

1367 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington D. C.  
June 25, 1938

Mr. John M. Clark  
Washington, Post  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

As a graduate of the Master Institute of United Arts, school of the Roerich Museum of New York, may I call attention to the fact that recently when this institution was closed to visitors all of the magnificent paintings by Nicholas Roerich were removed from its walls. We of the Associated Alumni of the Master Institute wish to express our profound disapproval of such unwarranted actions and such changes of policy as have been announced with them. These changes have been perpetrated by those who arrogated to themselves the privilege, without consultation with or consent of the other trustees of the Roerich Museum, and even without their knowledge. Thus have the American people been cut off from the once great benefits which this institution afforded them.

May I point out that public proclamation giving the Roerich Museum to the United States was signed on July 24, 1929 by all of its trustees and published in the Official Publications of the Roerich Museum. This proclamation has been frequently reaffirmed in the press and in public utterances by Louis L. Horch, a trustee and the president of the Roerich Museum, by whose order the museum was closed and Professor Roerich's paintings removed. These acts clearly betray such commitments in behalf of the cultural welfare of the nation.

We Alumni shall always remain indebted to the Roerich Museum for the opportunities which it formerly afforded us in the pursuit of our cultural studies. As it is our conviction that such opportunities have never been equalled in America, we are grieved beyond measure to see this great institution thus abolished. We hope that justice will prevail in its restoration to the people of the United States.

Very truly yours,

Auriel Bessemer,  
Chairman of the Associated  
Alumni of Master Institute of  
United Arts, Roerich Museum

AB:CP