

## 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF NICHOLAS ROERICH

Nicholas Roerich was born in St. Petersburg in Russia on 9th October, 1874, and was educated at the University of St. Petersburg, where he studied at several faculties simultaneously.

A many-sided genius, Professor Roerich's varied and prolific creative activities spanned three continents - Europe, America and Asia - and earned him an international reputation in a number of fields.

A master-artist, scientist, educator, philosopher, writer, designer, poet, humanitarian, explorer, ....., Roerich was one of the most highly-gifted and interesting men of this or any other century. His 7,000 paintings hang in galleries and museums throughout the world; his designs have become classics of the stage; and his writings and poems have been translated into many languages.

A great cultural leader and worker for world peace, Roerich stressed that beauty and knowledge would unite humanity. He was the founder and inspirer of cultural institutions and societies in many countries, and a most active forerunner of Unesco. In 1931 he founded the World League of Culture, and his Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace - inaugurated in 1935 to promote peace and to protect humanity's cultural heritage - was approved and entered into by 34 nations.

His humanitarian work was greatly assisted by his wife, Helena, and their two sons, George - a scientist and distinguished orientalist - and Svetoslav, the gifted artist.



He came to India in 1924, when he led a 5-year artistic/scientific expedition through the mountainous regions of Central Asia. In 1928 he settled in the Kulu Valley, where he founded the Himalayan Research Institute, and where he lived the last 20 years of his life.

A friend of Nehru, Radhakrishnan and Tagore, Roerich loved the country of India and its peoples as he loved his own. He enshrined that love and the spirit of India in his many glorious paintings of the Himalayas, which earned him the reputation, "Master of the Mountains". Roerich died in Naggar, Kulu on 13th December, 1947.

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