

PETITION TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
OF ALBANY FROM FRIENDS AND DONORS OF ROERICH MUSEUM, NEW YORK,  
TO REMOVE LOUIS HORCH, NETTIE HORCH, ESTHER LICHTMANN, AND  
SYDNEY NEWBERGER, AS TRUSTEES.

Facts which have come to light in current litigations reveal that Roerich Museum, notwithstanding its noble avowed purposes and the indisputable integrity of Professor Nicholas Roerich the great artist in whose honor it was founded, and notwithstanding the loyal devotion of the majority of its trustees, has been disgracefully betrayed, crushed and declared out of existence by Louis L. Horch, who held a most trusted position as President and Treasurer, and who has been aided by his wife as secretary and by Esther Lichtmann and Sydney Newberger, Trustees.

While the illegality of the Horch coup in seizing ownership of the Corporation which controls the building is being established by regular court procedure, Roerich Museum itself suffers unnecessarily because it is not directly involved.

Knowing Professor Roerich and having read his books, including Altai-Himalaya, Fiery Stronghold, Realm of Light, and literature about him, numerous articles and monographs on his art and cultural activities; and knowing the Museum and its publications such as Message of 1929, Message of 1930, Decade, etc. we decided individually, at various times and each in his own way, to contribute to its support; and our right to come to its rescue at this time cannot be denied. Besides our respect for ideals and aims stated in published literature and public utterances of officers of the Museum, our several motives for befriending the institution financially and otherwise included the belief that the Roerich paintings originally acquired as permanent property of the Museum were being held in trust as the common treasure of the people of the United States and would be always accessible to the public according to the Roerich Museum Declaration of 1929. Recently having witnessed their seizure and removal in defiance of law and ethics we desire to take preliminary steps to recover them.

Irespective of the outcome of the litigation, which involves shares of stock of Master Institute of United Arts, we wish to point out that the fact has been clearly established thereby, and by parallel and incidental litigation and happenings, that a minority of trustees of Roerich Museum have renounced and betrayed and have seized possession of it over the strong objection of a loyal majority, and furthermore that it is this minority alone who have chosen to sacrifice the Roerich Museum for the furthering of their own personal ambitions and for financial gain, and that they have resorted to trickery, forgery, and gross misrepresentation to the public and to civic officials as well as to their colleagues.

After adequate inquiry into this affair we find that our faith in Roerich Museum itself was entirely justified, since Prof. Roerich and the trustees who were in charge of the cultural activities are still fighting to preserve it. At the same time, however, we are convinced that our faith in Horch as one who professed to follow implicitly the ethical, moral, and cultural leadership of Nicholas Roerich, and as one to whom we might entrust our donations

to Roerich Museum, was a human error which we now move to correct by asking his dismissal as president, treasurer and trustee of Roerich Museum as well as the dismissal of his wife as secretary and trustee, and of the trustees Esther Lichtmann and Sydney Newberger, who are aiding him in his misconduct and betrayal of trust.