

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

Dr. Hermann Goetz,
"Hira Villa",
Hira Bagh,
Visvamiitri Road,
Baroda.

Dear Dr. Goetz,

I am very sorry to have missed you in Bombay but I was laid up with severe Bronchitis and I am only now recovering.

I was very interested to receive from you the photographs of the manuscript pages and find them very interesting. It is difficult to judge from a photograph of the exact period, but undoubtedly there is a Central Asian influence, however it may have come there.

As regards my manuscript to which you refer, I of course shall be very glad to give your friends all the necessary data and facility to study the paintings. I have shown them to Dr. Motichandra, and he concurs with us fully that it is a definite work of the 15th Century, or even possibly the 14th. In view of a few unfortunate experiences that I had I would not like to send this manuscript away, but I shall certainly be very happy if it is made use of for purposes of study.

Both my wife and I send you both our very best wishes for the coming year. Let us hope it will be a better year, a year of greater enlightenment.

With our cordial greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

Svetoslav Roerich.

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Taj Mahal Hotel,
Bombay,
24th June 1952.

My dear Dr. Goetz,

A few days ago I have sent you a wire to Kulu asking you to contact Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar, Secretary, Ministry of Education, New Delhi. I suggested to Dr. Bhatnagar that one could hardly find a better man than you for work in connection with Museums and he asked me to write to you that you should contact him in Delhi. He wanted to know all your qualifications and the work you have done in the past for his Ministry. I hope my wire had reached you and you have contacted Dr. Bhatnagar. We shall stay here in Bombay for another ten days or so and we hope you may come to Bombay before we leave for Bangalore.

I received your post-card the other day and I was very glad to know that you visited Naggar and met our Doctor and Prof. Shibayev. I was most interested to know something of the material you have gleaned in the course of your travels. If only we could find something of the early art indigenous to the hills, especially Kangra and the other adjacent valleys, a most important link would have been found. I was told by number of people that there were illustrated birchbark manuscripts of the Kulu and adjacent valleys which were destroyed during some fires in the Parbati Valley some years ago and though I was not able to find any absolutely authentic early material, I am somehow inclined to believe that there was always an indigenous art of painting practised throughout the local valleys; whether it is related to the Kashmir Art and Artists who worked in Guge and other parts, or whether it is some other type of expression, these are questions which I feel will be solved in the not too distant future. I hope your trip may have given you some such material and I shall be eagerly expecting some communication from you.

I hope Mrs. Goetz and you had a very pleasant and interesting vacation and with all best wishes.

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Hermann Goetz,
Director,
Baroda Museum,
BARODA.

S. Roerich

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Dr. S. Roerich,
C/o. The Indian Bank, Ltd.
Infantry Road,
Bangalore Cantonment,
Mysore State, South India.

5th March, 1958.

My dear Goetz,

I have just received your letter and I am very sorry for the possible delay in our meeting - as it stands today, we ourselves may be coming to Bombay on the 12th or 13th of March, subject to Madam's return from Calcutta as she has some functions to attend there up to the 10th.

I am very anxious to meet you and Mrs. Goetz. Towards the end of March we shall be going to Delhi ourselves and shall be staying there for some time - hence whether in Bombay or in Delhi we are bound to meet; in the meantime I want to keep in touch with you so that there may be no delay in our meeting.

With kind regards to Mrs. Goetz and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. H. Goetz,
Jayamahal Palace,
(Baroda Palace),
Nepean Sea Road,
Bombay.

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20th May, 1958.

My dear Dr. Goetz,

The other day I was talking to Mr. Shaun Mandy of the Illustrated Weekly about an article on the art of the Chamba State, and I told him that it would be a most wonderful feature to have the photographs of the Chamba bronzes reproduced along with the articles. He did not know that you were back in India and was very happy to hear of it from me. If you could prepare a short article which could be used with good photographs of the bronzes which you have in your book, it would be a very important and timely contribution towards a better appreciation of the exceptionally high standards of art, as found in those regions. Have you got good prints of these bronzes, if not could you obtain them.

I have been in Bombay for the last few days, and I shall be staying at Bombay for a week or so before I leave for Bangalore. Do let me know if you can prepare an article of this type and when.

Do let me know your plans. I have read the two articles you sent to me with great interest. They reached me in Kulu where I spent a few weeks. I have taken a number of photographs of Kulu, temples and its cultures. I found many interesting things which should be described and reproduced. One of them is the large bronze image in the Vishnu temple at Naggar which is the most interesting large bronze which has never been photographed as yet because of the restricted space in the recess where it is kept. Are there any chance of your coming to Bombay soon, if so please let me know, and in the meantime, with my kind regards to Mrs. Goetz and yourself,

ADDRESS:

C/o. The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Bangalore Cantonment,
Mysore State, South India.

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31st May, 1958.

Dr. Hermann Goetz,
C/o. Dr. K. Kulsheshta,
11, "Saraswati Nivas",
B A R O D A.

My dear Dr. Goetz,

I was very happy to have your letter of the 25th, but I was sorry to read that you have not got the negatives of the Chamba Bronzes.

Mr. Mandy had shown me your letter to him and after discussing the matter we felt that perhaps it would be possible to re-photograph the Bronzes from either your Book or Vogel's Book on the antiquities of Chamba State. I would like to ask you whether we could obtain a copy of your book on Chamba since my book is in Bangalore and I shall not have it until I return there which will not be very soon as well as the other book by Vogel. Mr. Mandy feels that they will try the photographs and if they reproduce well they shall be able to use them. Kindly let me know as soon as possible as to whether I could obtain the necessary volumes. I am very anxious that an article by you should appear in the Weekly which could be ~~followed~~ ^{followed} perhaps by an article on sculptures and temples of Kulu. So little is known about the high standard of art which was found in these rather remote regions that I feel it should be brought to the attention of the public. I have a few photographs of Kulu's sculptures which I shall send you and perhaps you can make use of them for a popular article.

I was most interested to read about your plans and your work. There is so much that you can do in this country that I would not like you to go away for any length of time. I feel that the whole system of Valleys of North and East Punjab should be carefully surveyed from a point of view of art and archaeology, and I hope it will be possible for you to undertake this important work in the not too far distant future. I feel a great deal will come to light in the above regions of the Himalayas, and perhaps provide a clue to the major migration of art.

What type of collections will make part of the new museum in Baroda. It must be a very interesting, yet a very exacting task. — Do let me know whether and how we could obtain this book. I would personally like to have an another

Yours.

copy of your book on Chamba, and also like to have a book of Dr. Vogel, as my brother has taken his book with him.

You will be interested to know that Father's exhibition has been a tremendous success in Moscow and now the Government is preparing a Film on Father's life. A new monograph on his paintings is also being prepared in Moscow and will contain a *large* number of reproductions in colour.

With my kind regards to Mrs. Goetz and yourself. With all best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,

(Dr. S. ROBRICH)

C/o. The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Bangalore Cantonment,
Mysore State.

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June 14, 1958.

Dr. Hermann Goetz,
C/o. Dr. K. Kulshreshtha,
"Saraswati Nivas",
Baroda.

My dear Dr. Goetz,

Many thanks for your letter which I was very happy to receive. Your book on Chamba Temples was found here at the Asiatic Society, and the Times of India will see if they can make proper plates from it. If it will be found possible to reproduce the illustrations, then you will have to indicate to Mr. Mandy which of these photographs you want particularly to be used and send him the text of the article. I will suggest to use the two Davis, Narasinga and another one possibly the Ganesh or the Nandi Bull. It is important to give the texts as they are in your book and give an adequate description of the two beautiful bronzes of the two Davis sculptures. If you think any other photograph could be used, you are the best judge as to what should be incorporated in your article.

I am very happy about your para referring to a survey of the part of the Himalays and I sincerely hope that something can be organized to make this survey by you possible. I shall think over the various ways in which it could be done. I am sure the museum on which you are working will be a very interesting addition to the cultural life not only of Baroda but also of India. Every museum has a precious store-house of which every community should be proud of.

A film on Father's life which is being prepared in Moscow will contain shots which were taken in Kulu when he was still alive by Mr. Bhavnani. We have collected all the relevant shots and have sent them off to my brother. My brother writes that the exhibition of paintings will tour all the most important cities of the country, and at the moment it is running at Riga, then it will go to Reval and from there to Leningrad after which it will gradually go South. Articles on Father's art are appearing in a number of leading magazines and my brother will be sending me all the material as it becomes available.

I shall be going to Bangalore middle of next week. Kindly write to me to my address in Bangalore.

With my kind regards to Mrs. Goetz and yourself,

Yours very sincerely,

(S. ROERICH)

C/o. The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Bangalore Cantonment,
Mysore State, S. India.

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June 16, 1958.

Dr. Hermann Goetz,
C/o. Dr. K. Kulshreshtha,
11, "Saraswati Nivas",
Baroda.

My dear Dr. Goetz,

I have just heard from Mr. Mandy that unfortunately the photographs in your book could not be reproduced by the Illustrated Weekly, as they would show too much of the screening. It is very unfortunate as I was looking forward to an article on these bronzes. I would, however, suggest that, as I have a few photographs of some of the stone sculptures in Kulu, namely, sculptures at Bajaura and photographs of the temple itself which are good and can easily reproduce, perhaps you would consider writing an article on that aspect of the art of Kulu and introducing into it a reference to the Chamba bronzes, as there is no doubt that there was a common link between all the various schools of art in these parts of the Himalayas.

I will send you these photographs so that you may consider my suggestion, but I feel that it would make a very interesting introduction to the Himalayan art. I can also give you to reproduce a photograph of a bronze image in Kulu which is very distinct and very interesting to general treatment. Of course I have a number of bronzes from these parts and some of them are quite interesting because the same treatment that you find in the so called Kashmir bronzes extends to these parts. But while the photographs of bronzes I will have to get from Bangalore, the photographs of stone sculptures from Bajaura I have here and I shall send them to you as soon as Mr. Mandy approves of them for the Magazine.

You can well imagine how disappointed I was that the splendid Chamba bronzes could not be used for this article but perhaps we can make a beginning in this way and reserve the Chamba bronzes for later when the photographs will become available. There is in the Prince of Wales Museum a bronze of Vishnu astride upon Garuda which Dr. Motichandra felt might have come from Kashmir, but I feel that it could have easily come from either Chamba or even Kangra because of a very similar bronze which comes from Kangra. There is a Budha figure from Kulu which has exactly the same details as the Budha figure which was found in Kangra reproduced by Kumaraswamy and by S.K. Saraswati in the survey of Indian Culture and ascribed by him to Chamba. My bronze is a small one and bears an inscription but no date, but all the characteristics are obviously the same as in the other figure reproduced by S.K. Saraswati under No.137 of his illustration in his book. Fortunately mine has a portion of the Prabha, the pedestal has both the lions and the human figure in the same position but no unicorns which is possibly due to the fact that it is a small figure. I will see whether most of these bronzes from Kulu and Kangra have been photographed and I will send you the photographs.

Among the photographs of the Bajaura stone sculptures which I shall send you, is one figure of Vishnu which shows an interesting crown as you will find in some Kashmir sculptures.

Since there are records that the Ashoka Pillar was located some where near Kulu and that near Bajaura there is the site of a very ancient Stupa and other Stupa sites are indicated all along the valley right upto the upper regions, it is quite logical that developed Buddhist art was to be found in Kulu. Many years ago I have made arrangements with some villagers to excavate some of these sites

as they happened to be in the villages, but certain circumstances prevented my carrying out my plans, I suppose it will remain for some one else at some later date. Of course I do not exclude the possibility of doing some work if I can find sufficient time.

I would be very interested to know from you if at any time or any where you have come across some Chamba bronzes of the type reproduced in your Book, either in India or Europe. Many years ago while travelling in Europe I bought a bronze which was supposed to be a Tara. I have never been able to identify the exact provenance of this bronze and I am trying to get some photographs of it now because I would like you to see it; though the bronze is not large, the actual figure being only 14" in height, it is one of the finest examples I have ever come across in its simplicity and beauty. It has certain characteristic of Bihar or Nepal but at the same time it is different from those bronzes. It is an early bronze plated with heavy gold and a beautiful green patine where the gold flaked off. It is extremely simple in its treatment with very few ornaments, but very beautiful lines.

I shall be leaving for Bangalore on the 18th and I would like you to write to me to my usual address there. In the meantime sometime tomorrow I shall send you the photographs for your perusal. I do not remember the exact publications in which the Bajaura temple may have been described, but it was supposed to be 9th century.

With my regards to Mrs. Goetz and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

(S. ROERICH)

C/o. The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Bangalore Cantonment,
Mysore State, S.India.

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C/o. The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Infantry Road,
Cantonment,
BANGALORE 1.

18th December 1964.

My Dear Dr. Goetz,

I am very grateful to you for your article on Father and your thoughts on my art which I very much appreciate as coming from you. It is always a joy to hear from you and to read your always interesting letters.

Father's 90th Birthday has been widely celebrated in the Soviet Union and in India. Special Exhibitions were held in New York and there were meetings dedicated to his memory at Paris by his old friends and admirers. It is most gratifying to see how the young people of Russia respond to his art, to his thoughts and to his ideals. The Exhibition at Moscow has been extended so many times and is still running at this time. Hundreds of thousands of people have again come to see the paintings and have left wonderful records of their opinions which have been sent to us here. It is most gratifying to see the direction the young people are taking and it forebodes well for the country and for its spiritual and intellectual development. For his 90th Birth Anniversary, we have enlarged the galleries at Kulu and have placed many more paintings on exhibition.

What you write about collectorship and connoisseurship is very correct as you know I have been collecting all my life. The real reason for it, as far as I can see, is to surround myself with beautiful things and to make a first hand study of a particular art which is best obtained when one handles and intimately contacts these works of art.

I have been painting a great deal and many new paintings have been painted. I shall be sending to you their reproduction as soon as they are available, which I hope will be soon. The Monograph on my art has been badly overdue owing to the very unsatisfactory reproductions which are available in India. We are trying out new places all the time and always hope for the best. So far all the reproductions which have been made have been so far from the originals that I do not even dare to send them to anyone. Black and White is not very satisfactory yet sometimes it is better than a colour reproduction which does not correspond to the original.

Besides paintings of Indian scenes with which I am concluding a certain series of my work, now I have begun a series of philosophical and would be religious paintings which I shall be now working on. This series begins with a painting on a christian theme which is called "I WAS MAN".

Have you seen a very interesting confession by Pablo Picasso in the "The Living Museum", which is most significant and seems to give a new direction towards the proper appreciation of his own and much of modern art. I feel that the cycle is slowly coming to a close. Man is again looking for something which is real, something which is dictated by Greater Life and by the eternal values which always have and always will overshadow our evolution.

Quoting from Picasso's statement:

"But when I am alone with myself I have not the courage to consider myself as an artist in the great sense of the word, as in the days of Giotto, Titian, Rembrandt and Goya. I am only a public entertainer who has understood his time".

Coming back to the subject of collections, I have recently found some very interesting early Kashmir Bronzes and their derivatives in the Western Himalayas. As it often happens demand attracts supply. The uncertain conditions in certain parts of the Himalayas have resulted in the movement of art objects from such areas as Pangi, Jammu and parts of Ladakh. Some of them reflect a marked influence of Central Asia which somehow integrated with the local Gupta Proto-types.

Do write to us soon as it is always a joy to hear from you. My wife tells me she is writing to you separately at length.

With my warmest greetings to you and Mrs. Goetz and all best wishes for the coming season and the New Year.

Yours very sincerely,

(SVETOSLAV ROERICH)