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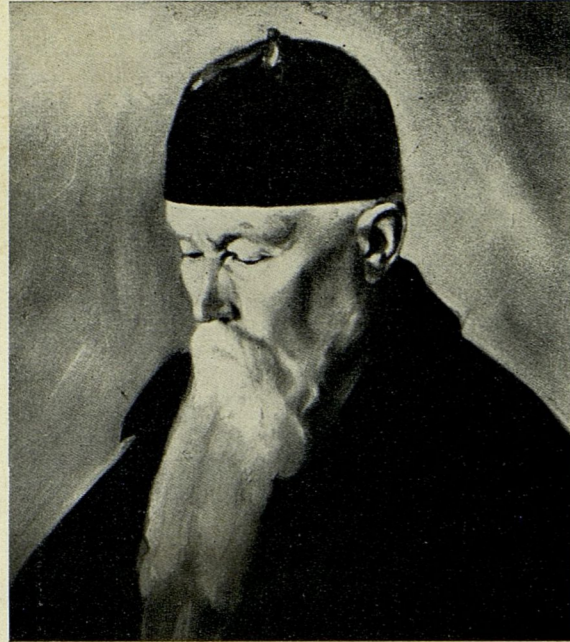
NICHOLAS ROERICH

CENTENARY EXHIBITION

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Cover picture : LAHOUL

Homage

Among artists of contemporary times Nicholas Roerich can be described as one who approached the Renaissance ideal of being a Universal man. His interests were many and in all of them his work was crowned with achievement.

In a world ravaged by violence and anxiety and the innumerable burdens heaped on man by man the art of Roerich comes as a comfort and consolation to the tired eye and mind. Roerich painted the timeless and universal, he was a man of faith, whose pilgrimage was one in search of eternal verities. India became his home; in the Himalayas

he found his apt environment and with Indian sages and thinkers his true fraternity.

Roerich's painting was a direct expression of his thought. Through the practice of art and design and the ceaseless discipline of creativity he could put down in definite forms his concepts and dreams. The mountains—their crags and icy streams, the sacred lakes, the path of the wind and the storm, the lonely pilgrim—these were his themes. His pictures were an expression of his search for the infinite, they are themselves the quest, the road and the goal.

To us Roerich's paintings have a different meaning. In an age of overconfident technology, of rampant vice and greed, they are a call not to forget the things of the spirit. The clear cool air of his landscapes is like a benediction. These pictures are not to be viewed only for pleasure but more as instruments of contemplation. They lead us to a world of silence and prayer.—J.A.

PILGRIMS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ROERICH was born in 1874 in St. Petersburg and his early as well as higher education, he received in that city.

As a student he simultaneously attended the Academy of Art, the Historic Philological courses of the University of St. Petersburg, the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Archaeology. Later he went to study abroad.

As an artist he painted over 7,000 paintings dealing with a wide range of subjects from large historic compositions painted in the academic and more realistic style influenced by the late 19th century, to his later highly decorative paintings—depicting Man's higher aspirations and strivings. He took his themes from the Great Book of Life. The Quest of Man, Philosophic Doctrines and religions, and in the later years along with his imaginative paintings he also painted the sublime landscapes of the Himalayas which made him known as 'Master of the Mountains'. His paintings are in the leading museums as well as in important private galleries all over the world.

Besides oils, he has done outstanding murals, important among which are his murals for the Kazan Railway in Moscow and the church of the Holy Spirit in Talashkino near Smolensk.

He was well known as a stage designer. He painted settings for operas by Wagner, Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, Mousorgsky, Matrilinck and others. His designs for the Ballets "Danse Polovtsienne"



and 'Sacre du Printemps' have become classics.

Roerich was also an author and scholar who had more than 27 volumes dealing with cultural and philosophic subjects to his credit. Besides he also published articles and poetry. He was an explorer and scientist and carried out extensive archaeological research and excavations in Russia and Central Asia. He was a traveller who visited Tibet, Mongolia, China and other countries which were remote in his days.

As a cultural leader he was associated with numerous cultural and scientific

organisations throughout the world. In America he founded the Master Institute of United Arts and the International Art Centre and was Hon. Chairman of the Roerich Museum. His belief that peace can only come through culture made him propose an International Pact for the protection of cultural treasures, which became known as the 'Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace'. He was honoured by many countries, their Governments, their learned bodies and organisations.

Roerich settled at Naggar, in the Himalayas in 1928. He passed away on Dec. 15th 1947.

1 Mountain Landscape
Oil 80×45 cm

2 Morning Prayer
Oil 80×45 cm

3 Snowman Lord (Eastern Himalayas)
Oil 80×45 cm

4 Lahoul
Oil 80×45 cm

5 The Hunt
Oil 80×45 cm

6 Himalayas
Oil 80×45 cm

7 Kashmir
Oil 80×45 cm

8 Ladakh
Oil 45×30 cm

9 Kanchanjunga
Oil 45×30 cm

10 The Hunt
Oil 36×51 cm

11 Himalaya
Oil 36×51 cm

12 Tibetan Lake
Oil 36×51 cm

13 China
Oil 36×51 cm

14 Kanchanjunga
Oil 36×51 cm

15 Lahoul
Oil 36×51 cm

16 Monastery
Oil 49×82 cm

(Coll: Indian Agricultural Research
Institute, New Delhi)

(Coll: All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society,
New Delhi)