

Museum Gets Roerich Work

Two Paintings by Russian Artist Are Loaned for Display.

Two paintings by Nicholas Roerich, Russian painter, philosopher, scholar and scientist, have just been received by the Museum of Fine Arts of Houston as long time loans from the Roerich Museum of New York. These paintings, "Lahour-Gumran" and "Himalaya," both landscapes of the Himalayan mountain region between India and Tibet, are now on view in the entrance lobby of the museum.

These paintings should hold interest for the museum visitor not only because of their beauty, but also because of their unusual subject matter, the unusual medium in which they are painted, and the unusual distinction of the man who painted them, officials declared.

Done in Tempera.

The Himalayan mountain region is undoubtedly one of the least known regions in the world, and certainly it is one of the least painted. The beauty and majesty of the place, as shown by the paintings at the museum, will make the spectator wish that the Himalayas were not so inaccessible to artists.

The paintings are done in tempera, the chief painting medium used before the invention of oil painting in the fifteenth century. In tempera painting, instead of oil as the binding material, an albuminous or gelatinous material is used, such as yolk of egg or glue obtained from boiling the skins of animals in water.

Of Wide Ability.

Nichols Roerich is a man of so many claims to distinction that it is difficult to call him simply an artist. He was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1874. His father, a prominent barrister, wished that he study law, and his private school teachers wished that he study art. Roerich did both, taking up studies both at the university and at the academy in St. Petersburg. Art was his preference, and in 1900 he went to Paris to pursue his studies. A long series of exhibitions abroad began in 1903, and he won much acclaim.

Back in Russia in 1906 he became director of the School for the Encouragement of Fine Arts, president of the Museum of Russian Art, and a leader in the Moscow Art theater and the Diaghilev Ballet. Meanwhile he was actively engaged in archaeological study. The events of the year 1917 in Russia caused him to leave the country and to devote himself more strenuously to painting. After successful exhibitions in the Scandinavian countries, he came to the United States in 1920.

Founded Museum.

Since coming to this country 14 years ago he has founded the Roerich Museum in New York City, as a gift to the public; the Master Institute of United Arts, a complete school of fine arts; Corona Mundi, an international art center; the Roerich Museum Press; and Urusvati, the Himalayan Research (Science) Institute at Nagar, India. Long a worker for the cause of world peace, he is the author of the Roerich Peace Pact, an international agreement for the protection of art treasures in time of war. His lifelong archaeological pursuits were recognized recently in his election to the vice presidency of the American Institute of Archaeology.

Roerich has painted over 3000 pictures, most of them in Russia and Central Asia. He is represented in the Louvre, the Luxembourg, the National Museum of Stockholm (Sweden), the Victoria and Albert Museum, and in the Roerich Museum. For his distinguished services in the cause of art and peace, he has been honored by the governments of Sweden, France, Yugoslavia and Belgium.

Renlah Avars to Exhibit.