

Happy  
BirthdayTo My  
Father

With best wishes for many happy returns of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 & best of love & blessings  
 From Auntie Rance

A very happy birthday--

A year of gladness, too--

A future filled with Everything

That makes life grand for you,  
 Dr. Pictorial

23<sup>rd</sup> October 1964



Heidelberg,  
GERMANY

12.12.1964.

SVETOSLAV ROERICH

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY  
(23rd October 1964)

By

DR. HERMANN GOETZ

Dear Dr. Roerich,

My wife and I have learned with great pleasure that on the occasion of your 60th birthday the Government of Mysore has honoured you with a reward, after you had, already three years ago, received the Padma Bhushan from the Indian Central Government, and that also in the USSR two glaciers have been named after you and your father. We take this opportunity to congratulate you not only to this turning point in your life, but also to the appreciation for your work which has found expression in these honours.

Once 60 years had been regarded as the average span of human life. In any case their completion represents the time when one has to think of taking stock of one's activities during the preceding forty years, to examine whether they can stand the criticism of maturity, to envisage what still remains to be done in the years still granted to us, when it is our task no more to grow into this world or to grow in it, but to transcend it more and more.

It can then fill one with a warm satisfaction to know that the efforts of many years have borne so much fruit that they find so remarkable public recognition. We rejoice with you in these honours, as we know how well deserved they are. During so many years our acquaintance with you and your so charming, intelligent and energetic wife has grown into a friendship based on our highest esteem for



both of you, as highly cultured persons with a breadth of outlook and a depth of sympathy found so rarely, and not less as artists and as art connoisseurs.

It is difficult to live in the shadow of a great father, even to the extent of following the same profession, and yet to achieve perfection and fame in one's own right. But you have succeeded in achieving just this. There surely is a certain continuity of tradition, the gradiosity of concept, the sweeping contours, the bright colours, the search for the creative flux of ultimate reality behind the visible appearances of things. But in all other respects your art is different. Your father's vision had been Russian, but expanded into the vastness of high Asia. Yours is international, however accentuated by a special love for India. Your line has less majesty, but the rhythm of dance and a delicate sense for nuances. Your colours have not the bright, yet simple contrasts of cold and dry countries, but the warm glow and highly sensitive variegation of the tropical light. People are for you not so much signs in an all-pervading cosmic symbolism, immersed in the consciousness of an all-powerful transcendent reality, they are themselves avataras of the divine, worth of sympathy, worth of pity where they are helpless victims unconscious of their real nature, admirable where they have discovered that latter. Woman played but a very subordinate role in the art of your father, for you she is an object of special interest, Sakti, Maya, Prakriti, the Great Mother. At least so I see it.

This is what we feel as the link with you and Devika Rani. Art not merely as a craft, an enjoyable thing of beauty, a fashion, but the expression of the



awareness of the Life Divine. And this connects us also in another field, in that of collectorship and connoisseurship. I have never understood the pride of possessing a masterpiece, nor the pride of being an expert which so often mis-guides people into petty competitions and quarrels about irrelevant details or on problems the solution of which in most cases has to await the availability of more material. However I know the joy of discovery, the desire to rescue neglected, no more understood works of art, the ecstasy of novel perspectives revealed by them.

This is the bliss of the meditations spreading out before our inner eyes the whole process of individual and collective human life, within the vaster setting of nature, and ultimately of the whole cosmos as far as that latter is accessible to our senses. The world of the Samsara, the projection of Maya, individually appearing absurd perhaps, but not in its wholeness, in that perspective where "the visible world is nothing but a manifestation of Mind itself" (as it has been said in the Iankavatara Sutra, but as we might as well say in the light of modern science). I still remember the hours when we had discussed suchlike matters and I guard them as a costly memory.

We believe you have achieved this, to be a man of the world and yet not to be absorbed into it, to see it also as a spectator and as a re-creator, in the compass of the greater, all-pervading reality. We feel sure that your wife, herself a woman of the world and a creating artist, has had her important share in all this. With sixty the decisive years of human life set in, the years of testing and final reshaping and maturing. We hope that they will fulfil this expectation.

With our best wishes and kindest regards,

HERMANN GOETZ.





# NATIONS' LEAGUE OF PENFRIENDS

AFFILIATED TO F.I.O.C.E.S. (UNESCO) PARIS.

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PATRA MITRA ... Hindi

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Founder-Director :  
SHRI RADHA RAMAN  
Vice-Chairman, F.I.O.C.E.S.

Dated Oct. 14, 1964.

Dear Dr. Roerich,

I am extremely happy to have learnt that on the coming 23rd October, you will have completed your 59 years and entered the 60th birthday. I extend to you my warmest greetings on this auspicious occasion and express my good wishes for many returns of the day. In you, I not only find an esteemed friend but a great person, who has adopted India as his mother land and has become a part of the huge masses of people residing in this great sub-continent.

I was glad that the Mysore Government and Lalit Kala Acadamey both will be honouring you on this auspicious day. Nothing is big enough to appreciate your high qualities of head and heart.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Radha Raman*

Dr. S. Roerich, C/o Indian Bank Ltd. Infantry Rd.,  
Bangalore (Mysore State)





NATIONS' LEAGUE OF PENFRIENDS

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INLAND LETTER  
NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED



Dr. S. Roerich  
40 Indian Bank Ltd.,  
Inpentry Rd.,  
Bangalore Cantt

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Nations' League of Penfriends

86, Theatre Comm. Building,

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पत्र को यहाँ से काटकर खोलें To open cut here



Wishing you a Happy Birthday  
Dear Dr. Roerich. May God  
Bless and spare you to see  
Many More Happier Ones.

From:

Phyllis.