

#138 East 36th Street,
New York City, N.Y...
May 4th, 1931.....

Prof. Nicholas Roerich,
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab,
British India.

My dear Prof. Roerich:

First of all I wish to express my thanks for your very beautiful letter of recommendation to the Guggenheim Foundation. I am sure it would have been most valuable to the judges had it arrived in time for their consideration. It is fortunate for me that it did not as it now rests in my files a glorious example of what one generous soul can say to help another.

The award, as you doubtless appreciate, is a god-send. It has been my dream and ambition for years to get away and work without the necessity and drive of mundane responsibilities.... Coming at this time, it will be an extraordinary opportunity for me to test myself and to fully realize my limitations. Man can only accomplish in his chosen field when he recognises his limitations and makes the most of them.

Your recent letter with its high words of encouragement, its spiritual message and its expression of faith in my ability is being treasured, among a few others for future contemplation. Thoses moments that will come when everything seems to go wrong.

My work in the Institution will continue. Our good friend, Mr. Giles, will be in constant touch with me and the mails will be a source of interchange of ideas. In this way the actual work will go on and the interest and ideal of c-operation and service will continue. I feel that upon my return I will once again be ready to take my place as active member of the teaching staff fortified with greater experience and consequent knowledge.

We leave New York the first week in June, driving out by motor-car and we expect to be in New Mexico ten days later perhaps sooner. Taos, will be our headquarters for at least one year. A small studio apartment will provide the necessary comforts, and equipment necessary for my work. Before my return I hope to be able to get a little acquainted with our neighboring republic Mexico, where, I am

told, many interesting and significant things are happening in the art world.

As to my program of activities in art for this coming year there is nothing facing me but study and hard work. Some research work in the various pigments and in mediums but most of the time will be devoted to the study of life in its many manifestations. And thus we hope to accomplish much.

We hear of your own splendid accomplishments in the East and of the gradual recognition in those quarters that up to the present time have withheld their support. Life's greatest lesson seems to lie in one word, Patience, - if we master that lesson all else is comparatively simple.

Before I close allow me to express my deep appreciation again for your help, materially and spiritually and to wish you success on your new venture in the East. Trusting Madame Roerich's health is improving and that your own is of the best. I am, sincerely and

Faternally yours,

Emil Bistram

P.S. - Please remember us to our very good friends - Esther Lichtmann and to Dr. George Roerich, we trust they are both enjoying the best of good health and happiness.

Mrs. Bistram joins me in these sentiments to you all.

E.J.B.