

The World Telegram
New York City, N.Y.

TO THE EDITOR:

The resolutions adopted at the recent American Legion Convention in New York, condemning various "isms" as un-American, were frankly aimed at a few prominent men in the world's political arena of today whose progress is being viewed with increasing alarm. But progress is being made also in the peaceful arts and sciences. We have an encouraging example of an entirely different kind of master in the outstanding contemporary leader of culture, Professor Nicholas Roerich.

On October 10, 1937, Roerich Societies throughout the world, including a Congress of All Baltic Roerich Societies now assembling in Riga, Latvia, will observe the 40th anniversary of the academicianship of Nicholas Roerich, and the 50th anniversary of his active life as artist-educator. His latest book "VIGIL" will be published in America in commemoration of this anniversary.

Born in Russia in 1874 Roerich began as a child to achieve recognition in science art and literature. At the age of ten he presented to the Russian Archeological Society important bronze objects personally excavated on the family estate. A short time thereafter his drawings, paintings and articles were appearing in illustrated art magazines. At twenty-five he was a graduate of the School of Law of the Imperial University of St. Petersburg; graduate of the Imperial Academy of Art; was Professor of the Archeological Institute; Art Editor of the magazine "ART"; and Secretary of the Imperial Society for the Encouragement of Art in St. Petersburg, of which he became Director a few years later.

Before coming to America, Roerich traveled extensively in Europe and his paintings were acquired rapidly by leading museums and private collectors. He held exhibitions in the principal cities and art centers and was elected Member of the Board of the Society of Architects of St. Petersburg, President of "Mir Iskusstva" President of the Imperial Commission for War Invalids, and Academician of the Academy of Fine Arts of Russia.

Prior to his leaving Russia in 1916, Professor Roerich was recognized not only as a great artist, but as an indefatigable, practical idealist and leader in active cultural enterprise. He organized the first American art exhibition in Russia, introduced broad reforms in the art schools, lectured extensively on art and archeology, wrote voluminously and conducted many archeological expeditions.

As early as 1904 he began working for world peace by personal appeal to governmental bodies, and his work for humanity continuously expanded through his art and science and writings. He used every opportunity to voice his dream of world peace through unification of all peoples along cultural lines. Beginning at a very early age, Roerich taught that there is a universal veneration due objects of art of all nations, and that peace and culture are inseparable.

In 1920 Professor Roerich came to the United States for an extensive lecture and exhibition tour of this country. Within a few years he had established a number of educational and cultural institutions in America and had planted many seeds for the enhancement of our cultural life. At present he pursues his expeditionary work and painting in India.

There is a vast bibliography on Roerich comprising his own writings on art, science, ethics, philosophy and education, and works about him in all languages by eminent writers.

In August 1937, in a paper lauding Nicholas Roerich's educational contributions entitled "The Spirit of Roerich's Cult-Ur or Veneration of Life in Modern Education," Professor Paul Radosavljevich of New York University says, - "Roerich's educational experiments here and abroad are based on Truth (which he classifies as Science) and Beauty (whose appeal is aesthetics or art). Together these two basic ideas culminate in Spiritual Culture." Professor Radosavljevich points out that Roerich distinguishes between culture and civilization; that he is against standardized methods of teaching and learning; that he pleads for the development of the creative instinct or impulse from the earliest years of childhood; that he has a high opinion of woman's part in cultural education; and that

"Our America needs him very badly."

Dudley Fosdick

New York, N. Y.

October 5, 1937.

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[Professor Roerich is President-Founder of the Master Institute of United Arts and many affiliated institutions of the Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive. This is a free public museum, having been declared by Professor Roerich and the Trustees as a perpetual gift to the American people. It is the home of over one thousand paintings by this renowned master, and was erected in his honor in 1929 at the completion of the five-year Roerich-American Central Asian Expedition. The scientific fruits of this expedition benefited the world at large, but America received also a magnificent treasure in works of art. Over five hundred glorious paintings

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As early as 1904 he began working for world peace by personal appeal to governmental bodies, and his work for humanity continuously expanded through his art and science and writings. He used every opportunity to voice his dream of world peace through unification of all peoples along cultural lines. Beginning at a very early age, Roerich taught that there is a universal veneration due objects of art of all nations, and that peace and culture are inseparable. This constant work of enlightenment culminated in the adoption of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace which, after two International Conventions in Europe and one in America (1933), was signed by plenipotentiaries of the 21 countries of the Pan-American Union, including the United States, at a special ceremony (April 1935) at the White House.

In 1920 Professor Roerich came to the United States for an extensive lecture and exhibition tour of this country. His masterpieces were warmly hailed in twenty-eight cities, and he continued to paint here. Within a few years he had established a number of educational and cultural institutions in America and had planted many seeds for the enhancement of our cultural life. At present he pursues his expeditionary work and painting in India.

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Roerich Anniversary

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