

# ajit b. merchant

Film Journalist  
38, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay-26

Feb. 10, 1971

My dear Devikaji,

This will acknowledge your letter of Feb. 3rd. Here's wishing Dr. Roerich many more laurels and extending to him my hearty congratulations on his signal achievement in winning the coveted Medal of Honour from the Calcutta Art Society.

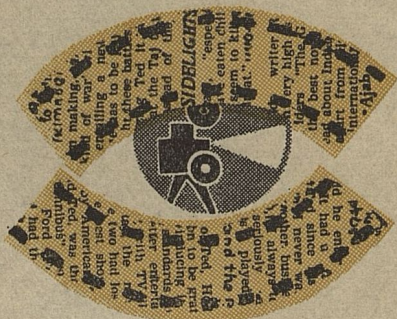
As desired by you, I had passed on the information sheet to our News Editor for publication on Feb. 10 in the "Free Press Journal" ('Bharat Jyoti' happens to be our Sunday edition) and I am enclosing separately a couple of copies of the issue for your kind perusal and record.

I was surprised to find, actually, that the news had already been published a couple of days in advance in our paper sent by our Bangalore correspondent. A copy of that issue is also being sent to you.

I hope to write to you in detail very shortly about your suggestion about the book on Mr. Himansu Rai. Meanwhile please accept my best regards to you both and all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mdm. Devika Rani Roerich  
Bangalore.



# ajit b. merchant

Film Journalist  
38, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay-26

March 16, 1971

My dear Devikaji,

I must crave your indulgence and pardon for not having acknowledged your letter of February 26. The reason is I was a little indisposed for sometime and then out of station for a week.

As for the project about the book, I do realise that while you are preoccupied with Dr. Roerich's work including a similar project of publishing his writings, you cannot spare time for a book about Mr. Rai and yourself and the Bombay Talkies saga. However, being an optimist and having cherished this project for such a long time, I would rather prefer to call it as being shelved for the time being and not abandoned. I do hope you will have no objection to this.

A dairy would, of course, have helped a great deal but it is certainly possible to do it even without one if you, with your mine of information, reminiscences and anecdotes, resolve to co-operate and in earnest too.

I must thank you for your kind word about the article on Munshiji.

With kind regards to you and Dr. Roerich.

Yours sincerely,

Mdm. Devika Rani Roerich  
c/o The Indian Bank Ltd.,  
Bangalore.

P.S. I have just received Mr. D'Souza's letter informing me about your arrival here on 23rd. I shall positively ring up the Taj to fix an appointment.