



From: Dr. N. P. Chakravarti. 1

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
ARCHEOLOGY IN INDIA.

New Delhi, the 16th May, 1950.

Dear Professor Roerich,

It was very kind of you to send me a copy of your Monograph on The Blue Annals published by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal. This is an invaluable work on the history of Tibet and her Buddhism, and I am looking forward to seeing its completion. In fact so very little is known in other languages of the history of Buddhism in Tibet that I consider this monumental work of yours to be extremely informative to every student interested in Buddhism.

I learnt from Rahul that there was a possibility of your coming this side. Had the journey not been so difficult (I had your brother's experience related to me by himself) perhaps there would have been a possibility. As things are at present, either you have to come by air, which is very expensive or put up with all kinds of hardship in the way. Considering the political condition everything seems to be in the melting pot in Tibet and I doubt very much if we shall be able to do much in improving the cultural relation between the two countries.

With very kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

George N. Roerich, Esqr.,
Kalimpong
(W. Bengal).



Director General of Archæology in India.
(on leave).

New Delhi, the 13th July, 1950.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

Thank you for your letter of the 26th May which I received on my return from Indonesia. I am glad to know that the second volume of the "Blue Annals" will be ready by the end of the year.

It is nice to know that the people of Kalimpong are interested in starting a Buddhist Research centre, but mere interest cannot take us very far. If the Maharaja himself is interested perhaps something tangible would be done. In that case, I would suggest your talking the matter over with the Administrator.

It is true that most of Le Coq Collection of Central Asian antiquities in the Ethnological Museum in Berlin has been destroyed.

With very kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

Geo. Roerich, Esqr.,
"Crookety",
Kalimpong
(W. Bengal).

BY AIR MAIL



D.O.No. 3687

3
From: Dr. N.P. Chakravarti
Adviser on Archaeology
Office of ~~DEPUTY~~ DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY IN INDIA.

Dated New Delhi, the 15th March, 1951

My dear George,

Thank you very much for your letter of 11th March, 1951, and the enclosure. I am most grateful to you for your note. As I told you, only one scroll was sent to you and there are still more than a dozen scrolls with me. But at the same time I do not think you would like to be bothered with them. In case you want them I shall be glad to send them on to you.

I do not know if the Sanskrit originals of the dhāraṇīs are available. I remember that there is a manuscript of dhāraṇī saṁgraha in the collection of the Bengal Asiatic Society, which has not yet been printed. There are also fragments of some dhāraṇīs published in Hoernle's Literary Remains in Turkistan.

I have now got an account of the image and a copy of the note I am sending to you. Though the image is seated in Bhumisparśamudra on a lotus seat, it ~~does~~ not ~~seem to be~~ an image of Buddha. It seems to be something to do with Lamaism. If you want to have a look on it, I shall send the photograph to you. Probably the bones were the relics of a particular Lama.

Dr. G.N. Roerich,
'Crookety' Kalimpong, West Bengal.

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

Ap. 2. 12. 51

4

LARGE BRIGHT BRASS BUDDHA

A large Bright Brass (hollow) Seated Figure of Buddha, on a rather high oval Base, 20" x 14" x 6" high; the total height to top of the figure is 21". The figure is seated with the legs crossed under it, the left hand in lap holding an Orb (?), the head wearing a high-fronted cap, with oval front. The brass is rather thin.

This was taken from the chief Manastery in GYANTSE Fort: as a memento of the one real fight in the Thibet Expedition 1903-04, viz: the actual taking of the Gyantse Jong (Fortress) and including the preliminary fight for Palla village. Four men of the 3rd Coy. First S & M got I.O.Ms for the fights. The figure was presented to the Mess by the 3rd Coy. First S & M.

There is an inscription on the wooden stand (made in S & M Shops locally) of the figure, on a brass plate; stating; 'Taken at Gyantse Jong. Thibet, 1904. Presented to the Officers, R.E., Roorkee, by No. 3 Company, 1st Sappers & Miners'.

(Authority :- Maj.Gen.S.H.Sheppard, C.B., C.M.C., D.S.O.
Dated 16th September, 1928)

N.B. Gen.Sheppard was O.C. 3rd Coy. in Thibet Expdn. as Capt. Sheppard, R.D. and Col. E.F.J.Hill, D.S.O., M.C. was a Subaltern.

In Jan. 1950 the Buddha was found with the head severed off at the neck. Workshops were asked to repair it. When the head was being fixed by soldering, smoke started coming out of the Buddha: The base was immediately removed, and several rolls of paper in what is probably PALI Script were found in addition to little bags full of bones etc.

The papers are being sent to experts to find out if these are of any historical interest.

(Authority :- Lt. Col. K.J.Shahaney, Engrs.,
11th July, 1950).

no 4844

5



BY AIR MAIL

From: Dr. N.P. Chakravarti
Adviser on Archaeology
Office of ~~DEPUTY~~ DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY IN INDIA.

Dated New Delhi, the 7th April, 1951

My dear George,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 2nd April, 1951. I am sending herewith the only print which I have got of the image inside which the manuscript rolls were found. Kindly return it to me along with your reply.

There is a possibility of my going to your side sometime in May. If I do come I shall let you know in advance.

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

Dr. G.N. Roerich,
"Crookety"
Kalimpong, West Bengal.

Encl.
One



By Airmail

D.O.No. 6053

From: Dr. N.P. Chakravarti
Adviser on Archaeology
Office of
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY IN INDIA.

6

Dated New Delhi, the 5th May, 1951

my dear Dr. Roerich;

Thank you very much for your letter of the 30th April, 1951 and the photograph which you have returned along with it.

My going to Kalimpong had unfortunately to be postponed. I have been told that rains have already started in those parts which I was expected to visit and I have been advised to postpone my journey until October. I was looking forward to this trip and also to have an opportunity of meeting you.

I understood that your brother passed through Delhi on his way to Kulu. He sent words that due to want of time he could not look me up. I was sorry to have missed him. Had I known that he was here even for a day, I would have contacted him myself.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

Dr. G.N. Roerich,
'Crookety'
Kalimpong, West Bengal.

36, Meenabagh, ⁷
New Delhi.
Dated the 22nd April, 55.

My dear George,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 18th instt. I am myself breaking my head over the kind of Research Institute, referred to in my Presidential Address for the last six or seven years but without any effect. The Powers that Be seem to judge a thing only by its propaganda value and not on its merit or by the lasting contribution it might make. I am getting more and more pessimistic over the whole thing.

I have been asked to join Visvabharati and organise Archeological studies there but at the same time I do not know what facilities and materials I shall get there. I do not care about the number of students interested in the subject but ^{care about} only in the quality. Even one good student a year would satisfy me but I am not sure whether I can get even that at Shantineketan. Dr. Baghch was telling me that he was keen ~~also~~ to get you also there as he is supposed to have a very good Lama at the present moment.

Your brother was telling me that the second volume of the Blue Annals is out but I have not seen a copy yet. Have you got any spare copy with you?

I am sorry that I was away when you came to Delhi in December 1953. Actually I was back just before Christmas ^{and left for the History Congress immediately} but perhaps you came earlier.

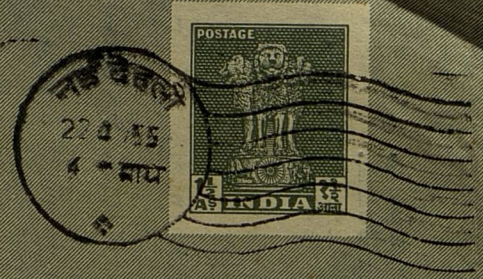
With very kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

A. P. Chakravarti

अन्तर्देशीय पत्र

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रखिये



To

Dr. George Roerich,
'Crookety'
Kalimpong.
(West Bengal)

↑
मोहर
पहला
↓

← हुसत मोहर →

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :-

Dr. H. P. Chakravarti,

36, Meenabagh,
New Delhi.



← हुसत मोहर पहला →

हुसत मोहर पहला →

Dr.N.P. Chakravarti

26 Akbar Road, New Delhi.

23rd March, 1956.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

When I was in China on this occasion, I collected quite a lot of photographs on the influence of Indian culture in China. In this connection, I want to make a special study of the 5-Pagoda temple in the outskirts of Peking. Tradition has it that it was built by an Indian monk who was invited to China in the 13th century on the model of the Mahabodhi temple. Whatever the tradition may be, the temple seems to have been built not by an Indian, but by a Tibetan monk. All round the temple there are inscriptions (skharone) in sanscript and the translations in Tibetan. In the compound also, there are three stone inscriptions, in Tibetan, Mangolian and Chinese. I have got the impression of the Tibetan inscription and I wonder if you could very kindly work on it. Of course, the credit of the work will go to you entirely, as I do not know Tibetan myself. I enquired if the French scholars did not write on this Temple, but nobody could give me any information in Peking. On hearing from you, I shall be glad to send the impression on to you.

off.
3/10

My wife met your brother here, but I have not done so so far, as I am not going about much. I was seriously ill in China with heart trouble and my movements are still very restricted.

With very kind regards,

I hope this letter with-
insufficient address
reaches you.

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

(N.P. Chakravarti)

Mr. George Roerich,
KALIMPONG,
West Bengal.



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT,
NEW DELHI.**

26, Akbar Road,
New Delhi,

Dated the 12th April, 1956.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 3rd instt. Yes, I am much better now though I have to be careful for some time. I am arranging to send you separately an impression of the inscription in Tibetan and Mangolian ^{in the} Five Pagodas Temple near Peking. There is also another inscription in Chinese ~~But~~ I am not sure if you could make use of it. I was thinking of sending it on to Visvabharti and get a translation made. ~~as~~ I have only one set of stampages, I should be grateful if you would kindly return it to me along with your transcript and translation so that I could use it for the purpose of reproduction.

2. I did not know that there was a model of the Mahabodhi temple in Tibet also. Is the ^{des} ~~trans~~cription of this temple too long? If not, could you send me a note on it so that it can be published along with your transcripts.

With best regards in which my wife also joins,

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

(N.P. CHAKRAVARTI)

Mr. George Roerich,
Creekey,
Kalimpong.

10

26, Akbar Road,

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

NEW DELHI.

Dated the 17th May, 1956.



Dear Mr. Roerich,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 14th instt. Of course, the Mongol text also should be transcribed and translated. You are the only authority in India I know of and there is no body else I can approach.

2. I am also finding difficulty about the Chinese inscription. Their ^{Chinese} Embassy here do not know anything about classical Chinese. Baigchi is dead now and I do not know how much the China Bhavan at Santiniketan will be able to do. I did not send it to you because I was not sure if you were quite familiar with classical Chinese. If you are; I shall send you the impression on hearing from you.

will-kindly refer to from myself and my wife,

Yours sincerely,

N.P. Chakravarti

(N.P. CHAKRAVARTI)

George Roerich Esq;
Crookety,
Kalimpong.

7.10.56
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11

26, Akbar Road,
New Delhi.

July 17, 1956.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 13th instt. which I received only yesterday. I have sent the Chinese impression to you by registered post to-day. I hope your pupil, who is in Kalimpong, will be able to deal with it. Even in Santiniketan, I was told there is no body at present who could work satisfactorily on ancient Chinese. I am sorry that the Mongol inscription is blurred but I am glad that you can restore it with the help of the Tibetan inscription.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

Mr. George Roerich,
Crookety,
Kalimpong. (W. Bengal)

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सत्यमेव जयते

26, Akbar Road, 12

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI.

August 3, 1956.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

Thank you very much for your letter. On an enquiry I found that though the parcel was delivered on the 17th of July, it was not despatched until the 21st July, 1956. I am sorry for this delay. Unless you are doing everything yourself, you cannot depend upon anybody these days. I hope it has reached you before this. Only I am not certain whether your pupil will be able to finish the work if he has to leave Kalimpong on the 4th of this month.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chatterjee

Mr. George Roerich,
Crookety,
Kalimpong. (W. Bengal)

Oct. 21. IX

26, Akbar Road,
New Delhi.
September 6, 1956.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

Thank you very much for your letter of 3rd instt. Will you please take your own time over these records and by all means send the Chinese one to Professor Liebenthal at Visva-Bharati? In fact, I was not sure if the Dr. was still in Santiniketan but when I met Bagchi's successor, Prof. Bose in Delhi a few days ago, he told me that he had retained the services of Dr. Liebenthal. I do not know if anything has been published already about this monument by the French Archaeologists who had been working in Peking for a long time. Perhaps Dr. Liebenthal could find it out himself as he may have the necessary reference books at Santiniketan. What is the name of the Buddhist text mentioned in the inscription? Does the Tibetan record *Transcribes gives* ~~prescribe~~ the Sanskrit name or gives only a translation of it?

2. You will be glad to know that I had an exhibition of Chinese art here on the 4th September which will continue until the 13th September. I am sending a copy of the catalogue to you for your information.

Yours sincerely,

N. P. Chakravarti

(N.P. CHAKRAVARTI).

Mr. George Roerich,
Crookety,
Kalimpong.