

From

John G. Moore: Box 1106: Hollywood: California: U. S. A.

September 13, 1939,

Dear Professor Roerich:-

Sometime ago I wrote a letter to another world-figure, asking what in his opinion "U.S.A", and the "U. S. S. R," had in common. I was interested in discovering what, if any, "common denominations" there were between the two "democracies". (Supposing that U. S. S. R. or U. S. A. ARE democracies in the sense Walt Whiteman, probably, meant by this word "Democracy".) That individual-who happened to be Mr. George Bernard Shaw- replied in effect saying that once upon a time, "they had their common humanity in common", but he seemed to fear that that was "rapidly disappearing" due to the supposed fact that "we" in America, were making an erroneous effort at making of a personality fit for a new-age, or new world set of social conditions. But on the other hand, Soviet Russia, was, with a new kind of a "constitution", making for a personality that was rapidly moving towards The Future (Whatever that meant), and as the gap widened between U. S. A., and U. S. S. R., he seemed to feel that some inevitable and probably awful clash would come. He was, also, seemingly wagering that the "Red man of the Steppes" would finally win out in the coming struggle.

Since your own point of view relating ART itself to the great task of peace-maker, and civilizing agency has just come to my attention enough to make me see, in some degree perhaps, an aspect of your work in the effort to make a synthesis - I wondered if you would also give me your own view of the question Bernard Shaw thus answered. Do you, also, feel that there are irreconcileable tensions between the forms of government, or social organization that might be known as "Sovietization" and what might be finally known as the process of "Americanization"? You relate your own attitude, I believe, to the work of Walt Whiteman. And as I am interested particularly in Whiteman, and in his work as a civilizational influence, (the poets are the civilizers, I've believed), I wonder what you believe old Walt Whiteman woyld answer to this great question.