

Copy of letter sent to Dr. Edgar L. Hewett
Mr. Clarence V. Howell
Dr. Alexander Kaun
Dr. George B. Lake
Dr. Forest Grant
Dr. George Chklaver
Dr. Charles Wharton Stork

June 16, 1928

Dr. Edgar L. Hewett
Director, School of American Research,
Santa Fe Museum,
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dear Dr. Hewett:

Knowing with what deep personal interest you regard all matters pertaining to Professor Nicholas Roerich and the Roerich American Expedition, we would like to send you herewith the recent cable received from Professor Roerich in Asia:

"Roerich American Expedition after many hardships has reached Himalayas stop Thus ended big Central Asiatic Expedition stop Many artistic and scientific results stop Already sent several series paintings to New York stop Hope last sending from Mongolia safely reached stop Many observations concerning Buddhism stop Expedition started 1924 from Sikkin through Punjab Kashmir Ladak Karakorum Khotan Kashgar Karashahr Urumchi Irtysh Altai Mountains Oyrot Region Mongolia Central Gobi Kansu Tsaidam Tibet stop Peaceful American flag encircled Central Asia everywhere movement expedition from Khotan assisted by British Consul Kashgar stop On Tibetan territory have been attacked by armed robbers stop Superiority of our fire arms prevented bloodshed stop In spite of Tibet passports Expedition forcibly stopped by Tibetan authorities on October sixth two days north of Nagchu stop With inhuman cruelty Expedition has been detained for five months on altitude of 15000 feet in summer tents amidst severe cold about minus forty degrees centigrade stop Expedition suffered from want of fuel and fodder stop During stay in Tibet five men Mongols Buriats and Tibetans died and ninety caravan animals perished stop By order of authorities all letters and wires addressed to Lhasa Government American Consul Calcutta British authorities have seized stop Forbidden to buy food stuffs from population stop Money and medicines came to an end stop The presence of three women in caravan and medical certificate about heart weakness not taken into consideration stop With great difficulties on March fourth Expedition started southwards stop All nine European members expedition safe stop Courageously bore hardships of exceptionally severe winter stop Many scientific results after four years travels stop May sixteenth --Signed Nicholas Roerich."

Feeling the great urgency demanded by this event, the Roerich Museum has decided to send a Commission to meet the Expedition and to ascertain the causes of the forcible detention of the members of the Roerich American Expedition by the Tibetan Authorities. It is our desire to inquire into the inhuman treatment to which the members of the Expedition were subjected.

In sending this Commission, we feel that the strength of American institutions and leading Americans are with us and we would value having a letter for the Commission from you as Director of the School of American Research and the Santa Fe Museum which we might take with us giving your expression of moral support of this cause. We would appreciate having this as early as possible in view of the despatch with which we must act.

Anticipating your reply and with the cordial greetings of the Directors, I remain

Very sincerely,

CLINICAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY

NORTH CHICAGO, ILL.

OFFICE OF
GEORGE B. LAKE, M. D.
MANAGING EDITOR

June 22, 1928.

Mr. Louis L. Horch, Pres.,
Roerich Museum,
310 Riverside Drive,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Horch:

I was shocked and grieved at seeing in one of the newspapers a brief item making mention of the outrageous treatment to which Professor Roerich and his party have been submitted in Tibet, and I take this opportunity of telling you my feeling that no country which permits such treatment of travelers is worthy of consideration as an enlightened state. I feel that a thorough investigation should be made into the circumstances attending this indefensible mistreatment of this high-minded group of artists and scientists, and that the fullest possible reparation should be unhesitatingly and inflexibly demanded from those responsible.

I shall be glad to have you keep me informed of the progress of the relief commission and let me know in what ways I can be of further service to you.

With all good wishes to you and Mrs. Horch, and my sincere prayers for the success of your undertaking, I am, as always,

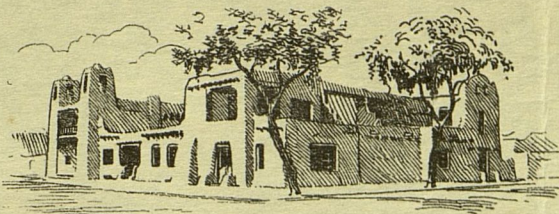
Yours faithfully,

Geo. B. Lake
Geo. B. Lake, M.D.
Managing Editor

GBL:MC

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH



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MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

June 27th, 1928

My dear President Horch:

Your letter of the 16th inst.. duly received. I had previously received with great astonishment and regret the information conveyed in the press dispatches concerning the unfriendly attitude of the Tibetan authorities toward the Roerich American Expedition. I have hoped that it might be found that this reprehensible action was not known to or authorized by the authorities of the Central government. The proposal to send a commission for inquiry into the matter is in every way commendable. If the authorities there were not to blame for this outrageous treatment of a friendly expedition they should be given every opportunity to make proper amends. If it was done with their knowledge and approval the world should know it.

Be assured that the purpose in sending a commission to inquire into this matter has my earnest approval. Let us hope that its findings will result in an early restoration of the feelings of good will that we in America have always held and in so many ways expressed for the people of Central Asia. In this I know I voice the sentiments of the Directors of the School of American Research of the Archaeological Institute of America, and of my colleagues and associates in other of our western institutions.

With best regards I am as always,

Faithfully yours,

Edgar L. Hewett

Louis L. Horch
President
Roerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive
New York City,

ELH:HW

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BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF ART IN HIGH SCHOOLS
500 PARK AVENUE TEL. PLAZA 5580

June 28, 1928

Mr. Louis L. Horch
President, Roerich Museum
313 West 105th Street
New York City

Dear Mr. Horch:

I deeply appreciate having your letter pertaining to the commission which Roerich Museum has decided to send to meet Prof. Nicholas Roerich and the Roerich American Expedition and to ascertain the causes of the forcible detention of the members of this expedition by the Tibetan authorities.

I want to assure you that I am entirely in sympathy with this move and hope that it will result, not only in speedy relief to Professor Roerich and his party, but in a swift and adequate punishment for those who have been responsible for the outrage.

Very sincerely yours

Forest Grant

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SLAVIC LANGUAGES

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

July 4, 1928.

Louis L Horch, Esq,
President, Roerich Museum.

Dear Mr Horch:

My prolonged absence from the university explains the delay of my answer to your letter of June 16. I regret this circumstance deeply, and hope that this letter comes not too late.

The ill treatment accorded the Roerich expedition in Tibet is, indeed, a crime which ought to be promptly investigated and severely punished. The work of Professor Roerich is being watched by all friends of humanity with interest and concern. His activity is directed toward international peace and mutual understanding. It should be en-

couraged and supported by all who cherish the ideal of better race. One hopes that the Commission you are sending to meet the Roerich Expedition and to investigate the causes of its mistreatment in Tibet, will meet everywhere with assistance and sympathy.

Faithfully yours,

Alexander Kaun

Professor Alexander Kaun/VG