

Office of the President
313 East Union Street,
Liberty, Indiana.
May 2, 1938.

Mr. Lowell Thomas
R.C.A. Building
Radio City, New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Before leaving New York yesterday I visited the Roerich Museum and witnessed the unhappy fate which has befallen this institution. Evidently the President, Mr. Louis L. Horch, and his wife have maneuvered into control, ousted the school department and its director, who was one of its founders, and turned the school space over to the P.W.A. Some of the rooms of the Museum are closed, loan exhibitions have disappeared, and in all less than three hundred paintings remain hanging where once were viewed more than one thousand. Dirt, wires and papers are scattered about the empty, darkened galleries which have been shorn of all reference to its world renowned founder, Professor Nicholas Roerich.

It is most interesting to know that Horch and his wife are signatories to an instrument addressed to Herbert Hoover, during his term as President of the United States, declaring this Museum the property of the people of the United States and dedicating it in perpetuity as a shrine of Roerich Art. I know many people who, as a result of this inviolable representation, contributed to a fund of which Mrs. Horch was the treasurer, to insure this perpetuity. Does Horch now dare to seize these funds and this public institution for his own profit? Will the American people suffer this public, cultural monument to be sacrificed to such unprecedented audacity? It is also most interesting to know Secretary Henry A. Wallace's amazing role in this affair.

I suggest that, at your earliest opportunity, you come in touch with Mrs. Sina Lichtmann, Vice-President, Trustee and Co-Founder of the Museum whos address is 163 West 72nd Street, telephone Trafalgar 4-4773. Also with Mrs. Florentine Sutro, Chairman of the Roerich Museum Committee whos address is, Majestic Apts. 72nd St., and Central Park West, in order to learn the details of the facts I have sketched herein. Thereupon I sincerely hope that you will find it possible to give this matter the public attention for which it cries to Heaven.

Very truly yours,

Pres.

Pittsburgh, Pa.
May 17, 1938

The Editor,
The New York Times,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed is submitted with the hope that it may be accepted without change. However, if it requires cutting or altering, I would be glad to have your suggestions.

I am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope for return if unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Dudley Fosdick

Permanent address: Liberty Indiana

encl.

P.S. The words enclosed in brackets may be deleted if necessary.

D.F.

Carbon, measured by the method of ...

... ..

... ..

... ..

The amount of

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

To the Editor:

In last Sunday's Times, there appeared a statement by a majority of trustees of Roerich Museum that the announcement made on Friday by its President, Louis Horch to the effect that Roerich Museum had been closed and its paintings placed in storage had come to them as a complete surprise; that Horch had not been authorized to do anything with the paintings nor the policy of the Museum, and that the Roerich Museum would certainly continue its existence regardless of private plans of private individuals.

Horch's announcement came as a surprise to the public also and, as a citizen of the United States, who contributed to this institution and who wishes to see it live, I raise my voice also in protest.

The ideals and purposes for which the Roerich Museum was founded are the very highest and its one thousand paintings are a valuable treasure of art pledged to be always accessible to the public. This is the truth, and for years it formed the basis upon which funds for the support of the Roerich Museum were solicited by Horch together with the above mentioned trustees. Now, Horch suddenly proclaims the institution to be his private property because he contributed more money to it than anyone else,- he [slanders the artist, betrays his trust legally and ethically,] buries the paintings, and announces that henceforth the ^{former} home of Roerich Museum will be devoted to the sponsoring of American Art and Artists.

As a matter of fact this statement is a very sinister one from the standpoint both of American Artists and American Institutions. What artist would risk place ^{ing} his paintings in the hands of such a [treacherous] sponsor? And how can any

public institution similarly supported feel secure if at any moment a donor may walk in, seize a painting or a statue and walk out with it - or, worse, suddenly hurl a bomb through a window, destroying not only property equal in value to the money which he contributed but the entire institution? And how can we, the public, give our monetary support to ^{an} educational, scientific or art institutions if neither a majority of trustees nor the agents of the law of the United States can protect us against its suddenly being converted into a hamburger stand?

May 17, 1938

Dudley Fosdick

Guy Lombardo Orchestra
Stanley Theatre
Pittsburgh, Pa.

To the Editor:

In last Sunday's Herald Tribune there appeared a statement by a majority of Trustees of Roerich Museum that the announcement made on Friday by its President, Louis Horch, to the effect that Roerich Museum had been closed and its 1000 paintings placed in storage, had come to them as a complete surprise; that Horch had not been authorized to ~~do anything~~^{remove} with the paintings nor ^{change} the policy of the Museum, and that the Roerich Museum would certainly continue its existence regardless of private plans of private individuals.

Horch's announcement came as a surprise to the public, also, and, as a citizen of the United States who contributed to this institution and who wishes to see it live, I raise my voice also in protest.

The ideals and purposes for which the Roerich Museum was founded are the very highest, and its exclusive collection of Roerich paintings constitute a treasure of art belonging to the American people and pledged to be always accessible to the public. This is the truth, and it formed the basis upon which funds for the support of the Roerich Museum were solicited by Horch together with the above mentioned Trustees.

For over 15 years Horch avowedly dedicated himself to the promulgation of the ideals of Roerich and to the sponsoring of his paintings in America as President of the Institutions created and founded by Roerich for the enhancement of our cultural life. Is it not very strange, therefore, that, after suddenly proclaiming the institution to be his private property because he

contributed more money to it than anyone else, Horch now imperiously announces its death?

Why?

Are we who loved the museum besides giving money to it not entitled to ^{an} answer?

Louis Horch buries the paintings and announces that henceforth the former home of Roerich Museum will be devoted to the sponsoring of American Art and Artists. As a matter of fact this statement is a very dubious one from the standpoint both of American Artists and American Institutions. What artist would risk placing his paintings in the hands of such a sponsor? How can any public institution similarly supported feel secure if at any moment a donor may walk in, seize a painting or statue and walk out with it? And, how can we the public give our monetary support to any educational, scientific or art institution, if neither a majority of Trustees nor the agents of the law of the United States can protect us against its sudden conversion upon the whim of its President into perhaps even a hamburger stand?

Dudley Fosdick

May 19, 1938

Liberty, Indiana

L
T

May 14, 1938

Dear Mr. Fosdick:

Your letter is most interesting.

Why not put the matter in the hands of the Dis-
trict Attorney?

Sincerely yours,

(sig.) Lowell Thomas

Lowell Thomas
Rockefeller Center
New York City

WYDE W. DE VRIES
CARECK INC. CO.

313 E. Union St.,
Liberty, Indiana
May 19, 1938.

Editor of the
NEW YORK TIMES
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I am astounded to learn of the intentions of Mr. Louis L. Horch, regarding the Roerich Museum as announced through the columns of the NEW YORK TIMES of May 14, 1938.

It may be interesting to the readers of the NEW YORK TIMES to learn that Horch and his wife are signatories to an instrument addressed to Herbert Hoover, during his term as President of the United States, declaring this Museum the property of the people of the United States and dedicating it in perpetuity as a shrine of Roerich art. I know many people who, as a result of this inviolable representation, contributed to a fund of which Mrs. Horch was the treasurer, to insure this perpetuity. Does Horch now dare to sieze these funds and this public Institution for his own profit? Will the American people suffer this public, cultural monument to be sacrificed to such unprecedented audacity?

Very truly yours,

Gene Fosdick, Pres.

120 East Nineteenth Street

May 20, 1938

My dear Mr. Fosdick:

I have no objection to your showing my letter to your attorneys if you think there is anything in it that would be useful to them.

As for a lawyer who might take up your case in the way that you suggest I am sorry but I would not know where to send you.

Regretting that I can be of so little use to you, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

(sig.) Ida M. Tarbell

Mr. Gene Fosdick
313 E. Union St.,
Liberty, Indiana.

313 E. Union St.,
Liberty, Indiana
May 23, 1938.

Mr. Lowell Thomas
R.C.A. Building
Radio City, New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I beg to acknowledge your reply of May 14th, and to assure you that your attention is deeply appreciated.

In the desperate plight of the Roerich Museum I wish to advise you that the loyal Trustees who are defending it have already approached the District Attorney. Other friends of the Museum have approached him and letters from indignant subscribers to its perpetuity have been addressed to his office. His assistants have been very sympathetic, but have given the same answer in each case, -that this is a civil not a criminal action.

The defending Trustees, besides giving their life's work to this institution, have completely exhausted their personal resources in its defense. They have been engaged for nearly three years, and are still engaged in complicated legal procedure. Justice, throttled by high administrative and legal pressure, weeps softly while a president in fanatical rage, rides his Institution to ruin.

We all know that this is a dark hour for culture throughout the entire world, But Americans are still blessed with the privilege of raising their voice in its defense. While we still possess this powerful weapon it is my fervent hope that we do not permit the pages of the history of culture in America to be inscribed with the ignoble word - DESERTED!

Very truly yours,

Gene Fosdick, Pres.

318 E. Union St.,
Liberty, Indiana
May 25, 1938.

Editor of the
N.Y. HERALD TRIBUNE
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I am astounded to learn of the intentions of Mr. Louis L. Horch, regarding the Roerich Museum as announced through the columns of the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE of May 14th 1938.

It may be interesting to the readers of the HERALD TRIBUNE to learn that Horch and his wife, as Trustees of the Roerich Museum, are signatories to an instrument dated July 24, 1928, and signed by all Trustees of the Museum, which was addressed to Herbert Hoover, then President of the United States, declaring this Museum the property of the people of the United States and dedicating it in perpetuity as a shrine of Roerich art. I know many people who, as a result of this inviolable representation, contributed to many campaign funds to insure this perpetuity. Will the American people suffer this public, cultural monument to be sacrificed to the unprecedented audacity of its president who proclaims that he decided to close it and put the art of Nicholas Roerich into storage!

Very truly yours,

Gene Fosdick, Pres.

*****Liberty 27
*****Flamma
LibertyIndiana

June 19, 1938.

12

313 E. Union St.,
Liberty, Indiana

Mr. Upton Sinclair
Pasadena, California.

Dear Mr. Sinclair:

Believing you to be one of the leading defenders and builders of culture in America, I am taking the liberty of writing to you to acquaint you, if you have not already learned, with the desperate plight of the Roerich Museum in New York.

This Museum, as you no doubt know, is (or rather was) the home of over one thousand paintings by the great artist whose name it bears, and was erected in his honor in 1929 at the completion of the five-year Roerich-American Central Asian Expedition. The scientific fruits of this expedition benefited the world at large, but America, especially, received a magnificent treasure in works of art. The Institution has among its honorary advisors Tagore, Jagadis Bose Einstein, Millikan, Zuloaga and others. Nevertheless, this free public Museum now finds itself confronting a most unjust and unprecedented situation.

Three former Trustees have formed a conspiracy, performing the most astounding acts of vandalism and slander in an attempt to seize the entire cultural project conceived by Nicholas Roerich. This group, resorting to the darkest and most vicious machinations attempts to steal the results of the labors of the founder, his loyal Trustees and co-workers. In their attack they are being aided and shielded by certain persons who do not hesitate to exert the most sinister pressure in the thwarting of justice while hiding under the mantle of high public office. This all proceeds regardless of the fact that these persons and signatories to an instrument dated July 24, 1929 and signed by all Trustees of the Museum, which was addressed to Herbert Hoover, then President of the United States, declaring this Museum the property of the people of the United States and dedicating it in perpetuity as a shrine of Roerich art. I know many people who, as a result of this inviolable representation, contributed to many campaign funds to insure this perpetuity, yet this hostile group has most recently dared to remove all Roerich art from the walls of the Museum. Some time ago they maneuvered into control, ousted the school department and its director, who was one of the founders of the Museum, and turned the school space over to the W.P.A.

-2-

I will not now burden you with further details of the injustice and indignities which have been suffered by the loyal defenders of this cultural gift to America. The defending Trustees, besides giving their life's work to this Institution, have completely exhausted their personal resources in its defense. They have been engaged for nearly three years and are still engaged in complicated legal procedure, which is in the process of evolvment through the regular courts. However, a point has been reached which seems to indicate that justice cannot prevail because of the pressure brought upon it.

Realizing the desperate seriousness of these circumstances, we feel that only by an arousal of riteous indignation in the hearts of the American people, can this hideous outrage to American justice be prevented. We firmly believe that a clarion call is needed to reveal the flagrant and brazen abuse of justice, through the intricacies of law, which is being meted out by the courts in this case. In the name of the highest principles of humanity the American people must not suffer this public, cultural monument to be sacrificed to the unprecedented audacity of three persons who proclaim that they have decided to put the art of Nicholas Roerich into storage!

We all know that this is a dark hour for culture throughout the entire world, but Americans are still blessed with the privilege of raising their voice in its defense. While we still possess this powerful weapon it is my fervent hope that we do not permit the pages of the history of culture in America to be inscribed with the ignoble word - DESERTED!

Hoping for an early expression of your reaction to this information, I beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Gene Fosdick, Pres.

47
U P T O N S I N C L A I R
Station A Pasadena
California

June 23, 1938

Mr Gene Fosdick
313 East Union St.,
Liberty, Indiana

Dear Mr. Fosdick:

I have your letter and I am interested in the story you tell me, but it is impossible for me to take up such a struggle. I have made up my mind that my special duty to the world lies in the writing and publishing of my books, and I am endeavoring to keep my entire attention upon that work.

Sincerely,

(sig.)Upton Sinclair.

Fidelity Onion Skin
LIBERTY, INDIANA
FOSDICK MFG. CO.