

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE AT
ROERICH MUSEUM ANNIVERSARY

A distinguished group of speakers, consisting of members of the diplomatic corps and men prominent in educational and artistic fields, addressed a large audience which included outstanding figures in the cultural and artistic life of New York, at the celebration in honor of the seventh anniversary of the opening of the Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, which took place tonight (Tuesday, March 24) at Roerich Hall.

The occasion was also one of tribute to Professor Nicholas Roerich, to whom the Museum is dedicated, and to the Roerich Banner of Peace, which he created and designed for the protection of educational, artistic and scientific institutions throughout the world in times of war and peace, by a plan similar to that of the Red Cross. As with the Red Cross, this banner will be flown above museums, universities, libraries, cathedrals and other educational and cultural centers, signifying neutrality and inviolability, thus preventing a repetition of the atrocities of previous wars.

The program tonight was opened by Dr. R.V.D. Magoffin, president of the American Archaeological Institute, who presided. Among the speakers was the Hon. Sebastiao Sampaio, consul general of Brazil, who extolled the aims and achievements of the Roerich Museum, and its efforts for international good-will through art, stressing particularly its work in Latin-America.

"I consider it an honor to recall the warm welcome and appreciation of all Latin-America to the expansion work for international friendship done there in the last few years by the Roerich Museum through literary and artistic interchange," Mr. Sampaio said. He declared also that "Art is the most beautiful international language for general understanding throughout the world. I consider the Roerich Museum one of its best speakers in a practical, noble and brilliant way."

(more)

BRITISH MUSEUM

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Dr. Jaroslav Novak, consul general of Czechoslovakia, spoke of Professor Roerich and his artistic and humanistic achievements. He recalled the artist's first exhibition in Czechoslovakia in 1906, and the excellent reception his pictures were accorded. Dr. Novak also expressed his gratitude and that of the Czechoslovakian people for the work Professor Roerich has done in developing and unifying Czechoslovakian culture and art.

Dr. Charles Fleischer, lecturer, editor, writer, organizer and leader of the "Sunday Commons," in Boston, and a vice-president of the Roerich Society of New York, was another speaker. "Nicholas Roerich symbolizes the dominance of the spirit," Dr. Fleischer declared. "Apparently absent from us, for he is just now in the high Himalayas, he is as really present as though he were on our own form. The Roerich Museum, with its vast galleries of his marvelous paintings, the Master Institute of Allied Arts, this Master Building, all the world-wide cultural activities that center here and radiate hence, these are just so many fruits of his creative spirit, just so many proofs that that spirit is omnipresent and omnipotent."

The interest and activities of women in the movement for international peace through art was emphasized by Mrs. William Dick Sporborg, president of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs. Others on the program were J.G. Phelps Stokes, prominent in the fields of philanthropy and political science, and Leon Dabo, renowned artist, both of whom are vice-presidents of the Roerich Society.

Mr. Louis L. Horch, president of the Museum, was the last speaker of the evening. He reviewed briefly the work of the Roerich Museum in the seven years of its existence, its growth from a small studio to a great institution, housed in a modern skyscraper, its all-embracing activities stretching all over the world, with the guiding spirit of Nicholas Roerich behind it all. He stressed the Roerich Banner of Peace, which has been endorsed by important personages and institutions all over the world.

Dr. William Brewster, General Secretary of the Ornithological Union, writes to the Secretary of the Boston Society of Natural History, dated 1892. He mentions the article in the Boston Society's journal, published in 1892, and the excellent cooperation of the Society in the matter. Dr. Brewster also expresses his confidence and trust in the Boston Society for the work of the Ornithological Union. He mentions the various papers and reports published by the Society, and the interest and activity of the members. He also mentions the various societies and organizations that are connected with the Ornithological Union, and the work of the Society in the field of ornithology. He concludes by expressing his confidence in the Society and its members, and his hope that the Society will continue to do good work in the future.

"With the adoption of the Banner we shall have in all countries a single flag," he explained. "One symbol, binding all peoples in a united understanding of the priceless character of these heritages of Beauty and Knowledge. Here, wherever the flag shall float, shall be inviolable territory, where art and science shall stand secure, And men seeing this Banner will recognize that it protects ground, which, in a larger sense, belongs not to any nation, but to all the world. When mankind has learned the lesson of this symbol of the Banner of Peace, an important step shall have been taken towards the ultimate establishment of world peace."

The speeches were followed by a reading from the poems of Nicholas Roerich, by Mrs. Bertha Kunz Baker, and by musical selections by Francis Moore, pianist, of the music faculty of the Master Institute of the Roerich Museum, and by Miss Nina Valli, soprano, accompanied by Ethel Alexander at the piano.

Messages conveying greetings and congratulations were received from many distinguished figures in distant parts of the world, including Professor Roerich, who is now in India, at Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute devoted to scientific research in medicine, biology, geology, archaeology and other fields of human knowledge, Miss Esther J. Liehmann, a trustee of the Museum, who is also at Urusvati, and V.A. Shibayev, one of the Institute's officials. There were also messages from Madame de Vaux Philipau and Dr. Georges Chklaver, president and general secretary of the French Association of the Roerich Society in Paris.

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