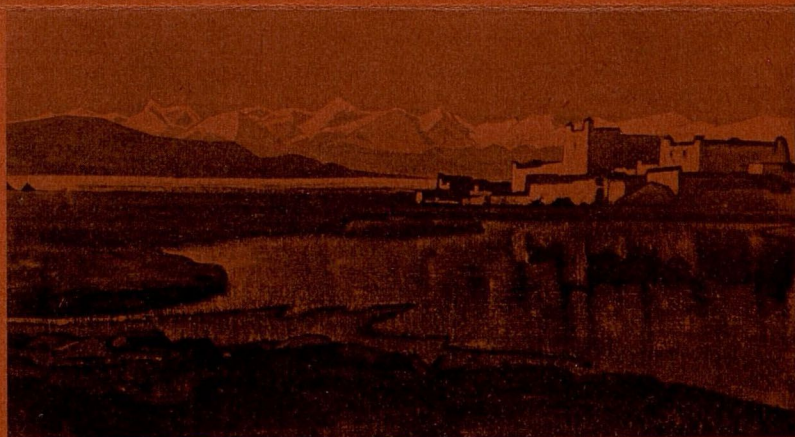


TRAILS
TO INMOST
ASIA

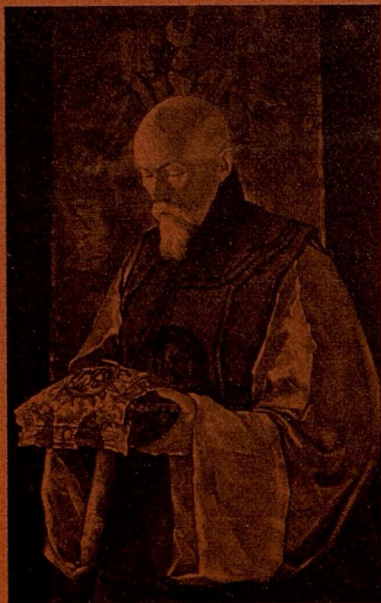
BY GEORGE N. ROERICH



LING-KAR

Painting by Nicholas Roerich

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS



PROFESSOR NICHOLAS ROERICH
Leader of the Expedition

Trails to Inmost Asia

Five Years of Exploration
with the Roerich Central
Asian Expedition

By GEORGE N. ROERICH

With a Preface by LOUIS MARIN

"When the record of adventures undertaken and accomplished in this twentieth century of ours has been written for future generations, the period will stand forth as an age of explorations comparable in importance as in accomplishment with that other great century of adventure, the six-

teenth. . . . And quite on a par with all that has been undertaken as yet, both in its importance and its dangers (is) this Roerich Expedition into the little-known region of towering mountains, limitless deserts, and wind-swept plateaus of Inner Asia." Thus does the *Boston Transcript* characterize the expedition which set out in 1925 under the direction of the famous Russian artist, Nicholas Roerich. For five years they journeyed. Nicholas Roerich painted the pictures which, housed in the Roerich Museum in New York, form a unique record of the land and the people; George Roerich, his son, studied the dialects of the various tribes, and unearthed a treasure-house of information concerning the life, the culture, and the remnants of past civilizations of the high plateau. Evidence that their information was not easily obtained is apparent on every page of the book. They faced intolerable heat and burning desert sands; they watched helplessly while their caravan perished in swirling snow swept into drifts by a raging gale. They crawled along cliff and glaciers where a single mis-step meant death; they climbed mountains so high that men and animals fell

unconscious in the rarified atmosphere. They were attacked by bandits; they were harassed by the local authorities who resented their penetration of the land of mystery. Throughout all of their dangers and hardships, however, they kept their goal in sight, and they reaped a rich reward. They visited monasteries and palaces probably never before entered by white men; they saw rare libraries of ancient volumes, including a vast collection of works connected with the weird Bön-Po religion of nature-worship and necromancy, concerning which so little has heretofore been known. They discovered Megalithic monuments similar to those of Brittany, and frescoes in cave temples which strangely resembled those found near the Danube.

The whole magnificent record of the expedition—its hardships, its dangers, and its accomplishments—is spread out in panorama in *Trails to Inmost Asia*. The volume contains many illustrations, some from the paintings of Nicholas Roerich and others from photographs. A glance through the pages of this fascinating volume will convince the most skeptical that the members of the expedition fully deserved the tribute paid to them in the preface by Louis Marin, who says "Through their efforts and their sacrifices, their fortitude in the face of danger which threatened their lives again and again, their bravery under attack, the members of the expedition have greatly served science, art, and all nations advancing the progress of humanity."

If your interest lies in the fields of art, archæology, ethnography, strange lands and people, or sheer high adventure, you will enjoy this volume.

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TRAILS TO INMOST ASIA

Excerpts from Reviews:

"There is a strange feeling of unreality in this chronicle like a journey to another planet, a feeling which is only partially dispelled when one reads of the coöperative stores in Mongolia, the communism, and the modern methods of agriculture. People, land, and rulers are all mystical, apart from all life as we know it. . . . The record of the travel and of the adventures reads like a page from Arabian Nights." *The Boston Transcript.*

"Many expeditions have penetrated into Central Asia since Dr. Sven Hedin unveiled its fascinations, and few if any of them have given us a more varied and enriching record than has the chronicler of the party sent out by the Roerich Museum of New York." *New York Times.*

"The director's son and colleague, George N. Roerich, an Orientalist of distinction, here gives a brief survey of the experiences and findings of the expedition, and the story he tells makes fascinating reading." *American Mercury.*

"The Roerich expedition secured more authentic insight into the minds of Asiatic scholars than has been gleaned by any other recent expeditions. This report is essential for understanding the psychology of millions of seething Asiatics." *Philadelphia Public Ledger.*

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TRAILS TO INMOST ASIA

Five Years of Exploration with
the Roerich Central Asian
Expedition

By George N. Roerich

With a Preface by Louis Marin

Inner Asia with its towering mountain ranges, limitless deserts and steppes, isolated monasteries, nomad tribes, and hidden treasures of ancient civilization, has ever been a lure to the explorer. Of the many attempts to penetrate the secrets and the mysteries of this forbidden land, none has been more successful than the Roerich expedition which for five years traveled and explored central Asia. In this volume George Roerich gives a picture of the life and civilizations of the high plateau, and tells of dangers met and overcome, of regions seldom penetrated by westerners, and of discoveries which link the ancient nomad tribes to other civilizations. The record is a fascinating one and the many illustrations—some from the five hundred paintings with which Nicholas Roerich created a pictorial record of the land and the people, and others from unique photographs—add immeasurably to the value and interest of the account.

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Yale University Press

New Haven Connecticut

INMOST ASIA

BY GEORGE N. ROERICH

Excerpts from the Preface by Louis Marin:

“Under the direction of the famous Russian artist, Nicholas Roerich, a remarkable expedition was conducted for five years through the various countries of central Asia. It penetrated regions where no westerner had been for many years; it brought back to the scientific world new knowledge of the history of that region of the ‘roof of the world’ which is of deep interest geographically and sociologically. George N. Roerich, Orientalist, accompanied his father. Previous to receiving his degree from Harvard, he was brought up in European traditions of culture, studying in the schools of Russia and England, and in France at the School of Oriental Languages, Paris, and at the College de France. Of an exceptionally synthetic tendency of mind, the young scholar has studied Persian and Sanskrit, Tibetan and Chinese. This extensive knowledge of languages provides him with the key to the mysteries of the ‘closed land.’ Through their efforts and their sacrifices, their fortitude in the face of danger, which threatened their lives again and again, their bravery under attack, the members of the expedition have greatly served science, art, and all nations advancing the progress of humanity.”

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IN MOST ASIA

BY GEORGE N. ROERICH



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