

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

February 1, 1929.

Louis L. Horch, President
Roerich Museum
313 West 105 Street
New York City

My dear Mr. Horch:

I feel highly honored by your invitation to be present at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the Master Building, which you intend to dedicate to the spirit of brotherhood and cultural relationships. As that has long been one of the leading interests of my life, it would give me the greatest pleasure to join in this new and important addition to the forces of human betterment.

Unfortunately official duties will confine me to Washington on the date of your ceremony, much to my regret, but all my good wishes go with you in this ambitious new enterprise you have undertaken. As we grow in material wealth it is all the more necessary to keep alive our knowledge and love of the beautiful things of the spirit and mind, otherwise we are in danger of gaining the world and losing our souls. It will gratify every high-minded American who has the destiny of his country at heart to see enlisted in this preservation of culture and intellect a body of people and an organization as influential, vigorous and enthusiastic as yours.

In whatever direction your endeavors reach out I wish you a great and ever-growing success through the years. After all, while this is a time of danger to things of the spirit, the time has also its propitious aspect. Civilization attains its highest peaks only after it has amassed the material means with which to recompense the artist and the thinker. These ample means we have. The need is only for leaders to call forth this wealth and see that it is expended in cultural advancement. You and your associates are such leaders. May you build not only this building but a great new movement among us toward a love of the beautiful, and may both endure to serve our people and bring more light into their lives.

Most cordially yours,

James J. Davis

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