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The President and Members of the
ALL-INDIA FINE ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

request the pleasure of your company

at an Exhibition of Paintings by

NICHOLAS ROERICH

to be opened by

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
at the Exhibition Hall, Parliament Street,
New Delhi

on Monday the 29th December, 1947 at 6 p.m.

*Open Daily 10 a. m. to 7 p. m.
From 30th Dec. 47 to 9th Jan. 1948.*

ANIL ROY CHOUDHURY
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CATALOGUE

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Price As. - 4/-



NICHOLAS ROERICH

Since time immemorial it has been the sublime privilege of humanity that during periods of economic hardship, political unrest and spiritual unbalancedness there always appeared in the world a great positive figure, standing out unwaveringly leading and guiding humanity towards Light like a beacon rock.

There is among the few world figures one outstanding name, unifying the peaceful cultural aspirations of mankind and guiding it in all the multifaceted aspects of existence and that name is Nicholas Roerich, the true leader of World Culture.

Born in Russia in 1874 Prof. Roerich received his training, as a lawyer, historian, archeologist and at the Academy of Arts. He studied abroad as well as in Russia and he achieved world recognition as an artist at an early age. His paintings were exhibited throughout Europe and America and he was honoured by many governments and learned bodies. While only 31 he becomes Director of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, a leading art organisation of that period. His scientific researches in archeology and history

made him prominent in that field and he carried out extensive excavations in Russia. He also achieved great fame in the Theater and his stage settings have become classics of the stage. Since 1920 he had series of exhibitions throughout the world and he founded numerous societies dedicated to art and culture. Several Museums were dedicated to his art. And in spite of his enormous activities, as an organiser and educator, he painted a staggering number of paintings, well over 6000, besides large frescoes in Churches and public buildings. From India he started his famous Roerich Expedition to Central Asia, which took the best part of five years to complete—across Central Asia, Mongolia, Russia and Tibet, back again to this country in 1928. Here in India he founded a centre for the study of the Western Himalayas and the adjacent regions, while his cultural work throughout the world continued under the guidance of his countless followers. He was a member of half a dozen academies besides being President, Vice-President, Chairman and Honorary Member of a vast number of cultural Institutions and Organisations throughout the world. His works number some 27 volumes published, besides innumerable essays and articles.

Roerich's ties with India began from early childhood. His father's estate had the name Iswara and nearby was an estate which during the reign of Catherine the Great belonged to an Indian Raja and showed traces of an Indian Park.

There was in the family of Roerich an old painting showing a majestic mountain which Prof. Roerich admired since his childhood. Only afterwards did he discover from a travel-book that this was the famous Kanchenjunga Himalayan Range.

Already since 1905 many paintings and essays by Roerich were dedicated to India, for instance, the paintings—"Devasari", "Lakshmi", "Shri Krishna", "Damayanti", "Dreams of India (series)". His early essays on India include "Indian Path", "Gayatri", etc.

In 1923 Prof. Roerich, his wife Madame Helena Roerich, their sons, Svetoslav, a painter in the class of his father and George, a scientist and archeologist, came to India. At first they lived near Darjeeling, but later they established the Urusvati Research Institute in the Kulu Valley, where they still reside. Both in the East and West Himalayas, Prof. Roerich has painted a long gallery of pictures that not only reflected the magnificent beauties of the hills but also embodied something of the spiritual history and legend with which they are associated.

In his essay "Tagore and Tolstoy", Roerich remembers with great enthusiasm his first meeting with Tagore. In the same article he recalls that Mme. Roerich's first ties with India were Ramakrishna and Vivekananda's books. In the Roerich family "The Bhagavat Gita" and Tagore's "Gitanjali" had always a place of honour and accompanied them on all journeys.

Since his coming to India Roerich has dedicated thousands of paintings to the sublime beauty of the Himalayas, to the sacred concepts of the ancient wisdom of India and his essays in the Indian magazines are well known to all. Prof. Roerich concludes the chapter on India in his inspiring book "Altai Himalaya" as follows:- "We know thy fragrant essence, India. We know the depths

and finesse of thy thoughts. We know the great Aum which leads to the inexpressible heights. India, we know thy ancient wisdom".

The Modern Review was the first channel in India through which the Art of Roerich became known to the wider public. An inspiring article from the pen of Mr. Joseph Finger appeared in 1921 unfolding before the eyes of the readers the colourful life and magnificent art of the great Russian master.

The eminent artist Bireswar Sen summarised the voice of India when he wrote in the Hindu Weekly "To most of us, Roerich is a legendary figure of romance. Against the wild glare of the flaming West, his mighty figure looms large like the motionless and benevolent Buddha in the midst of a vast cosmic cataclysm. Far above the tumultuous din of frenzied nations rings his voice—the unequivocal commandments of the Eternal, the voice of Truth, Beauty and Culture. Great is Roerich—and greater still are his works, the beautiful harbingers of Peace and Goodwill among men. Indefatigable in action, indomitable in spirit and innocent at heart, he is the new Sir Galahad, seeking after the Holy Grail.

In the Bharat Kala Bhawan in Benares and in the Municipal Museum at Allahabad, special halls have been dedicated to Prof. Roerich. Besides this, Roerich's paintings are in the Bose Institute in Calcutta, in the Adyar Museum in Madras, in the collection of Rabindranath Tagore in Santiniketan, in the Sree Chitralayam Gallery of Travancore, where a special building is dedicated to his work, in the State Museums of Mysore, Hyderabad, Baroda, Indore, and other centers of India.

The Benares Group containing, among others, the following painting, gems so typical of the creativeness of Roerich. "Star of the Hero", "Buddha—the Giver", "Kalki-Avatar", "Bhagwan Shri Rama Krishna". The Allahabad group includes—"The Arhat", "Maitreya", "She Who Leads". About these paintings O.C. Gangooly in the Pioneer, naming Roerich—"The wizard of Eastern landscapes, who sublimates realistic senses to the dizzy heights of divine dreamlands". The Bose Institute is adorned by the painting "Santana", "The Source of Life"; in Madras is "The Messenger", in the Tagore collection "The Ruler".

Rabindranath Tagore wrote of the Art of Roerich that "It is jealous of its independence because it is great".

J.K. Nag in the Illustrated India of Calcutta says in his article "Roerich—a saint and an artist"—"there lives now on the roof of the world, a unique figure of charming composition—a genius that had so ardently worshipped Beauty—a genius that has so passionately loved art and culture. He is the world famous painter, the great Prof. Nicholas Roerich—a towering personality of this Century".

Beside his genius in Art, Roerich is an untiring worker for World Peace. He dreamt of an International understanding and peace through Art and Beauty. He says—"Art is to create beauty, through beauty we gain victory, through victory we unite and through beauty we pray". He incorporated his ideal in the International Pact for the protection of Cultural Institutions, Monuments in time of war and civil commotions, which Pact became known

as the "Roerich Pact" and was accepted by 35 nations and actually signed by 21 nations including the U.S.A. The emblem of the Pact is the Banner of Peace like the Red Cross but for the protection of cultural treasures of the World. Nicholas Roerich by awakening in the people the reverence and appreciation of the World's cultural treasures, creates a new understanding amongst humanity and thus the Roerich Pact is not an abstract regulation against war, but it is a method of eliminating in the very consciousness of people the possibilities of hatred and destruction. For as Roerich himself says: "When the whole Earth will be covered by the Banner of Peace, protecting cultural treasures, there will be no field for War".

It is impossible not to admire Roerich. One cannot pass by his precious canvasses without expressing a deep emotion. To see a Roerich picture means to see something new, something you have never seen anywhere not even among Roerich's own works.

Nicholas Roerich has no home, no date, no nation—he belongs to no nation or epoch. So do the Persian miniatures, so do the great Chinese art works. They belong to all times and nations. For every artist, every poet, every philosopher is primarily a priest—his vocation is Holy, Holy, Holy. He leads mankind and we follow him. They are timeless, as is Beauty. They have many facets all reflecting the Supreme. Nicholas Roerich is the representative of that divine inspiration—what matters whether he is alive or dead. He is a messenger from the Hierarchy itself, revealing that in Beauty all virtues are combined, no man with an evil thought can create, not unless he is seared by the fire, unless all the selfish and ordinary has been removed from his being. When such a divine searing by the fire takes place there results a Michael Angelo, a Leonardo, a Hokusai, a Nicholas Roerich.

List of Paintings

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1. Dongre Yumtso.
2. Song of Shambalha.
3. The tales of Shambalha.
4. The message of Shambalha.
5. The command of Rigden.
6. The Guardians of the Entrance.
7. Shambalha Lam.
8. Victor.
9. Healing Herbs.

10. Guerillas.
11. St. Tyron.
12. The Blind.
13. Bhagwan.
14. Sunset.
15. Tibet.
16. Kuen Lun.
17. Himalayan Sunset.
18. Lahoul.
19. Buddha.
20. Tibet.
21. Himalayas.
22. Tibetan Lake.
23. Baralucha.
24. Hindaya.
25. Tibet.
26. Himalaya.
27. Giant.
28. Ladak.
29. Sikkim.
30. Chantang.
31. Kuen Lun.
32. Kuen Lun.
33. Tibetan Lake.
34. Kashmir.
35. Ladak.
36. Snow Maiden.
37. Sikkim.
38. Himalayas.
39. Sunset.
40. China.
41. Evening Glow.

42. Kanchenjunga.
43. Kanchenjunga.
44. St. Boris & Gleb.
45. Lahoul.
46. Himalaya.
47. Himalaya.
48. The Hunt.
49. Himalaya.
50. Sacred Flame.
51. Labours of St. Sergius.
52. She Who Leads.
53. Over the pass.
54. Apocalypsis.
55. Alexander Nevsky (Russian Leader of 13th Century)
56. Issa.
57. Strings of the Water Fall.
58. Tibetan Castles.
59. Sacred Fire.

N. B. Prices will be available from the office of the society on enquiry.

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