

notes made by Robt. Williams
- interview with Horch 1

IMPORTANT BACKGROUND DATA

I met N. Roerich in 1922 in New York City. His Paintings had been exhibited in various cities and at a Gallery in New York.

At his exhibition at a Gallery in New York, not many Paintings were sold. He was in debt and was in need of money. He owed money for rent, for printing of a Catalogue, to his Attorney and to the Fifth Avenue Bank, New York (see attached letter dated November 7th, 1921 from his Attorney A. Slobodin as well as to Attorneys Bloomberg and Bloomberg. He also owed money to his Publisher, his son George needed money, (see attached letter and voucher of \$ 5000.000. In this attached letter in Russian, his son George a student at Harvard begs his father to send him some money as he only has \$ 1.00 to his name. I loaned his son money. N. Roerich urged me to select and accept Paintings as payment. I also advanced \$ 10,000.00 for him and his wife's trip to Europe in 1922. N. Roerich urged me to loan him money.

The Fifth Avenue Bank, New York who had loaned him money after he put up his Paintings with them as collateral, threatened to sell his Paintings at auction unless this loan was repaid. Roerich felt if this occurred he would lose his standing as an Artist and be deprived of a living. L. L. Horch paid off his debt of \$ 8353.19 as well as many of his other debts. (Voucher of \$ 8353.19 attached). *W. Williams*

Nicholas Roerich proposed that I should choose and accept Paintings in payment for this money I had paid out in his behalf. Roerich said this arrangement should be continued because he expects to travel a great deal, adding I will also make out Power of Attorney giving to you additional Power to buy and sell my Paintings at prices fixed by L. L. Horch. He also asked me to sell Paintings or buy single Paintings from him or buy groups of Paintings.

Nicholas Roerich proposed to lead an Art Expedition and Paint a Pamorama of the East. He proposed to visit Tibet, Mongolia, Chinese Turkestan, sikhim and other countries. He stated no Western Artist ever painted the Beauties of these countries. This undertaking would cost a great deal of money for personnel, equipment etc. etc. It would be necessary at times to employ 100 coolies to carry supplies and canvasses etc. over High Mountain Passes. His wife and son would go with him.

I agreed to loan the money to make this Art Expedition possible which cost over \$ 250,000.00. Roerich often boasted that his Paintings had great Healing Powers.

Nicholas Roerich painted variants (duplicates) of his Paintings.

I also purchased Paintings by Nicholas Roerich from others at lower