

ADDRESS OF PROFESSOR ROERICH TO BRITISH ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF ROERICH MUSEUM

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With sincere joy I inaugurate the British Association of
Roerich Museum.

It is not casual that while this association shall be inaugurated
here I shall be in London. In this way once more ~~I~~ shall be expressed
the tides of Anglo-American Friendship. And once more with real en-
thusiasm we can recollect our reminiscences of Great Britain.

For myself, Great Britain is filled with many precious
memories. I have heard the story of how one foreigner, coming to West-
minster Abbey for the first time, insisted that somewhere there should
be a small room. Everyone denied the existence of this room. He insisted,
however, and in the old records, it was found that this room had at
one time existed and had subsequently been demolished or connected with
others.

In 1920, during my exhibition at the Goupál Galleries, I met
many British friends, and I retain forever such happy remembrances of
Bishop Bury, Frank Brangwyn, Lord Glenconner, Lady and Sir Samuel Hoare,
Albert Coates, Sir Cecil Harcourt Smith, Sir Bernard Pares, Hagberg
Wright, and other representatives of the official and cultured world.
During this time my paintings have entered the collections of the
Victoria and Albert Museums; and once more the conventional walls in the
field of art have been demolished.

During our Expedition in Central Asia, more than once did we
feel the cordiality of the British Consuls. I remember how Major Gillan,
British Consul in Kashgar, helped us when we were stopped by the Daotai
of Khotan. In the same way, we shall never forget the hospitality of
Colonel Bailey, the British resident at Sikkim. We were so pleased to
see see that he was not only an official representative but also a real
scholar knowing the conditions and language of the country.

The name of Queen Victoria, ~~according to Professor Roerich,~~
is ~~highly~~ ^{honored} ~~revered~~ in Tibet. "In northern Tibet, we witnessed a very
unusual sign of the popularity of Queen Victoria", ~~said Professor~~
~~Roerich,~~ "In Nagchu, we found a silver coin with an image in a Chinese
garment. Upon studying this image, I was surprised to recognize an
unquestionable similarity between the Indian Rupee and the image of
Queen Victoria. The resemblance was so unexpected, and so complete,
that we investigated further, learning that the Indian Rupees bearing
the image of Queen Victoria were so highly valued, and so popular in
Tibet and China that the Chinese Government of the Unan province had
struck a special coin corresponding to the Victorian-Hindu Rupee, but
adding a Chinese garment. This is a sign of ~~the~~ popularity."

I was always closely connected with Shakespearian movements,
and knew personally several translators of Shakespeare in foreign
languages. Thus under great unifying names we can intensify our friend-
ship and work in peaceful enthusiasm for the high ideals of mankind.

My best wishes for your successful work!