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TRANSLATION OF A LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM, PEKING, TO PROFESSOR NICHOLAS ROERICH

(Dated: April 5, 1927)

Sir:

We have the honor to state that some days ago, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, there was conferred upon us a large oil painting, entitled "And We Open the Gates". Having respectfully received this, we are filled with admiration and gratitude.

We have ordinarily looked up to you, Sir, on account of your Occidental and Oriental learning, your reputation being exalted with the T'aishan and the Constellation of the Great Bear. In speaking of antiquities you have much knowledge, and your eyes can cover a period of five thousand years. You have visited the most remote places, your travels covering ninety thousand li. Among connoisseurs you are a most renowned artist, having the ability to depict sounds and shadows, and are reputed to possess much ability and skill. Although the objects of antiquity in quantity are comparable to the sea, you, Sir, are among the initiate, and know and appreciate them all.

The painting which you have conferred upon us is more precious to us than a hundred ounces of gold, and we are covered with confusion that we have not been able to make a return gift to requite your kindness.

We have especially indited this rude note to express the gratitude of our hearts.

We have the honor, etc. etc.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM

To Professor Nicholas Roerich