



The Roerich Pact

The Banner of Peace.

By NICHOLAS ROERICH.

This sign of the triad which is to be found all over the world may have several meanings. Some interpret it as a symbol of past, present and future, enclosed in the ring of Eternity; others consider that it refers to religion, science and art, held together in the circle of culture, but whatever be the interpretation the sign itself is of the most universal character.

The oldest of Indian symbols, Chintamani, the sign of happiness, is composed of this symbol and one can find it in the Temple of Heaven in Peking. It appears in the Three Treasures of Tibet; on the breast of the Christ in Memling's well-known painting; on the Madonna of Strasbourg; on the shields of the Crusaders and coat of arms of the Templars. It can be seen on the blades of the famous Caucasian swords known as 'Gurda'.

It appears as a symbol in a number of philosophical systems; it can be found on the images of Gessar Khan and Rigden Djapo; on the 'Tamga' of Timurlane and on the coat of arms of the Popes. It is to be seen in the works of ancient Spanish painters and of Titian, and on the ancient ikon of St. Nicholas in Bari and that of St. Sergius and the Holy Trinity.

It can be found on the coat of arms of the city of Samarkand, on Ethiopian and Coptic antiquities, on the rocks of Mongolia, on Tibetan rings, on the breast ornaments of Lahul, Ladak and all the Himalayan countries, and on the pottery of the neolithic age.

It is conspicuous on Buddhist banners. The same sign is branded on Mongolian steeds. Nothing, then, could be more appropriate for assembling all races than this symbol, which is no mere ornament but a sign which carries with it a deep meaning.

It has existed for immense periods of time and is to be found throughout the world. No one therefore can pretend that it belongs to any particular sect, confession, or tradition, and it represents the evolution of consciousness in all its varied phases.

When it is a question of defending the world's treasures, no better symbol could be selected, for it is universal, of immense antiquity and carries with it a meaning which should find an echo in every heart.

To day when humanity is burying its treasures to save them from destruction, the Banner of Peace stands for other principles. It affirms that works of art and of genius are universal and above national distinctions, it proclaims 'noli me tangere'—"Do not treat the world's treasures in a sacriligious way",

Quarterly Chronicle.

The Abbot J. Vergier-Boimond, a Doctor of Canonic Law, has been honored by the University of Paris with the title of "Doctor of Laws" as a reward for a prominent thesis, the major part of which is devoted to the Roerich Pact. Reviewing the data supplied to him by Dr. George G. Chklaver, the author gives a comprehensive survey of the genesis of the Roerich Pact, quoting extensively Professor de Roerich's declarations and messages; and studying attentively every one of the legal aspects of the Pact. The Revd. Vergier-Boimond deals also with the various objections put forth by "unbelievers" in the Law of Nations. With a great wealth of arguments he convincingly refutes these objections and succeeds in proving that the Roerich Pact is the most efficient means for preserving the shrines of culture, thus demonstrating once more the immeasurable value of Nicholas Roerich's initiative—which is likewise pointed out by the eminent author of the preface to Rev. Vergier-Boimond's work, Prof. de La Pradelle. In a supplement to his book, the Rev. Vergier-Boimond publishes the full text of the Roerich Pact. On the whole, Rev. Vergier-Boimond's excellent work is a most welcome contribution to the already vast literature on Prof. Roerich's lofty ideals which are at the same time practical proposals for the salvation of Beauty, Knowledge and Culture, these sacred treasures of humanity.

The memorandum on the Roerich Pact has been submitted by the French Committee to the following Ambassadors and Legations in Paris; Belgium, Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iran, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, U. S. S. R., Vatican and Yugoslavia.

"L'Esopo", journal of the F. I. A. L. S., in its April editorial expresses the wish again that the Roerich Pact be adopted by all countries and may become an universal law of mankind.