

Sep \* 20 \* 1933

The President  
Nicholas Roerich Paintings' Corporation  
New-York City. U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

I have noticed that some questions relating to the sale of my paintings are treated in the Roerich Museum Minutes and in official correspondence of the Museum. As this question does not pertain to the Museum, I request that all such questions be handled only by your Corporation. We have already repeatedly met with some misunderstandings and reverberations, when business questions are occasionally treated in the wrong channels. If even such questions are sometimes brought into the Roerich Museum, I request the Museum in this case to redirect them to your corporation, as all lists of paintings and records of sales are of course kept in your corporation.

In all business questions exactitude is required and this will save from many unpleasantnesses. I will quote an example of one such insolvable for me matter. In the Roerich Museum President's official reports and in the letter of Mr. Lichtmann, three different versions regarding the sale of my painting "Pass of Lahul" to Mrs Sutro, were given. The first was: that Mrs Sutro gave \$1000 for 10 Ur. shares and for another thousand dollar took my painting, which is priced at \$2500 (before the depreciation of the Dollar took place). According to the second version: "Mrs Sutro selected the Pass Lahul Series for her collection. The marked price of the painting is \$2500"; to what we replied from here last week, that I agree with the concession of \$500 on this painting. The third version is: Mr. Lichtmann in his letter of Aug. 16th informed me, that Mrs Sutro donated \$2000 for the trip. These three versions make things absolutely unclear. One thing is a donation, another thing is a purchase. One thing is to purchase with a concession of \$500, but an entirely different thing is when \$1000 are balanced by 10 Ur. shares, and the other \$1000 is paid for a painting that costs \$2500. And taking into consideration the depreciation of the dollar, her payment would be equivalent to only about \$700. In view of such differences and unclearness, I request very much that the corporation makes this point quite clear. At the same time I request the corporation not only to enter into its lists the conditions of sales, but also in case of instalment payments, to make a corresponding written agreement. The corporation is a purely business concern and it will be clear to every purchaser, that agreements are quite natural. I repeat that we have to make such arrangements always very definite, as we had already unnecessary clashes with outsiders in the past, as they should not be repeated.

Great consideration should also be given to the question of the depreciation of the dollar. As example from my experiences in Russia I may



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quote that a painting which in 1915 was marked 6,000, in 1917 was sold for 15,000 because the rouble depreciated to half its value.. Such examples of the depreciation of the dollar may be seen in the case of the sale of Mr.S.Roerich's painting to Mr.Botha. For Mr.Botha a special concession was given and a large painting was sold to him before the dollar depreciated for \$300 and it was agreed in NY that he pays by instalments. It is true, he paid \$50, also before the depreciation; then many months passed without him making any payment and he went to Canada, where he escaped the effects of the depreciation of the dollar. Thus the remaining \$250 to-day have changed into actually \$187 and thus the painting was sold not for actually \$300, but for 237\$ only, not to speak about the fact that payments have ceased. I quote this example as very characteristic for the present situation during the depreciation of the dollar, which circumstance I request the corporation also to take into consideration.

I do not doubt that the corporation has a book of entries for paintings and a book for disposed paintings. Not only have some paintings been sold, but some paintings which were in the corporation, had been sent to Yugo-Slavia. In general, lists of paintings which are in Loan Exhibition at the Branches of Roerich Museu, should be also kept in the corporation as well. As Mr.Lichtmann is in charge of the catalogue of the paintings of the Museum, I consider that it would be easiest, if he took charge of the lists of the Nicholas Roerich 'aintings' Corp. also.

In anticipation of your reply,

Yours sincerely,