OF ACTIVITIES CLASSES VI — VIII: Published by National Council of Educational Research & Training, New Delhi.

Price. Rs. 9.50.
SHAKESPEARE AMONG
INDIANS: Published by Indian
Oxygen Limited, 48/1, Diamond
Harbour Road, Calcutta-27

ANDHRA KATHA MANJUSHA:
By Swamy Sivasankara Sastry,
Published by The Bangalore
Printing & Publishing Co., Ltd.
Bangalore. Price, Rs. 4.50.

**POLITICAL HISTORY OF
NORTHERN INDIA: FROM JAIN
SOURCES (C. 650 A.D. to 1300
A.D.)** By Dr. Gulab Chandra
Choudhary, Published by So-
hanlal Jaindharma Pracharak
Samiti, Amritsar, India). Price.
Rs. 34.

was a fascist doctrine in miniature. The political prophet came out with pointed attacks on this narrow patriotism in his two political novels, *Home and the World* and *Four Chapters*, and gave a message for right action against this wrong action in his dramas, *Mukta Dhara* and *Red Oleanders*.

DR. VERMA'S self-imposed task is to study these writings in the wider background of the Renaissance in India and the fight for Freedom, and Tagore's own ideas of politics and personality, as outlined in his lectures on the Religion of Man. Tagore was the first man of this age to perceive the dangers of the mechanical 'house of organisation man', apart from the soul-killing discipline of fascism and communism. He warned man repeatedly not to leave the divine simplicity of the ancients, not to forget the smell of the soil.

AMIDST his advice and exhortation, amidst the horror and terror of the moment, he gave up his life in man. He fondly uttered the Vedic saying: "*Paadoosya ishahubhoatani tipraadoosya amritam diti*". In Dr. Verma's words: "His faith remained unshaken to the last, though his nose deserted him in the closing phase of his life. He was disillusioned, but did not grow cynical". "Freedom has not brought much solace to our political life. But it will bring like Tasore do some love to the earth, in rain, and to his teachings will be a beacon-light to reach souls". **freedom.**

—PREMA NANDAKUMAR

You Need

**BENGAL
CHEMICAL'S
CANTHARIDINE
HAIR OIL**

To preserve your
luxurious
Silken-soft
lovely hair

BENGAL CHEMICALS

CALCUTTA • BOMBAY • KANPUR

WEEKLY MAGAZINE: Sunday