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TO ARCA

Himalayas, February 12, 1945.

Friends!

In our snowy Himalayas we read with joy your messages about your progress in the work of ARCA. Great is the task to give to the multitude of listeners and spectators true and well-wishing information. The two great countries must be mutually and truthfully informed.

Armageddon is nearing its end, and there arises a new, most difficult task of Peace, of firm Peace, of Cultural Peace. Then one will especially need the knowledge about the life of one's friends, about their work and their progress. The end of the war does not mean that ARCA can begin to rest and fold its hands in its lap. On the contrary, then and there will be demanded cooperation and a benevolent exchange of information.

Each member of ARCA can, in his own domain, assist in every possible way the cultural unity of the peoples. There does not exist any work in connection with which one cannot sow seeds of good and justice. The benevolent creativeness is a noble task, and the field of Culture is limitless. So many cultural foundations have been shaken during Armageddon, that there should be created a great army of physicians of culture to heal these wounds of the peoples. So much sorrow and calamity has been visited upon tortured humanity. But the benevolent labors must transform these heartaches into joy, because we all work for a resplendent future.

Your idea to send to your members Monthly Letters giving information about ARCA activities is excellent. It is good that each Director in turn will send out these benevolent messengers. We rejoice at the letters we have received so far, those of Dudley Fosdick, Joseph Weed, and Sina Fosdick. Let this useful step continue. We also rejoice at the broad plan of Leonide Massine--beautiful is the cultural promotion of Russian Art! It would be good to have the text of the lecture of Rockwell Kent--the voice of a great artist of America. The letters from the young scholars would meet with hearty welcome here also. The news about ARCA exhibitions is awaited here with impatience.

The rest of the world knows so little about the great Russian people! We, being pioneers on this path, know how often because of ignorance Russia was not understood. And now, when the lightning of Russian heroism has illumined the world, when the trumpet call of Russian victory has thundered over the world, now other peoples must truly know about the Russian heart, about the labors of the Soviet citizens, about their progress and their creativeness. It is a broad field for ARCA. The Peace, the long-awaited Peace will come only through a Culture. Godspeed to you! Hearty greetings to all members of ARCA.

NICHOLAS ROERICH

# ARCA

American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

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May 1946

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Dear ARCA Member:

With this month's letter it is my privilege to send you a special message written by Nicholas Roerich and sent from the Himalayas directly to you. Read it, think over it, and let its plea find a response in your own actions and thoughts.

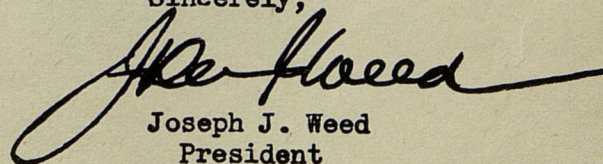
Our work goes on. During the past month we were host to Miss Harriet Davis of the Columbia Broadcasting System, who used our excellent reference library to obtain material for her radio program "Women of the World"; we were visited by Miss Mary Thomas, a Hindu woman who just one year ago met Nicholas Roerich and his son, Svetoslav, at their home in India. Miss Thomas was very anxious to see the paintings of Professor Roerich and his gifted son and came to our headquarters especially to see our excellent collection of these paintings.

There are many calls on us, some of which tax our abilities considerably. On May 1st the New York Chapter of the American Red Cross called us requesting contact with a Russian scientist, a specialist in rare diseases, in order to help a young New York child afflicted with Tay-Sachs, a very rare disease. Nearly every day we receive requests for information regarding some phase of Russian culture. A week ago we received a request from VOKS in Moscow for several American books and several recent plays, which we were happy to fulfill.

We come now to the summer months and many of our outer activities will be suspended until the fall. But for this very reason we must devote ourselves all the more to our personal, individual efforts in behalf of a better understanding between nations and peoples to lead to a permanent peace.

My very best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph J. Weed  
President

JJW:GH

A D D R E S S

Friends:

During the summer months each ARCA member will meet new people and can sow seeds of culture which will sprout later. Seeds ripen during the summer; thus also friendly discourses are warmer and bring more response during the summer. The value of a rest lies in the fact that it gives one a chance to ally oneself more closely with something good and constructive. Peace among nations is not strengthened through bombs, but through friendly, mutual understanding.

Much is spoken about the lack of mutual understanding. But, finally, listen to your neighbor and understand his good intentions; and do not condemn that which, because of your lack of knowledge, seems to you unclear and negative. Discern the causes and maybe you will perceive the source of estrangement. The world has suffered so greatly during this monstrous war. Many hearts became ill, deadened, but this harmful layer must be removed compassionately, through words and deeds. Warm up young hearts. Let their heroic dreams be directed toward a peaceful constructiveness and creativeness. Let the calling song ring out in benevolence.

It is a joy when a friendly call rings out unexpectedly from afar. We notice at present many good, undelayable thoughts born in new circles. Verily, voices of youth, voices of women will heroically affirm the Banner of Peace. Political leagues, organizations, edicts and commands do not decide the future. The voice of the People, the call of the multitudes is the sign of the times.

Each epoch has its Banner, and now the Banner of the People calls to Peace, Culture. Let some dark ones proceed to quarrel and fall into bestial stupidity. Convulsions of evil are unavoidable, but the essence of a people, the heart, wishes peace, peaceable construction, recognition and attainment of beauty and life. "Love each other", "create good", "preserve the treasures of the folk creativeness" - these calls silence the malicious roaring. Fear will drown in constructiveness fear, the deadening ghost of ignorance.

Let us benevolently and boldly look into the future. The material and spiritual famine must be outlived in mutual assistance. Man has given birth to calamities, and man will heal them if he does not wish a catastrophe. Every cultural organization must bring its mite into the great achievement of regeneration. Precisely each human cooperation should multiply good and destroy evil. Many weeds will attempt to grow high in the garden, but the gardener will weed them out untiringly so that they may not choke the valuable healing plants.

In every human communion something good and encouraging can be easily manifested. An ignoramus will say: "Again talk about truisms"! Let us answer, "An unapplied truth is not a truism". A truism is something known, which does not need repetition. But if something good and necessary is not applied in life, it means it is not generally known and realized. Thus, in the cold of the winter and in the warmth of the summer let us contribute our mite of good.

Hearty greetings!

Nicholas Roerich

"PAX PER CULTURA"

May 14, 1946