

August 2nd, 1922.

Robert B. Harshe, Esq.,  
Art Institute of Chicago,  
Chicago,  
ILLINOIS.

My dear Mr. Robert B. Harshe:

We are the legal representatives of Mr. Nicolas Roerich, who, because of his professional engagements, has asked us on his behalf to handle the matter mentioned in this communication.

The object of this communication is to take up with you the matter of damage which has been occasioned to some of the pictures and frames delivered by Mr. Roerich to you for exhibition purposes.

It seems that in the course of transit from one place of exhibition to another, certain damage was done to pictures and frames of Mr. Roerich's paintings, and which damage was noted while the pictures were on exhibition at the John Herron Art Institute.

In one instance, a masterpiece has been rendered completely valueless because of the canvas being seriously damaged to the extent that a hole has been made therein and in other cases the canvas has become soiled or marred or the frame broken or marred to considerable extent, the chief damage being done to the masterpiece "Varengian Sea", and the painting called "Evening" the canvas has been soiled, and the painting known as "Saintly Visions" where the canvas has been soiled and marred.

In other instances, lesser works have been almost destroyed and the damage caused to Mr. Roerich amounts to approximately Eighteen or Nineteen thousand dollars.

Mr. Roerich regrets the damage which was done to his works and it is with great reluctance that he is obliged to bring these matters to your attention especially in view of the fact that your relations have been so cordial and pleasant, and he has suggested that we ask you to communicate with the insurance company or companies who have written the insurance covering Mr. Roerich's property calling their attention to the damage and asking that reparation be made and that early attention be given to this matter.

It ought to be a simple matter to have the insurance



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company's representative at the city where the paintings are now being exhibited call and make an inspection and then report to his home office in your city.

We would respectfully suggest that the attention of the insurance company be called to this matter at your earliest opportunity in order that compensatory relief may be afforded to Mr. Roerich with the least possible delay.

We would appreciate an early acknowledgement from you informing us what steps are being taken in the matter.

With kindest assurances from Mr. Roerich, believe us to be

Yours sincerely,

(signed) *Bloombergs*

HAB-h