

No. D. 3271-49/A.1.  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Education,  
New Delhi, the 8th July 1949.

Dear, Mr. Roerich,

You are perhaps aware of the intention of the Government of India to establish a National Cultural Trust to foster and develop the art and culture of the country. Unfortunately owing to financial difficulties, the establishment of the Trust has been postponed. The Ministry of Education, however, propose to call three Conferences, one for Literature, another for Fine Arts, and the third for Music, Drama and Dance, within the course of this year to explore the possibilities of organising and stimulating cultural activities in the country.

2. It has been decided to convene the Conference on Art on the 29th and 30th August 1949 at Calcutta and the Government of India are pleased to invite you to participate in the deliberations of the Conference. Your travelling and daily expenses will be paid by the Government at the rates given below:-

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- (1)  $1\frac{1}{2}$  first class fares for rail journey (\*payable only to outstation members).
- (2) Daily allowance as for Class I officers of the Government of India.

3. I am enclosing herewith the agenda on subjects proposed to be discussed at the Conference. Kindly let me know the items in which you are interested and in the discussion of which you would like to participate. If you have any other suggestions to make with regard to the agenda, I shall be glad if you will kindly let us have them immediately.

4. It has been suggested that it would be desirable to consider the possibility of establishing a central organisation for co-ordinating art activities in the country (including teaching). If you so wish you may communicate your views so that they may be brought before the Conference.

5. Since the arrangements for the Conference have to be finalised very soon, you are requested to kindly inform us immediately whether you will be able to accept this invitation. If so, will you kindly state your requirements for accommodation etc. in the forms attached, one copy of which may be forwarded to the Secretary, Education Department, West Bengal Government, who will make all the arrangements for the Conference, and the other copy may be sent to this Ministry for information.

Yours sincerely,

P.N. Kirpal

P.N. Kirpal  
Deputy Secretary.

S. Roerich,

Taj Mahal Hotel

Bombay

*To be retained by member*

ART CONFERENCE - Calcutta, 29th & 30th August, 1949.

1. Name of Member.
2. Address
3. Do you require the West Bengal Government to arrange for your accommodation? If so, please mention your choice in regard to hotel accommodation.
4. The date of your arrival in Calcutta and the date of your departure.
5. If you are making your own arrangements, kindly furnish your address at Calcutta with telephone number, if possible.
6. State particulars of reservation required for the return journey.
7. Are you a Vegetarian or a non-Vegetarian?
8. Would you like to visit Santiniketan during the week of the Conference?  
It may be possible, subject to the concurrence of the Visva-Bharati authorities, to organise the visit to that place of a selected group at their own expense. The proposed visit will take at least 48 hours and it can be arranged either before or after the Conference. Kindly state which days will be most convenient for you.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary,  
Ministry of Education,  
Government of India,  
NEW DELHI.

Proposed Agenda for the Art Conference  
to be held at Calcutta on the 29th and  
-----30th August 1949-----

The following subjects may be discussed :

1. Traditional Indian Art in relation to modern developments.
2. The role of art in general education:
  - (i) Art teaching in general schools
  - (ii) at the University stage.
3. The place of art in :
  - (a) Industry; and
  - (b) Commerce.
4. Art Schools and their syllabuses.
5. Ways and means of promoting social education through art.
6. The place of museums and art galleries in education.
7. The desirability of establishing a Central Institute of Art.
8. The formation of a Central Organisation to co-ordinate art activities.
9. Any other item approved by the Conference.

NATIONAL CULTURAL TRUST

We give below a summary of the recommendations of the sub-committee appointed by the Government of India in relation to the Cultural Trust:-

Functions:- The Trust should function as an autonomous body (with a preponderant non-official element) to encourage cultural activities and should operate through the medium of appropriate Committees and Academies. Its main functions should be:-

- (a) To encourage cultural education and research with particular reference to the preservation and development of traditional Indian Culture.
- (b) To acquire for the State, sites, monuments, manuscripts, pictures or other objects of importance to Indian Culture.
- (c) To advise the Government of India and the Provincial Governments with regard to cultural matters.
- (d) To co-ordinate and assist in the development of the activities of Indian Universities in the purely cultural fields.
- (e) To co-operate with the learned societies of India, in order to encourage and expand the cultural side of the work, now performed by them.
- (f) To publish suitable popular literature on cultural matters.
- (g) To maintain close touch with all parts of India by holding periodical conferences.
- (h) To organise Archaeological and other cultural missions to foreign countries and generally develop and extend existing cultural contacts between India and other countries.

Constitution:

- 1. Chairman of the Inter-University Board.
- 2. President of the National Institute of Sciences.
- 3. President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.
- 4. President of the Viswa-Bharati.
- 5. The Head of the Jamia Millia.
- 6-15. Ten members to be nominated by the Government of India including representatives of Museums, Libraries, etc. five of whom will represent the Principal Cultural elements in the Indian States.
- 16-26. Eleven members to be nominated by the 11 Provincial Governments who shall be persons eminent in the cultural life of the country.
- 27-30. One member to be nominated by the Council of State and three members by the Central Legislative Assembly.
- 31-33. Three members to be nominated by the All-India Federation of Chambers of Commerce.
- 34. The Director General Archaeology in India
- 35. The Director of Archives.
- 36. The Director of Anthropological Survey of India.
- 37-47. Eleven members to represent the proposed Academies five to be elected by the Academy of Letters and three each by the Academies of Arts and Music.

The Trustees will have power to elect not more than three additional members; the total number of trustees shall not exceed 50.

The tenure of Office of the Trustees will be 5 years.

The functions of the Trust are to be performed through the Agency of the following committees:-

- (a) Finance Committee.
- (b) Committee for control and establishment of National Parks and for acquisition of important sites and national treasures.
- (c) Foreign relations Committee.
- (d) Committee for publications.
- (e) Such other sub-committees as the Trustees may consider it necessary to constitute.

Academies:- Each Academy will be administered by small Council and a President to be elected by the fellows whose number shall not be more than 100 in the case of the Academy of Letters and of 50 in the case of Arts and Music. The names of a maximum of 30 per cent. of the proposed number of Fellows should be mentioned as Foundation Fellows, the remainder being elected by the Foundation Fellows, as persons of suitable eminence become available. The Fellows on election will hold office for life.

The Council of the Academy will consist of not more than 15 members including a permanent Secretary who will be an ex-officio member of the Council.

The initial endowment of the trust should be not less than four crores to enable the Trustees to function properly. If the Central Government contributed half of this sum, a quarter could be raised from the Provincial Governments and the balance from the Indian States.

Interim Period: An interim Standing Committee should be appointed by the Government of India immediately (a) to develop cultural contacts with other countries; (b) to co-ordinate the work of organisations already established in India for the purpose."

The forthcoming conference would afford a suitable opportunity of appointing the interim Standing Committee, pending the formation of the Art Academy, as there is considerable amount of preliminary ground which can be covered before the Trust is constituted.

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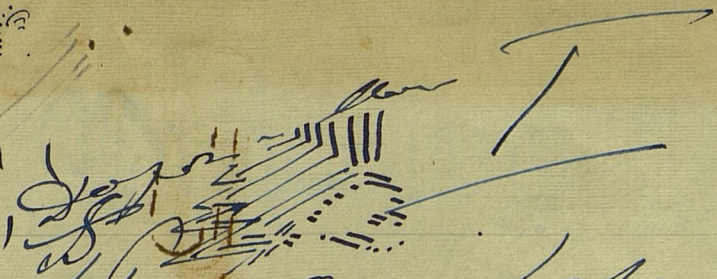
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1) It is our hope that the Govt. will soon find the means to implement this report and let us hope His Presidency will serve as an example to other parts of this country.

2) In order to help the Govt. Departments it may be useful to prepare a short resume of all the successive steps that must be taken



2

Live The Training  
of Teachers and Personnel.

3) I agree with D'Lyas  
that it may be wiser  
to Expand the Present  
Schools rather than  
building new ones  
at the moment.

We should give all  
facilities to the L.F. School  
and develop it to be  
an example not only in the country  
but in the East.

3

4) I feel that a specially  
important recommendation  
is the introduction  
of Art Appreciation in  
Primary Schools.  
Also the courses in  
Esthetics and History  
of Art in subsequent  
Art Courses. —  
To build the Cultural  
Background is the  
all important task  
that which will produce  
great artists, critics

5) History of Arts does  
impartant. —

Contains keys to problems  
of cultural growth.

(4)

10

5) History of Arts Post  
Impression. - Coubertin  
• Key to many cultural  
problems.

6) To record and preserve  
alive the already  
• Evolved techniques.  
Many of which are  
fast dying out.  
In Arts and in Crafts  
Line Textiles (Jamaicans).  
Enamels, Metal work.  
etc.

7) Recommend the carrying  
of popular club pages  
by exhibiting newspapers  
• to the best means of  
making people participate  
in the club life and  
arousing in them an  
interest ~~and~~ as well  
• as providing education.