

My dear Miss Grant,

The bearer of this is the sub-director of Critica, Don Eduardo Bedoya, who is taking my son Jaime to a college in Boston. He is also accompanied by Suerara, a great illustrator, capable of appreciating the work of the museum. My boy brings to you my greetings and my affection and remembrance. I beg you to be closer to him than I am, do not abandon him but keep in touch with him. I want to say that the coming year I am coming to US and will have the pleasure of seeing you. Through the papers and the references to this country, you know that we exist in a state of chaos and a battle of hates, such as we never dreamt of when you were here. We ~~are~~ Argentines are profoundly divided without hope for many years -- of being the fraternal community which once we were.

This has deterred the work of the Museum. Victoria Gukovski is a being full of good intentions but without knowing what direction, she carries in herself a negative principle. During my imprisonment and absence, she did foolish and aggressive things which against everyone and on my return I found all lost. Now there is agitating here the phantom of communism and a hatred for everything Russian and with the stupidity that submerges the country like a wave, they would say that the museum is antipatriotic etc. or that it is ~~an~~ imperialist, a new hate.

A group of us of good intention and a great desire to serve are constituting ourselves into a great entity which is called "New America". I am copying from the by-laws -- * which I will send you as soon as printed -- an article referring to the cultural commission. I believe that this commission can do our work under cover, and once the situation is normal again, if efficacious, the "Roerich Commission" can become independent or not according as you think best.

Alejandro Hidalgo will write you much of this.

* I am reading "Realm of Light" which I am going to translate and publish as the first work of the Commission. It is an admirable thing. Still further: this idea, more simple, less premeditated, is emerging spontaneously from many groups scattered through the republic which I am unifying in this one organism "New America".

I believe this is the one manner of planting the bases of the group at this moment which is so bad and so strange for the country.

Have you any news from the Hodsons? Write me very soon. Whatever there is of news in the work, please communicate to me. I beg you take care of my little one. I send this with my deep respect and adhesion to Roerich, with the fraternal affection to the coworkers of the museum and all my loving remembrances and friendship for you.

Salvadora de Botana.

Buenos Aires

* 3) Comision de Paz y Cultura. This commission will in itself be named the Roerich Commission. Its statutes will conform to those of the Roerich institution of New York, whose ideals it serves. It will translate books and pamphlets which will be edited by the Commission of Propaganda and Press. It will create centers of culture, will organize expositions, of paintings and art, trips through the interior, contests, classes in languages, art and science; and will be an ~~active~~ irradiating of culture and spiritual life. It will be in permanent communication with the Roerich Institutions of the world and with other it will cooperate in the great work of the Roerich Museum for Culture, Peace and universal harmony.

Dear Miss Grant.

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I suppose that you have already seen my boy who brings my letter to you. I am in haste to know your decision in the Museum in order to be able to proceed in our work. We all received your wishes for the New Year and thank you. I also received another of your cards for the Museum. But this I believe is answered in my letter which my little one brings to you. In a body we will visit Besio Moreno, director of the Museum, and I believe that there will be no inconvenience in arranged the Roerich Salon. The obstacle is only that at this moment they are constructing the new museum building and the Paintings of Roerich are placed in a basement. We could have had them brought to Museo de la Plata but I was in Europe and here they could not reach a mutual decision.

My country is passing a terrible crisis, which was already apprent when you were here. But I believe that we will solve it without blood or other horrors. Dr. Rojas, who wrote the prologue to Beltroy's translation, belongs --unfortunately he joined it a short time ago--the political party now in disgrace. He can help us little or nothing. So, we live in an extraordinary manner now. I believe that with out Roerich Commission, within the "New America" we will be able to give the Museum here a great impulse and to make a magnificent propaganda. At the same time the books of Roerich "A.Y." and Realm of Light --which I read always--have helped me with great ideals for what I am doing. We have a powerful radio station of our own and we are making a propaganda as never was in Buenos Aires. In November I gave my lecture in The Association of Women of Letters and Arts and talked also exclusively on the Museum Roerich. So all is being done in this ~~xxx~~ country where the minds of the people, distrated and indifferent by nature, are disturbed by the political and social struggles.

Well--I hope to see you soon and send my greatest and most sisterly affection and embrace.

Salvadora

Buenos Aires