

THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF INDIAN CULTURE

Director: Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira  
Secretary: Dr. Lokesh Chandra

Old Assembly Rest House,  
NAGPUR (India)

30-12-1953

My dear Prof. Roerich,

As you already know we are engaged in Tibetan studies at this Institute. Dr. F.R.Hamm is preparing <sup>collations</sup> from 5 editions and two manuscripts of the Vinaya Vastu. Prof. Dr. Joh. Nobel is preparing the Sanskrit Chāyā. We prefer to call it Chāyā rather than ~~the~~ "reconstruction of the original". Wherever available, we shall put for comparative study, the Sanskrit or Pali passages (from Gilgit manuscripts and Divyāvadāna etc).

We are also going to train young Indian scholars for carrying on this work. From the 15th of January next, we are having three Govt. of India's Scholars for the purpose.

To complete our arrangements for Tibetan studies, we need a young Lama who should be useful to us for teaching Tibetan. At the same time the young Lama will receive lessons in Sanskrit and Hindi, so that after a year or two he should become our real collaborator.

The Lama should be a devout Buddhist, anxious to learn Sanskrit, feeling it his pious duty to help in the study of the Tibetan scriptures.

We shall be allowing a stipend of Rs. 150-0-0 per mensem. This amount would be sufficient to cover the cost of his food, clothing and pocket expenses. We shall also pay his railway expenses from Kalimpong to Nagpur.

I should like to hear from you soon. It would be better if the Lama knows Hindi or English, but in case he does not, that will not matter.

I am anxiously awaiting your reply.

Yours very sincerely,

Raghu Vira

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THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF INDIAN CULTURE

Director: Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira  
Secretary: Dr. Lokesh Chandra

Old Assembly Rest House,  
NAGPUR (India)  
16-1-1954

My dear Dr. Roerich,

I am glad to learn from you of the young Mongol Lama,  
Kalyāna-Mitra.

I am sending to you Rs. 100-0-0 by Money Order which you  
will kindly pay him. This will cover his initial expenses and  
the Railway fare from Kalimpong to Nagpur.

The Railways are not crowded these days and he could  
travel Inter Class. I should like to see him here on about the  
25th. I am leaving for Bombay on the 31st of this month for  
a few days.

It will be possible for him to return to Kalimpong during  
the hot months.

Here we shall teach him Sanskrit, while he would help us  
with his knowledge of Mongolian, Tibetan and Chinese . I hope  
that he will take interest in both learning and working.

It would be excellent if you yourself could pay us a  
visit sometimes.

Yours Sincerely,

Raghu Vira

Photo 20 in  
copy museum.

Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(Council of States)



Old Assembly Rest House

NAGPUR (India)

25-1-1954

My dear Dr. Roerich,

Many thanks for your letter.

The Lama has arrived. I have put him in a lodge where he will get regular meals. I hope he will be able to carry on without much difficulty. His study of Sanskrit and Hindi will start in a day or two. We shall also be using him for Tibetan and Mongolian. This will take a little longer time to make a proper beginning.

It was very nice of you to advance him Rs. 100.

We are glad to know of the progress of your books. We shall certainly like to have them.

With best wishes

Yours Very Sincerely,

रघुवीर

CEYLON TOURIST  
POST CARD

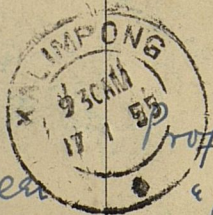
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Boyagama Sunset  
William E. Ward

ADDRESS

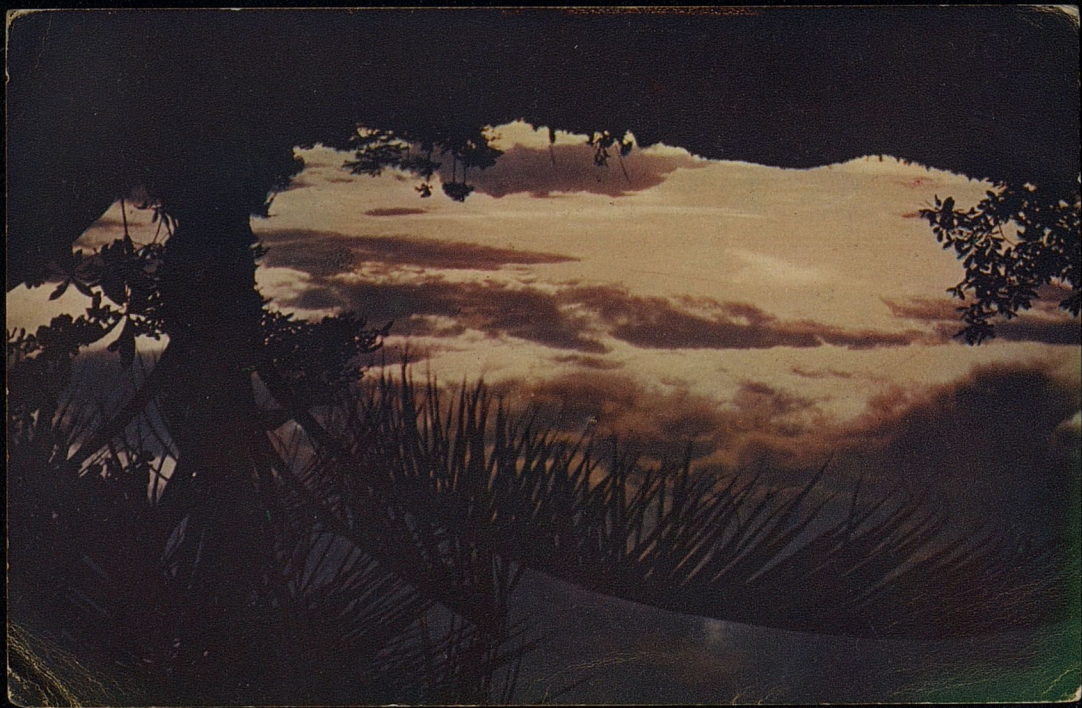


Greetings from  
Colombo.  
A happy new year  
Raghuvira  
10. 1. 33



Prof. G. de Roerich  
"Crookety"  
Kalimpong  
West Bengal  
(India)

Printed by Adprint Ltd, England, for  
THE GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU,  
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THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF INDIAN CULTURE

Director: Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira  
Secretary: Dr. Lokesh Chandra

Old Assembly Rest House,  
NAGPUR (India)  
2, Hardinge Avenue,  
New Delhi, 31.8.55,

Dear Dr. Roerich,

I have been invited by the Soviet Union to visit different centres of Indological research and Buddhist monast<sup>e</sup>ries. I can think of no better person than yourself to help me in making my itinerary as well as to make a <sup>small</sup> list of monast<sup>e</sup>ries, their printing establishments and historical remains. Perhaps you could indicate the names of some books and articles which I could take with me as guides.

The Government officials who will be my guide in the Soviet Union may not necessarily know everything. From my experience in China I know that it would be very useful for me to have <sup>as</sup> much information before hand as I can possibly collect.

I should like to visit some monast<sup>e</sup>ries where there are still monks and printing establishments. At the same time, I would be interested to see monast<sup>e</sup>ries that have been closed down but where the<sup>ir</sup> contents in the form of statues, books, paintings and worshipping materials are still preserved.

Is it possible to buy Tibetan, Mongolian and Manchurian literatures in the Soviet Union or everything has to be got from the Government.

What is it that I can present to the monks to please them. In China I presented small figures made of sandal wood. They are light to carry and they are appreciated from historical times.

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THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF INDIAN CULTURE

Director: Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira  
Secretary: Dr. Lokesh Chandra

Old Assembly Rest House,  
NAGPUR (India)

-2-

I shall be leaving Delhi on or about the 20th of September, 1955. Is there any likelihood of your coming to Delhi during this period. If you have some small commission to be executed in the Soviet Union, I shall be glad to do so.

Who are the research workers in the domain of <sup>and</sup> Indology <sup>Buddhist</sup> Buddhology. I should like to bring with me Mongolian/<sup>and</sup> historical books, and also books on medicine, astrology and astronomy. What are the places where they are likely to be had. The Chinese Government has been so kind as to present me a complete set of 108 volumes of Mongolian <sup>Kan</sup>jur. I could not see a single copy of Mong<sup>o</sup>lian Tanjur in the numerous places where I went, not even Hohe-Hota or Kum Bum. Where ~~it~~ could I acquire a complete set in Soviet Union or Outer Mongolia.

I could hardly see anything of Manchurian Kanjur and Tanjur in China. Would it be possible to have a complete set in the Soviet Union. If so, where?

In China there were only 92 volumes of Hsi-Hsia. This I have got microfilmed.

The <sup>collection</sup> Kozolov must be a big one.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Raghu Vira*  
(Raghu Vira)

Dr. George Roerich  
KALIMPONG.

To

Dr. George Roerich,

KALIMPONG.

From,  
Dr. Raghu Vira,  
2, Hardinge Avenue, New Delhi,

**MEMBER OF  
THE COUNCIL OF STATES**





2 SEP 5  
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Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira,  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)



2, Hardinge Avenue,  
New Delhi, 9.9.55,

My dear Roerich,

I have received a letter from my son, telling me that he has received your valuable article on Indology in Russia. In a week's time I shall be going to Nagpur and then I shall read your article with benefit and shall make notes from it.

Is Dr. Guber himself a Sanskrit scholar or is interested in Buddhism?

Have you yourself a copy of the description of Mongolian collection by L.S. Puchkovsky and Hsi-hsia catalogue by Madame Z.I. Gorbacheva?

I am curious to know whether the printing establishments of the provincial monasteries are still in tact inspite of the fact that the monasteries may be closed and that there be no one to do any more printing? What I mean is that the printing wood blocs may still be there.

I shall try to get three books mentioned by you in your letter and shall inform the institute of Oriental Studies that you have sent a second set of your 'Blue Annals'.

It would certainly have been useful if I could have had your suggestions before starting my trip to China.

What about Manchurian Kanjur and Tanjur. While in Peking, I could see only fragments which I have got microfilmed. What about four language books? At one time they were very popular in China. A few of them, I have got microfilmed in Peking.

Is there any tradition of Sanskrit studies in monasteries? If so, where?

Are there any Sanskrit texts printed along with

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)



-2-

Tibetan or Mongolian either in Lantcha or in Vartula or in Siddham?

Is it possible to buy books in the Soviet Union or in Outer Mongolia or can everything be got through the government? *only?*

What about Kalmuks of Volga? Do they still have monasteries in which worship is carried on?

According to your letter, I should try to see four monasteries in Buriat, ~~Mongolia~~ and visit Ulan Bator and Dzain-Shabi in outer Mongolia.

Could you kindly give me the names of some provincial monasteries which have printing establishments?

I am glad to tell you that I have been able to bring with me a photographic copy in original size of Hiuen Tsang's biography in Uigur. This manuscript has been described by Madame ~~Gafain~~. *Gabain*.

I shall be taking about two dozen of Buddha's sandal images, one for each ~~monasteries~~. Also sandal deer, who appear on the roofs of Tibetan and Mongolian monasteries on both sides of the Dharma-Chakra.

As for Sanskrit or English books, which ~~were~~ would you suggest. I can take some beginners' books for Sanskrit or should I carry books like Sādhana Mālā or Guhya Samāja, or should I carry things like Amara Kośa and Pānini. Would Sanskrit medical books interest the Lamas and ~~similarly~~ or works like Sūrya-Sidhānta.

I am afraid the letter has become rather long. You may answer only that part for which you have some

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)



information. The rest need not be answered.

Yours very sincerely,

रघुवीर

(Raghu Vira)

Dr. George Roerich,  
Crookety, Kalimpong.

THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF INDIAN CULTURE

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Director: Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira

Secretary: Dr. Lokesh Chandra

Old Assembly Rest House,  
NAGPUR (India)

13-2-1956.

62  
21.11.56

My dear Dr. Roerich,

I have returned from a long sojourn of the Soviet Union and Outer Mongolia . It was a useful journey.

For books, xylographs, manuscripts, paintings, statues, libraries and museums the only town that is of interest for us is Leningrad. All the material from Moscow, Kazan, Astrakhan and other places have been collected together in the libraries and museums of Leningrad.

I spent full 25 days in Leningrad. I have examined the Tibetan, Mongolian, Tangut and Sanskrit Collections in as great a detail as was possible during this period.

I have been able to photograph hundreds of books, manuscripts, paintings and statues.

I was also invited by the Mongolian Peoples Republic. The State Library at Ulan Bator is the richest Library of Tibetan books outside Lhasa.

There is only one open monastery and that is Gandang. No printing is done now-a-days. No wood-blocks survive.

It was very kind of the Govt. to arrange for a long trip into the Mongolian grass-lands. It was wonderful. Erdeni Dzuhas been turned into a museum. I spent a whole day there. I also visited the remains of the delapidated monastery of Undar-gegen on the frozen banks of the river Orkhon.

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Director: Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira

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Old Assembly Rest House,

NAGPUR (India)

-2-

I have been able to acquire a good collection from Ulan-bator. The Prime Minister took personal interest in me.

Mr. Damdin Suren has handed over to me three books concerning the Gesar, one being his own article and the others from Ulan Ude. You have already received them. Kindly also write to Mr. Damdin Suren. He is very anxious to hear from you. He has put his adress on the cover of his article.

I must thank you at the end for the great help that your letter afforded to me in the begining.

With best greetings for the New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

Raghu Vira

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)



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Phone 33097  
31, South Avenue,  
New Delhi.

November 15, 1956.

*My dear Dr. Roerich*

I have great pleasure in informing you about the forthcoming marriage of my daughter Sudarshana Devi. The marriage comes off next month i.e. 5th of December, 1956. She is to be married to Dr. G. D. Singhal who has recently qualified as Master of Surgery.

My daughter has been brought up in an atmosphere of Asian studies extending from Mongolian, Chinese and Tibetan upto ancient Indonesian.

Last year she accompanied me to China and spent four busy months in travelling throughout the length and breadth of China, taking notes and making photographs in marvellous places like Tunhuang, Kumbum, Yun Kang, Loyang, etc

Recently she has completed her first work on a philosophical text of invaluable contents from Java, named Wrhaspati-tattwa in Old Javanese.

Sudarshana Devi would be happy to receive your blessings.

With most cordial sentiments, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*(Signature)*  
(Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira)

International Academy of Indian Culture  
सरस्वती - विहार

DIRECTOR  
Prof. Dr. Raghu Vira  
SECRETARY  
Dr. Lokesh Chandra

Hauz Khas Enclave  
P. O. Yusuf Sarai  
NEW DELHI 16

January 16, 1957,

My dear Dr. Roerick,

I have sent a copy of your letter to my daughter and son-in-law. I am sure they will be happy to receive it. Just now they are in the Atlantic making a Pradakṣiṇā of Africa on their way to Western Europe.

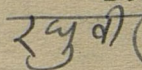
I am happy to inform you that we have received a complete set of the Urga edition of <sup>Tibetan</sup> Kanjur. Although I had obtained it in Urga, it is only after a year that the boxes have reached me.

Lama Chimpa, whom you were kind enough as to suggest to me has been with me all these years. He is a nice man. Only his knowledge of English or Hindi is not sufficient for any literary work. I should like to know if there is any other Mongolian Lama whom you could suggest and/would have a better knowledge, either of English or of Hindi.

The Tibetan-Sanskrit dictionary will start appearing somewhere during the middle of this year, i.e. after the return of my son in May.

With best wishes for the New Year,

I am,  
Yours very sincerely,

 (Raghu Vira)