

For Mad. H. Roerich,  
Chairman

REPORT OF THE JAPANESE CULTURAL EVENT GIVEN NOVEMBER 23rd  
UNDER AUSPICES OF THE JAPANESE ROERICHS ASSOCIATION.

This has been one of the outstanding events held at the Roerich Museum. It was presented in Hall 21. The platform had been placed in the center of the Hall, with the chairs arranged in a semi-circle, and with special flower arrangements placed throughout the room, which had been created by Mme. Sawada, wife of the Hon. Renzo Sawada, Consul General of Japan. Every seat in the Hall was taken, and the event warmly applauded by an appreciative audience.

Mr. Louis L. Horch, President of the Roerich Museum, acted as Chairman in the absence of Mrs. Nettie S. Horch, who unfortunately was ill and could not be present. Everything had been beautifully arranged and supervised in advance by Mrs. Horch. Mme. Sawada as well as the assisting artists expressed the highest appreciation for the able manner in which this event was handled.

The Chairman welcomed the distinguished audience in behalf of the Japanese Roerich Association, and stated that it was the aim of the Founders, Professor and Madame Roerich, to present the finest cultural events of all nations at the Museum, and through this to promote better international understanding and friendship. The Chairman mentioned also the Museum's cordial friendship with high governmental officials of Nippon, and the splendid cultural cooperation which exists between the Roerich Museum and leaders in governmental and cultural circles in Japan. Mention was made of the success of the first Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition shown at the Roerich Museum in cooperation with the Department of Education in Nippon, the splendid lecture given by Professor Okakura, and the concert of the Yoshido Trio, as well as other events at the Museum. Mr. Horch then spoke at length of the splendid and enthusiastic reception accorded to Professor Roerich on his recent trip to Nippon, mentioning that Professor Roerich had been received with acclaim by the high government officials, by the public and by the press, and that a Hall had been dedicated in the new Museum in Kyoto, in honor of Professor Roerich, and where paintings of Professor Roerich are now on display. The Chairman stated that this truly represents a spiritual handshake between Nippon and the United States. This was warmly applauded.

The Chairman then expressed his appreciation to Mme. Sawada for her assistance in arranging this evening, stating that he recalled with pleasure meeting her two days after her arrival in the United States, at the reception given in honor of His Excellency, Prince Toguwara, - how at that time Mme. Sawada had expressed her great love for beauty and culture, her desire to do everything possible to assist in this cause, her great interest in New York, - and how worthily she had kept that promise. Mr. Horch stated that a nation could indeed be very proud to have such emissaries of Culture as Mme. Sawada and her husband. The Chairman then introduced the program of the evening, mentioning that we have always admired the art of sand-painting and flower arrangements which Mme. Sawada was bringing to us, Mr. Horch closed with a quotation from Professor Roerich's message at the time of the First Contemporary Japanese Exhibition at the Museum: "In speaking of Japan -- we may use the word, beautiful....that which has been created by the old Japanese, teaches and amazes. An astounding life is depicted; even in the minute is expressed the great truth...In a beautiful harmony of colors is expressed a mighty song which can uplift our restless consciousness."

Mme. Sawada then gave a description of the art of sand-painting in Japan, and of the symbolism of their flower arrangements. Following this, Mme. Sawada

created in view of the audience, two sand paintings: "Fujiyama" and "Waves." Each of these was taken around by a guard, so that all might see them. Mme. Sawada was warmly applauded. The charm and subtlety of her whole presentation was greatly appreciated.

Mme. Sawada was followed by Mme. Moriwake, who played the Koto. Before her program, the Chairman spoke of the Koto, or Japanese harp, and its development in Japanese music lore. As her first number Mme. Moriwake played an elaborate composition written especially for the Koto by one of Japan's foremost composers. This she followed with an encore, - "The Humming Insect."

The Program was concluded by a Japanese baritone, Mr. George Hiroshi, who sang several charming songs in Nipponese, following these by "The Last Hour" in English, and an encore: "Invictus" by Bruno Hahn, also in English.

Mr. Horch spoke a few closing words, announcing that in response to his request, Mme. Sawada had graciously consented to create one of her sand paintings for the Museum, where it would be permanently displayed. This, too, was warmly applauded.

The Chairman again thanked the artists for their cooperation, and promised that further Japanese cultural events would be held by the Japanese Roerich Association.

Mme. Sawada in going through the Museum, spoke in highest terms about the great art of Professor Roerich, saying that the pure spirit of Professor Roerich's art is so greatly admired in Nippon.

She mentioned that she had been the recipient of letters from young people in Nippon who had expressed the greatest interest in the achievements of Professor Roerich. It is the belief of the writer that Mme. Sawada could be an active force in spreading *the Maat. Poem*

Mme. Sawada mentioned that she intended to go to Nippon in January for about two months, and Mr. Horch, in behalf of the Japanese Roerich Association, suggested that a tea be given in honor of Mme. Sawada before her departure. Mme. Sawada gladly accepted this invitation.

*Louis L. Horch*

Report by Mr. Louis L. Horch, Chairman