

NAGGAR, Kulu, Punjab, Br. India

Oct. 7th 1931

Mrs Lionel Sutro.

Dear Mrs Sutro,

In Tibetan mountains the sad news about your bereavement reached us. We asked our friends to convey to you our heartfelt condolences, but I cannot refrain from writing you more, because your name is so closely connected with the whole of our life in America. As if yesterday, the year 1930 stands before me, when you and your husband in London came to us, and your warm welcome contained as if the first hearty message from America.

Since then, during all these years we feel your heartiness and from our side you will of course also feel the same sincerity and warmth of sentiment. Therefore your loss was so much felt by us and has caused us deep sadness. Of course your late husband has done so much good and was so kindhearted to all around him that at the passing into the higher world, he will have entered there with an enlightened consciousness, and all the good thoughts which will have accompanied him, will surround him with still more benevolent light. The might of human thought is so powerful and so much real good can be created by these benevolent sendings.

Also you no doubt feel our best thoughts and we would very much like that you yourself in our Institutions as at home.

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Your continuous cooperation has always shown that the problems of Culture are indeed near to you. And now your last donation for Cancer Research shows that you think constantly of the good for mankind. Indeed, art and science are inseparable there, where it is necessary to basically better the life and to inroot the traditions of Culture into the young generation. And every your advice in this broad field will once more be appreciated by us, - your sincere friends.

Mme Roerich, whose health is very unsteady and is subject to unexpected attacks, sends you her best thoughts and always remembers the friendly warm and hearty meetings with you.

With best, highest feelings from the Mountains,

Very sincerely, yours,

July 4th 1932.

Mrs Lionel Sutro,
New-York.

My dear Friend,

I cannot refrain from writing you, after all I have heard from Mr. L. L. Horch and the Lichtmanns about all your noble actions. We are all in one boat and we all struggle for the rights of Culture. We all have to confront obstacles set by the dark forces, we all also know that "Light conquers all darkness!"

We always believed in your sincere friendship but now it is already more than friendship - it is the noble fight for the sacred principles of Life. Indeed what is our earthly existence without Culture, without Beauty and Knowledge? It is so characteristic that the dark forces are first of all attacking the field of Culture, the field of Peace. But by this they give us the possibility to unite and to show that the cultural forces of the world are by no means weak.

I and Mme Roerich want to tell you and all your noble friends, from our whole heart, of our sincere admiration for your courageous defense of the sacred cause of Culture and Peace. It is a beautiful historical fact to witness how the forces of Light gather and confirm the old truth that the progress of the world is built by Culture.

We want to assure you how close you are to us in spirit and how we value all your advices given by you in New-York.

In spirit with you,

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Realization of Beautiful
Agni Transmutor
Testing Strength
Canimus Surdis

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June * 7 * 1933

Mrs Wionel Sutro,
New-York.

Dear Mrs S u t r o ,

I was delighted to receive your cordial letter, from which I see not only your participation in our activities, but also your hearty sympathy with our inner aims. When I read in reports, how under your leadership good deeds are accomplished, I always rejoice. Humanity is so far from Peace and cultural understanding, that every educational work is urgently needed. When one witnesses such horrors of enmity and hatred, which rage before our very eyes, we must all be united to spread spiritual enlightenment. No one can dare to assert that the standard of education is sufficient, for the atrocities which take place, prove the contrary. The more precious is it to see that dear friends unite their forces in noble striving towards real peace and real mutual co-operation and understanding.

To-day we have discussed the question, you put in your letter about future auctions. We were all concerned lest low prices should harm the dignity of living artists, but my son Svetoslav proposed and we all agreed with this, that on such auctions be sold objects of non-living artists or anonymous objects of arts and crafts. All sorts of objects of ancient art could without complications be excellent material for the purpose of such auctions. And thus no one can

dare to accuse us that we would be exploiting artists who themselves are mostly in difficult circumstances. Amidst the world tension, we have to choose the way of best friendliness and co-operation not causing any offended feelings.

As always we work here from morning till evening and we feel that by this work for the General Good we proceed by the straightest path. As before I continue to be worried with the health of Mme Roerich, but with heart-blood-pressure and heart-disease greatest care is always needed.

As if continuing the thoughts of this letter I enclose herewith three of my recent articles from the Indian Press: "Agni The Transmutator," "Realization of the Beautiful" and "Testing Strength", and I feel certain that in you they will meet with hearty response.

I express once more my great joy at your friendship and co-operation and sending hearty greetings from us all, remain

in Spirit with you,

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8-MAY-37

Our dear Mrs Sutro,

We share your joy at the news about the marriage of your niece and on our part send our heartiest congratulations and wishes.

We were also glad to hear that Mrs M.Cousins' review was liked by you, for Mrs Cousins is in great vogue in India. In general one can find in India a just appreciation in the cultural field and it is only a pity that in this great country there is so much poverty that expensive books find but a very small sale amidst the intelligentsia. In one of her recent letters Mrs Lichtmann writes how justly and firmly you retorted to the referee that by-names are quite a common thing. Altogether, having heard from letters about all the quibbling of the referee with regard to our friends, one is led to the conclusion that he is influenced in some peculiar ways. Is it possible that justice is defeated by some machinations?

In the last letters of our friends such monstrous allegations by the enemies were mentioned that human reason

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fails to explain what is taking place. Although we have already heard of extraordinary crimes of the apostates - the misappropriation of shares, the breaking of locks for stealing documents, abominable slander and lies - but their latest doings surpass all limits. But why to dwell on this, when you have yourself been present at these horrible attempts. All this is the more deplorable when one sees what fine cultural work is being accomplished everywhere, where the dark influence of the apostates does not reach. You will be glad to hear that not only in India and the Far East, but also in many European countries wonderful cultural activities take place and new fine collaborators are approaching. No doubt Mrs Lichtmann has told you excerpts from the current events and also quotations from our letters in which we always remember all good friends.

Mme de Roerich continuously thinks of you and sends you her best wishes and greetings. Every line from you is received here with great joy and reread. We trust you are keeping in best of health.

In Spirit with you ,

12-MAR-38

Our dear Friend,

We have received from Sina a copy of your letter to Ernst and it was a great joy for us to see ^{how} clearly and impressively you summarized the whole situation. We presume that Ernst felt ashamed reading your frank judgment. When one compares his reply to you, it sounds so evasive and flat and it is clear that he has nothing to say for his justification. Indeed how could their firm conduct a case against their own clients?!! It seems that in the hands of our lawyer there is so much of striking facts and evidences that it would be strange if he does not know how to use them. But still, from the last letters we learned that in the Tax hearing he succeeded entering into the records some useful points, which thus remain in the history of this unprecedented case. All the lies which Horch uttered indeed transgress human limits.

We would like that you should read over Dr. Harshe's statement quoted on page 170 of my "Fiery Stronghold". He then said that any harm inflicted to our institutions would be a 'national calamity', and further Dr. Brinton spoke about the invasion of barbarians. This whole passage

very tragically now applies to the vandalism of the apostates. When we re-read these pages we found that we would have nothing to add now. - Mr. Plaut recently mentioned that in the Appellate Court he will be 'at home' - let this be so as he has all the possibilities and five judges will not be as unjust as Frankenthaler. Anyhow before Plaut there are further court instances - as finally Truth and Justice must be found somewhere. Sina wrote us that she is convinced that some day a Zola will appear, who, as in the famous Paris case, will say openly his decisive word in defense of justice. Indeed such a powerful voice should be found amidst American writers. America has so often stood up for Truth that it would be incredible that in such a striking case as the present her thundering voice would not resound.

We all greatly admire you for your noble assistance and Mme Roerich often cites you as an example of untiring^{an} heroic leader of womanhood. Precisely the voice of the woman can call to Truth and Justice. Many, many thanks!

In Spirit with you

4-JUNE-1938

Our dear Friend, dear Mrs Sutro,

From every letter of Mrs Sina Lichtmann we hear how valiantly and heroically you defend Justice. As a true American citizen you stood up against vandalism - it is by such voices as yours that public opinion is forged. We were also deeply touched to hear that you are now Chairman of the R M. Committee. This group of defenders of the Museum is now lead by your inspiring enthusiasm. Indeed the vandalism committed by the apostates is unheard. Is it possible to annihilate a public museum which existed for 15 years, by the ill-will of a single criminal?!! When in 1932 there was danger for the museum at the time of the receiver, the late Dr. Robert Harshe defined this as a national calamity. At that time a well attended public meeting of protest was held and new when the actual vandalism has been committed one cannot forget the words of Dr. Harshe, this indisputable authority on art. On June 7th the apostates have a meeting of the Trustees of Roerich Museum; no doubt they now scheme some fiend and fatal move and should they be successful in their grim attempt, then the whole institution will be destroyed. We were shocked to hear that the Attorney General did not consider as criminal the fact that the public collection for the institutions now turn out to be misappropriated by Horsch for his personal ends. In what an ugly position are now all donors, honorary advisors and coworkers, who never dreamt that they were supporting a private affair of H.!! Is it possible that when the case still goes into the Court of Appeal at the same time a crass vandalism is committed against the Museum?

H. acts as if he can do in America what he likes. He throws 1000 paintings into some dungeon, apparently to this fate are subjected also the hundred paintings from the IVth floor. He grabs the whole property of Svetoslav and all manuscripts of Mme Roerich, representing decades of meticulous work; he steals all shares of the Trustees, throws them into the street and demands from me sums, which you know were for the expedition. This is open highway robbery !

As Sina rightly wrote, where is that Zola who would powerfully defend Justice. It does not even seem to arouse the indignation that H. operates with faked papers. One can hardly imagine that in court there would be accepted a home brewed copy of a "document" which never existed. Is it not strange that the testimonies of all of us are ignored and all malicious inventions of Horch are accepted. It is deplorable that a certain masquerading person for some mysterious reasons exerts such unlawful pressure. Now this fact is already known as one of the judges openly stated that "this is the case W. kept bothering me about".

The only relief is the noble voice of judge O'Malley. Let us hope that in the future there will be found judges who shall not be influenced. We express this *cris de coeur*, but on the spot you yourself know all this still better. You understand how our hearts ache witnessing such injustice and how we are grateful to you for your defense of Truth. Sina told us the reason why you do not write us at present and we fully comprehend this, for we know that your friendly hand helps there.

We all send you our heartiest wishes,

in Spiti with you

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2-JULY-1938

Our dear, dear Friend, Mrs Sutro,

I am writing you to express again my admiration at your indignation against the vandalism done by the apostates in the museum and also our deep gratitude for the active defense of the right cause. Your indignation against this vandalism will remain recorded not only in our hearts but also on the pages of the history of Culture, where will be inscribed the monstrous fact of the destruction by one man of a museum which had been presented to the Nation, - of a museum which contained a unique panorama of Central Asia and the results of the labour for over a quarter of a century of one of the best contemporary artists.

You know with what love Prof. Roerich gave to America his brilliant constructive ideas and his masterpieces. You know how highly Professor Roerich always spoke and wrote about America, therefore your indignation at the present looting, committed by the apostates in that country, is indeed fully justified. Sina writes that she receives many letters and telephone calls asking about the fate of the museum. Many even offer their services to help the present situation. But of course all these separated voices and single protests can help very little. An organizer is needed, who could gather and direct all these efforts to definite actions. But, hélas, we do not know of such a person. Of course if all who wish to help would gather together and would decide (even if in small groups) to visit and present their protests against the vandalism to all officials and representatives of the country, this measure would be already of considerable help, for after all it could arouse public opinion and thus perhaps influence the judges to make the right decision. We would like to see the indignation of public opinion not only for the sake of our case, but for the sake of America. We witness a most serious time, when human dignity and all moral foundations upon which is based the welfare of the people are trampled upon and there reigns but the right of usurpation supported by abyonets or gold. I am surprized at the negligence of the judges who never were interested to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the moral and public standing of the two main figures of this case. If the judges

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will base themselves exclusively upon forcibly extracted under various pretences papers and home-brewed "documents", fabricated by our former feduciary, and will absolutely ignore the entire moral side of the case, then any gangster will of course be justified. It seems to me that judges should be first of all great psychologists and guardians of morals, otherwise the court will become a caricature, and the judges - hirelings of those who are temporarily in power. Is it possible that the voice of judge O'Malley will remain a voice in the wilderness?

We know that it is thanks to you that such a renown jurist as Seabury agreed not only to act as advisor in our case, but even to speak personally before the Board of Regents in Albany and for such a comparatively small remuneration. Of course I am sure that his participation means salvation. As Major Stokes rightly said, the participation of such a lawyer guarantees hundred per cent success. But unfortunately from Sina's last letters we understand that Plaut, who demanded and insisted upon the invitation of a big lawyer for this last appeal, again raises some difficulties. Since long we have written to our co-workers that we do not trust Plaut and know that he will lose the case. Every time when Plaut wished to abandon the case because he was not paid in time, or he had doubts whether he will be paid altogether, we advised our coworkers to make use of his intention and to part with him, but unfortunately usually some circumstances intervened. I think with sorrow that even now when we approach the last court from where we may expect justice, the brilliant possibility of Seabury's participation may be lost. May we avoid such misfortune!

We are so happy that you took upon yourself the chairmanship of the R. Museum Committee. Your untiring energy will greatly help matters. The new lawyer Smyth, as you no doubt know, has expressed several useful considerations and it is especially gratifying to know that he acknowledges that the declaration of 1929 signed by all Trustees about the gift of the paintings to the Nation, has a great moral significance and defines the status of the paintings, as this resolution of all the Trustees has never been cancelled. We were very happy to hear after all these years of litigation this lawyer's assertion about the significance of moral obligations. The entire case should be considered exactly from its moral aspect. I have always considered that Horsch should be sued by all co-workers and donors simultaneously and jointly, - then the picture of his long ago premeditated plan of robbery and usur-

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pation would appear clearly in all its monstrosity. Indeed it is necessary that all judges would be acquainted with a l l his criminal offences. When taken in their totality, these offences show a congenital criminal. You know, dear Mrs Sutro, that you yourself, all our friends and coworkers donated and gave all their labour only for the benefit of public institutions and not for Horch's personal affairs. All of us worked only for the growth of these public institutions. And as we see now enormous possibilities were systematically destroyed by Horch. He became afraid of the growth of these institutions. He understood that after some years it would be impossible for him to execute his plan of usurpation. Wishing by a single stroke to get all into his hands, the fool has himself cut off his best possibilities. In a few years from now, he will be forced to see his folly, because his losses will be great. The new lawyer Smyth's opinion that the case should be protracted because Horch himself will tighten the rope around his neck, is quite true.

My dear Mrs Sutro, I do not wish to burden you with too long a letter, but I would like so much that you should know how grateful we are to you for all your help and support and how we cherish your rightful indignation. A great thinker said: "The indignation against injustice is the healing of the blind ones". Verily there are many blind ones and few healers, therefore my heart greets in you such a healer. A flaming heart is the most precious treasure - such a heart is a real life-giver. Sina writes so beautifully about the help and support which you extend and every such line resounds in our hearts.

We are all sending you our gratitude and our best thoughts and wishes,

Sutro.

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(Succes, ED. Rev.)

11-OCT-1938

Our dear Friend,

We appreciated deeply your September letter. Indeed is sounds tragic that also in your case you have to expect that politics will upset justice. If even in just a simple obvious case as yours justice cannot be expected, then words fail altogether. We have just looked over the American Art Annual for 1930, officially published by the American Federation of Art. In it it is stated: "Roerich Museum - permanent Collection of 1000 paintings". Thus from year to year people were reading this official statement, and of course they had no reason to distrust the American Federation of Art. Yet it appears that the public was misled with false information, for a permanent collection does not appear to exist. And all true facts are trampled upon by Horch with his faked paper, false information and fabricated testimony. We cabled that our lawyer should ask the Court of Appeals to grant a revision of the whole case because we both have never been asked for our testimony, which we want to give here. Since I have already in another matter given a deposition here and Mme Roerich also had papers for a deposition sent to Naggar, this precedent shows that such a deposition

can be given here, and when the plaintiffs want to make a most important statement, the Court cannot deny this demand, or it would be a premeditated injustice on the part of the court.

I cannot refrain from repeating how happy we are that you are now the Chairman of the R.M. Committee. If the vandals and aggressors took possession of the museum premises, this not mean that the actual idea of the museum no longer exists. Japanese aggressors have taken the capital of China and yet China will exist. I do not know who is Vice-Chairman of this Committee, but since there can be several, we consider Sina would be the best help to you. In her last letter she wrote that you visited the new Academy and liked it. We are also most happy that you are Patron of this hearth of art & culture. Let us hope that now when there are no traitors inside the organization, that this seed will gradually grow into a strong oak. - How do you like FLAMMA - and did you receive the new monograph by Conlan? - everybody praises them. It is quite remarkable how on cooperative bases with practically no initial funds except a donation from Fosdicks, such a useful world quarterly came into being. You would be happy to hear from what distant corners of the earth response is coming.

We are very happy to hear that your health is well. Unfor-

Unfortunately we cannot say the same about ourselves. With heartiest wishes, in Spirit

22-JULY-1939

Our dear Friend, Mrs Sutro,

We were deeply touched to hear about your noble contribution to the cause of Justice. We are sending all our best thoughts to you at the time of the new battle to prevent another vandalism schemed by horch. Is it not appalling that all fabricated claims of horch are being considered whereas all our fully just demands and rights so far are obstructed and ignored!! But this surely cannot last forever and a ray of Light should reveal all criminal misdoings of the trio. I hope that the attorneys will finally pay attention to our claim of \$240,000 plus interest, which together makes over \$300,000 and thus we all shall be able to contribute our share to this general cause. Lately we have received letters expressing indignation at horch's vandalism, from Claude Bragdon, Dr. Forman, Dr. Cousins, Paul Anderson and have heard that such personalities like Ruth St. Denis, not to enumerate other friends in foreign countries, wholeheartedly condemn the malicious criminals. If only the attorneys would know how to apply all the many assets of our side! But for this

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purpose they should know the psychological side of the whole case. It is very sad that Plaut did not wish to study this aspect of the case and thus lost his best cards. Let us hope that the renewed efforts now will bring fruit. We have also heard from visitors from America that the public is under the false impression that my paintings have been removed only for some other temporary exhibition. And when we explained the real situation we saw that people were at a loss to believe that such vandalism could be at all possible in our days. Lately Mme Roerich had been ill and now I have had a severe attack of malaria, with a temperature up to 104° , what at my age is by no means desirable. Now already for some days the temperature has dropped and let us hope that there will be no relapse. It is a long time since we have heard from you but we hope that your health is good and that you continue your benevolent work. Mme Roerich and we all are sending you our best gratitude and wishes

in Spirit with you ,