

605 E 168 Street.
New York, Sept. 20, 1932.

Beloved Teacher,

May I offer my apologies for not having written to you before this. I have been quite ill and found it impossible to do the many things I so much wanted to do.

Professor Roerich, your letter was too great a compliment for me. You congratulated me in it for the fearless way in which I spoke at the meeting of protest on June Sixth last. I spoke from the heart and I trusted the American people to believe me. The ten happy years which the Roerich Museum so whole-heartedly gave me equipped me well for that protest meeting and my only regret is that I was not given a longer period in which to speak what my heart longed to tell. The strength and courage which the Trustees of Roerich Museum are showing as they stand in the front line of this most terrific battle is indeed the greatest living lesson any group of students have been taught. I, who have been with the Institution ever since its beginning, feel that of all the lessons I have learned, this is the greatest lesson of all. I am proud to have been a student in the happy days of the Institute and am proud now that I am privileged to draw a new lesson from this fight for Culture. I have always loved America and respected her flag but under the present conditions I am not ashamed to say that I love America no longer and the Stars and Stripes which meant so much to me in the past, mean nothing now. To think that a Cultural Institution can be attacked in the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave is nothing less than a tragedy. I feel that America has lost her soul. I Pray to God she will find it before it is too late. I have always felt that a country is only as strong as her educational and cultural system. What is left when a country is stripped of education and culture? These are certainly trying times and it is an awful strain to try to live through them. I do not know what I would do if I did not have the Master Institute of Roerich Museum and my Beloved Teacher, Mrs. Lichtman. She has been so wonderful to me during my illness. She has comforted me when things looked very dark. She is a Saint.

I wish you and Madam Roerich and your sons good health and happiness. Again I thank you for your beautiful and inspiring letter.

With deepest respect and gratitude, I am,

Sincerely,

Leontine Hirsch
Meyers.