

Speech of Carl W. Ackerman, Dean, School of Journalism, Columbia University, N.Y.C.

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have an advantage over many of you. I didn't realize it so especizlly until I heard Mrs. Btisbain address a group of boys and say to them that when they looked for a wife they should look for a girl with a backbone. I married an artist and for ten years or more have been around the museums and art galleries of this city, becoming acquainted with these great institutions.

It was ten years or more ago when I first saw the paintings of Nicholas Roerich. They impressed me then, as they do today, as the work of a great Teacher. There is a group of paintings in this Museum portraying a day in the life of a 12th Century monk. Every time I see this group of paintings, I carry away very definite and specific new ideals. When I saw them recently it ocured to me that this great artist had expressed in these paintings the need for devotion, for work, for recreation and for reflection.

I can carry many other thoughts away with me after seeing these paintings, but I am going to speak tonight only a few moments, because, while I had an address prepared, I feel very much as Dr. Hyde did when he was called upon to make an address recently: he had written something before he came to the hall, but he didn't appreciate the inspiration that would come to him that evening. As I sat here on the platform and listened to these people speaking, and then, as I looked in your faces, I wished again that I were a reporter. I should like to express just what I saw and what I heard here this evening. The interest, the receptivity, the responsiveness of these people is inspiring. The different interpretations of the speakers of the work



(Ackerman #2)

of Nicholas Roerich is something we all will carry with us for years and years to come. And, as a reporter, I want to express not only my interest in this Museum, but also my appreciation to the officers of the Museum for allowing me this privilege to be here tonight.