

# A Great Artist Calls Youth to the Service of Beauty and Truth

## A World Unity Of Culture

By Nicholas Roerich

Special to "World Youth" from Urusvati, in the Himalayas, India

Our times are verily difficult, because of all the commotions of the spirit, non-understanding and the attacks of darkness against Light. Quite recently there were pictures in magazines showing the *auto-da-fé* of precious books in the streets. It is hard to realize that this could have taken place in the present age. But perhaps this terrible tension derives from the impulse to direct humanity through all storms and over all abysses to peaceful construction and mutual respect.

### Respect for Treasures of Human Genius

What an epoch-making day might be before us when over all countries, all centers of spirit, beauty and knowledge, could be unfurled the one Banner of Culture. This Sign would call every one to revere the treasures of human genius, to respect culture and to have a new valuation of labor as the only measure of true values.

From childhood people will witness that there exists not only an international flag for human health (the Red Cross), but also there is a sign of peace and culture for the health of the spirit. This sign, unfurled over all treasures of human genius, will say: "Here are guarded the treasures of all mankind; here above all petty divisions, above illusory frontiers of enmity and hatred, is towering the fiery stronghold of love, labor and all-moving creation."

### Unity in Beautiful Things

Real peace is desired by the human heart. It strives to labor creatively and actively. For it labor is a source of joy. It wants to love and to expand in the realization of Sublime Beauty. In the highest perception of Beauty and Knowledge all conventional divisions disappear. The heart speaks its own language; it wants to rejoice at that which is common for all, uplifts all, and leads to the radiant Future. All symbols and tablets of humanity contain one hieroglyph, the sacred prayer—Peace.

It is truly beautiful, if amidst the turmoil of life, in the waves of unsolved social problems, we still may hold up before us the eternal Flambeau—the Torch of Peace. It is beautiful through the inexhaustible well of love and tolerance to understand the great movements which connect the highest knowledge with the highest aspirations. Thus, in studying and admiring, we are becoming real co-operators with evolution and out of the brilliant rays of supreme Light may emerge true knowledge.

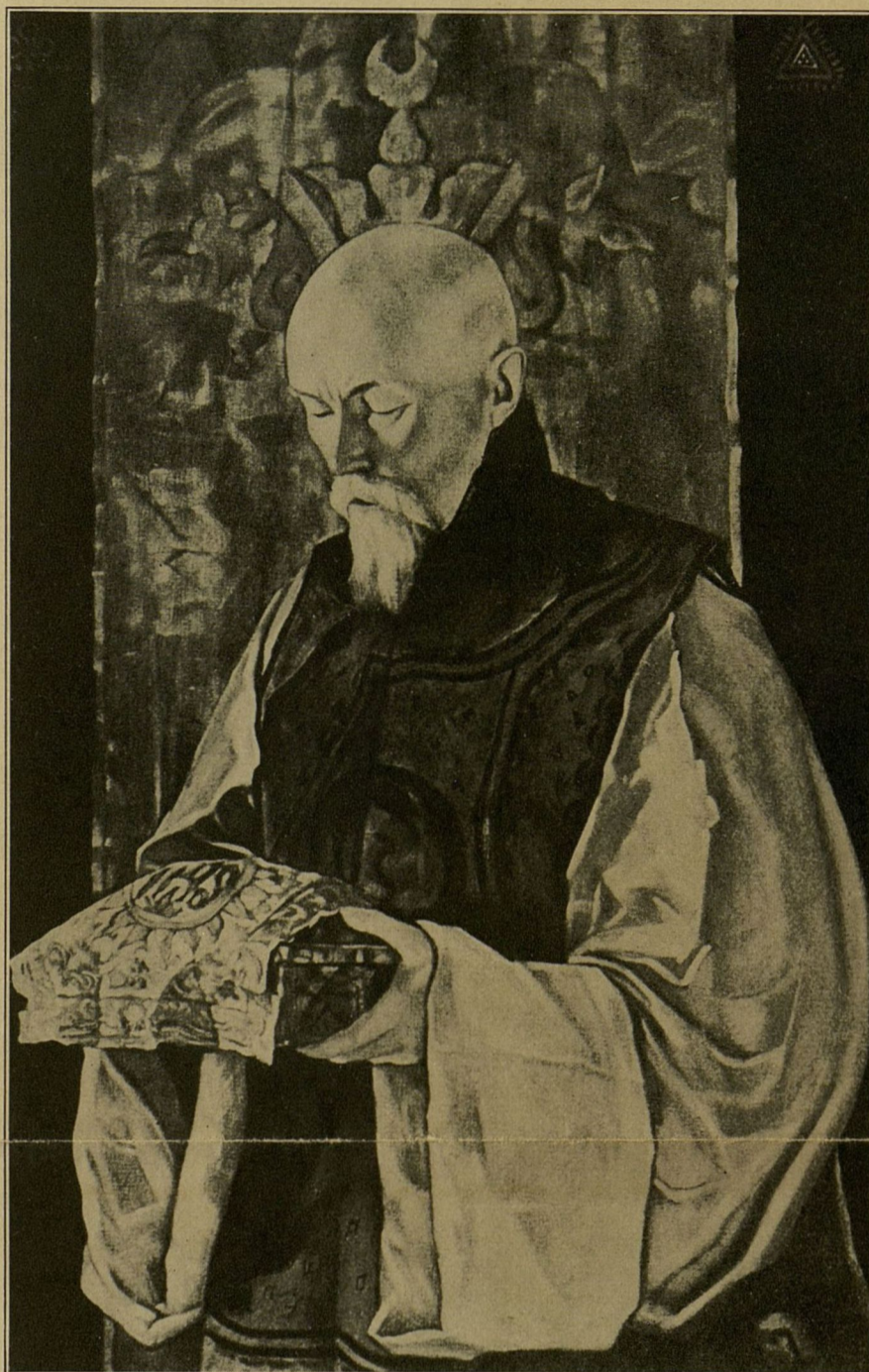
### Real Understanding and Tolerance

This refined knowledge is based on real comprehension and tolerance. From this source comes the great understanding. And from the great understanding rises the Supremely Beautiful, the enlightening and refining enthusiasm for Peace.

On the scrolls of command it has been inscribed that a spiritual garden is daily in need of the same watering as a garden of flowers. Let us then with untiring, eternal vigilance mark the manifestations of the workers of culture; and let us strive in every possible way to ease this difficult path of heroic achievement.

### Great Ones of Pan-Human Culture

Let us also mark and find a place in our lives for the Great Ones, remembering that their name no longer is personal, with all the attributes of the limited ego,



NICHOLAS ROERICH

but has become the property of pan-human culture, and must be safeguarded and firmly cared for.

The true culture-bearer will know that the manifestations of culture are just as manifold as are the endless varieties of life itself. They ennoble existence. They are the true branches of the one sacred Tree, whose roots sustain the Universe.

### The Country of Great Culture

If you shall be asked, of what kind of country and of what future Constitution you dream, you can answer in full dignity: "We visualize the Country of Great Culture." The Country of Great Culture shall be your noble motto. You shall know that in that country will be peace, where Knowledge and Beauty will be revered.

Everything created by hostility is impractical and perishable. The history of mankind gives us remarkable examples of how necessary peaceful creativeness is for progress. The hand will tire from the sword but the creating hand sustained by the might of the Spirit is untiring and unconquerable. No sword can destroy the heritage of culture. The human mind may temporarily deviate from the primary courses, but at the predestined hour will have to return to them with renovated powers of the spirit.

### The Stupidity of Lies

Culture and Peace make man verily invincible and, realizing all spiritual conditions, he becomes tolerant and all-embracing. Each intolerance is but a sign

## Nicholas Roerich And His Work

By R. C. Tandan

Nicholas Roerich today stands as one of the leading lights of the century. A powerful artist, his creative genius has found expression in three thousand masterpieces of painting, of which one thousand are in the Roerich Museum of New York, and two thousand are in the leading museums of twenty countries of the world. Halls dedicated to his paintings have been founded in Paris, Belgrade, Benares, Zagreb, Bruges, Allahabad, Buenos Aires, Kyoto and Prague.

This artist and leader of culture has established his permanent contact with India by the foundation of the Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute, at Naggar, in the Kulu Valley in the Punjab, where he has made his home. The Institute conducts scientific researches in the fields of archeology, philology, and the natural sciences, with special reference to India, and the Central Asiatic regions. Roerich ardently loves India, and venerates the ancient culture and wisdom of this great land.

Only recently he wrote to the artist, Asit Kumar Haldar: "You know how I love India. I am very proud that it has been my destiny to glorify in many paintings the lofty sacred Himalayas . . . loving India, and being a Russian, I am happy that in the history of Russian art, the Himalayas and India shall be recorded with love and veneration."

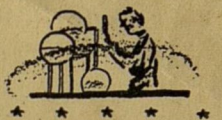
that in giving we receive. And this blessed receiving is not a hidden treasure of a miser. We understand how creative is affirmation and how destructive is negation. Amidst basic conceptions those of Peace and Culture are the conceptions which even a complete ignoramus will not dare to attack. Where there is Culture, there is Peace. Where there is the right solution for the difficult social problems, is achievement. Culture is the cumulation of highest Bliss, of highest Beauty, of highest Knowledge.

We are tired of destructions and negations. Positive creativeness is the fundamental quality of the human spirit. Let us welcome all those who, surmounting personal difficulties, casting aside petty selfishness, propel their spirits to the task of preserving Culture, thus insuring a radiant future.



Photograph, Courtesy of the Artist  
"ARMAGEDDON 1936" BY NICHOLAS ROERICH





## Christmas Story Told In Egyptian Frescoes

Egypt, the land where the infant Jesus found refuge from his cruel enemy, Herod, has yielded a new picture-story of his life, particularly of his birth and childhood, on the walls of a tiny, old, unpretentious church near the extreme southern boundary of the land, at the Second Cataract of the Nile. A German archeologist, Prof. Friederich Wilhelm Freiherr von Bissing, has visited the place, almost as lowly as the Stable of Bethlehem itself, and has brought back notes and pictures of the ancient, marred frescoes that still adorn its mud walls.

The church was built in the seventh or eighth century, and the frescoes are done in the formalized style of that date; they seem quaint to modern eyes. But they tell the old familiar story of the Nativity in their own way: the Infant in the manger, the coming of the shepherds, the visit of the Magi. A less conventional scene shows little Jesus getting a bath, like any other baby.

Other frescoes take up the life of Christ in his later years. The tragic Cross of Golgotha figures prominently. God the Father and the Holy Ghost are also shown, not bearded as in the art of northern lands, but young and clean-shaven.

By Science Service

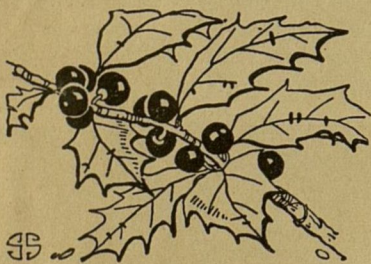
## Winter Begins Dec. 21

At 7.27 a.m., eastern standard time, on Tuesday, December 21, the sun, which has been moving southward in the sky since June, will have reached the end of its journey, and will start northward. This moment, the "winter solstice," is the official beginning of winter. For people in the northern hemisphere, the noonday sun is then at its least altitude.

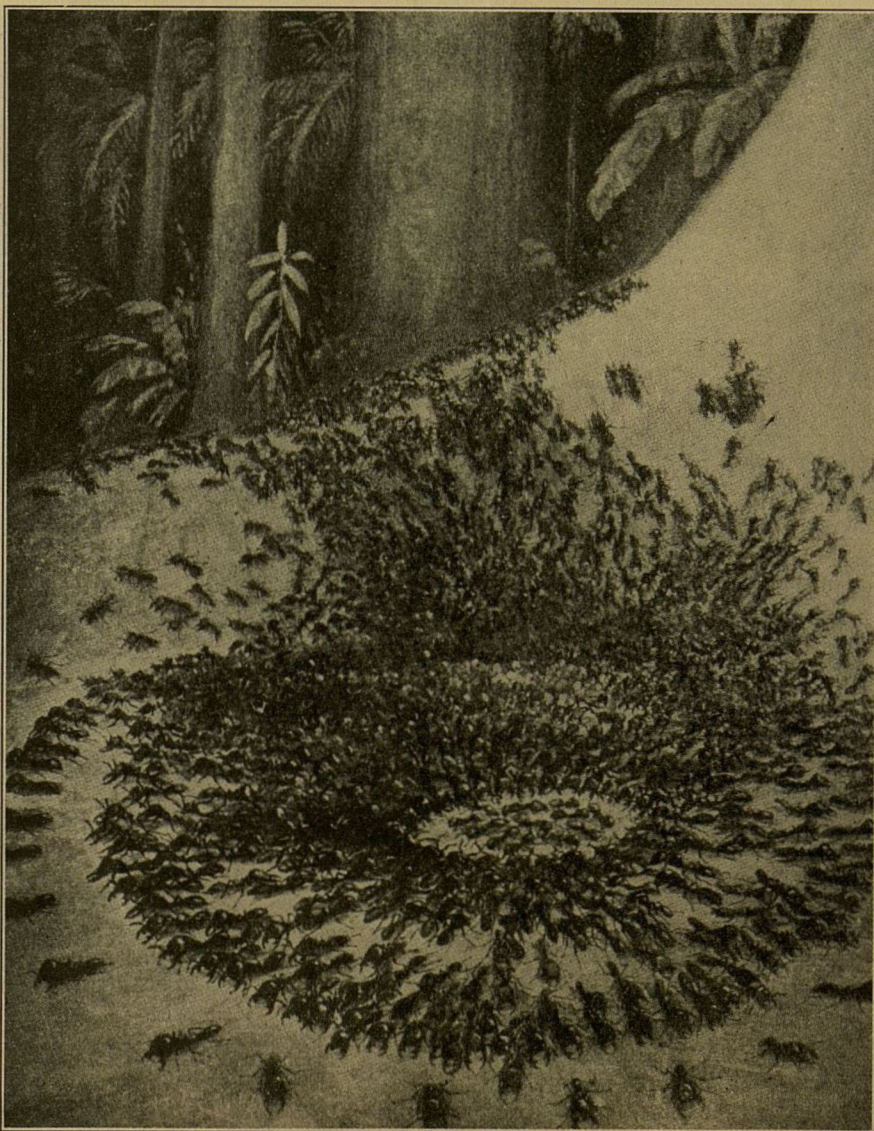
Because it is so low, its rays are spread out over a larger area than at other times of year, and they have less heating effect. This is the reason for the cold weather of December and January. However, at this same time, the sun is high in the sky for residents of the southern hemisphere, and so they will have summer starting on the 21st.

By Science Service

## Buy British!



It is at once good business, good esthetics, and good American patriotism to use English holly at Christmas time. The overseas variety of holly has glossier leaves and bigger, brighter berries than our native American species, so that even at a higher price per pound you are still getting more for your money. Most of the English holly now offered in our markets is raised in the United States, so buying it helps American growers, whereas buying native holly only encourages raids by holly gatherers on public forests or private lands on which they usually are trespassers. Finally, of course, sparing American holly trees leaves them in place as beautiful and valuable elements in our native forests.



Reprinted from "World Youth," June 6, 1936

## ASSEMBLY OF ANTS

## The Amazing Society of Ants

By Dr. James Forbes, Dept. of Biology, Fordham University

NEW YORK—In sheer numbers, the ants challenge imagination. They outnumber all other forms of terrestrial animals. Over 7,000 species, subspecies, and varieties have already been collected and classified.

But why is this insect so dominant? Here are some reasons: The ant is preyed upon by comparatively few other animals. The ant's most dangerous enemies are other ants. Then, too, it possesses very effective means for defense. Some ants have powerful stings, similar to the bees and the wasps, while others squirt drops of poison at their molesters. A third reason—ants have long lives. Worker ants have been known to live four to five years, while queens live as long as 13 to 15 years. During the queen's lifetime, many thousands of eggs are produced.

### Workers Are Small

The workers are the small wingless ants with which we are all acquainted. They are structurally females, but sexually sterile. The kings and queens are the sexual forms and they possess wings. During the summer, the mature kings and queens which have been developed in the nest swarm. While they are in the air, mating takes place. After mating the king dies and the queen establishes a new colony.

There are tropical ants which travel in great armies, as savage as the ancient Huns or Mongols, who spend their lives destroying nests of others and killing all insects in their way. These ants are blind, so that the size of an object in their path means nothing to them. Holes on the ground are entered, tall trees are climbed.

Even human dwellings are invaded in search of prey. When such an army enters a house, the owner must temporarily surrender. But he can be sure that when the ants leave, all the cockroaches, spiders, rats, mice, and other animal life shall have been devoured or driven away.

There are other species of ants which have such large mouthparts that they are unable to feed themselves and must be waited upon. They gather slaves by raiding the nests of other ants and carrying home the young. When these young reach maturity, they serve their captors.

### Decapitating Queen

In North Africa there is an ant queen, known as the decapitating ant, which flies to the nest of a larger species and loiters about the entrance until the workers seize her. They take her into the nest but, for some reason, do not eat her. She climbs onto the back of the rightful queen and saws at her neck with her mouth-parts until the head falls off. The workers then adopt the new queen and care for her eggs and young, as ants regularly do for their queen, until the nest is populated only by the offspring of the new queen.

Whatever housewives and picnickers may think, the ant's chief food is other insects. An observer noted that a large colony of ants brought in 28 dead insects a minute, so it is easy to see what a big factor ants are in controlling other insects. Although they make no distinction between beneficial or harmful insects in their choice of food, it is probable that they kill more of the harmful ones. Ants which build their nests in logs and stumps assist in the rotting of wood which en-

## Keeping Christmas Trees Green

Science has come to the aid of those people who will have a spruce or fir tree this coming Christmas. Remember how green and fresh your Christmas tree looked last year when you first set it up and trimmed it? And how soon it became dull and dropped its needles?

This year, however, you can go to the drug store and buy three inexpensive chemicals and make a solution which will preserve your cut tree—fragrant and green—for the full week of holiday festivities. You can thank Dr. R. H. Carr, professor of agricultural chemistry at Purdue University, for the following directions:

Go to your druggist and buy 15 grams of calcium carbonate, 5 grams of citric acid and 6 grams of malic acid. Mix the last two, which are both liquids, in three quarts of water. Save the calcium carbonate until you are ready to set up your tree.

Set the base of your Christmas tree in a wide-mouthed gallon bottle or a pickle crock and brace it with small, unnoticed wires. Then mix the calcium carbonate in the citric-malic acid solution and pour it all into the crock.

As the tree drinks up the solution, add more water. Hemlock is about the only tree which appears not to be aided by this treatment.

By Science Service

## A Traveling Clinic

BERLIN—An operating room on wheels has been put on the road in Germany. It was designed by a woman physician, Dr. Elisabeth Schenck of Bonn. Its primary purpose is to serve schools as a traveling dental clinic, but it can also be transformed into a surgical operating room and used in case of wrecks, mine disasters, and other emergencies.

## Don't Buy 'Em



Street-corner vendors, about now, will begin offering wreaths and garlands of Christmas greens made of the low, attractively glossy green growths known variously as ground-pine and club-moss. If you are a conservation-minded citizen (and who isn't, nowadays?) you will decline to purchase. These holiday decorations represent the destruction of ground cover needed among the trees in the forests. They also represent, in a petty-thieving way, the violation of the rights of private property, for the greens-gatherers seldom own the land they thus strip. There are plenty of fine Christmas trimmings to be had without putting yourself in the position of accessory to a botanical burglary.

riches the soil. And those that tunnel into the soil help the decomposition of organic material by allowing the air to penetrate the ground.

Week ending December 18, 1937