

April 26, 1981 1

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U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Roerich

Many thanks for your
gracious letter. It is my
understanding that Astor's
journey to Egypt will take
place from November 7 through
21 of this year. I would be
making the trip to India at
the end of the Egyptian trip-
around November 22. Actually, I
would be making a special
journey for this purpose, so I
would really need to know as
much in advance as possible
whether or not you and your
wife will be in the country
at that time, as I will certainly

not come otherwise.

At present I am working on the article for The Theosophist, the international publication of the Theosophical Society at Adyar, India. My subject is "Inner Reality in the evo- yesterday - today - tomorrow." as usual, I am drawing very heavily on the philosophy of Professor N. Roerich. Of course, I have as many books by and about him as possible and numerous reproductions (not enough of course) - My most recent books include Nikolay Roerich (Masters of World Painting) Aurora Art Publications - Leningrad and Nicholas Roerich by Barbara Roerich, the Aquarian Educational Group, Agoura, Calif. This is a publication put out in 1974 by Torbom Saraydorian.

Its publication was to honor the centenary year of Prof. Paenich's birth. Saraydorian says: "We are publishing this book as an expression of our deepest gratitude for his philosophy and art..."

With further reference to Saraydorian, I am also reading his fine book, "The Melame of Beauty - Culture - Love - Joy" and find it most helpful in researching my work, as it is entirely consonant with Prof. Paenich's thoughts. Here is a quotation which, I think, gives the purpose of the artist so very well:

"The task of the artist is to give birth to a new humanity through expanding the vision of humanity to the levels of harmony - to the levels of beauty. An artist conceives new ideas, new ideals, and

through them expands the consciousness of humanity. It is through such an expansion that cleavages are healed, new fields of cooperation and understanding are reached, new energies are brought down for daily use, and new visions are presented for human striving."

I am privileged to know a fine cosmic artist in this country, Arthur B. Douët, who does vast cosmic paintings and who specializes in cosmic portraits. It might interest you to hear a few of his thoughts on art.

"The language of art speaks directly to the heart. That's what it's all about. It goes beyond intellectual reasoning, esthetic appreciation, or social satire and protest to the Core of Being. ... on the subject of portraiture he says: "The true portrait must convey the inner depth of Being beyond the

transient surface appearance of the shells we live in. When I do a drawing of someone I always seek to attune myself to the soul and work from there outward. But that seeks to show inner reality beyond veiled appearances is not the private property of any one individual but is a movement that is surfacing along with the awakening of humanity!" (Let us hope so, indeed!)

Danët is a most interesting man.

Now about 44 years old, he spent the first part of his life as a police officer in Jamaica. (He is of French descent.) - Then realizing that only in art would he fulfill his destiny, he left the force at great sacrifice, went to Paris to study art, and now it is his whole life. I wish there were some way to

have an international association of artists, so that great spiritual artists, such as you and he, could meet at least "on paper" and exchange views.

I enclose five copies of a prayer to angels of Beauty and Art by the noted Theosophical writer and lecturer, Geoffrey Hodson, which might interest you. I say this, frequently for all spiritual artists.

Next Sunday I will be busy doing my "Inner Portraits". These are small pastel portraits which portray both the inner and outer aspects of the sitters, so, in my small way, I am trying to contribute to new age art.

As I am sure you know by now, I am a member of the Theosophical Society. In connection with a

recent visit I made to our national headquarters at Wheaton, Illinois, one of our members there gave me a photostat of an article which appeared The Theosophist in 1925, concerning the visit of Prof. Nicholas Roerich to Adyar on the occasion when he presented his glorious painting - "The Messenger" - in honor of Madame H. P. Blavatsky. I am anxious to hear your impressions of it. With very slight exceptions I loved it all. -

Dr. Roerich, I am assembling some color slides of the work of spiritual artists for sound slidefilm presentations which I hope to give in the future on new age art, and, if they are available, I would

like to purchase some slides of your work. - (This will be in addition to my presentation of "Nicholas Roerich - Messenger of Beauty" which I obtained from Whiston.) Artists in the new age art group will include Nicholas Roerich, Arthur B. Dow, an outstanding Italian woman artist, Sirena, who works in New York and has received the highest award possible to an artist, (and from the past Van Gogh, Kandinsky, Rodin, etc., if possible)

I would like to mention how inspirational I found the copy of the radio address you gave in India. I wish you could come to America and be on our national network here. Your ideas and ideals are most sorely needed on a

worldwide level. -

I enclose a reproduction of one
of Douët's cosmic paintings. ^{(See reverse of picture for details) -}
(also 2 in black + white)

Concerning my purchase of an original painting by Professor Nicholas Raerich, of course, I have a number of fine reproductions, but there would be nothing like the joy of having a work done by the hand of my Teacher, and I am so extremely anxious for this that I can honestly admit it would be one of the greatest high points in my entire life! Therefore, unless you would definitely prefer to wait until I come to India (which, as we know is in some doubt) - would it be

at all possible for you to send me a small painting? (I would prefer one in light tones). At that time, please also let me know the price.

Dr. Roerich, it has been a pleasure visiting you by mail, but I hope I have not wearied you with an overly lengthy letter. It's just that I have so much I want to say on the inner side of out, & I know how receptive you are to all such thoughts.

All the best to you and your wife, and I hope to meet you both in November.
Maya P. Sadhana