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December 20, 1945
Hotel Embassy
70th & Broadway
New York City

Professor Nicholes Roerich
% Roerich Foundation
New York City

Dear Professor Roerich:

I am writing you this letter in order that you may know more fully about the work which Ralph Houston and myself have been doing these past four months. Also, I am including some general information about myself and a rough outline of the research work that we wish to continue.

To write a complete story of how we both became interested in this work, would necessitate ~~wiring~~ writing several volumes as the background goes back nearly 20 years in each of our lives. I will therefore attempt to make this story as brief as possible.

I first became interested in the effects of an electro-magnetic field upon the human body in about 1925. My father was an invalid with arthritus. A simple device called a "Wilshire's" Ionica, consisting of a mile of wire wound into a circular belt and connected to 120 volt circuit, relieved him of this condition. The belt was placed around the body and a treatment consisted of taking from 5 to 10 minutes of this magnetic treatment. My father became agent for this product in Wichita, Kansas where I saw hundreds of people gain quick relief from this simple treatment. A few months after he started this business, the American Medical Assn. forced the manufacturer out of business because of the many complaints that were coming from doctors all over the country. Since that time, I have been trying to find out how and why this simple electro-magnetic treatment was able to bring relief to persons afflicted with various ailments.

My scope of interest in scientific phenomena has always been very wide and diversified. I experimented with high frequency voltage at the age of 13. I have always been interested in the art of radio communication. After leaving Northwestern University in 1936, I was employed by the Radio Corp. of America for several years. I was able to obtain an excellent over-all picture of the entire field of radio and communication. My keen interest in the medical profession has always drawn me to hospitals and people of this profession. For the past ten years, I have constantly looked for some proof or clue to prove that the human brain generates electro-magnetic waves or thought waves. I grew up around the aviation industry and my hobby is photography. Interest in psychology started by reading Karl Menninger's book "The Human Mind".

My interest in psychic phenomena started at this same time. Now through my very good friend, Ralph Houston, I have become extremely interested in metaphysics which has tied many of my previous studies together more solidly.

In the fall of 1942, an electrical engineer by the name of Bloyce Fitzgerald and myself, were in close contact with Dr. Nikola Tesla for several months prior to his death. Probably you knew Dr. Tesla and I am sure that you are familiar with parts of his work. This contact with Dr. Tesla was the most revealing experience of our lives. We learned some of his greatest secrets, discoveries that he was never able to put into operation himself for various reasons. At the time of his death, we knew that one of the greatest men who had ever lived had just passed away. Fitzgerald is Tesla's protege and probably the only man alive who completely understand his unfinished work. At that time, we had hoped that someday we would be able to establish an International Foundation for the Advancement of Science, to perpetuate the name of Dr. Tesla and to complete his unfinished work. The purpose of this foundation would be "for the development and advancement of the scientific arts for the benefit of humanity. Believing that scientific research should not be curtailed for the benefit of few, this organization's purpose would be to bring to the masses of the people in the world, the widest distribution, use, and benefits of scientific achievements developed within this organization and without large profits to any single individual (although inventors would participate in royalties accruing from their inventions), with licensing permits available to any reliable organization approved by this foundation. This organization would maintain a research laboratory, obtain patents and license manufacturers". The inventors who will make up this organization along with Fitzgerald, are still in the Army.

During this contact with Dr. Tesla, he mentioned an idea which has stuck in my mind ever since. Nearly all of Tesla's works were based upon the principle of frequency and resonance. He believed that it might be possible to kill disease germs by using a simple principle of mechanical resonance. If the resonant frequency of a T.B. germ were predetermined in a laboratory, it might be possible to kill such germs within the human body by spraying the body with this resonant frequency .. thereby shaking the germs to death, without injury to the cells or body. Such a theory might work on many types of disease germs, however, it would probably not be effective or practical on cancer. Such a destroyer of germs could produce no ill effect and might be a powerful weapon against disease. The frequencies within the ultra-violet range have a similiar effect, however they will not penetrate more than about 1/16 in. below the surface of the skin. Mechanical resonance would penetrate the entire body.

During my recent two years in the Orient in the service of our government, I constantly searched for clues that might be of interest along the medical lines. Last summer in New York, I heard about Ralph Houston, a man who sees "auras". I was very anxious to meet him as I had a feeling he might be very helpful in helping me plan this

mechanical resonance device. I knew that his sense organs must be very highly developed and that possibly the auras he sees around the human body, might have some significance on the problem. A month or so after our first meeting, we were brought very closely together through a cancer patient I came across in Miami. Ralph had already mentioned the psychic healing work that he had been doing for many years. I became extremely interested in him as well as his work. I wanted to know everything about it, the complete story of his life, of the many instances of cures he had experienced in the past.

The whole experience was a revelation to me. Within a very short time, I knew that he was proving to me the things I had been trying to find out for years. Particularly, that thought waves are a definite thing created and transmitted by the human brain at infinite speed to any point in the world. The study of metaphysics further made me believe that the electro-static field surrounding the earth may hold the key to many great scientific discoveries. I immediately started the breathing exercises and within a very short time, all of my sense organs became extremely accentuated and my supply of prana became very high. Since that time, I have been trying to analyze exactly what causes this phenomena from a purely scientific viewpoint.

I have seen the emission of electrical energy off of the hands and finger tips. I quickly realized that this frequency of electrical energy seems to have ~~the~~ curative effect upon the human body as well as on animals. The idea of killing disease germs by resonance became second thought in my mind; the first thought being "that if this frequency could be produced scientifically, it should be possible to cure all disease including cancer". It was a most astounding thought .. staggering to the imagination.

No doubt, you are familiar with the work of Edgar Cayce, who strangely enough contacted my close friend Bloyce Fitzgerald a year or so before he died last January 3rd. Fitzgerald's name came to him in a reading and he telephoned him in New Orleans. Eventually they met at Virginia Beach, Va. Cayce told Fitzgerald that he would make available all of his 40 years of files on medicine, that this would be written into his will. We expect to add Cayce's material to our foundation for medical research. Cayce says the sand at Virginia Beach is radio-active and has a curative effect upon disease. Something else we wish to investigate. In some of his last writings, he predicted that the whole world would change when all people were allowed to see the aura of human thought waves .. in color; thus revealing the true character of people to each other. He said that this would change the entire world and people's desire for greed, money, selfishness, etc. would gradually fade away. I can clearly understand now what effect such a development would have upon the human race as I have brought many persons to Mr. Houston, in order that he might describe their aura to me.

With this preliminary background, I will briefly outline the research work that Ralph Houston and I hope to continue. We have gone as far as we can go without financial help from an outside source as we need a laboratory, equipment, and additional brain-power.

- A. I am of the opinion that it will be possible to construct a simple device, possibly a screen, that will allow all people to view the aura of human thought waves in color. If such a device can be perfected and sold cheaply to the masses, it could have a tremendous effect upon ~~the~~ humanity. Accompanying this screen would be an inexpensive small book explaining certain fundamental principles of metaphysics along with a color chart outlining the significance of various colors seen in human auras. A British doctor built some sort of screen along in 1880 which he used in viewing the aura of his patients, this was also done by a German doctor before 1900. I don't believe they saw the aura in color, probably just the "prana" aura. But with the wonderful developments in science and particularly chemistry, it would seem that such a device could be perfected. Barium nitrate would appear to be suitable for such a device. We hope that such an idea can be perfected and might be our means for making enough money to establish our foundation.
- B. Our second project would be to determine the type of electrical energy that is emitted between the hands when one has a high charge of prana. If this same energy can be produced in a laboratory and built into a small electrical machine, it may have a curative effect upon all disease including cancer. I believe this idea is quite within the realm of possibility. My thought is that this energy is pulsating D.C. current produced by the rotation of the earth on its axis and is carried through the electro-static field surrounding the earth. I believe that thought waves are probably also carried on this electro-static field which extends to about 30,000 feet (Tesla)
- C. Our ^{third} ~~their~~ projects would include investigations into the following fields; electro-chemistry of the human body, chemical action within the human body, importance of vital energy of the body with regard to public health and disease, investigation of the effects of terrestrial earth currents and magnetic forces upon cell life; polarization study of the human body; and a study to try and determine the importance of the electro-static field surrounding the earth upon all cell growth .. with the hope to discovering what sustains cell life on earth.

For more than 150 years, some doctors (particularly in Europe) have recognized the importance of an investigation concerning the importance of electrical energy with regards to the human body and plant life. Dr. Alex Carroll in his book "Man The Unknown" mentioned

the fact that thought waves are probably electro-magnetic waves quite similiar to radio waves. He also made the statement that the field of metaphysics should be thoroughly investigated as there are probably many hidden secrets to be learned through such research.

This letter is getting rather lengthy so I will bring it to a close now. Any one of the subjects that I have mentioned is a complete study in itself but I have covered these fields broadly in order that you may get an over-all picture of how we are thinking. We are tackling a tremendous problem alone but we believe that assistance and financial help will be forthcoming to us soon. We would like very much to hear from you and to have your comments and suggestions. Any scientific data or information that you might have available would be greatly appreciated. We will keep you advised as to the progress we make during the coming year.

It might be interesting for you to know that Mr. Houston and I had the pleasure of meeting an Indian from Bombay who knew you and had attended the recent wedding of your son. His name is G.C. Mitter, Chief Assayer, H.M.'s. Mint, Bombay and he was living in this hotel just a short time ago. It is a small world, particularly nowadays.

With best wishes for the year of 1946, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Ralph E. Bergstresser
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