

STATE ELEPHANT

O/o The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Cantonment,
Infantry Road,
Bangalore,
Mysore State, S. India.
7th May 1963.

Our dear friend,

This is a short letter thanking you for your letter of the 29th May which we received some time back, but as we had a great deal of work, and could not go away, I was unable to write to you before today.

My husband is still reading the 2nd, chapter of your book on Prof.: Nicholas Roerich, he finds this chapter very interesting, and has read some of it to me. You have worked very hard on this book, and as soon as it is possible, my husband will write to you.

We are so glad to hear that the paintings are now hung in the Russian Museum so well, they are great works of Art, and should be kept with great care. Have you been to the Section of Modern Indian Art in the Hermitage where the paintings of my husband are? if you remember, my husband presented these paintings to the Hermitage when he returned to India after the Exhibition in 1960, and these paintings were presented by our Minister for Agriculture to the Hermitage on behalf of my husband. Please, when you go to Leningrad, do visit the Hermitage, and see, these two paintings, if they are well hung, and if the light is good. The photographs which were sent to us, seemed good, that is, the paintings seemed to have been placed nicely, but unless one actually sees them, and how they are hung, one really cannot tell. My husband at the same time also presented one of his paintings to the Prime Minister of the U.S.S.R., he very much liked the painting, and it for his own collection, you may remember the painting, it is called "TOIL", (Malabar.), it is a most beautiful painting of women working, and the background, is very beautiful, like a wonderful Tapestry, and the women are in the foreground in a Palm grove, two are sitting weaving baskets, and one simply is standing. Please let me know when you go and see the paintings at the Hermitage. I would like to know also if the Hermitage has any more of the Edition of 20, Colour post cards, which they printed of my husbands paintings, if you could kindly inquire when you visit the Hermitage, and ask them this; I would be most grateful. The reason is also, that so many visitors from India, who go to Leningrad, have asked us if they still have these post cards at the Hermitage, or anywhere else- I too would like to know. Since you like Elephants, I have written to you on this paper as the two Elephants above are working, and really in life here, they do a great deal of work- especially in the forests. They are completely trained, and are very good, and work hard. I will write again after sometime, but do write and give us your news, as it always wonderful to hear from you.

With our affectionate greetings, and our
thoughts,

Devika Rani.

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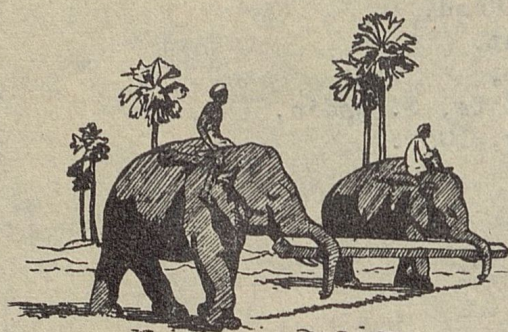
C/o The Indian Bank Ltd;
Infantry Road,
Cantonment,
Bangalore,
Mysore State, S. India.
16th; May, 1963.

Thank you for your letter of the 3rd; May, which we received the other day. As always, it is such a pleasure to hear from you, and to know all about your work on the new book you are writing on Professor Roerich. We would very much like to have the copy of the 2nd, chapter which you will send my husband when it is typed. It is better to send it by registered Air mail, as it will reach us quicker, and is safer than Sea mail.

We are here still as we had some important work to complete, but we hope to be able to leave for Kulu as soon as finish the work. There is so much work to also be done in Naggar, and we do not know how long it will take, but because we are late this year to go to Naggar, we shall not be able to stay longer than a month. In any case, if you send any mail to this address, it will always be forwarded to us wherever we are.

The little Bear you gave me is always with me, and I always look at it and think of you. I hope we all will meet again soon, how and when I do not know, but I think we shall meet in the near future. I will give the mountains your greetings, at this time of the year they are very beautiful, and you cannot imagine how wonderful the flowers, and all nature is- every kind of flowering tree grows there, and the mountains stand out in all their glory. There is a very special atmosphere in this Valley of the Gods, which is the name given to the Kulu Valley by the people, and one feels really as if in a dream there. The beauty and the very air is so wonderful, and though we are having modern things like Electric light, and lower down in the Valley new Hotels, and other new things, the whole valley is not at all hurt by these things, as it is so large, and in Naggar they cannot spoil anything as it high up, and not easy to reach. The new Museum will slowly be built, but we shall have to wait for the building materials, as now India is in a state of Emergency, due to the things that happened last year, and everything goes for building the country. Still, maybe we shall get the things to build the Museum. At present, we have in the house four galleries in which the paintings of Prof: Roerich hang, and people come to see them in hundreds in the Spring and the Summer. These are the rooms which were the Studio of Prof: Roerich, and the rooms of our dear brother, and are very nice, people enter from the garden and do not enter the house. They worship the paintings, and the name of Roerich, and write most wonderful things in the book which is left there. We keep the book as we like to know how many people go there, which is very interesting. You asked us about the book of Prof: Roerich, 1914, my husband says to please go to the flat of his brother, and to see it there, as he is sure Raya has it there. It is a wonderful book, and you find all you want in it. Please go to the flat and read it there. I will not write any more today, as I want to catch the post, there is so much to tell you about our work, but I will do so later.

With our love and all best wishes to you,
Ever yours affectionately,



WORKING ELEPHANTS

C/o The Indian Bank Ltd,
Infantry Road,
Cantonment,
Bangalore,
Mysore State, S. India.

13th June 1963.

This is to thank you very much for the nice thought in sending us the book on India, by our friend Dr. Ter-Avanesyan, which came in very good condition, and which we were happy to receive. It is a very good book for the Students who want to know something about this country. Dr. Ter-Avanesyan is a good friend of ours, and stayed with us not only at Naggar, but also here in our Estate in Bangalore. We have known him for a long time as he was in India for a long time, and whenever we went to Delhi, we used to meet him. My husband helped him with some specimens of seeds, and they used to exchange so many thoughts on the flowers and trees and in general the subject of Agriculture, here and in other countries. My husband is a great student of Medicinal Plants, and is a scientist, his knowledge is great, and that is why Dr. Ter-Avanesyan paid him this tribute in his book. My husband has a very fine and deep knowledge of not only the plants that grow here in India, but all over the world, he is a real scholar in Botany, and it is ever a joy to be in the country and in the mountains with him as the whole of Nature is alive to him- all these places and Nature have a very special meaning for him, and he has always taken an interest in Nature, and the beauty of creation. That is why in his Art one is so near that beauty which is a facinating part of his paintings, as being also a Scientist and knowing the complex combinations of colour in Nature, and all the various combinations of this Science and of so many other Sciences, it is visible in his Art. He is a most wonderful man, and though he is so humble, he knows so much more than many who are actually Scientists in their own field. I love to see my husband work out his paintings, and see the subjects evolve as he wishes. Roughly he does so many sketches of his ideas first, and only then goes out in the places where he wants to paint actually from Nature. To be in Nature is so dear to him, and both of really love to be in the country, everything is to us real in the world that our Creator has created for us, the quest for knowledge is never ending, Nature shows one this, as every moment it changes and shows one Her manifold beauty and Eternal Wisdom! I hope that you will visit Naggar, which is a wonderful place, it has that which no words really can describe, but I know, and so does my husband, that if you wrote about Naggar, you would find a real wealth of wonderful things to write about. It is placed also among the most wonderful mountains of the world, it is truly as the people have called for thousands of years, "THE VALLEY OF THE GODS", and Nature in and around Naggar, and in all the surrounding valleys ~~are~~ is something one should experience.

I am only mentioning a few wonders of the Valley of Kulu, There is so much there, and so much to learn that one could never do so in one lifetime! The Spiritual Heritage, and the Cultural Heritage, and the Artist's Heritage that is in the Himalayas, is too great for one man to write about in his life. Besides this, the important Medicinal Plants in those regions, and the extraordinary flowers, and all of Nature in those regions is so rich in every way, that it is more than one man who can study these things.

I will write to you again, and give you our news, we hope that you have gone to Dr. George's house and taken the data that you need from the book of Prof: Roerich? I have written to Raya that my husband wants her to give you this data from the book.

With our affectionate greetings to you and your family, and to my dear Khira, who may translate this letter for you, with our best thoughts, yours affectionately,

Mr. P. Belicov. (DEVIKA RANI ROERICH.)

C/o The Indian Bank Ltd;
Infantry Road,
Bantonment,
Bangalore,
Mysore State, S. India.
14th June 1963.

This is to thank you for your letter of the 3rd June which reached us yesterday and we were very happy to have news from you and to know about the work you now wish to do with regard to my husband's Father, and his writings. I always tell you the date of your letters to me as then you will have an idea when they reach us, and how long they take.

We are very interested to hear of your idea of the new book and you are right when you say that it should be quite Modern and light in style, as now all the books on Art are in other countries. They are very easy to read, and are beautifully written, also the print is good, and the colour reproductions are also attractive. Here we are to get all these books from all countries and even from the far East, books from Japan, etc., are very nice some are printed there, but also from abroad, Paris, and so on. The books we have seen are really lovely, and cheap, that is why students are able to also buy them. My husband likes your idea, and he will write you about it as soon as he is able to as he is very busy with his latest paintings, which he wishes to finish before we leave.

Please send my husband fuller details about the Publisher who you say is interested in publishing the book, and further details about them, are they official publishers? What sort of books have they published? have they made any Art publications? As you know, here, and in Europe, and other countries there are special publishers who deal with Art, and the books of Artists, and it is interesting to know what this publisher does, that is what type of books do they publish? Have they a list of books published by them? if so, we would like to have one, which you may kindly send to us.

I am typing this letter, so please forgive mistakes, and tell your daughter that she must please translate this to you. We are very happy that both your son and daughter can read my letters in English to you, and that they are learning this language which is really useful for them. I wish I knew your most wonderful and rich language, Russian, is the language of the future, and all of us should know it. If I were there for six months, I would learn at least a little, remember how you and I used to talk? it was so interesting was it not? and we understood each other very well.

This is a short letter, and so I will only send you our loving greetings, and all our best thoughts, to you and your family,

Yours affectionately,

(DEVIKA RANI ROERICH.)

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C/o The Indian Bank Ltd;
Infantry Road,
Cantonment,
Bangalore.-1
Mysore State. South India.

Our dear friend,

This is in haste to answer your letter of the 28th June, which we received only the other day. It is ever a great pleasure to have news from you and to read about all your interesting work for the book you want to write on Prof: Nicholas Roerich. We are glad to hear that you found the book of poems which you wanted from Raya at Riga with your friend- this is very nice! You say that you wish Raya to help you gather the various material from the books of Professor Roerich which are with her? have you written to her about this? she will try to help you I am sure, and she will write to us about it, as to what you want to have. Please ask her to write to my husband about the things she can help you about. We understand that she is very busy with her work in the house, and that she also has visitors twice a week who wish to see the house where Dr. George Roerich lived. Anyway she will gather the things if she has them for your book. The publishers you said wished to have the permission to publish the book, you must please give to my husband details as to what they want, and also if they have published any books on Artists and their works- ie: if the publishers have done good publications for the art world in Russia? Ofcourse, you will choose the best publishers, but my husband is interested to know about the firm you wish to give the proposed book on Prof: Roerich to. My husband liked the 2nd chapter you wrote and will write to you about it soon. He is very busy with the Academy work, and his latest paintings. He has done a wonderful series of new paintings, of the life here in the country, and they are most interesting, vivid, and beautiful! They are smaller than the last lot of paintings he did, which were large. When we have a little time, we will send you some photographs of the latest paintings. It is nice to know that you liked the book of Dr. Ter-Avanesyan, it is nice and a good guide of his travels here. How I wish you could come to India! There is so much work you could do, and it would give us so much joy to have you stay here, and ofcourse, in Naggur. Perhaps the small Bear that I keep on my table, which you gave me, will bring you to this country. I hope so!

Please go and see the paintings of my husband at the Hermitage, it is interesting to hear from you how they are hung there, and if the lighting is good, you will find them in the section of Modern Indian Art. When you go there please let us know. It is very nice now here, the rains have started, and it is very cool, and fresh. The flowers are beautiful here; and the flowering trees in the Jungles and in Bangalore are at their best after the rains. We hope to hear from you as soon as you have contacted Raya, and when you wish to give us your news.

With our affectionate greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

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c/o Indian Bank Ltd.,
Infantry Road, Cantt.,
BANGALORE. (Mysore State)
5th August 1963.

Our dear friend,

We were very happy to receive your letter
of the 26th July.

We are very interested to hear about your
plans for publishing your book with the selected
articles of Professor Nicholas Roerich. You have
already sent us a rough list of the articles you are
selecting for the book and I am sure that when you
select the final selection dividing them into groups,
you will send my husband the final list of articles
of Professor Roerich which you propose to have
published in the book.

Do not forget when you go to Leningrad
to visit the Hermitage Museum and to let us know
how my husband's paintings look, as they are hung
in the section of Modern Indian Art. If you remember
these were the paintings that my husband presented
to the Hermitage after his return to India, which was
after his Exhibitions in the U.S.S.R.

It is very lovely now in Bangalore as the
rains have started; all the flowers and flowering
trees are in full bloom.

I often look at the little bear you gave
me and I hope that it will bring you to India
sometime in the near future. Perhaps, we too may
visit your beautiful Country with another Exhibition
of ours.

With our affectionate greetings to you as
always.

Yours very sincerely,

(DEVIKA RANI ROERICH)

Mr. Pavel F. Belicov,
3-5. OA Street,
ESTONIA - TALLINN.
U.S.S.R.

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Enclosed the following items with compliments from:

Madam Devika Rani Roerich,
C/o. The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Infantry Road, Cantonment,
BANGALORE 1.
Mysore State, S. India.

To:

Mr. Pavel F. Belicov,
3-5-0A Street,
Estonia - Tallin,
U.S.S.R.

1. "NICHOLAS ROERICH THE ARTIST AND THE SEER"
Broadcast By: SVETOSLAV ROERICH on the
occasion of the 90TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF
PROF. NICHOLAS ROERICH ON THE 9TH OF
OCTOBER 1964.
2. "A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF NICHOLAS ROERICH'S
CREATIVE LIFE" By SVETOSLAV ROERICH.

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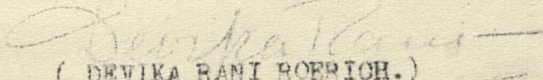
C/o The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Infantry Road,
Cantonment,
Bangalore.-1.,
Mysore State. S. India.
28th. October. 1964.

My dear Pavel Fedorovich,

This is in haste to send to you copies of very very important Cables sent on the occasion of the 90th. Birth Anniversary of Prof. Nicholas Roerich on the 9th. of October from India. You must please find out if any have been read at the opening of the Roerich Exhibition in Moscow, and see if they have also thanked the high persons of State, etc. after receiving these Cables? I have sent to Raya also the same set of copies so that if one gets lost, one of you will have one set. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHEN THEY REACH YOU, and all about the Exhibitions etc. if you are able to. ALSO SEND US AS MANY PRESS CUTTINGS AS YOU ARE ABLE TO. PLEASE SEE THAT MR. KORIN THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF ARTS USSR, IS ALSO INVITED IN A NICE WAY TO THE EXHIBITION, THE DIRECTOR OF THE TRETIAKOV GALLERY SHOULD INVITE HIM ON OUR BEHALF, BUT HE SHOULD NOW BE INVITED.

With our affectionate greetings,

Yours affectionately,


(DEVIKA RANI ROERICH.)

I HOPE YOU RECEIVED MY LAST LETTER THANKING YOU FOR YOUR VERY FINE MESSAGES ON THE OCCASIONS OF THE 90TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF N. K. & THE 60TH. BIRTHDAY OF S. N. ? WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO SEND YOU, BUT I MAY HAVE EVERYTHING PRINTED, AND THEN SEND TO YOU ALL TOGETHER. THESE times have been very good, 1 The naming of the 2. Russian Glaciers after N. K. & S. N., the two Awards to S. N. for his service to the world of ART., and Culture, and we are very happy that everything has gone off well.