

AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE SECOND DECADE .

---

(Declaration by Prof. Nicholas Roerich to the Trustees of Roerich  
Museum ) .

---

It gave me great pleasure to read in your last reports that in spite of the general financial crisis our activities are not only curtailed but expanding largely. During such an unusual crisis we have to prepare our mind how to meet it. Penetrating to the very roots of each question the pioneers with their covered wagons come to my mind. When they began their new life, instead of help or loans they could expect but a poisoned arrow. Nevertheless only by their incessant labor and spreading of activities they created that brilliant civilization which we witness. In the work of culture in this difficult time, we are the same pioneers and the same poisoned arrows await us from behind the corners. But in our hands is the same creative labor and the very same unwavering realization of the righteousness and necessity of our works. No one, even a slightly civilized man, could tell us that our activities are not needed or even harmful. Hence the direct conclusion that only by strengthening of our activities we will overcome all poisoned arrows, as well as the financial crisis.

Certainly we can and we must introduce vital economy in all those details where the essential and moral side of our activities is not diminished. The questions of prices and all other household conditions must be solved, first of all in a justly economical way. As you understand we can not shrink and diminish in our essential activities. Should we become midgets then we shall easily be carried away by the torrent which broke the dams. We cannot say that any of the Departments could be without workers - this would mean that it

has to become silent and close. But we must give so much work to these workers as to even the most short-sighted heart should be amazed by this created light.

Each of our departments in its program must create possibilities for self-supporting. Various campaigns for special funds are of course also needed. Amidst these campaigns a special place can occupy campaigns for small sums amidst masses. Perhaps campaigns of one dollar, or there where millions of people will be approached there can be a campaign of a quarter. We work for the culture for the masses and thus have the right to appeal to masses. Even for a quarter we can give a small and useful for each one small pamphlet or a reproduction which would convey to them the essence of these strivings.

Another condition entitles us to this broad cooperation. Our primary calculations and budgets were absolutely correct, applicable to that time when made. It is not our fault that since the general financial situation has completely changed. How can we then bar the torrent of this misfortune? We can overflow this torrent by a still more powerful torrent of work, watchfulness and creativeness.

Already if <sup>we</sup> shall honestly take the facts alone of our activities, not overlooking nor diminishing anything lightmindedly, we shall see an unrepeated scope of activities which resounded and awakened sympathy in more than twenty countries.

Taking even our Annuals, in which on account of their size much of the essential is omitted, then even there is manifested and formulated such activity which even the envious ones do not consider small. All these strange legends about the unusual powers sustained by the envious ones prove how generously they have to credit us. One of the last legends says that we even coin our own money. Let our signs

of culture be these true banknotes. Let our honest list of facts of activities grow limitlessly, so that we shall be able to say even to the most cruel tax-inspector \*): "Shame on you, do you have enough daringness to oppress such a useful and speedily growing cultural work from whose roots your own children will benefit?!"

I have recently written to you about the martyrdom of Creation, Science and Culture and therefore I do not touch now on this subject. At present I like to stress only that which can be opposed to all extinguishers of Culture. Truly we can already in full right show them the list of facts of our activities. Let us remember the passed year of 1930 when so much impeded so heavily our activities. Let us remember the hundreds of meetings of our Societies in the name of Culture. Let us remember the multitude of concerts and lectures. Let us remember the valuable exhibitions in which cooperated not only individuals but Governments of countries. Let us remember the visible growth of the School. Let us remember the publications of our Press which gradually covers a vaste field. Let us remember the topping of the Building. Let us remember all Foreign Societies and our European Center in Paris. Let us remember how much of the useful we offer to our co-members. Let us remember 200,000 visitors to the Museum alone during this term. Let us remember the thousands of sympathies expressed at our Peace Pact and that the offered Banner of Peace is already waving on some Museums. Let us remember all results and all publications of the Roerich Central Asiatic Expedition. Let us remember the Foundation of the Himalayan Research Institute, the first Journal of which has already offered many valuable results and contacts, and the lecture of Dr. Georges de Roerich in America. Let us remember that Miss Frances R. Grant's visit to South America with cul-

\*) If used for the Press or reading to Societies the word "tax-inspector" should be

4

tural aims would make up a whole volume of highly useful facts. Let us remember that the Expeditions of Dr. Koelz from the Himalayan Research Institute have brought back a vast scientific material through which we could already benefit American and Foreign Museums and Universities. Let us remember my declaration made at the meeting of our French Society in Paris about those contacts which we succeeded to make. Verily each of the named facts can be justly developed into a whole book. And we can in full realization affirm that our work is useful as for the general culture, likewise it cannot be forgotten in the history of America. And our main privilege is that we are not in need extravagantly <sup>ne</sup> ~~either~~ to exaggerate nor to enhance anything. We have only honestly to show all facts, knowing in our innermost that we all have verily given ourselves to the service of Social progress and Culture. And we are no more novices we are already celebrating the decade of our unceasing labour in America. And if upon this scale we lay also my years cultural activities and experiences appreciated by the literature of many countries, then placing one's hand on the heart we can say that we are creating and summon others to the truly needed for humanity cultural work.

Multitudes of unknown friends in different continents appreciate our efforts and often we receive signs of appreciation of our work from there where we least of all expected it from. Without exaggeration we can say that these invisible friends of ours live in deserts beyond the seas and mountains.

We were called enthusiasts and I shall never forget how inspiringly and affirmingly Miss Frances R. Grant said in her speech to a large audience: "Yes, we are enthusiasts and nothing can break our enthusiasm". I was happy to hear this unwaveringness because only by the

immutability of achievement can we break all poisoned arrows and continue the structure of the Abode, where the spirit of future humanity can come to regenerate and saturate itself. Verily we are enthusiasts and this enthusiasm is based not on blind fanaticism but on the openheartedness, on the synthesis of knowledge, strengthened by the wisdom of ages.

When we made up the severe charter of our Institutions we did in no way exaggerate for we all have offered all our possessions for this work of Culture. Ignoramusses can always, due to their evil, suppose, that somebody wanted to conceal something from them but we can justly be proud that the facts are eloquent. Thus we can meet the new decade of our Institutions in full consciousness of untiring labor and useful results in spite of all difficulties. We are not at all dreamers or idealists, to the contrary looking at the results we have the right to consider ourselves practical realists. We dislike clouds and mists and everything connected with the idea of "mist". We like the light. We like tangibles, but not in the low material but in the spiritual meaning. If we are in need of means for the educational fund, we know how each penny will be used and again with a quiet heart we can realize the usefulness of all which will be accomplished for the nearest tangible results. I am aware that I pronounce these words at a moment of the greatest financial crisis, but I also know that all crises are cured by spiritual values. Culture (Cult-Ur) is the cult of Light, as I recently wrote to you and in the name of this Light we have the right to summon our known and unknown friends to creative labor, to glorious cooperation, during which as in a megaphone are multiplied the human forces.

After all we know that in the Universe nothing is final, because everything faces the great Infinity. We know of the great Hierarchy of Bliss and we are confident in the Victory of Light!  
The laws of Light are unbreakable!

Himalayas.  
1931.

Nicholas Roerich.