

Box #46, Taos, New Mexico,

January 5th, 1933.

Dear Prof. Roerich:

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to get your Christmas greetings from the mountain fastness of India and such a beautiful card. Thank you so much for your remembrance of us and our very best wishes for the New Year go out to you. May 1933 bring you closer to the true realization of your dreams, good health and happiness to all of you..

Taos is much the same as ever. Life goes along on a comfortable tempo which helps to make one feel a bit more human. Our winter has been fairly mild with little snow altho the rest of the country has been rather hard hit. We had our share last winter so that we ^{are} quite content with this Springlike weather.

Emil had three weeks in New York this past Fall to contact old associates, arrange for an exhibit which he plans for this coming Spring at the Delphic Galleries and also to see what has been done in the name of Art since his absence. He was extremely disappointed with the general showing. It all makes one wonder whether humanity will once again see an Art worthy of the name. There is so much of the personal element and such little personalities expressing themselves, that it sickens one. But, I suppose it is part of the history of mankind to pass thru such periods.

Conditions are not much improved which you probably know. There is much talk of revolution which in some quarters appears to me as merely an intellectual pastime. Where there is real hardship such thots are probably just beginning to take vague shape in the minds of the sufferers. There is no question that the next few years will mark an era of radical and revolutionary changes. One wishes that it would be less painful..

Occassional letters from New York keep us posted as to the activities of the Institute. What a loyal hard-working group of people they are and what terrific problems they are facing cheerfully and kindly. I believe this upheaval has won more true friends for the Institution than anything all of us could have done. In our part of the world we get rather unusual reactions to the work our mutual friends are doing and it is with a great deal of satisfaction that we straighten them out. One wonders where these ideas come from.

The initial session of the Taos School of Art during the summer of 1932 was quite successful. From the financial viewpoint not so good altho it provided us with the wherewithal to live during the summer and part of the Fall. It helped but we look forward to a more successful summer this year. The student material is of the best. They are eager to learn, hard workers and have not cheap sophistication to parade in smart studio chatter. Emil felt most encouraged with the reactions of these young people to his teachings and as time goes on we may be able to make Taos a nucleus for the study of art in the southwest.

And now I must close. The family join me in all good wishes and kindest regards to you and yours.. May this find you well and hard at work and may a kind Fate one day bring you again Taos-ward.

Sincerely yours,

Maynon J. Bissham