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# SVETOSLAV N. ROERICH

Translation of the Foreword

of

The Hermitage Edition of a folder of 20 colour postcard  
reproductions of Svetoslav Roerich's paintings

Printed in 100,000 copies.

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LENINGRAD

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The peoples of India, their ancient and modern culture, and unique art stir up a most lively interest in our country.

An exhibition of Indian Art, organised in The Hermitage in 1953, attracted the attention of the people of Leningrad.

In 1960 the work of Svetoslav N. Roerich was exhibited at The Hermitage in Leningrad. The artist combines in his canvases the traditions of ancient Indian art with the artistic achievements of his father the famous Russian artist Nicholas K. Roerich, without losing in any way his own brilliant individuality.

The artist paints on the most diverse themes. In his art is reflected the richness of India's nature beginning with the snowy vastness of the Himalayan peaks and ending with the fertile plains of the Southern coasts.

(“Secret Hour”, “Girnar”, “Monsoon”)

The talents, poetry and diligence of the people of India as well as their spiritual life are fully reflected in his genre paintings and symbolic canvases.

(“Toil”, “Red Earth”, “When Yogies Gather”, “Silhouettes”)

Portraits occupy a special place in the work of the artist. In this field the artist began to work being a mature master.

The artist has painted a large number of portraits of the Indian people. Together with the portraits of the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, the Vice-President of India, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Svetoslav Roerich creates beautiful types of

Indian women, often in the old Indian decorative tradition. One remembers the touching and poetic heads of the little children whom the artist met in different mountain villages.

A high evaluation of this great master was made by N. S. Khrushchev who visited the exhibition of S. N. Roerich's paintings at Delhi during his visit in 1960. N. S. Khrushchev pointed out the value of the artist's work, his skill in showing that man does not bow his head before obstacles and struggles with nature and always strives forward

N. S. Khrushchev paid special tribute to the deep feeling with which the festive beauty of India's nature was treated by Svetoslav N. Roerich. And truly, one of the attractive features of the art of S. N. Roerich, which enhances the joyous life-affirming character of his artistic conception, is the brilliant colourfulness and light-bearing quality of his paintings.

The structure of his compositions, based upon the rhythmic sequence of colour masses and the harmonious outlines of the silhouettes, shows the deep study made by the artist of the art of the country and the ancient Indian painting in the murals of Ajanta as well as in mediæval miniatures.

("The Chase", "Study", "Landscape")

Svetoslav N. Roerich is not only a great artist, he is also a well-known progressive public figure who advocates peace and welfare for the peoples of the East. One of the most productive of his scientific and educational activities—a continuation of the work of his father—is the consolidation, protection and popularisation of monuments of world culture and art.

#### **List of Postcards in Folder :**

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru	Still Life	Landscape
Professor N. K. Roerich	Hasten!	Silhouettes
Mrs. Devika Rani Roerich	Red Earth	Landscape
The Sacred Flute	The Chase	Kardang,
The Teacher (Kulu)	Portrait of	Lahul
As in Days of Old	Dr. Radhakrishnan	Toiling by
Girnar	When Yogies Gather	Night
Secret Hour	Sketch	