

COPY

Central Hotel  
149 E. 14th St.  
New York City  
February 2, 1933

Mr. Nicholas Roerich  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York City

Dear Sir:

For fifteen years I have been at work on a history of my own time from oral sources. I use only material from my own experience and observation and from the direct spoken narrative of others. I have so far traveled very little. I had a walking trip of five hundred miles in the Canadian Rockies. I also spent seven months on two Indian reservations. However I have met people from all parts of the world.

It seems to me that the average person is as much history as the king or the emperor for he also illustrates the social forces of heredity and environment. I am therefore putting in much material which illustrates the normal everyday life of the period. Much of my book is intended for posthumous publication. Some of my best chapters can not be published at present without betraying friendship or hospitality. Apart from literary merit my book will have future value as a storehouse of material.

For the last few years I have been handicapped because there was a danger of my going blind through a weakened optic nerve. I have therefore not made as much headway as I should have for this reason. I am organizing a benefit and dance of the Oral History Society to be held on March first. As my work touches nearly every phase of human activity, I want as inclusive a list of sponsors as possible. The list already includes Sherwood Anderson, Malcolm Cowley, E. E. Cummings, William C. Hardy, Gorham B. Munson, William Zoweh and many others. I hope also to obtain the names of some followers of Oriental faiths.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Gould