

Sacred Ploughfield, of Culture

(Address to the League of Culture)

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By Nicholas Roerich

endeavour for

It is a real job

I am very glad to learn of each activity of our Committees of Culture.

We believe that everything in behalf of ^{such} these undeferrable ^{labors} beginnings is

indeed being done without delay. But still I repeat once more how speedily everything must be done and that not a minute may be lost, in

the interest of the Common Good. Also that even the smallest ~~dena-~~ tions and signs of cultural help should be treated with the greatest

attention. Let every ^{one} ~~Committee~~ note with the greatest ^{care} accuracy all

these happy manifestations, in order that in the ^{future} ~~history~~ of our in-

~~stitutions~~ we should know exactly what was brought into the one Chalice

of Culture and by whom. Also let none of our ^{friends} ~~Committees~~ belittle ^{some} ~~their~~

activities by any conventional limitations. The field of Culture is verily unlimited and countless are the useful activities which arise

from benevolent discussions. Perhaps that which is inapplicable today,

will be well adaptable tomorrow. And perhaps what was put off today

may by then be forever lost. Therefore, the discussions ^{about} ~~in the Com-~~

Culture

~~mittee meetings~~ must be ^{units} ~~a~~ benevolently broad. For ^{that} ~~it is~~ only the members of the ~~committees~~ who will be the sole sources of suggestions.

No, ^{all friends of Culture} ~~the members of the committees~~ will be the unifying streams of

thoughts, which they will gather from ^{everywhere} ~~their many friends~~ and will

summarize from many ~~meetings and~~ experiences. The main thing is to avoid the danger, which so often obstructs the most useful beginnings-

this is avoiding the pronouncement of the formula "impossible." How

often does the apparently impossible change into the beautiful and accessible, if only the details and outer appearances are slightly

modified. Let us not forget that ^{all corners} ~~our institutions~~ attract new masses

to the thought of Culture. In this are contained happy possibilities,

also at the same time a new responsibility, for everything that enters

our cultural ^{circles} ~~institutions~~, should be of ~~really~~ high quality - should

correspond to the cultural treasury of mankind.

Of course ^{all countries} the Committees will contact many important institutions during their current activities. This co-operation should be based on mutual benefit. Our cultural campaigns, ^{today} as I have already had occasion to point out, are not merely of financial importance. Their significance is far wider, reaching all possible branches of Culture and inspiring new masses with ^{the conception of} Culture. Amongst these masses will also be those who either have never been previously acquainted with the understanding of Culture or who have limited this ^{great} concept by purely physical understanding. How joyous it is to speak of Culture altogether, to feel that whatever is done for it cannot cover the unlimited field - the ennoblement of the human spirit. In these noble actions of course, not the slightest possibility should be lost. Not an hour may be ^{wasted} lost, when either by action or by an inspiring word, one may speak once more of beautification, of betterment, of elevating human life.

~~The accuracy of the annals of every committee will be in line with that quality of solicitude which so befits matters concerning Culture.~~

I will close with that ever vital example of the conditions for enlightened educational activity - with the words of Paul, the Apostle:

"By the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

"By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report as deceivers and yet true;

"As unknown and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened and not killed,

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

Friends,

Now Mankind is facing an Armageddon of Culture. Beware of hatred and chauvinism.

Himalayas

~~Oct. 6, 1951~~

Nicholas Roerich