

"Urusvati"  
Naggar P.O., Kulu, Punjab  
Brit. India

Nov.1, 1935

My very dear Friend,

Please find herewith:

- 1) Prof. de Roerich's letter #3
- 2) Dr. G. de Roerich's letter to you
- 3) One letter for Miss F.R.Grant
- 4) Further pages 2 and 3 of EXCERPTS from the Minutes, which are a continuation to the previous sent page attached to Memorandum #2.

There is another interesting excerpt in Minutes "217, of June 4th, 1933, para 13: which I now quote ahead, and which will enter into the next page of Excerpts to be sent next week:

para 13 - "Miss Lichtmann wishes to join heartily Mr. Horch in his high comments in his report on the Exhibition of the pupils of the Master Institute and on the graduation exercises. She wishes to congratulate the Director of the Master Institute, Mrs. Lichtmann and the Dean of the Music Department, Mr. Lichtmann for their wonderful work. Likewise Mr. Giles deserves great credit for his fine work. Miss Grant heartily joins and wishes to say that despite all difficulties Mrs. Lichtmann has carried on the work of Master Institute in the finest spirit and greatest success as was evidenced by all its activities.

Mrs. Horch, who was absent from the meeting, expressed herself how deeply she was impressed by the beautiful work done by the students. Mrs. Lichtmann is deeply impressed by the expression of the President and the Trustees and wishes to state that if it were not for the support of the Trustees, the activities could not have been so successful."

Thus we have innumerable proof over our volumes of files, under their own signature that some have not only forgotten their own salvation but every single word they have themselves at a time stated!

This mail must go now and I am compelled to close in haste.

Ever in His Service

V. Shibayev

"Urusvati",

Naggar P.O., Kulu, Punjab,

Brit. India.

Nov. 5, 1935.

My dear Mrs. Lichtmann,

I was indeed indignant to hear from this week's mail that Miss Esther Lichtmann is spreading false statements in New-York to the effect that during her sojourn here in Naggar, Mme. de Roerich had been reading out to others letters from yourself and Miss Grant, in which, as if complaints and reflections had been made upon two other Trustees (Mr. and Mrs. Horch). I wish to state most solemnly that I have never during all these years heard neither from you, nor Mr. Lichtmann, nor Miss Grant anything beyond a loyal attitude towards the Members of the Board of Trustees and its President.

As regards the remark by Miss Lichtmann that letters were read to outsiders, this is again utterly false, for if Mme. de Roerich read any letters at all (and during the last year this was very seldom) it was only within her own family and if I heard anything it was in the capacity of private secretary, which naturally is confidential and in no way can be considered "public or "outside".

I most firmly protest against this spreading of false rumours by Miss Lichtmann and Mr. and Mrs. Horch, and can at any time stand witness to the actual truth.

Although you no doubt are aware of my always being ready to bear witness to the above, I yet wish to confirm it once more in writing.

Yours very sincerely,

V. Shibayev (signed)

Naggar,  
12th Nov. 1935

Dear Mrs. Lichtmann,

Your letters of Oct. 20th-25th have been received here and read with much interest. I am anxious to write to you regarding recent insinuations made by Mr. Horch to some of our friends. The press insinuations of last June are entirely without foundation, and must have emanated from an ill-informed and hostile source, anxious to hamper and undermine the Expedition's fieldwork. We must emphatically deny the existence of any political activity while in the service of the Dept. of Agriculture. The whole "planted story" is ridiculous and shows an absolute ignorance of true facts and of local conditions. While in China we had investigated the matter, and it seems that much of it originated in Shanghai. Mr. Steel, the Associated Press Correspondent, who visited Kalgan early in last June, had stated to an American missionary stationed there, that "opinions about the Expedition were divided", and that much ill-feeling had been created by the two recalled botanists, who, to use his own words, "had left an evil trail behind themselves". It was unfortunate that their slander found a ready ear in some quarters, and the newspaper story which appeared in the U.S. gives the source of the correspondent's information. I have sent to Miss Grant the clipping with Teh-Wang's letter to the Editor of the North China Star, and you must have a copy of Mrs. Larson's letter of Aug. 13th. It is clear that some quarters were exceedingly anxious to do away with the Expedition. Mr. Horch's statement that our contract with the Dept. of Agriculture has been cancelled does not correspond to the actual state of affairs. As you know we had received instructions from the Dept. to proceed to the Koko-nor region and to finish field work in China by January 1936.

After that date we were expected to go to India to work on our detailed report of explorations and to collect Himalayan seeds and specimens. However it was found impossible to proceed to Koko-nor due to warfare and floods, and we therefore suggested to the Dept. to end the field work in Mongolia by the end of September, that is, the close of the seeding season. To this we received cabled instructions to proceed to India not later than Oct. 15th, and to compile there our detailed report, and catalogue collections gathered in the Himalayas during the seeding season. This is how matters stand now. With regard to the newspaper attack of last June and July, it is noteworthy that the native press refrained from taking part in the slander, and that most articles appeared in American papers (the Peking-Tientsin Times reprinted some of the story but was careful to omit the slanderous and insinulative passages, and the Editor of the paper was very apologetic when he learned about the true facts, and promised to keep out of the matter). Thus we see that the attack on the Expedition was localized in American papers and was not taken up by foreign and Chinese papers in Tientsin and Shanghai.

With heartiest greetings,

Cordially yours,

G. de Roerich (signed)

- 1) My connection, in the capacity as President-Founder, with the Master Institute of United Arts has never been discontinued. This is evident first of all from the fact that all Annual Reports of Master Institute, whenever I was reachable, were always sent to me for my approval. These Annual Reports were also submitted to Albany, and it was clearly stated in them up to the last report of July 1935, that I am President-Founder.
- 2) The Master School of United Arts was inaugurated on Nov.17,1921 and was later renamed into Master Institute of United Arts, retaining the same program, the same motto and the same officers (with only some additional officers added later).
- 3) In Feb.1935 for technical reasons, the Master Institute of United Arts took over the Building. But since that time up to Aug.29,1935 incl. all Minutes were sent to us at Naggar in the same way and manner as they had always been sent before.
- 4) The letter of C.Kramer to Mr. Horch of Sept.18th can be considered only as an advice or suggestion, the more so as the recently received letter from the Commissioner of Taxes to Miss F.R.Grant clearly states that tax exemption does not depend on the various changes which Mr.Kramer had been suggesting. A copy of Mr. C.Kramer's letter of Sept.18,1935 is herewith attached.
- 5) Thus neither in the cultural aims of the Master Institute, nor in the governing Board and personnel did any change take place. If any changes were to take place, then of course all Trustees would have been consulted and such a decision would have been generally known. I, as President-Founder, know nothing of such alleged changes and was never consulted and have expressed no opinion, nor approval of such changes.
- 6) Of course all official reports are in Albany; they were always approved by the General Meetings of all Trustees and they prove my uninterrupted official status in the Master Institute.
- 7) Copies of all these official reports must be on file in the Master Institute.

Naggar, Dec.12, 1935.

Nicholas de Roerich.

December 18, 1935

My own Sina, Frances and Maurice;

We are shocked by the wire which we have just received from you. This means that Mr. Horch, like a fratricide, has taken action against his coworkers of many years; against the entire original group of self-sacrificing workers in the cause of culture. What kind of culture is he manifesting, what kind of heart, what type of human image, if he wishes to oust co-workers who gave fifteen of the best years of their lives to this work? This disgraces and shames, not only Mr. Horch, but all who helped him in this horrible conspiracy. It is even impossible to see how - save in the case of a criminal offense - one could attack in this brutal way, co-workers who set their spirits into the foundations of an educational institution. It is impossible to imagine any law which would uphold the ousting of people from their homes, after they spent fifteen years of self-sacrificing, unstained labor. The fratricide is intent on proving that he alone gave everything. But he came to a harvest already sown. No one forgot his dollars - we were always ready to appreciate his gift to the Museum, because this was not a personal gift but a donation to an institution. Now, however, this institution is being reduced to the category of a piece of private property, in which the fist of a tyrannical landlord suddenly reveals itself. Truly in the history of educational institutions, this case becomes one of unprecedented appeal. It is splendid that the true friends of culture are raising their voices and manifesting all possible aid to truth and justice. There cannot be a court in the world which would permit educational workers to be thrown out after fifteen years of labor. Mankind has read enough about all types of greedy stranglers. And it is precisely for the purpose of ridding mankind of such lowness and abomination that educational and cultural institutions exist. But what is to be said if the president of a cultural institution, in a savage culture-phobia, begins to oust his co-workers?

What is to be said if a school and press suffer oppressions and conspiracies, long since schemed? What is to be said further than that the very wire communicating the actions of Mr. Horch, seems incredible in human life, since we are not dealing with gangsters presumably? We established this educational institution for the inspiration of youth; what will youth say when it discerns not cooperation, but - quite the opposite - human hatred? A few years ago, when we faced the question of the safety of the very walls of the building, this was not as horrible as now when the very foundations are being undermined. It is now not only a question of culture, but of civilization and honesty. Because not only culture, but even civilization is attacked by such acts of human hate, savageness, dishonesty and vileness. There is no vocabulary which can define this dangerous action of a fratricide. Only to think how many dark cunning schemes have been utilized in order that the viper of evil should creep across all thresholds and leave its slanderous poison everywhere.

You trusted the fratricide, you did everything possible for the mutual task, bringing all your possibilities. And now on you, who acted peacefully and in good faith, there is being poured out a fratricidal savagery. Justice and law are not dead letters. And in the evidence of such malice, they must arise. You did not attack - you were attacked. And they attacked in speed as though to finish this dark, deliberate act under the clamor of the New Year. You, as we, labored only for good. To this, all our labors, our sacrifices, our thoughts and striving bear witness. Thousands of persons are aware of this. Is it possible that anyone can find excuses for this malicious and shameful attack?

As for ourselves, we were not even consulted. In our absence, they have ejected us and misused our name and our property. They used our absence for their purposes; God knows what malfeasance was performed, in order to obscure the truth and bring the greatest damage to all. But one cannot obscure the truth. Today someone may try to obscure the truth



under a dusky veil; nevertheless tomorrow its light will glow through all things.

We look at your cable, reread its precise message and even then our hearts cannot realize that such a complicated fratricidal attack against you is being attempted. What a hideous example they are bringing before youth - as though trying to prove that evil can conquer good; that falsehood can conquer truth. In this lies the great criminal offense.

I do not believe, nor will I admit, that without cause or offense, members of a Board of Trustees of a Cultural Institution may be ousted. Not alone is it a matter of destroying a cultural institution, - such a satanic act, but, perhaps worse, such a conspiracy drives young hearts to believe that gold alone rules the world. "Gatan leads the dance."

Surely this cannot be! There must be many warriors of culture, who will say "Get thee hence, Satan!" And the land which first pronounced this enlightened command will be the first in the construction of the New Era. ~~May the Lord send you strength to withstand all these unprecedented~~ ed, vile conspiracies. Victory is predestined! Victory will be with truth! In spirit with you.

(signed) R.

*Copy of a letter from  
Prof. Norwich - Dec 18th 1935*

123/7



MEMORANDUM # 9

I have before me a sheet of our official Master Institute of United Arts Inc. stationery on which is printed "Master Institute of United Arts, Inc." which was used by us all - Trustees of the Master Institute of United Arts. On the same paper were written the reports of Master Institute of United Arts which were submitted to me for approval. Precisely the fact that the educational programme of the Institution was established as the very first, already on Nov.17,1921 proves that the same programme with the same officers was carried out up to now. Even the Minutes of the Trustees of Roerich Museum of Feb.20,1935 clearly state about the Meeting of the Master Institute of United Arts, Inc. which took place on Feb. 19th 1935 on which the question arose for temporary technical requirements that Prof.de Roerich and Mme de Roerich be temporarily substituted by proxies. This temporary substitution was to last only until the return of the building, which took effect on February 23rd 1935. It is obvious for everyone that temporarily substituted by proxies could only be such officers, who at that date were fully valid Trustees.

It thus seems that in the nomination of the proxies someone must have acted on our power of attorney, since we were notified of this post factum, a month later.

I can be repeat that in the Annual Official Reports of the Master Institute of United Arts, as submitted to Albany, I was always quoted as President Founder and our Charter granted by the University of New-York confirms my and Mme de Roerich's Trusteeship. And we have never relinquished these rights.

Nicholas de Roerich

Naggar,  
Dec.19th 1935.