

NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 9, 1980

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Nicholas Roerich Museum was held at the offices of the Corporation at 319 West 107th Street, New York City on September 9, 1980 at 3:40 P.M. The following were present: David Fogel, Sina Fosdick, Ingeborg Fritschi, Edgar Lansbury, Robert Leser, Katherine Stibbe, and Elina Yussupoff. Mrs. Stibbe presided.

The Secretary stated that part of an item had been omitted from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 8, 1979 when they were approved by the Board, and she asked that they be corrected. The first sentence of the second paragraph, page two should read: "The Treasurer's Report for the year 1978 was presented by Mr. Leser and was accepted unanimously. It is made a part of these Minutes." The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 7, 1980 were approved unanimously as circulated. It is made a part of these Minutes.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented by Mr. Leser. As of September 9, 1980 there was \$3,800.00 in the checking account and \$745.75 in the Reserve Savings account. These, together with \$934.00 in the Paintings Insurance Fund totalled \$5,479.75 with no checks or bills outstanding.

Mr. Leser reported that the repairs to the building decided upon by the Board in May were made none too soon. Quite a few things were in worse shape than had been thought. Bricks, generally and in one entire corner, had to be reset and a bay window was loose and needed to be repaired. Another firm, Remco Corporation, was used for the work, but the cost was close to the approved estimate - \$17,000.

Contributions of \$5,000 each by Mrs. Stibbe and Miss Fritschi together with what was in our Reserve Savings Account covered this cost, so there was no need to borrow from the Agni Yoga Society as had been contemplated.

When the rug in the front room of the second floor was cleaned, and it was discovered that extensive repairs were needed/that the rug could no longer stand up under the wear it would receive in the Museum. Therefore when the necessary work was done the rug was delivered to Mrs. Stibbe. She will reimburse the Museum for the expense, which amounted to \$500. Mrs. Fosdick read<sup>a</sup>/letter from Mrs. Blalock offering to contribute \$1200 toward purchase of an ~~oriental~~<sup>a</sup> ~~design~~ rug to replace the oriental that could no longer be used. After discussion of Mrs. Blalock's proposal the Board decided that it would be best to carpet the entire second floor. Mrs. Fosdick was asked to express to Mrs. Blalock the Board's appreciation of her generous offer. Mr. Leser will obtain samples and prices on carpeting for the Board's approval.

The following reproductions have been ordered: 100 Prof. Roerich @\$190; 100 Milarepa @\$235; and 100 Star of the Hero @\$235 making a total of \$660.

A letter was read from Daniel Entin, a member who has been cataloging our archives. He proposes, "subject to approval by the Board, to rent a copying machine, which would remain in the Museum so that rare materials need not leave the building, and to carefully copy all items that seem to be in danger of deteriorating in the near future, as well as those which are already in poor condition... The entire cost would be a contribution by me to the Museum. The Board gave its hearty approval to Mr. Entin's proposal.

Mr. Entin also has donated two particularly useful books to our Library: STRAVINSKY IN PICTURES AND DOCUMENTS by Vera Stravinsky and Robert Craft and THE CATALOG OF THE RUSSIAN STATE MUSEUM in Leningrad. The Board asked that its gratitude be expressed to Mr. Entin for these gifts.

A letter has been received from Kenneth Archer. In it he enclosed a letter he had written to Ian Heron, Esq. of the Nicholas Roerich Society of London, who was disturbed by the books containing passages slandering Prof. Roerich and Mme. Roerich, which were reported by Mrs. Fosdick at our last meeting. Mr. Heron wanted to write and circulate an article defending the Roerich's. Mr. Archer's reply explaining his Society's approach to the problem is so fine that Mr. Lansbury said he would like to make a copy of it for future reference. For the same reason it is made a part of these Minutes.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

## NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

April 8, 1986

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Nicholas Roerich Museum, Inc. was held at 2:31 p.m., on Tuesday, April 8, 1986 at 319 West 107th Street, New York City.

The following members were present: David Fogel, Daniel Entin, Ingeborg Fritschi, Edgar Lansbury, and Katherine Stibbe. Elina Yussupoff was represented by Edgar Lansbury. Katherine Stibbe presided.

Katherine Stibbe called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. Minutes of the meeting of September 24, 1985 were presented and on a motion of Daniel Entin were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Stibbe made the President's report and said that there was a remarkable growth in interest in Nicholas Roerich - in the various facets of his life and work, such as his writings and ideas, his paintings and set designs, and his role as peace advocate - and that such interest is more than ever evident this year. Numerous groups and institutions have formed which are devoted to these things; articles are appearing more frequently; requests for permission to make use of the Banner, to reproduce the paintings, to quote from his writings are more frequent.

The Museum is becoming more of a center for disseminating information, for encouraging and maintaining contact with such groups, and for bringing together individuals with similar points of view and goals.

The Museum's cultural activities have increased greatly. This year, for the first time, there will be art exhibits on view throughout the year. The number of concerts and readings has doubled, and many more people are familiarized with our work because of this.

Edgar Lansbury moved for acceptance of the President's report, and on second of David Fogel it was carried unanimously.

Daniel Entin presented the Treasurer's Report: Cash on hand in Checking Account No. 055 005 209 is \$7,733.66 and the Money Market Account No. 055 016 936 is \$34,514.96.

In the absence of Elina Yussupoff, Daniel Entin presented the Secretary's Report: There are 183 Associate Members, 59 Contributing Members, 22 Sustaining Members, and 12 Patrons, for a total of 276 members. This is slightly up from the last meeting.

Edgar Lansbury presented his Curator's Report, noting that in the past year all activities have virtually doubled, and, as the President remarked, art exhibitions are now mounted year round. Mr. Lansbury gave credit to Daniel Entin and his associate William Burdick for making such a schedule possible through their hard work. Credit should also go to Florence Sundem for her devotion to both the schedule and the ideals of the Museum. Mr. Lansbury also reviewed the success of the two inaugural poetry publications and the concurrent Poetry Readings which featured Vern Rutsala and Dennis Sampson. He read a letter

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from Robert McDowell, co-editor of Story Line Press telling of the excellent reviews the books have received in some of the papers and magazines. For the record Mr. McDowell's letter is made a part of these minutes. There was some discussion of the generosity of Mr. Morgan in helping to make these publications a possibility.

Mr. Lansbury then reported on the necessity of amending the By-Laws to provide for the requirement of a unanimous vote of the Trustees for the transfer or sale of the building and property, and further to provide that on the dissolution of the Museum, that all property should go to the Agni Yoga Society. The necessary amendments are being drafted by legal counsel at Burke and Burke. Mr. Lansbury made the motion that the Board recommend these necessary amendments to the members, and on Mr. Entin's second the motion was carried unanimously.

Daniel Entin presented his Executive Director's Report which is made a part of these minutes.

David Fogel moved that Daniel Entin should encourage the work of Gloria Buller and that a list of the post cards she needs for her work should be supplied to Miss Fritschi.

There was further discussion of the Joffrey Ballet plans to mount Millicent and Kenneth Archer's reproduction of the original SACRE DU PRINTEMPS utilizing Roerich's original designs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

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NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

April 8, 1986

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Requests by other institutions and groups:

1. We have been asked by the New York Open Center to co-sponsor a "Roerich Tour" in May or June, 1987, which will visit all the major collections of Roerich paintings in Russia and India, and some of the sites that were important in his life and work. This co-sponsorship would be set up to avoid any risk or liability on the Museum's part, in case of cancellation. If the tour does take place, the Museum would obtain approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000, in addition to providing an opportunity for up to 30 people to make this extraordinary trip. Daniel Entin would be part of the tour with his expenses paid, acting as a link to the various Roerich-oriented individuals and institutions in the Soviet Union.

2. Mr. Charles McConney, who has been devoted for some years to the concept and ideals of the Roerich Peace Pact, has proposed a method for reinstating the Pact by appealing to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the State Department on the grounds that the Treaty has the force of law and must therefore be implemented.

The Treaty was signed and ratified by the U.S. The next step, that of creating a commission that would draw up a list of sites to be protected under the terms of the treaty, was not. Mr. McConney proposes that the Nicholas Roerich Museum apply for designation as a protected site, and participate in the attempt to reactivate the attempts in this direction.

3. We have received formal requests from groups led by Ms. Alicia Rodriguez, in Mexico City, to fly the Banner and to promote the concepts of Peace through Culture. This permission was granted. The Banner is already being displayed by the Group of United Artists, the National Association of Actors, the Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters (at all the radio and TV stations of the country), at the National Institute of Nuclear Research, the United Workers of the Nuclear Industry, the Mexican Soccer Federation and all the Rosicrucian Lodges in Mexico.

4. Request by Gloria Buller of the School of Ageless Wisdom, Arlington, Texas, for permission to reproduce fifteen Roerich paintings in a kit for the education of infants. They have been experimenting for a few years with exposing infants to an environment of beauty and spirituality. This has been so successful that they want to develop a means for parents to pursue the same methods in their homes. The use of Roerich paintings is a central feature of this project.

This is not a money making venture, and all copyright claims will be respected.

This school is highly admired by many, and is involved directly with activities of the United Nations and the efforts of Robert Muller, an under-secretary at the U.N. who works for implementation of many "New Era" ideals in world-wide education.

Publications and articles by others and by NRM:

5. Article in January 1986 issue of Dance Magazine announcing the restoration of Sacre de Printemps to be presented by the Joffrey Ballet Co. in 1987. The restoration of the lost choreography was made by Millicent Hodson, a long-time member of the Museum. The presentation will be in the fall of 1987, at which time we hope to mount a "Sacre" exhibition, to have a reception for the ballet company, and to present a talk by Ms. Hodson about her work.
6. Article in the March 1986 issue of The World and I, a cultural journal, about Nicholas Roerich. This article, by Henry Kriegel, a free-lance writer, although based on interviews with me and others, contains many minor inaccuracies and misquotations; but the general tone of the article is the most positive in recent years.
7. Article in the Boston Globe, Dec. 1, 1985, though also based partly on interviews, contains exotic distortions.
8. An article about the Museum has appeared in the April 1986 issue of Art News.
9. Two articles about Nicholas Roerich have appeared in the current Dutch publication Teosophia, and one in the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera.
10. The Theosophical Publishing House has published a book, the Fullness of Human Experience, on the cover of which they reproduced the Painting Mohammed on Mt. Hira. The Museum was paid \$200 for this use.
11. Soviet publications -  
 The fourth volume of George Roerich's dictionary  
 The second edition of Nikolai Rerikh, by Elena Poliakova  
 The second edition of Nicholas Roerich, Master of World Painting.  
 Next year there will appear a large volume of NKR and one on Svetoslav Roerich. We would like to purchase a quantity of these to sell at the Museum. The number of copies available to us, and their cost, is not yet known.
12. The Museum has published two booklets by Irina Corten: Flowers of Morya, an analysis of Roerich's poetry; and an Annotated Bibliography of works about Nicholas Roerich. These are being printed in small quantities as dictated by sales, and sell for \$5.00 each.
13. We have given permission to Dr. Graham House for Tibetan Refugee Children in Kalimpong, India, to use a Roerich painting for a greeting card. They have still not chosen the painting that they will use.
14. The UNICEF card using a painting by Nicholas Roerich will appear this year, and we will have several hundred copies to sell at the Museum.

Paintings:

15. Two paintings, Valor (Monhegan Island, 1921) and Pir Panzal (India, 1925), which had been lent to us by Chuck Horch, were donated to the Museum in December 1985. The Museum wrote to Mr. Horch to thank him, and estimated the value of the paintings at \$5,000 each.

Miscellaneous:

16. A letter has been received from Theodore Dimitrov, of the United Nations Library in Geneva, thanking us for the donation of our books for the Library, and for the material about Nicholas Roerich and the Pact for display given to the U.N. Peace Museum at the Library. He stated also that they are still planning to publish a volume about Roerich and will write to us in the future about the booklet and illustrations for it.

17. The Nicholas Roerich book sponsored by Joshua Mailman is being prepared. Edgar Lansbury has agreed to write the text, after the withdrawal of Jose Arguelles.

18. The bronze bust of Nicholas Roerich by the sculptor, Stephen Smith, is currently being shown at the Museum. There has been such positive response to the bust that we would like to consider requesting contributions by members for its purchase.

19. The service mark of the Museum is now officially renewed, and is valid until June 28, 2005.

20. Uses of the Banner and the symbol by other groups continues, and is more frequent. (Samples enclosed). However, the uses are generally of the Banner of Peace as a Banner and a Symbol, and are not in any case an attempt to use it to identify any other organization. All these groups correspond with us and support and promote our activities.

21. Need to republish Monograph? or let it go out of print? or do a new version? We have only 25 copies.