

ROERICH MUSEUM
310 Riverside Drive,
New York City.
June 8, 1931.

Office of the President.

REPORT of the PRESIDENT:

1. Visit of Dr. Horner: On Saturday, June 6, Dr. H. H. Horner, who has just been appointed Assistant Commissioner for Higher and Professional Education, visited the Roerich Museum. He seemed greatly interested in the Himalayan paintings and he was also particularly pleased with the work of the children's painting class. During his visit he met Mrs. Lichtmann, who spoke with him about the school, Mrs. Horch, Miss Grant, Mr. Lichtmann, and Mr. Horch.

After visiting the Museum he spoke to Mr. Horch alone and stated that in January he had received a letter from a former employee here who had severely arraigned our institution. Then about three weeks ago he received a letter from the head of the American Legion at Syracuse in which it was stated that we were anti-American and anti-Christian and that if the Board of Regents did not take any action against us, the American Legion would.

Dr. Horner told me that in his reply to the head of the American Legion he wrote that the Board of Regents was not to be threatened by anyone, but, if the American Legion had any definite and positive proofs to substantiate their charges against the Roerich Museum, that he would be pleased to go further into the matter.

After speaking with me, Dr. Horner said he would write to the head of the American Legion stating that the President of the Roerich Museum would be very pleased to speak with them regarding these charges. If this appointment can be made, I shall try to see this gentleman in Syracuse.

Dr. Horner then said: "After visiting the Museum and seeing all those nice children at work in your painting department, I can only say that if you are undermining America -- please go ahead!"

Then I told him that during a recent visit to Mr. Kramer's office, Mr. Kramer mentioned to me that a reporter in Albany had been told by Mr. Graves, President of the Board of Regents and Commissioner of Education, that the Roerich Museum was only a subterfuge to save taxation. To this Dr. Horner replied:

"I know all about this and am fully advised. It is absolutely a falsehood which certain facts definitely prove. If Dr. Graves had made such a statement to a newspaper reporter, you may be sure that every newspaper in the United States would have published headlines to the effect that the Roerich Museum was not an educational institution, but a real estate proposition. I can say definitely to you that this is without foundation. I doubt if a newspaper man ever saw Dr. Graves. He would probably get no further than to the secretary of Dr. Graves, for all these matters are turned over to me by Dr. Graves immediately for my consideration and investigation."

He added that Dr. Graves is one of the most ethical and cautious of men and would never be guilty of such an indiscretion. "When I return to Albany, however," Dr. Horner added, "I shall ask the secretary about the matter."

"Dr. Horner said that he felt that our difficulties are caused because our institution is so different and so new compared to others, and that as long as we rent apartments to members there would be that suspicion in the minds of some people that this is a commercial institution.

Dr. Horner was very pleased to receive as a gift a copy of your book "Atlai-Himalaya". He asked me to come to Albany during the next weeks or sometime in the near future and said he would be pleased to show me then the letters he had received.

It seems to me that the person who may have caused these difficulties is Mr. Bolger, the former assistant manager of the Roerich Museum Apartments, who left the institution very much embittered. Mr. Bolger was a member of the American Legion and at the present time has a position in either Syracuse or Albany at some hotel. He wrote me, as you will recall, on several occasions some threatening letters. It does seem to indicate that he might have written the letter to Albany and to the American Legion as well as the letter to Mr. Sexton.

2. Catherine Spencer: Miss Catherine Spencer requested a return of \$500. against the money loaned and this was granted. *

3. Peterson Collection - Old Chinese Paintings: Mr. Horch visited the Petersons and saw their collection of Old Chinese Paintings on Thursday, June 4. It seems to be a very beautiful collection. However, there is apparently no possibility at this moment of Dr. and Mrs. Peterson providing funds so that this collection could be placed in the Roerich Museum. Mrs. Peterson stated that the price of their entire collection of nearly 1000 pieces would be around \$250,000. Of course, these figures make it impossible for us to consider it. We shall advise Dr. Laufer.

4. 2nd Mtge. Bonds - Settlements; With regard to 2nd Mtge. Bonds, the following settlements have been made so far:

	Due	Cash Given	Balance
Pietrowski & Konop	\$7000.	\$1750.	Payable 7/1/32
Hauth, Herbert C.	1500.	375.	" "
Greenhouse & Co.	3000.	1500.	" "
Atlas Iron Works	1000.	250.	" "
Lowenstein Estate**	5000.	2000.	\$2000. balance payable Sept. to Dec. 1931.

In all of the above agreements, the bondholders received bonds falling due in 1932 as collateral.

5. Adriance Law-Suit: As we stated in Letter #18, there is a lawsuit going on now regarding our bonds. The case came up and we submitted a financial statement from October 1, 1929 to Sept. 30, 1930. However, the Judge has asked for a more recent detailed financial statement so we are preparing a statement from Oct. 1, 1930 to March 31, 1931, and also a Balance Sheet.

6. Granville Woodard: Mr. Granville Woodard, Trade Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, at Hongkong visited the Museum and was

deeply impressed with the whole institution. He stated that if you ever come to China he would be glad to assist in every possible way.

* This was withdrawn against the \$10,000. which, as has been mentioned in previous letters, is a temporary loan to the Institution.

**See: Attached Memorandum of June 5, 1931 re Lowenstein Estate.