

November 18, 1937.

Mr. Cyril C Clemens  
Pres. International Mark Twain Society  
841 North Kirkwood Street  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Clemens:

We feel that your election of Professor Roerich to the Honorary office of your society was of most noble purport, and it has excited our deep admiration. Professor Roerich is the Honorary President of our Association and, thinking of you as one of his most sincere admirers is what has prompted me to write to you at this time. I deem it my duty to acquaint you with the most unbelievable and unheard of situation which has befallen the Roerich Museum and its noble founder, here in New York.

During the past two and one half years the Trustees of the Roerich Museum and its affiliated Institutions, namely Mrs. Sina Lichtmann, Mr. Maurice Lichtmann and Miss Frances Grant have been engaged in a most desperate fight, safeguarding the Roerich Museum and the cultural work for which it has always stood. It would be wrong for me to classify it merely as an isolated fight, for it is really the fight of the forces of Light against the forces of darkness, forces who stand for Culture against destruction, vandalism and appalling injustice.

When I mention the names of three Trustees, I should have added that Professor and Madame Roerich, who are at present in India, are fighting side by side with them in spite of the great distance, supporting and sustaining them with their noble counsel and advices, and using extreme efforts on their side.

Their battle is directed against Mr. and Mrs. Louis Horch and Miss Esther J. Lichtmann, the other three former co-workers, who seemingly in good faith worked with them until

1935, when their masks suddenly fell off revealing the most horrible faces. These three people deliberately, without giving any reason, at that time severed their relations with Professor and Madam Roerich and started action to expel their loyal co-workers from their rightful positions in the Institutions here. To make the matter more clear I shall explain in some detail:

Professor and Madam Roerich, together with Mr. and Mrs. Lichtmann, in 1921, founded the Master Institute of United Arts, a school for the teaching of all Arts. Miss Frances Grant came into the work also at the time of the founding of the Master Institute. Considerably later Mr. and Mrs. Horch and Miss Lichtmann entered into their relationship, expressing the desire to make the work under the leadership of Professor and Madam Roerich a common goal. This was accepted by Professor and Madam Roerich as well as by Mr. and Mrs. Lichtmann and Miss Grant in perfectly good faith, as we

I do not have to recount to you the gradual growth of the Institutions, the International fame of the Roerich Museum which housed over 1000 paintings of Professor Roerich, and which was considered an Art Shrine in the city of New York by all those who came from afar, nor of the growth of the Roerich School, namely the Master Institute of United Arts. Later several more Institutions were added which were also founded by Madam and Professor Roerich: International Art Center of Roerich Museum, Roerich Museum Press, and Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute. The name Roerich symbolized the great cultural movement, and everyone who was connected with him, working in the above mentioned Institutions, was regarded as distinguished in his service to education and to the spiritual growth of mankind. You probably know about the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, the great humanitarian project created by Professor Roerich, which was hailed in this country as a unique plan for the safeguarding of the cultural treasures of humanity.

The Roerich Peace Pact and Banner of Peace was ratified by 21 countries of the Pan-American Union including the United States. This great event of International significance occurred on April 28th, 1935. It took place in the White House,

followed by an International broadcast headed by President Roosevelt, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace and others. Shortly after Mr. and Mrs. Horch and Miss Lichtmann actually stunned us by suddenly announcing, without explanation that they had decided to sever all relationship with Professor and Madam Roerich and would no more accept their guidance. They did not do it only as a verbal announcement, but since that time they have proceeded systematically to crush and destroy every Institution and every movement which bears the name of Roerich or has any association with him. As a result Mr. and Mrs. Lichtmann and Miss Grant have been fighting in what we consider a holy and just cause, the safeguarding of the Institutions selflessly dedicated by Professor and Madam Roerich to the cultural life of America.

Countless writings and volumes of published literature testify to the fact of how these three apostates proclaimed themselves the staunch and ardent devotees of Professor Roerich. Testimony and proofs without end indicate that justice and right is on our side. The leading legal minds have assured us that eventually we shall win, but the battle for justice, when it is led in the courts of New York, has its many unbelievable turns and we have to recognize that justice is not always meted out to him who has the absolute right to demand it. On the contrary, he who is corrupt and can corrupt others, using methods and means which are abhorrent to a person who lives according to the laws and ethics of truth - he often is the temporary victor in the courts. But in spite of the many turns in the litigation and while faced with the most serious difficulties and obstacles, threatened by the apostates who desire to crush and expell the rightful owners and founders we are fighting unwaveringly, knowing that ultimately the victory will be ours.

I am writing all this to you, wishing you to be fully acquainted with the situation as it is, because many malicious and slanderous rumors are being spread by the adversaries, which are directed against Madam and Professor Roerich, their loyal co-workers and the ideals they represent. Should you wish additional information or data which has been accumulated during these two and on half years of litigation, I shall be more than happy to send the same to you.

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It is my pleasure to send to you under separate cover our new booklet "CULTURE" by the eminent Latvian writer Richard Rudzitis. You will find within its covers a brief statement of the ideals and purposes of our Association. I shall be happy to receive an answer from you and remain, with best greetings,

Yours most sincerely,

Gene Fosdick, Pres.

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COPY OF A POSTCARD

CYRIL CLEMENS, President  
International Mark Twain Society  
Webster Groves, Missouri

29th November 1937

Dear President Rodick

Thank you for your most illuminating  
letter which we shall file

If I can ever be of any help, command  
my services. Prof. Roerich is indeed of the cen-  
tury's greatest men.

Yours Faithfully  
(sig.)  
Cyril Clemens

The book is most interesting.

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( I sent him a copy of CULTURE )

Copy

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December 5, 1937.

Mr. Cyril Clemens  
Pres. International Mark Twain Society  
841 North Kirkwood Street  
St. Louis, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Clemens:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your card, and to tell you how deeply we appreciate your expression of admiration for Professor Roerich, and the gracious offering of your support.

The hearts which remain loyal to culture and to the peaceful evolution of all humanity, are precious now as never before. The best thoughts and creative effort of the builders of the world are attacked by the forces of destruction with unprecedented violence, and we are most eager to unite all people devoted to the Good Principle, in defense of the cultural treasures of mankind.

It is my wish to advise Mr. Hacken of St. Paul of our situation, and if you have his address or can tell me where I might find it, I would appreciate it very much.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Gene Fosdick