

January 27, 1938.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

For several years the painting "St. Panteleimon, The Healer" by Professor Nicholas Roerich has hung in the Urusvati quarters, room 401 of the Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, New York. This painting is the property of Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute.

During these past few years I have devoted considerable time to secretarial work for the Institute, working every day in 401 from early 1934 to late in 1936, and visiting 401 regularly at frequent intervals since then. I, myself, hung the painting in its place over the doorway and always looked at it as I came in. The last visit I made before today was on Monday, January 24, 1938, at which time the painting was in place as usual.

This afternoon, Thursday, January 27, 1938, I went to the quarters of Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute and, upon walking in the room, noticed at once that the painting was gone. I then looked through the room, accompanied by Gene Fosdick and Sina Lichtmann, Vice-President of Roerich Museum, and searched the closet, - but we did not find the painting.

Dudley Fosdick.

January 31, 1938.

Mr. Herbert Plaut,
Plaut & Davis,
76 Beaver Street,
New York City.

My Dear Mr. Plaut:

When we were forced to vacate the Urusvati quarters on the 4th floor of 310 Riverside Drive, we could not locate all the Urusvati property, and must assume that it still remains in the hands of L.L.Horch and his family.

The Reerich painting, "St. Panteleimon, the Healer", disappeared very recently. It hung for several years in 401 and was still there up until a short time ago. On last Thursday Gene Fosdick, Dudley Fosdick and I discovered it was missing and made sworn affidavits about it.

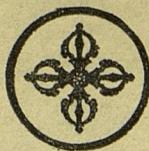
A couple of years ago a great many valuable Tibetan Banner Paintings which hung on the walls of 401 were taken by Horch on "loan exhibition", as he termed it and as it is receded in minutes. These were never returned.

The Tibetan Library on the 1st floor at the entrance to the Museum, with the Kanjur-Tanjur Collection and many art objects, is also the property of Urusvati as well as the painting and the tankas.

Please advise us as to what steps might be taken to recover and safeguard this property.

Yours truly,

Sina Lichtmann
VicePresident.



NAGGAR, KULU
PUNJAB, INDIA

CABLE ADDRESS
ROERICH NAGGAR, INDIA

310 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK, U. S. A.

CABLE: UNITAR, N. Y.

TEL. CLARKSON 2-1700

URUSVATI
HIMALAYAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF THE
ROERICH MUSEUM

February 8, 1938.

Mr. V. Shibayev,
General Secretary,
Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute,
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab,
British India.

My dear Mr. Shibayev:

Shortly after the date of my last letter to you I again visited the Urusvati quarters in 401 on the 4th floor of the Museum and discovered that the painting "St. Pant-eleimon the Healer" was gone. I immediately summoned my brother who was on the third floor at the time, and we notified Mrs. Lichtmann. We three then made a search in 401 but did not find the painting. We then made a joint affidavit about it, and I made a separate additional affidavit. These were sworn before notary at once. A few days later, due to circumstances of which you are no doubt already informed, we were forced to vacate these quarters. Although there was great confusion, caused by the interference of our enemies who first made it necessary for us to move and then tried to stop us from taking anything with us, I used every opportunity to speak of the missing painting. I looked through the gallery on the third floor, and asked Pete and Dr. Moskoff about it. Apparently it has gone into the hands of Mr. Horch and his family along with the tankas.

I have written in detail to Professor and Madam Roerich about my case against Horch in the court and the peculiar turn it took in the hands of Mr. Lake. As I never intended that Mr. Lake should draw any money from the bank account, I demanded a check subsequently from him in the same amount, and held it for some time trying to consult Trustees and friends as to how to adjust the matter. So many other court matters have come up meanwhile, however, that the significance of this has faded to a great extent, and I have exchanged the check (after photostating it) at the bank for a draft which I enclose here. In this way the money still remains with Roerich Museum, having been merely tranfered from a bank account into a department of Roerich Museum in India. That is all I wanted when I started suit anyway: that Horch should be forced to surrender the money to the department which I had indicated when I loaned it. It can now be used in any way desired by the Trustees there. I of

course hope to eventually recover for Urusvati the balance of the money.

We have moved the entire Ornithological Collection, the Butterfly and Mineralogical Collections, the publications, ethnographical objects, gold figures etc. into the quarters at 163 W. 73rd St. and have written to Mr. Plaut about the missing painting and tankas. I am not sure at this time whether I asked previously for advice about the Ornithological Collection. For some time I have been considering the possibility of presenting this Collection to the American Museum of Natural History to be exhibited permanently as the Urusvati Collection - or Urusvati Himalayan Collection. We will greatly appreciate any suggestions about other Collections and property also.

I am enclosing a copy of a recent letter to Albany from which we have received no reply as yet, and some newspaper clippings of varying interest.

With best regards,

Dudley Fodick

Secretary.

P.S. We are trying to keep watch over the Museum as much as possible. My brother wrote a formal letter of protest to the 1st Vice-President on the matter of the closing of the Museum on three more days of the week, since he was denied entrance the other day by N.S.Horch. Mor. and I visited it yesterday (Feb. 9th) and found everything in order. The trio have proclaimed it open now on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, I think.

Since I will be unable to finish my letter to Professor and Madam Roerich for this boat, I will greatly appreciate it if you will kindly tell Professor Roerich that I have seen M. Vaughn and may see him again possibly. He says he is a friend of Professor Roerich but he is not. It was a valuable lesson for me in self-control. I am wondering whether we may be able to track down some of the slander through him.