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THE MASTER OF THE MOUNTAINS PROF. NICHOLAS ROERICH.

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Prof. O.C. Gangoly, the Eminent Art Critic wrote about Prof. Roerich.

"As a leader of culture and spiritual thought he can be easily compared with Tolstoy, Romain Rolland and Mahatma Gandhi. Mominally an artist, incessantly employing his brush with an untiring energy and producing and bequeathing to posterity thousands of canvases which fill many museums and galleries, he was much more than an artist, a great thinker, a practical idealist, a philosopher, a humanist, a man with a message, a mystic, a prophet and a high priest of culture, a veritable rishi, a missionary in the best and the most extensive connotation of the term. Prof. Micholas Roerich was born in Russia in 1874 and received there his education as an Artist, Historian and a Jurist. He began his literary career when he was only Sixteen with numerous articles which were widely publicised. Already early in life he became an outstanding public figure and was at the head of many leading cultural and educational institutions. His fame as an artist of international repute came to him when he was still in his Twenties. In his life time he painted 7,000 paintings dispersed throughout the leading museums and collections of the world. He was an outstanding mural painter and painted many murals for churches and public buildings. He also executed a number of stage sets some which like "Prince Igor" and the "Sacre du Printemps" have become classics of the stage. His published books comprise some twenty seven volumes on art, culture, his explorations, his essays on ethics, philosophy and his poems. The better known of these books are:

- 1. Collected Works
- 2. Flame in Chalice
- 3. Altai Himalaya

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- 4. Heart of Asia.
- 5. Realm of Light.
- 6. Fiery Stronghold.
- 7. Shambhala.
- 8. Paths of Blessings.
- 9. Gates into the Future.
- 10. Himalayas Abode of Light.

Besides he has written innumerable articles published in magazines and papers in India and throughout the world.

He was the initiator of the International Pact for the Protection of Artistic and Cultural Treasures in times of war and civil commotions which was adapted yet in his life time and became known as the Moerich Pact. He conducted several extensive expeditions to Central Asia, Mongolia and Tibet and organised research in several fields in the Himaleyas. From his student days he was greatly attracted to India and Indian Philosophy. He settled in the Himaleyas where he lived up to his death in 1947. Here in the Himaleyas he painted his inimitable paintings of the Himaleyas in all their unparalleled beauty and multiple concepts for which they stand. The great epic of his Himaleyan paintings earned him the name of the "Master of the Mountains".

In his life time he received some of the highest distinctions and awards. He was Fellow of more than half a dozen academies, Chairman, Patron and Honorary Member of scores of learned bodies and societies throughout the world.

A vast bibliography exists on Prof. Roerich, some fifteen Monographs and hundreds of essays and articles dedicated to his Art and Cultural work. He died at his home in the Kulu Valley. A large stone which stands over the place of his cremation bears the inscription, "On December 13th 1947 here was cremated the body of Nicholas Roerich the great Russian Friend of India".

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