

MEMORANDUM.

In 1931 prior to my departure to India Mr.H. as well as Mrs H. have repeatedly approached me saying that my collections and art cannot be left unprotected in New York as they were not insured and secondly as Mr.H. claimed , if anyone wished to "bring suit" they property could be attached and cause me inconvenience. This continued for quite some time and as my property was not at the time insured and my apartment not very safe owing to leakage, etc. I followed Mr.H's advice and transferred the property for protection to the Roerich Museum. Mr.H. himself prepared the receipt and said to me that it is wiser to put in the receipt the words "for money due", because then the receipt would have some priority and would be indisputable by others". That money due, he said, could be considered to be my \$500 guarantee for the purchase of the house next door on 103rd Street, for which as far as I know, Mrs K.Campbell gave the money. Since the transfer was made to the Roerich Museum, of which I am Vice-President and Trustee for life, and because of other considerations I had not reason to doubt the words of the President. (As far as I remember this transfer was not made until June, yet Mr.H. ~~said at the time that it was made in June~~ put his own date on it, which was ~~told me that he~~ told me that he May 1st.) Mr.H. at the time, has written to Prof. and Mme Roerich that this was transferred merely for protection purposes and I believe his entry on June 9th 1931 in his Diary is the passage he mentioned to me. Prior to my departure in July 1931 I have told to Mr.H. that I will prefer to settle my ~~so-called~~ debt to the Roerich Museum by setting aside a definite part ~~the~~ mentioned in the receipt ~~number~~ of art objects, which would be chosen by me and him, thus closing this transactions. Mr.H. accepted this idea, which he thought excellent and we chose some 120 old Masters and other art objects from my list, which more than amply covered my so-called debt. ~~I call this a so-~~



called debt, because all these years, *As* Director of Corona Mundi, (to which effect I have a paper,) I was entitled to the administration salary which was never at any time drawn by me. as I wanted to save the Roerich Museum all the money ~~and I did not need it at the time.~~ These 120,000 were given over to Miss N. Porutchik, then secretary of "Corona Mundi" and copies of the papers to this effect were sent to India to Prof. Roerich with the regular reports, also stating in the next report that already a number of things had been sold. Since the objects were valued very low, Mr. H. told me that ~~xxxxxx~~ the surplus from the sale would certainly be refunded to me, but I never considered this, as I regarded the matter as closed. At my departure Mrs K. Campbell as well as Miss Ingeborg Friis kindly consented to take care of the remaining objects belonging to me, which were in my apartment on the 25th floor. Also before my departure I have presented the Roerich Museum as a gift with my portrait of Prof. (with the casket) Roerich, hanging in the Roerich Museum, as well as with some carvings which were in the Hall of the East. The values of these gifts amounts to over \$5,000.- This portrait and carvings were included in the so-called original transfer for protection of May 1st. All these years my remaining collections were in charge of Mrs K. Campbell and Miss Fritschi, who had the keys and to whom I gave permission to use and remove whatever pieces they wanted. *(Some of the pieces were placed in Mr & Mrs Roerich's studio apartment, since they wanted.)* When it became apparent in December 1934 that my apartment will have to be vacated, though according to agreement Prof and Mme de Roerich and myself had a right to this apartment for life and we never <sup>in</sup> relinquished it principle, our conceding to its temporary leasing out was only to accomodate the Institutions and Bondholders, Mr. H. has written asking to Mme de Roerich and myself in India, what to do with my property in my apartment, <sup>\*</sup> in case the apartment will be leased out. We answered him that all property will have to be removed and stored on the 29th floor of the same building, which ~~xxxx~~ storage place I had been given

\* See minutes. December 1934

They were to leave for the space in the 25th floor.



use of. (This ~~room~~ <sup>place</sup> I intended to use for <sup>scientific</sup> experimentation). Mrs Campbell and Miss Fritschi have taken care of the removal of the property , packing etc. and Mr.H. has given Mrs Campbell the only key to the said room on the 29th floor, which contains my property. I would like to mention here that the Minutes from New York carry no mention of this transfer of May 1st; at that or any other time also that this property never figured on the Roerich Museum books at the time nor later, see financial statements of Roerich Museum, which we sent from here together with the Minutes and other documents. The Minutes however record my gift of Prof.de Roerich's portrait ~~of~~ and of the carvings (n the Hall of the Ea Regarding the 120 objects, as I left on the same day, August 12th, when they were transferred, I had no time to get the receipt for these, but ~~xxxxxxxthat~~ i had been promised to me that the receipt would be sent on. However the receipt was not forthcoming, but the abjects were acknowledged in the Corona Mundi reports, sent to India from New York, which we now recently ~~xxxxxxxx~~ sent to Miss Fritschi .