

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF ROERICH MUSEUM

CHARLES WHARTON STORK, PRESIDENT MARY SIEGRIST, VICE-PRESIDENT THEOPHILE SCHNEIDER, VICE-PRESIDENT FOREST GRANT, VICE-PRESIDENT SIDNEY M. NEWBERGER, SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Society of Friends of Roerich Museum is an international society devoted to the ideals of brotherhood through art, as expressed in the paintings and writings of Nicholas Roerich.

The formation of such a society under the name of a living artist is most unusual, yet this association came into being very quietly and naturally, as a result of the influence and admiration impelled by the Roerich Museum. Thousands of persons who have seen the paintings of Roerich have felt in them an inspiration far beyond that of mere artistic beauty as it is commonly understood. Rather, they have found here a new revelation of life corresponding, as does nothing else in art or literature of to-day, to their own highest aspirations. Hence arose the desire to spread the knowledge and influence of Roerich's art to the many others who, we feel, are eager for its message.

Let us review the life of Roerich, so ceaseless and far-reaching in creative achievement. Born in Russia, fifty-two years ago, Roerich attained the highest honors in his own country, and after the revolution his fame became international. As a climax to this appreciation, a special museum was established in New York as a permanent monument to his art as well as to further his ideas for international understanding through art. In the three years of its activity, the Roerich Museum has already become a shrine for many people of widely differing tastes and traditions. In accordance with Roerich's belief in the essential unity of the arts, lectures on all arts are held under the auspices of the museum. Meanwhile, Roerich himself has been painting amid the most exalted scenery of the world in India and Thibet, a series of symbolic masterpieces which represent the acme of his genius thus far. The panorama of these works is already in the Museum.

In what consists the essential quality of these paintings which have appealed to noted men from all parts of the world-men such as Tagore, Stravinsky, Mestrovic, Andreyeff, Zuloaga, Stokowski-men of the most various types and professions? Art critics have written of the soundness and mastery of the craftsmanship, but to most of those who love Roerich the technical ability is a minor matter. Certainly the power of these paintings can hardly be suggested in words. Roerich is closest in spirit to the Italian primitives in whom deep religious feeling utterly subordinates the desire for virtuosity. He has a strength of design blended with an emotional gift of color which produces almost the effects of music so as to suggest the pure intensity of a work of Bach. His imagination has also a sane breadth that may be compared to the poetry of one of his favorite authors, Walt Whitman. And even more than with Whitman, one feels in him the dominant influence of Asia, birthplace of all the world's chief religions. In a word, Roerich recreates from the vital influences of the past a new faith and a new art, much as Giotto and his contemporaries expressed in painting an enthusiasm kindled by St. Francis of Assisi. As with them, his vision of beauty appeals to children and day laborers as well as to artists and mystics. The chief difference is that in Roerich the impulse is less narrowly human; in particular his superb Himalayan landscapes represent a cosmic unity of man and nature. remarkable, too, that such a renascence should be first incarnate not in words, but in form and color.

It is not surprising that the recognition of Roerich's art, so fully accorded in other countries should reach its climax in the United States. Even before his visit to America, Roerich felt the underlying spirituality of this country of "great and young aspirations." This faith he later expressed in his prophetic "Messiah" Series. And America responded by the founding of the Museum. In our day, Roerich sees the approach of the ideal combination of the visionary and practical, to accomplish his prophecy, "art will unify all humanity." America in turn is fortunate to come into contact with one of the few supremely great spirits in the world today. It is for this reason that those familiar with the Roerich Museum feel the responsibility of transmitting its vital influence to the life of America and of the world.

PURPOSES

The Society of Friends of Roerich Museum will pursue its aims through the extension of the collections of the Roerich Museum; through the issuing of publications pertaining to the creative art of Roerich and the work of the Museum.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum shall have the privilege of attending the Roerich Museum on weekly membership days when the reception rooms shall be open for the use of members and their friends as a place of gathering.

All members shall have constant access to the Museum library, which contains in addition to collections of the writings of Roerich and works on his art in various languages, a large library of general art literature.

All lectures and recitals given by the Roerich Museum will be open to members of the Society and their guests. Seats will be reserved for members. The Series of Junior Lectures will be open to the children of members who on application may receive additional cards of admission. Programs of lectures and recitals will be mailed to members upon request.

By arrangement with the Directors of the Roerich Museum, members of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum making application through an officer of the Society will be provided with a lecture on the paintings by a member of the Museum staff, for themselves and friends in groups of not less than 20.

Members will be entitled to receive the ARCHER, publication of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Members: These and Correspondent Members to be elected by the Society and granted all privileges of members.

Patrons: \$5,000.00

LIFE MEMBERS: \$300.00.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS: Annually \$25.00.

Annual Members: Annually \$10.00.

ACTIVE FELLOWS: Elected by the Society on grounds of merit for active participation in the work: Annually \$5.00.

JUNIOR MEMBERS (Under 25 years of age): Annually \$5.00.

Non-Resident Members (Those living outside of Greater New York): Annually \$5.00.

For further information regarding the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum, address the Secretary, 310 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y.



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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

of

ROERICH MUSEUM

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

and

WHAT IS ITS VALUE TO YOU?

310 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK

THE Society of Friends of Roerich Museum is an international society aiming to broaden the artistic and spiritual understanding between individuals and nations and to encourage all efforts in the cause of cultural progress. To this end it is collaborating with individuals and groups throughout this, as well as other countries.

Inspired and enriched by the art and philosophy of Nicholas Roerich, the Society of Friends has established branches and groups throughout the world. The effectiveness of its efforts for unity is demonstrated by the affiliated associations already formed for study and research in all fields. The headquarters of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum is in the Roerich Museum in New York City. This parent organization centralizes the international activities of the Society. Under its wing, the following groups and branches have been organized:

UNITED STATES

Brahma Vidya Center School of Life Foundation British Association Colombian Association East and West Brotherhood Finnish Association French Association German Association Origen Association League of the New Humanity

Shakespeare Association Siberian Association Spinoza Center Spiritual Health and Medical Research Centre

St. Francis of Assisi Venerators of Thought Young Idealist Club

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS

Branch of Roerich Museum and Headquarters: 12 rue de Poitiers, Paris VII

Bulgaria: Sofia
Czechoslovakia: Prague
French: Paris
German: Berlin
Jugoslavia: Belgrade
Latvia: Riga
Lithuania: Kaunas

School of Life Foundation

Groups at Vienna, Geneva, Paris, London, Rotterdam, Ascona.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS

Argentine: Buenos Aires and Rosario

Bolivia: La Paz

Brazil: Sao Paolo and Rio Janeiro

Chile: Santiago

Colombia: Cali and Bogota Peru: Lima

Peru: Lima Uruguay: Montevideo

Mexico: Mexico City Cuba: Havana

The Society of Friends, believing with Nicholas Roerich that creative art can raise humanity out of its present despair, is doing its utmost to encourage the artistic efforts of this generation.

Art - man's noblest effort - elevates humanity above the grosser material limitations. It provides a viewpoint from which all who care to look may see - each in his own individual way - some universal aspect of the Eternal Truth.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

FREE admission to the series of recitals and lectures on art, music, literature, drama, poetry and scientific subjects. Notification of activities.

Society Bulletin.

Access to and use of the Museum Library.

Privileges of affiliated branches and societies during sojourn in the countries in which such branches are established.

Complimentary copy of the Roerich Museum Annual.

A discount of 20% on all Roerich Museum Press publications.

Opportunity of joining discussion groups on artistic and philosophic subjects.

On special appointment members may have a lecturer to conduct groups through the Museum.

JOIN THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF ROERICH MUSEUM AND HELP MAKE THE WORLD A MORE INSPIRING PLACE TO LIVE IN.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF ROERICH MUSEUM 310 Riverside Drive, New York

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date

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	Member of THE SOCIETY OF
FRIENDS OF ROERICH MUSEUM for which	ch I enclose a check for
Name	
Address	
Annual Members: Annually\$10.00	Patrons\$5,000.00
Non-Resident Members: Annually 5.00	Life Members
Annual Members: Annually	Sustaining Members: Annually 25.00

All checks should be drawn to the Secretary of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, N. Y. Telephone, Clarkson 1700.

ROERICH MUSEUM

THE Society of Friends of Roerich Museum contributes to the support and to the development of the aims, ideals and activities of the Roerich Museum.

The Roerich Museum is incorporated under the educational laws of New York State.

The collection of the Museum contains more than one thousand paintings of Nicholas Roerich. The Museum is open daily, including Sundays and holidays, from 10 to 5 P. M. free to the public.

The Museum aims to spread the message of Beauty and to promote better understanding between men and nations through the encouragement of the arts, sciences and all phases of knowledge and culture. It also aims to augment the collections of the Museum by adding examples of art of all nations.

The Roerich Museum has the following departments:

MASTER INSTITUTE OF ROERICH MUSEUM

Instruction in all branches of the Allied Arts: Music, Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Opera Class, Ballet Drama, Lectures.

INTERNATIONAL ART CENTER OF ROERICH MUSEUM

Exhibitions of the arts of all nations. It also cooperates in itinerant exhibitions with museums, schools, libraries, clubs. etc.

ROERICH MUSEUM PRESS

Publications of the Roerich Museum as well as in all fields of cultural endeavors.

URUSYATI - HIMALAYAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ROERICH MUSEUM

A scientific center in Kulu Valley, India, for investigation and research in archaeology, biology, medicine, geology, biochemistry, astro-chemistry and allied sciences.