



FROM

PROFESSOR P. K. ACHARYA, I.E.S.,

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Head of the Department of Sanskrit
and Dean, Faculty of Arts,
University of Allahabad.

Allahabad, the 9th October, 1934

Dear Sir,

May I present a cynopsis of my work to his Excellency Dr. Nicholas Roerich? The world-famous artist may perhaps take some interest in the science and arts of ancient Indian architecture. For want of patronage our Śilpaśāstra dealing with architecture and the cognate arts was about to be lost when I undertook in 1914 the task of giving 're-birth' to this branch of Indian culture. During these twenty years I have been working continuously and travelled all over India and Europe. The five volumes comprising an encyclopaedia, an Introductory volume, the Text, the English Translation, and the Illustrations of some of the architectural and sculptural objects have been published by the Government through the Oxford University Press. The scholars and artists all over Europe, America and India have eagerly welcome this publication. I am enclosing two typical

reviews one by a European and the other by an Indian of great reputation for His Excellency's notice. I shall be grateful if his Excellency gives some publicity to this great work and thereby induce our own people to endeavour to understand the artistic achievements of our forefathers. The foreign domination from fifth century B.C. by the Persians, Grecians, Scythians, and Pathans and Muslims have practically destroyed our arts by superimposition. In order to ^wake us up from our slumber a strong shaking from a blissful hand of an eminent artist like his Excellency is necessary. May I pray his Excellency to write and publish a few lines in order to rouse the popular interest in our own architecture?

Yours faithfully,

P. K. Acharya.

To

Mr. Shibayev,
Private Secretary to His Excellency Dr. Roeri-
Naggar Kulu, Punjab. ch

P.S. The book and other papers are sent
in a separate registered cover.

P. K. A.