



GOVT. SCHOOL OF ART & CRAFTS,
LUCKNOW.

16 Dec 1947

My dear Sviatoslav,

We were stunned to receive your telegram conveying the mournful news of the death our revered friend and preceptor Prof. Nicholas de Roerich. It is unthinkable that the great soul is no more with us : for across the dark abyss of Time, we can still feel his sanctified presence and ringing voice affirming the victory of Truth, Beauty and Culture.

I cannot speak for others, but contact with him has been one of the turning points of my life and career and his inspiring life has served many times as a beacon-light to my own in those dark hours when doubts, disbeliefs and fears assail us. I learnt the true significance of an artist's life from him - as, I am sure, many many others have done.

His passing away is the saddest calamity to all artists and cultural workers throughout the world and I hope and pray that his memory will be worthily cherished in every land both for his magnificent works as well as his untiring efforts in the cause of the advancement of Culture.

Our whole school assembled in silent prayer yesterday in honour of the illustrious dead and notices have appeared in many Lucknow papers. The school was closed for the day after an address to the students on the



greatness and genius of Prof. Roerich by Principal L. M. Sen
We all consider the death of Prof. Roerich as a personal loss,
like the death of a nearest and most revered relation and
even our children are smitten with deep sorrow, for, even
without having seen Prof. Roerich, they regarded him as the
most revered friend of their father, a great artist, a noble
soul and the stoutest champion of Beauty and Culture of
all time.

We offer you our deepest condolences and are one with
you in your sorrow, which is no less ours than yours.
May the deodars of Himalayas whisper their eternal lullaby
on his quiet resting place and the deep peace of a life
of fulfilment and fervent devotion be for ever his in the
bosom of God!

Yours in sorrow,

Bireswar Sen