

On April 13th 1938 at 4 P.M. a meeting of the Roerich Museum Committee was held at 163 West 72nd Street, New York City.

The following persons were present:

Mr. M.M. Lichtman, Chairman
Mrs. K.S. Campbell, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Florentine Sutro
Mrs. Sina Lichtman
Mr. Gene Fosdick
Mr. D.C. Mobley
Mrs. M.M. Zimmerman
Mr. Dudley Fosdick
Miss Frances R. Grant
Mrs. Gene Fosdick
Miss G.I. Fritschi, Secretary

1. Mr. Lichtman, Chairman of the Committee opened the meeting and read the declaration of July 24th 1929 which was sent at that time to President Hoover and which states that the Museum is a gift to the Nation. A copy of this declaration is herewith attached to the minutes.

2. Mrs. Lichtman proposed that Mr. Gene and Mr. Dudley Fosdick be elected members of the Roerich Museum Committee. Motion was duly made by Mrs. Sutro, seconded by Mrs. Lichtman and Unanimously passed by the members present.

Mr. Gene Fosdick and Mr. Dudley Fosdick accepted with thanks.

3. The question came up who had been invited to this meeting where upon the Secretary read the following list of names to whom invitations had been sent out:

Major and Mrs. J.G. Phelps Stokes	Dr. and Mrs. H.J. Forman
Mr. John O'Hara Cosgrave	Mrs. Ruth Evans
Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Narodny	Professor Radoslavievitch
Mrs. Florentine Sutro	Mr. D.C. Mobley
Mr. and Mrs. V. Andoga	Dr. And Mrs. Christos Vrionides
Mr. Claude Bragdon	Mr. J.E. Schrack
Mr. A. Merritt	Mr. Dudley Fosdick
Mr. And Mrs. Gene Fosdick	Mr. and Mrs. David Grant
Mr. and Mrs. M.M. Zimmerman	Mr. M.M. Lichtman
Miss Frances R. Grant	Mrs. Sina Lichtman
Mrs. K.S. Campbell	Miss G.I. Fritschi

4. Mr. Lichtman Proposed that Mrs. Gene Fosdick and Mr. D.C. Mobley be elected members of the Roerich Museum Committee; motion duly made by Mrs. Sutro and seconded by Mrs. Campbell was unanimously passed by the members present.

Mrs. Gene Fosdick and Mr. Mobley accepted with thanks.

5. Mrs. Lichtman read a letter of Professor Roerich dated May 20th 1937, a copy of which is herewith attached to the minutes.

6. Mrs. Sutro was asked to read her letter of February 5th 1938 addressed to Mr. Ernst as well as the reply of Mr. Ernst of February 7th, 1938, also the reply of Mrs. Sutro on February 8th, 1938. The copies were duly signed by Mrs. Sutro and the Committee is allowed to use those letters wherever it seems advisable.

7. A vote of thanks was expressed by the Committee to Mrs. Sutro for the forcefulness of her letter to Mr. Ernst.

8. Mrs. Campbell proposed that the original declaration or a photostat of the Declaration be added to the protest.

9. Mrs. Lichtman read the protest which Dr. Forman had prepared for this occasion. The protest was acclaimed as excellent and members of the Committee signed it.

10. It was decided to gather as many signatures of friends as possible especially the signatures of the members of the Committee who had not been able to be present.

11. It was then decided to have the original protest with its signatures printed by a special process and sent out widely for additional signatures.

12. A vote of thanks was expressed by the Committee to Dr. Forman for the drafting of the protest.

13. Mr. Dudley Fosdick proposed to offer a guarantee of a sum up to \$100.00 to cover the expenses of the committee incurred in the printings, mailing and spreading of the protest.

A vote of thanks was expressed by the committee to Mr. Dudley Fosdick for his generous offer.

14. The meeting was there upon adjourned.

We, the undersigned members of the Roerich Museum Committee and Friends of the Roerich Museum, do hereby most earnestly and vigorously protest against the unprecedented and reckless vandalism that has thrown into litigation a public institution of the highest most valuable and desirable character, namely the Roerich Museum, with the object of disestablishing and wrecking it.

The Roerich Museum, unique among institutions in America, and dedicated to beauty, culture and the fine arts, housing a collection of the paintings of Nicholas Roerich, one of the world's foremost artists, duly incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, was by a document executed on the 24th day of July 1929, and signed by its trustees, proclaimed the property of the American people, and by that document duly dedicated to the nation.

Since then certain persons among those trustees have of wilful and set purpose set about to wreck and disintegrate the institution, the Museum and its school, by throwing it into litigation, with the object of recovering their personal and monetary contribution to it and ousting the other trustees, whose tenure as attested by their own signatures, is for life. It is significant that this action was taken almost simultaneously with the adoption of the reorganization plan which alleviated the financial burdens of maintaining the Museum property.

We solemnly protest that a museum of the worth and status of the Roerich Museum can no more be assaulted and wrecked in this manner than an university, some contributor to which desired to recover his personal gift or contribution to its endowment.

Most solemnly and earnestly we protest against such action. Sincerely we bespeak the interest and protest of the American people against a procedure which would rob it of a beautiful institution and a national property, and the city of New York of one of its outstanding treasuries of art and beauty.

Such an act we believe, irrespective of its legalistic technicalities and aspects, is contrary to all practice and against the public interest, and we earnestly ask the support and interest of American public opinion in our heartfelt protest.

New York, April 13, 1938.

Florentine Scholle Lutro

Katherine Campbell

Henry James Forman

David C. Moberg

John Ottava Casgrave

Hella G. Zimmerman

Ruth Evans

Janet Fodick

Christos P. Poulos

Dudley Fodick

Sam Morgenstern

Sina Lichtmann

Edith Prince Thompson

Lene Fodick

Ethel M. Burton

Gisela S. Fritsch

Baruch Margolis

M. M. Lichtmann

Miriam C. Forman

On July 6, 1938 at 2 P. M. a meeting of the Roerich Museum Committee was held at 163 West 72nd Street, New York City.

The following persons were present: Mrs. Florentine Sutro, Chairman; Mrs. K. G. Campbell, Major J. G. Phelps-Stokes, Mrs. Sina Lichtmann, Miss Frances Grant, Mrs. Sophie Schafran, Mr. D. C. Mobley, Princess Charkovskey, Miss Spiro, Mrs. Lotus Dudley, Dr. Christos Vrionides, Mrs. Vrionides, Mr. Joseph Earl Shrank, and Mr. Dudley Fosdick.

1. Mrs. Sutro, Chairman, opened the meeting by asking that the minutes of the previous meeting be read. Mr. Fosdick was asked to act as secretary in absence of Miss Fritchi who was unable to attend.

2. The acting secretary read the minutes of the meeting of April 13, which were approved as read.

3. Letters were read from Claude Bragdon, Professor Radosavljevich, Mr. Merritt, and Mme. Arnaudet expressing their sympathy with the purpose of the meeting and their regret at being unable to attend.

4. Mrs. Lichtmann stated that Mr. M. M. Lichtmann, finding it necessary to be in Santa Fe earlier in the season, had requested Mrs. Sutro to act as Chairman in his absence. Mrs. Lichtmann thereupon made a motion nominating Mrs. Sutro as acting Chairman. Major Stokes seconded the motion which was unanimously carried.

5. In response to an inquiry from the Chairman, Mr. Fosdick stated that he had recently visited the Museum at 310 Riverside Drive, and had found a great many art objects formerly in the Tibetan Library being displayed as part of the new exhibition on the second floor, in the former quarters of the Roerich Museum. Mr. Fosdick explained that the Tibetan

tankas were also included in this display, and that the door to the Tibetan Library or Hall of the East, was locked, and present disposition of the Kanjur-Tanjur collection could not be ascertained. Mrs. Sutro asked Major Stokes for his opinion on the advisability of a protest over this apparent seizure. Major Stokes said that in his opinion no action should be taken at present while the Museum was in litigation. Miss Grant pointed out that the Museum itself was not as yet directly in litigation, adding that at present the case technically involved only shares of the Master Institute of United Art., Inc.

6. In the following discussion pertaining to protest over the actions of Louis Horch, Mrs. Lichtmann presented a clipping from the Washington Post of June 28, a letter to the editor written on behalf of the Alumni of Master Institute by Mr. Auriel Bessemer, the Chairman of Alumni Association. Mrs. Lichtmann read the letter upon request of the Chairman, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

7. Mrs. Lichtmann read a letter from Mrs. Sutro, to the editor of the New York Times, which was printed on May 17, 1938. Copy attached here.

8. The secretary read the official protest of the Trustees of Roerich Museum written by Frances R. Grant, Vice-President, which appeared in New York Times on May 15, 1938. Copy attached.

9. Mrs. Lichtmann thereupon stated that she had been asked by Mrs. Sutro to draft a possible letter to Louis Horch which might be written as a protest by individuals, or a small group exclusive of Trustees, about the closing of the Museum. Mrs. Lichtmann stated that Mrs. Sutro had been very active in the entire Roerich Museum case and that due to her influence the bill for tax exemption for the theatre at 310 Riverside Drive operated by Mrs. Horch which was to have been introduced before the City Council had been suppressed. Mrs. Lichtmann then read the tentative draft of the proposed letter.

10. Major Stokes thereupon expressed his disagreement with the send-

ing out of the proposed letter. He especially felt that the point about the paintings being given to the Nation by the Trustees of the Roerich Museum would not be mentioned, as this gift was not acknowledged by President Hoover, to whom a letter with the Declaration of a gift of the paintings to the Nation was sent in 1929.

In the discussion which arose after Major Stokes' statement, Miss Grant and Mrs. Lichtmann pointed out that the Declaration signed by the Trustees, including Mr. and Mrs. Horch, was a moral obligation and should still be regarded as such at present. This Declaration was reprinted in numerous publications of the Museum, and Mr. Horch stated in writing, as well as in his speeches and otherwise, that Roerich Museum paintings belonged to the Nation by virtue of the Declaration which was signed by all Trustees in 1929.

While Major Stokes insisted upon his point, the Chairman and the members felt that the moral obligation of people who give a promise and sign their names under such a promise, is definitely binding on those people. Major Stokes, due to the limited amount of time which he could give to the meeting, excused himself, and before leaving, stated that he was wholeheartedly with Professor Roerich, as he has proven during all these years.

Miss Grant and Mrs. Lichtmann expressed deep appreciation for Major Stokes' constant assistance and noble attitude.

11. The discussion continued on the proposed protest letter, Miss Grant suggesting that it should be from individuals rather than a committee and that each should write differently. Also the letters should be addressed to Mr. Morris Ernst, instead of Mr. Horch, adding that Mr. Horch would of course throw it into the waste basket.

12. Mr. Schrach gave his opinion that the letter would have a valuable effect regardless whether it reached the waste basket or not, because of "moral annoyance." He agreed that letters could also be written to Morris Ernst, whom he termed as a "political soldier of fortune."

13. Mr. Mobley suggested that individual letters could be sent to

various people and that copies in every case could be sent to Ernst, continuing the "moral annoyance."

Mrs. Lichtmann objected to this suggestion, stating that sending all such letters to Mr. Ernst would reveal to him all our actions and contacts.

14. Mrs. Campbell objected to the latter half of the letter as revealing too intimate an acquaintance with points involved in the litigation.

15. Miss Grant suggested that a list of people to whom individual protest letters might be addressed, should be prepared so that friends could then choose from this list and write their individual protests. She also suggested that a large public meeting of protest be arranged for September which would be timely.

16. Mrs. Vrionides suggested that an impressive letter to the press may be written from the student body; graduates of the Master Institute. Also that individual friends might write to art critics.

17. Mrs. Lichtmann suggested that letters should be written to the directors of museums with a view to asking them to express their protest against this vandalism. Miss Grant suggested in this connection writing to Dr. Coleman of the Association of Museums in Washington.

18. Mrs. Cutro suggested writing to the Tax Commission, and Miss Grant gave the name of Hubert Delaney as one of the five members of this commission adding that the other names could easily be secured.

19. The meeting was thereupon adjourned.