

Room No. 212,  
Taj Mahal Hotel,  
Bombay 15th Dec. 1948.

G. Venkatachalam, Esq.,  
6 St. John's Road,  
Bangalore.

As you have probably heard from my wife, I developed severe Bronchitis which completely paralysed my activities in all directions for the time being. It always seems that just when we have most to do, something of this nature comes about as a natural corrective or obstacle to be overcome and we lose quite a lot of time which could be otherwise usefully employed.

We hope to visit Bangalore in the near future as soon as I recover sufficiently as I do not feel very strong at present.

We were very happy to know that all the formalities regarding the Tatgunni Estate have been completed so nicely by Mr. Rao and I am very grateful to you for having personally helped in this connection.

We have many plans concerning this Estate, plans that I shall discuss with you when we meet again. In the meantime I would like to know your personal immediate plans, whether you plan to be in Bangalore or whether you will be going away over the holidays.

Unfortunately I have not been able to keep abreast of all the Art activities in Bombay and have not been able to visit any of the many exhibitions which have been taking place lately. This I regret very much as I was so looking forward to seeing some of them.

A Memorium Volume of Father is in preparation by the Youth Circle of Art and Culture. I hope it will not be long before it is out.

There are a number of things I wanted to discuss with you regarding some exhibitions etc., but I suppose we shall have to wait until we meet.

Our Doctor is back in Kulu putting the Estate in order, he writes that for him the Estate is a physical and mental relaxation after the civilized tension of Bombay. He found many mismanagements on the Estate but writes to say that everything can be put in order shortly.

It is a pity that our Provincial Government in the East Punjab is very slow in developing our hill tracks, at this rate it will yet take a long time before the Valley is properly developed.

The cost of living is rising there considerably yet there are no controls of any kind.



It will be a great joy when you can come with us and stay in our Himalayan retreat with all the associations and all the accumulated traditions around us. I often wish we could take a leisurely trip through Kangra, Mandi, Suket and Kulu and go up further to Lahoul and Triloknath. The Spring is always such a beautiful time when all the fruit trees are in blossom and all the flowers come out. Of all the seasons in some ways I like the Spring the best and I hope some day to take a coloured film of all the wonderful features of our Himalayan home.

Have you been writing anything and is your book "Forever India" ready for publication?

I have asked the "India" magazine to hurry up the matter of payment, they seem so hopeless, I do not know what they intend to do about it, however, I have hopes of at least getting yours shortly.

Do write to us soon. With all best wishes and greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

Svetoslav Roerich.



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Taj Mahal Hotel,  
Bombay, 3rd March, 1949

Dear Venka,

What happened to you? Mrs. Reubens writes to me that you have been in Bombay some days ago. All friends I meet are full of "Great Expectations" and yet no materialised form of your appears on the Bombay horizon.

Yesterday we went to Shanko Chaudhury's exhibition and I must say the exhibition was very good. It was very well attended and all round there were favourable comments. I was glad of his success because of the many disappointments he had in the arrangements and organisation of his exhibition. I also heard that he more than justified the scholarship which we have given to him last year. I am sure the Government would be happy to see his effort, I feel he should send the press cuttings to Delhi. This is the second successful exhibition of our scholarship recipients, Hebbar having had a most successful show only a few weeks prior to this. It is encouraging to see these younger men receiving a measure of acclamation which they deserve and the Government should be posted of their achievements.

Do let me know when we shall have the pleasure of beholding your most welcome countenance on this Bombay plane, in the meantime we send you our affectionate greetings and hopes that this letter may be written in vain and that you are on your way to Bombay.

S. Roerivh.



To G. Venkataswalam,

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President All India  
Association of Fine Arts.

13.7.49.

Dear Mr Venkataswalam,

In view of my inability to  
actively participate in the  
work of the Association, I feel  
it is right that I should  
discontinue my Vice-Presidency.

Needless to say I shall  
always be glad to give  
what ever advice and help  
I can whenever it may be required.



Wishing You and the All  
India Association of  
Fine Arts Every Success

Yours very sincerely

Sveraslo / Perich