

Dalhousie, 9/6/47.

1

Dear Professor Roerich,

I do not feel sure whether my letter of the 30th April, in reply to your so kind lines of the 19th, has ever reached you. For since, we have heard nothing from you. True, I had written it in a great hurry, under the pressure of so much work which had to be completed before we could start on our first vacations in a hill station after several years.

And now our stay at Dalhousie likewise is already approaching its end, as tomorrow we shall go on a hurried excursion through the Kangra Valley and then return to Baroda, attending on our way back some committee meetings. We have (had here) a very peaceful time, although I had to use it for catching up many arrears accumulated during the last winter. But we have highly enjoyed the pine forests and the wonderful views on the Ravi Valley at our feet and, beyond, the snow ranges of Pangti, have climbed several mountains and undertaken a number of excursions to various places in Chamba State and to Basohli. Partly I wanted to check up and complement my researches on Chamba and its old neighbour states which I had years ago undertaken for the Archaeological Survey, and which still await printing, partly I wanted to obtain an idea of the background of the old Pahari schools of painting. And now our coming tour will complete the picture, though we shall not go beyond Palampur or Baijnath, reserving Mandi, Kulu and Lahul for another visit, perhaps in autumn, perhaps in the next spring.

For we had not expected that you would now return to Kulu, and had already fixed up all our plans and arrangements when we learned that you are not yet going to the U.S.A. We hope very much that you and Mrs. Roerich enjoy the cool climate and beauties of Kulu, and that you will again bring back a collection of successful studies and paintings of your own, and that you will also discover more interesting works of ancient art.

We have been very delighted to learn that you have succeeded in arranging for an exhibition of your art at Bikaner. Sardar Panikkar is much interested in art, and I am convinced he will acquire a set of pictures for the state. Have you also approached Jodhpur? There is a latent competition and jealousy between both states which might prove a promising lever. The Maharajkumar is intensely interested in art, and the gigantic new Ummed Bhavan Palace badly needs more paintings, especially of a decorative character and with intensive colours.

I enclose copy of a circular letter from Professor R.F. Piper, Syracuse University, New York, asking for informations on modern religious art in India. I have already replied, drawing special attention also to your pictures. But as Professor Piper also asks for photos, and as you might surely be able to mention other artists in India not known to me, I forward the questionnaire to you in the hope that you, too, will contribute some material to Professor Piper's researches.

It had been so kind of you to offer me photos of Indian paintings in your collection. As already mentioned, I would feel very grateful if I could have ca. eight specimens altogether of the old Buddhist MS. from Kulu, Ahmadnagar and early Rajasthani Ragmalas (esp. of that I had admired so much), and perhaps also some Mandi and Kulu Pahari pictures, of real artistic quality. As my Oxford publisher is already urging me to send the illustration material for block making, I should be very happy if you could kindly send the photos at an early date.

When will you and Mrs. Roerich again be in Bombay? We shall come there already towards the end of June. Or might we also meet some day at Bikaner, as my work for that state brings me from time to

2/10



2/10

time there? What has become of your plans of a visit to the U.S.A.? Please convey our best regards to your parents and also to your brother. With our best wishes and greetings to you and Mrs. Roerich,

Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz

P.S. Address from 21st June again Banode.



Baroda, 13/3/48.

2

"Sitaram", Race Course Road.

Dear Professor Roerich,

We have a very bad conscience that we have not written you all the time. For the death of your dear father had shocked us very much and we felt what it must have been for you, though it must have come not quite unexpected after his last serious illness at such a high age. And the strain of the troubled times in Kulu must likewise have contributed to it. But at the time of the sad news I was almost hopelessly crushed under work, and we expected to meet you at Bombay. Thus we thought we might better express our sympathy on a personal visit. However, when we called at the Taj on Christmas day, we learnt that you had not yet come to Bombay. On a second visit in January I was told that you would only arrive some days later. And in the meantime the race against time went on, as I had to battle with my various obligations like a general who has to defend several fronts with insufficient troops. I have hardly been able to write any private letters in the last months. Now that things are a little better, may we tell you how highly we have always thought of your great father. We deeply regret that we never had the opportunity to meet him. What I have personally admired most was his growth over and beyond a historical crisis of the first rank which has uprooted not less people than it has destroyed, from the days of the "Sacre du Printemps" to his Himalaya sceneries. Only where all traditions and supporting milieu fall, and where man has to fall back on his innermost sources, the full size of his personality is revealed. The overwhelming cosmic vision permeating his paintings alone could give this strength. Thus we feel sure, also the end must have come to him as a natural link in the cosmic process, as to one of the great rishis of



the past.

We hope very much that you must now have no new anxiety about your mother. We learnt that in the meantime you have held an exhibition in New Delhi and that you intend to return to Bombay, in case you have not yet done so already. When we shall again come to Bombay, probably over the Holi and Easter holidays, we shall try to meet you again.

With our best wishes and kindest regards

to both of you,  
Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



3

Baroda, 3/12/48.  
"Hira Villa", Hira Bagh,  
Visvamiitri Road.

Dear Professor Roerich,

On the 10th - 12th December we shall be in Bombay and hope very much to meet Mrs. Roerich and you on this occasion.

I should, however, like now already to bring to your notice two matters. Some time ago an art dealer offered me five leaves of a Persian MS. which attracted my attention because their illustrations are Chinese, many of the figures Mongol, but the names of the persons represented show Byzantine emperors and Greek, Syrian and Egyptina patriarchs, possibly also European emperors and Popes. This is so exceptional that I would like you likewise to examine these pages as to their authenticity. I do not believe that they might be fakes, but it is not impossible that they might be copied from an earlier MS. If they should prove originals or copies of a lost original, they might be most interesting; but this still is to be proved. I enclose photos of one leaf.

Last time you showed me a Persian MS., and we came both to the conclusion that it might belong to the late Bahmani period. I have brought to the notice of Professor H.K. Sherwani, Hyderabad, who is specializing in Bahmani history, and who already before had enquired whether I know any genuine Bahmani paintings. He is anxious to see the MS. and, if possible, to have some photos taken from it. I suppose you will have no objection against this, and should feel much obliged if you would grant him necessary facilities.

With the best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



4

Dear Professor Roerich,

Thank you most heartily for your telegram of the 17th to Manali and for your letter of the 24th which I found here yesterday on our return to Baroda. It has indeed been most kind of you to recommend me for the post of the curator, National Art Gallery, at Delhi. I have had several interviews with Dr. Bhatnagar and Mr. Asfaque Hussain. What the final result will be, I do not yet know. With Dr. Bhatnagar I got on excellently, but Mr. A. Hussain approached the matter from such a narrow angle, i.e. part-time post, very poor pay, all the decisions in the hands of a committee, the members of which I cannot accept as my superiors, that I had to tell him that I would be interested only in case I would be treated with the consideration shown to a prominent museum director in Europe or America, with a considerable freedom of action and discretionary powers, and a genuine opportunity to build up the gallery. Dr. Bhatnagar, on the other hand, was broadminded, and though he could offer but a modest salary for the time being, he was prepared to consider my point of view. I promised to work out the necessary plans for the adaptation of the building and development of the collections, and agreed to an advisory board for such questions which I alone could not manage, and a controlling body, but otherwise a free hand within the limits of administrative rules. I told him also that, if necessary, I could manage also the National Museum (in Rashtrapati Bhavan). Finally, I insisted on sufficient opportunities for publicity. However, it seems that from other sides a different policy and another candidate (Dr. C.L. Fabri) have been proposed. Dr. Bhatnagar promised to inform me of the results of his interview with the Education Minister on the afternoon of our last day at Delhi, but then had no time and merely sent a slip saying that he would write me how the position stands. Thus, if any results are to be expected, there may be some more bargaining. It hardly needs saying, that I am very anxious to get the post, supposed it will be an opportunity and not just one more case of frustration.

Kulu had been very fine. But collections I have hardly seen. Instead I concentrated on the various old temples, Bashist, Jagat-sukh, Manali (Fort and Hirma Temple), Prini, Churu, Nagar and Bajaura. It was very interesting, but I still stand visavis a lot of unsolved problems. Anthropological, ethnological and art critical facts point towards some element in Kulu linking up with the west, though I am unable to explain or to identify it so far. Part of the folk types have reminded me of Nether Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Austria, the Kulavi female costume is related not to the Indian, but to that of pre-Christian Northern Europe, the wood carvings are in the technique of the Norse Viking ships, and their motifs are, to say the least, an adaptation of Western Central Asian types which I am still searching to classify. These hills seem, like the Caucasus, to be a strand of ethnic groups somehow swept into India from various sides, elsewhere absorbed, but here only partly. I was likewise surprised by the many late Gupta, Kashmiri and early Pratihara remnants. Mandi especially proved a treasure house for the beginnings of Rajput art.

On the way back we again visited Kangra and Nurpur, and added Guler-Haripur, though the weather (breaking of the monsoon) made this trip very strenuous.

We should indeed love to come to Bombay for a day or two when you are still there, and shall try to do so. But I feel not yet sure whether I shall be able to manage.



I hope very soon to be in a position to send you further news. In the meantime my repeated thanks for your so valuable support, and our best wishes and greetings to you and Mrs. Roerich,

Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



Baroda, 8/9/52. 5  
"Sitaram", Race Course Road.

Dear Professor Roerich,

*ans  
12.9.52*

In today's issue of the Times of India a conspicuous report has been published on the planned National Art Gallery in New Delhi. As you had recommended me to Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar for its curator post, I venture to request your kind advice again. You will surely have received my letter of 5/8/52 in which I informed you of Dr. Bhatnagar's letter saying that the proposal of my appointment had been sanctioned by the Education Minister and had been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, and that until their decision the matter still was sub judice. I must assume that the present newspaper report would not have been published if the scheme had not passed another stage of its materialization. I, therefore, feel that also the question of my appointment has reached its decisive stage. But so far I have not received any further news from Delhi, nor any other indirect hint in the matter. However, I saw from the newspapers that Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar has left for London, as Secretary to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research. Thus, if this is not some additional job, he seems to be no more in the Ministry of Education, and moreover I cannot contact him. You will understand that I feel somewhat troubled and afraid that these charges might upset my hopes. Unfortunately I know nobody else whose advice I might ask for, and as utmost secrecy has been demanded from me, I cannot ask anybody else than you. Will things now develop smoothly and is an order to be expected soon, or would it be necessary to take further steps in Delhi? I may in this connection mention an event which might prove very helpful. General Cariappa has visited the Baroda Museum on 28/8/52 and has become so enthusiastic that he spoke about our achievements here to the Prime Minister. I enclose a copy of his letter of thanks for reference. I could not speak to General Cariappa on my hopes for Delhi, and so Nehru would not necessarily draw any conclusions in this direction. But in case of any possible difficulties, I believe this interview might be able to remove all obstacles. I should feel most grateful if you would kindly advise me how to act, or even more if you would be in a position to do something in the matter. Such as things develop here, it is most important for me to obtain the Delhi position.

In the meantime your picture of Girnar has appeared in the last Illustrated Weekly and Mr. Mandy had asked me to add a write-up to it. I hope you will be satisfied, though I perhaps missed the point a little as I had the other Girnar painting of yours in mind which years ago had been exhibited in the Baroda Museum, and which, as far as I remember, had treated the subject in a very different, almost impressionist manner. We were also pleased to see your portrait of Mrs. Roerich on the cover of the preceding number. We have not met you so long that it was a sweet memory.

I have worked hard during the last months trying to prepare things in the museum for a possible sudden winding up and arranging all the newly collected research material, besides working up my old Chamba studies for publication outside the Archaeological Survey for which they had originally been prepared.

We hope you enjoy your stay in Bangalore. We should feel very happy if there would be a chance to meet you and Mrs. Roerich again in the near future.

With hearty thanks in advance and kind regards from both of us,

Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



Baroda, 29/9/52.

"Sitaram", Race Course Road.

Dear Professor Roerich,

Thank you very heartily for your letter of the 13th. It has helped us over an uneasy time of doubts and permitted us to follow a clear line of action. In the meantime other high visitors from Delhi, Maharaj and Maharani Rajendrasinhji and Maj. General A.N. Sharma, also of Army Head Quarters, had been here and not less enthusiastic than General Cariappa. And day before yesterday the long awaited letter came, the Bombay Government informing me that the Government of India has asked for my services, and that I should report on the winding up of my work here and my possible successor. I replied that I can complete the modernization of the art and archaeology sections here before the end of this year, and that I am, moreover, bringing out a Handbook of the Baroda Museum within this time. I hope very much that now things may develop smoothly. Until everything will have been definitively decided, the matter is, of course, strictly confidential. I shall write Dr. Bhatnagar as soon as he will have returned. I am already thinking of all the possibilities Delhi would offer us. If I shall not be hindered too much by interference from committees and other offices, I believe that in a centre like Delhi I shall be able to achieve very much. In any case I have to thank you very much for your so precious support. Before going to Delhi, we shall in any case have to come to Bombay and so feel sure that this time we shall not miss you, especially if you could inform us when you will go there. And later on it will be much easier in any case. After all our tours in the last winter and summer, I should likewise love to discuss with you lot of problems of Indian art. We should also like to see your latest paintings. We hope you and Mrs. Roerich are in the best health. With the best wishes and greetings

Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



7  
Baroda, 12/11/52.  
"Sitaram", Race Course Road.

Dear Professor Roerich,

Thank you very much for your wire. It is good that we now know when you will come to Bombay. We have to go there in any case, but have a considerable margin left as to the date. And we are anxious to see you and Mrs. Roerich again. We are still waiting for the final decision regarding our future. When we were in Bombay over Diwali, the Education Secretary had not yet received the necessary proposals from the Director of Education, Poona; but as two weeks ago enquiries were made about some last details, I believe that by now the papers must have been submitted to the Government. On the 12th October I had informed Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar how things stood then, but from the reply I got the impression that Dr. Bhatnagar had not yet returned. Thus everything still is in suspense.

In the meantime I am working very hard to wind up before the end of this year. I have written a Handbook of the Museum (a summarized catalogue of all the collections, richly illustrated) giving everything to the press immediately, and I expect it to be out before the end of this month. I am now preparing some retrospective papers on the reorganization work of the last decade. The completion of the art sections is progressing at high speed, only handicapped because of the delay of the promised funds, though some days ago I have intervened directly with the Finance Minister. Pandit Nehru is expected to visit Baroda next month in connection with the University Week, and I hope he will open this last part of my reform work here. Moreover our archaeological section has now received the most important hoard of Jain bronzes discovered here last year, amongst which there are some quite first-class pieces, and I shall get this likewise opened on the same occasion. Only the utter onesidedness of my present work is somewhat a strain, as all this labelling and cataloguing forces me temporarily to suppress all creative intellectual urges. But the circumstances justify the sacrifice.

Looking forward to meet you next month, with our kindest regards to you and Mrs. Roerich,

Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



8

Baroda, 16/7/53.

"Sitaram", Race Course Road.

Dear Professor Roerich,

Thank you very much for your two letters of the 10th and 19th June, and for all your so kind interest in the development of our affairs. We had hoped to meet you before you would leave Bombay. But the rush of work here proved much worse than expected and things in Delhi dragged on and on. And then we learnt from Mrs. Geeta Satyadev Mayor that you were already leaving Bombay. Now at last we are so far that tonight we shall leave for Delhi. How things there look, we do not yet know. Government undertook at least a partial reconsideration of the contract offered but all details are not yet clear, and I expect that everything will be settled only on the spot. In the meantime I had already to submit quite a series of statements regarding the future National Museum which proved rather difficult as I know neither the files nor the existing collections, and as, moreover, there seem to be some fundamental hitches in the scheme. I have, however, used the opportunity to outline my plans and policy, as I can see them so far. A.H. seems to have changed his opinion and now is very polite. But all this are only preliminary impressions. Even where we shall stay at Delhi, we do not yet know. I shall write you again from there. In the meantime we hope you and Mrs. Roerich are well.

With kind regards from both of us,  
Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



Bombay, 3/3/1958.

9

Dear Professor and Mrs. Roerich,

We have arrived here on the 1st in the hope that in this way we might be able to meet as many of our friends as possible. Unfortunately it has not worked out as we expected, as several of them had to change their plans, and thus we learn that also you are coming later to Bombay. Just now Miss Roshan Vazifdar has told me on the telephone that you are coming only in the second week of March. We hope it will still be possible to meet you, for we shall have to leave at the latest on the 12th of March, as shortly afterwards we shall have to go to Delhi. In case things would still work out, please contact us at Jayamahar Palace, (Baroda Palace), Nepean Sea Road, tel. no. 40837.

Hoping very much to meet you here,  
with kind regards from both of us,  
Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



अन्तर्देशीय पत्र

इस पत्र के अन्दर कुछ न रखिये



Professor and Mrs. S. Roerich

c./o. the Indian Bank,

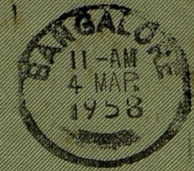
Cantonment Branch,  
Infantry Road,

Bangalore

South India

भेजने वाले का नाम और पता :-

Dr. H. Goetz,  
Jayamahar Palace,  
Nepan Sea Road,  
Bombay 6.



पत्र का पता लिखिये

पहला मोड़

तीसरा मोड़



Permanent mail address:  
c./o. Dr. K.Kulshreshtha,  
"Sarasvati Nivas",  
Baroda 2.

Baroda, 25/5/1958. 10

Dear Professor Roerich,

Thank you most heartily for your letter of May 20, and for your so kind suggestion to write an article on the early Chamba bronzes for the Illustrated Weekly of India. I had regretted it very much that during our two stays at Bombay in this year I have not yet managed to visit Mr. Mandy. I hope it will be possible on the next occasion.

I quite agree that such an article would be attractive. But the difficulty is that the old negatives with the Archaeological Department can no more be traced, and that Mr. Ghosh had refused to have new ones taken. It is rather hopeless to obtain any photos from the Archaeological Department, and one has to rely on one's own or other private photos. Unfortunately my own collection is stored in Europe, as we had come out only with light air luggage. Thus I do not see how I could prepare such an article at present.

Your new photos from Kulu seem to be most interesting, and I should like to see them some day. Indeed, we should like to visit Kulu again. But other tasks are for the time being more urgent. It would be very nice to meet you now at Bombay. But I cannot leave here at present, and we shall come to Bombay again probably in the later Monsoon.

We are very busy here. The greater part of our time we are occupied with the preparation of the museum planned by the Maharaja. The selection of the exhibits, and the rearrangement of the palace in order to fill the gaps are almost completed. And the plans and estimates for transforming one of the buildings in the palace compound into a modern museum are likewise ready. We are now occupied with exploring the condition of the paintings, getting the



present heat is a considerable strain, even with the facility of a desert cooler. -- We hope you had a pleasant time in Kulu and are both in the best of health. With our kindest regards to you and Mrs. Roerich,  
Yours sincerely,  
H. G. Gokhale

most urgent repairs done and preparing an inventory of the collections.

By the side of this work I have to complete the manuscript of a History of Indian Art which should be out at Christmas, and I am very hard pressed to get all the illustrations and the text ready in time. This work leaves me hardly any free minute.

In autumn when the climate will be better, we intend to undertake a number of research tours, especially in the South and Ceylon. Thereafter our plans are not yet fixed. Possibly we may in the next summer pay another visit to Europe where I want to finish some other work in preparation, and shall return when the new museum building in Baroda will be ready, so that we can take up the display, catalogue, etc.

Possibly there may be work also for other maharajas. And I have to write also two more books. As to the Indian government, I had not yet found the time to work out any clearly formulated proposals. I had merely sent to the Prime Minister a report on my experiences in the Indian administration, including a number of reform suggestions. I have avoided all personal complaints and strictly stuck to a detached analysis of what seemed to me wrong with the system. In submitting this report I had followed his personal suggestion expressed during my interview with him in March. But whether Nehru has read or handed it on to some competent man, I do not now know. It just got into the crisis of Nehru's possible retirement. As to other steps, it might be better to wait until the next visit to Delhi which will probably come off in connection with plans of the Information Department. It seems to me that a preliminary tentative discussion would help to find out which of my various projects might have a chance of finding the Government's support.

All this still is rather vague. But for the time being the concrete tasks on hand keep us busy to the utmost. And you will understand that work in the



Permanent mail address:  
c./o. Dr. K.Kulshreshtha,  
"Sarasvati Nivas",  
Baroda 2.

at present: Madras,  
Hotel Dasaprakash,  
22/2/1959.

11

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Roerich,

Your letter of the 23rd January had been a great pleasure to us. We are now back at Madras, after a lot of, often very strenuous, travelling. With some difficulty we managed to visit Ceylon for ten days. It was a beautiful trip, a glorious scenery, an art with a very different development notwithstanding its Indian sources, the royal palace ruins at Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, the charming folk style of Kandy. It was only hindered by some days of heavy rain; the Sigiriya rock we climbed in a torrential downpour.

After our return we proceeded to Kerala which we found somewhat disappointing with all the temples closed for us and social life full of unrest and indiscipline. But we saw the Cochin and Padmanabhapura palaces with their murals, studied the fine bronzes and mural copies in the Trivandrum museums, saw your and your father's paintings there, visited a very interesting Syrian church at Kottayam, went to the Periyar Lake and Cape Comorin. Then a thorough study of Pallava, Chola and Pandya monuments not to mention the innumerable Nayak buildings, at Tiruvalisvaram (near Ambasamudra), Kalugamalai, Madura and neighbourhood, Ramesvaram, Pudukkottai area, Tanjore, Trinchinopoly, Gangaikondasolapuram, Kumbakonam, Darasuram, Tirubhuvanam and Chidambaram. It was most interesting, and I got quite new ideas on the whole development of South Indian art. The gigantic Chola temples are surely impressive, but the really glorious masterpieces are small shrines like Kodumbalur, Kalugamalai, Tiruvalisvaram or the late Chola temple at Darasuram. In the smaller places we were permitted to enter even the sanctum of the temples, and far from the tourist crowd it was often an entrancing experience. Not to mention the wonderful scenery, the fantastic cliffs of Kalugamalai, Sittanavasal, Gingee, the Papanasam Valley, the sand dunes of Ramesvaram. We spent a day at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram at Pondicherry, and now are again in Madras in order to straighten out so many things and affairs neglected during our tour, before we shall continue it further north.

Seeing your paintings again at Trivandrum (which, by the way, we found in good condition), I have been thinking much of our discussions at Bangalore. I feel I have to rethink a number of issues. For you and your father have gone a way outside the current trends, and this forces one to a new critical examination of the accepted interpretations of present-day art. I had already before begun to doubt a lot of ideologies; it is good that I have been set to the problem again.

I am glad to learn that you have received the copy of my book and that you like it. It is meant as a present, for I have sufficient complimentary copies. Now, I should, of course, like to rewrite the paragraphs on Southern India. For study on the spot has offered me a more lucid and logical interpretation. What impressed me most, was the complete switch-over from rather modest shrines in close interrelation with nature in Pallava and early Chola times to the dark halls of the late period, completely cut-off from the surrounding landscape by huge walls, and from the open sky by endless ceilings. It is a psychological reversal of much more than art-historical significance, a cue to the transformation of Hinduism from a grandiose nature religion to a priest-ridden ritualism.

The visit to Delhi has not yet brought any new developments; things there move very slowly. And for the



time being we are completely preoccupied with our tour. I badly need time quietly to work out plans for the future. Always one is in a rush; for the work one really wants to do, there is hardly any time.

Indeed, it would be wonderful if we could meet again in a not too distant future. With most hearty greetings to you and Madam,

Yours sincerely,

A. Goetz



c./o. Maharaja Fatesingh  
Museum Trust,  
L.V. Palace, Baroda.

Baroda, 30/11/1959.

12

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Roerich,

It is now a long time that we have been out of contact. We have returned to India only recently after a very strenuous, but not less interesting time in Europe and the Near East. Thus I hardly found leisure for writing letters, but we hope you will at least have received the publications I had sent you, esp. the catalogue of the Indian art exhibition at Essen. After the completion of our tour through South India and Ceylon we flew beginning of April to Teheran from where we made an excursion to Isfahan, then continued our trip to Istanbul, Athens (with excursions to Corinth, Delphi, Hosios Lukas), were three weeks at Rome (however staying at Castel Gandolfo), then went via Venice, Padua, Verona, Innsbruck and Munich to Essen where we attended the opening of the Indian art exhibition in Villa Hügel, stayed two months with my sister in Heidelberg, however lecturing in several towns, then went to Paris via Strasbourg, Nancy, Reims, Chartres and Fontainebleau, and at last were in London until end of October (with a brief visit to Oxford), to return to India via Zürich and Beirut (with excursions to Baalbek, Damascus, Jerusalem and several smaller places). I was almost crushed with work as I had not only to write very much, journalistic as well as research papers, but had to revise and see through the press the second German, the English, American and Italian editions of my history of Indian art (India: 5000 Years of Indian Art, now available with Tara-porevala, Bombay), a contribution to another Italian publication, etc. Whether in the Via Vittorio Veneto, the Piazza San Marco, the Avenue des Champs Elysées or at Jerusalem, I had to sit over proofs or manuscripts even while taking a cup of coffee. On the other hand I could do lot of research work and could study the Indian art collections in London and Oxford, not to speak of the innumerable new impressions we have had of early Southwest Asian and Islamic, Byzantine, and old as well as modern European art, all the aspects of archaic and modern life, the many interesting people, and relatives as well as old acquaintances we have met. But you can imagine that now we feel most pleased to settle down again for some time, though we do not know for how long. The new building here is not yet ready as had been planned, but most of it is already up and we can start at least the preparations for its interior arrangement. Showcases, etc. likewise need their time to become ready, and we also have to work out the catalogue for which we have collected all necessary informations in the course of the summer, but which at present merely are a heap of untidy notes.

I have, of course, not forgotten our former discussions and send you, enclosed, the promised article. I hope it is up to your expectations; I have no objections against minor



alterations to adjust it to special needs. When in Bombay we had enquired about you at the Taj, hoping you might be there. But as you had not come, we send you our best regards and greetings, and hope soon to have news from you.

With the kindest wishes,

Yours sincerely,

H. Goetz



Heidelberg, 12.12.1964.

*Dr. Siegfried Roerich*  
*on the occasion of his 60th Birthday.*

13

*Dr. Hermann Gatz - (22nd Oct 1964)*

Dear Dr. Roerich,

My wife and I have learned with great pleasure that on the occasion of your 60th birthday the government of Mysore has honoured you with a reward, after you had, already three years ago, received the Padma Bhushan from the Indian Central Government, and that also in the USSR two glaciers have been named after you and your father. We take this opportunity to congratulate you not only to this turning point in your life, but also to the appreciation for your work which has found expression in these honours.

Once 60 years had been regarded as the average span of human life. In any case their completion represents the time when one has to think of taking stock of one's activities during the preceding forty years, to examine whether they can stand the criticism of maturity, to envisage what still remains to be done in the years still granted to us, when it is our task no more to grow into this world or to grow in it, but to transcend it more and more.

It can then fill one with a warm satisfaction to know that the efforts of many years have borne so much fruit that they find so remarkable public recognition. We rejoice with you in these honours, as we know how well deserved they are. During so many years ~~of~~ our acquaintance with you and your so charming, intelligent and energetic wife has grown into a friendship based on our highest esteem for both of you, as highly cultured persons with a breadth of outlook and a depth of sympathy found so rarely, and not less as artists and as art connoisseurs.

It is difficult to live in the shadow of a great father, even to the extent of following the same profession, and yet to achieve perfection and fame in one's own right. But you have succeeded in achieving just this. There surely is a certain continuity of tradition, the gradiosity of concept, the sweeping contours, the bright colours, the search for the creative flux of ultimate reality behind the visible appearances of things. But in all other respects your art is different. Your father's vision had been Russian, but expanded into the vastness of high Asia. Yours is international, however accentuated by a special love for India. Your line has less majesty, but the rhythm of dance and a delicate sense for nuances. Your colours have not the bright, yet simple contrasts of cold and dry countries, but the warm glow and highly sensitive variegation of the ~~tropical~~ tropical light. People are for you not so much signs in an all-pervading cosmic symbolism, immersed in the consciousness of an all-powerful transcendent reality, they are themselves avatars of the divine, worth of sympathy, worth of pity where they are helpless victims unconscious of their real nature, admirable where they have discovered that latter. Woman played but a very subordinate role in the art of your father, for you she is an object of special interest, Sakti, Maya, Prakriti, the Great Mother. At least so I see it.

This is what we feel as the link with you and Devika Rani. Art not merely as a craft, an enjoyable thing of beauty, a fashion, but the expression of the awareness of the Life Divine. And this connects us also in another field, in that of collectorship and connoisseurship. I have never understood the pride of possessing a masterpiece, nor the pride of being an expert which so often misguides people into petty competitions and quarrels about irrelevant details or on problems the solution of which in most cases has to await the availability of more material. However I know the joy of discovery, the desire to rescue neglected, no more understood works of art, the ecstasy of novel perspectives revealed by them.

This is the bliss of the meditations spreading out before our inner eyes the whole process of individual and collective human life, within the vaster setting of nature, and ultimately of the whole cosmos as far as that latter is accessible.



The world of the Samsara, the projection of Maya, individually appearing absurd perhaps, but not in its wholeness, in that perspective where "the visible world is nothing but a manifestation of Mind itself" (as it has been said in the Lanka-vatara Sutra, but as we might as well say in the light of modern science). I still remember the hours when we had discussed suchlike matters and I guard them as a costly memory.

We believe you have achieved this, to be a man of the world and yet not to be absorbed into it, to see it also as a spectator and as a re-creator, in the compass of the greater, all-pervading reality. We feel sure that your wife, herself a woman of the world and a creating artist, has had her important share in all this. With sixty the decisive years of human life set in, the years of testing and final reshaping and maturing. We hope that they will fulfil this expectation.

With our best wishes and kindest regards,

Hermann Goetz



Heidelberg, 3.2.1974.  
Gutenbergstr. 8.

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Dear Madam Roerich,

Our heartiest thanks for your Christmas card and for your kind letter of January which reached us a few days ago. We, too, think of you very often and had written to you on the 2nd December 73 by airmail. But it seems this letter has not reached you and, therefore, here follows a copy of this letter. With kindest regards from both of us to you and your husband,

Yours sincerely,

Hermann Goetz

Copy.

Heidelberg, 2.12.1973.

Dear Dr. Roerich,

Hearty thanks for your letter of the 8th Jan. 1973. Now this year is approaching its end, and I would not like to postpone my reply any longer. For this is the time when one is especially thinking of one's friends with all the best wishes.

I wrote you in my last letter about the bad state of my health; unfortunately it has become worse during this year. I feel great difficulties in seeing and walking, and just in the last months these handicaps have become most depressing, as I can hardly leave the house. This is the worse, as I can hardly read. That some students and assistants have agreed to read to me some hours in the week, is a certain nice help, though insufficient in a time so full of changes as our own. I had to cancel my university lectures already two years ago and had to cut down scientific writing to a few papers which seem to me really important, but even this work proceeds very slowly and only thanks to the devoted help of my wife. Old age makes itself felt more and more. In the course of this summer the university has celebrated my 75th birthday, a quite touching experience, however costing a lot of time and energy. Then came the preparations for the publication of another volume of former writings of mine on Gupta and early Mediaeval Indian art which I had mentioned to you in my previous letter, but which for technical reasons had again been delayed for a year.

We were very pleased to learn that the work of your deceased great father is now appreciated so much in Russia and that his centenary will be duly celebrated. You will understand from what I wrote about my health, that unfortunately I shall not be able to give a lecture on him. It is a great pity. We also regret very much that the doctors no more permit me a return to India. How much we would like to meet you and Madam again! India is no more a far distant country, by air it has become neighbourhood. We feel this very much in the university, visavis the great interest of the younger generation in South Asia and its cultures. Whither does this develop? Perhaps to the first stage of one world. Though in practice this still may mean a long and hard way. May this also be the meaning of our lives?

We are so much interested to learn that both <sup>of</sup> you will go to Russia next year, and that also your own exhibition will be held there. In any case we hope not to lose contact with you and Madam.

With our best wishes for a happy New Year and kindest regards from both of us,

Yours sincerely,

(Hermann Goetz)