

Mr. W.M. Irvine.

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THE STATE GUEST HOUSE.  
TRIVANDRUM.  
TRAVANCORE STATE.



24th. Spetember, 1940.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

It was a very pleasant surprise indeed to receive your welcome letter, and I do not know how I can ever thank you for the most handsome gift which I have received.

The Volume is magnificent, and something that I will treasure and prize all my lifetime, and I trust that others, after me, will do likewise. It is a treat that I had not anticipated and such things inflame in me something that words cannot express, but, gratitude can only be expressed in service in return, to the poor and lowly.

I desire to take leave now and get a few weeks to sit with the Volume and peruse it to my heart's delight, but, I doubt that the leave is not to be, as we will soon be busy again with the Birthday Celebrations of His Highness which will begin in the last week of October. Are you coming down to Trivandrum then? If so I will have the pleasure of again seeing you and be able to thank you in person.

One of my friends who is of a very artistic nature had a look at the book, and is anxious to know if there are any of the works illustrated in the volume, still available & for Sale, at Naggara. Can you pass on this information to me, please? I am likely to be at Trivandrum for some time now, as the Government have extended my term of service with them till further notice, and only on the same old Terms. No betterment, so, under the international conditions at present I doubt if it would be wise for me to cut adrift and go elsewhere, so I am in the meantime remaining here till I hear of something that I feel will be more suitable to my temperament, and incidentally, have pleasure in working for a person or persons who would feel disposed to, at least, appreciate my endeavours.

I had a visit from my old Friend Mr. Krumbeigal of Bangalore, sometime ago, and I have given him the request as I received it from you, regarding the Terrestrial Orchid, but, so far I have not had any word from him as to whether he can secure one for me, but, if so I know he will get it and send it on to me and if it does come I can forward it on to you, or if you are



likely to be coming to Trivandrum , perhaps you could get it with you. He is very interested in Orchids and knew the type, but, as he had given on loan a very good set of volumes on Orchids to one of his acquaintances and had not had it returned he was not able to let me see an illustration which he thinks is given in one of the volumes. However, as he is a born German, but well over 70 years of age, he was only permitted to travel on special licenses, granted for each journey and I do not know when he is likely to be back, but, perhaps it may be better if I write him about the orchid and ask if he has been successful.

Now I trust that you and all your Family are keeping good health, and Mrs. Irvine and I send you all our very Best Wishes with a prayer that the present international conditions will soon rectify itself and the Old World become sane, at least for a respite from turmoil, and allow natural developement to take the place of this un-natural and constant strife which abounds into the remotest parts and affect the whole of society.

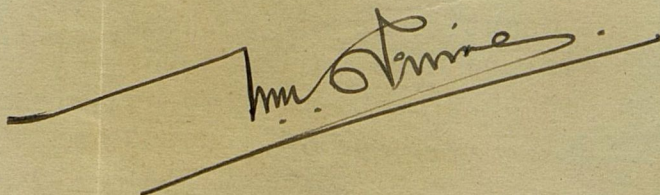
The loss of valuable time is appalling, to say nothing of the wastage of human Life, but, when Man is intolerable and refuses to justly see the real aspect of this short duration on which we have to draw ,and frame our existence, I feel sure that they who make strife fail to see that all the good things that are worth having and cost nothing, are the natural Gifts that have been bestowed on us by Nature. Not Man Made.

I would be delighted to try and see if Kulu Fruit will actually reach Trivandrum in Good Condition, as we have often been tempted to try out an order on such firms as Bannon Bros just to see if Fruit will travel all this distance and be wholesome on arrival. Many thanks for your kind offer which we both appreciate. With Many Salaams and every Good Wish.

I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

S. Roerich, Esq.  
NAGGAR.  
KULU Valley  
North Punjab.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mrs. Irvine", is written over a series of horizontal lines that form a decorative flourish or underline.