

September 4th, 1931

Miss Frances R. Grant
Roerich Museum
New York City

My dear Miss Grant:

It has been a great pleasure indeed, to become a member of the Roerich Society and with pride I wear the Society pin. The work the Society is doing is laudable to the peak of praise.

Your leader, Professor Nicholas Roerich, is a Redeemer of Culture. This phrase has certainly found in my heart an echo: "Peace through Culture." Allow me to come under that canopy and work with you for that golden cause.

Being a latin-American, my ~~xx~~ field shall be South America, being a Porto Rican, I would like to show my Island to our brothers from the North and vice versa in Porto Rico.

The position in which Porto Rico is located, in between North and South America, its culture, where the old, romantic Iberia mixes with the new America, with its University where students from both continents flock to learn either Spanish or English, all this makes the Island a Pan American Island, the center of understanding and nearness to the Americas. Let it be so. Our former President Roosevelt when he visited the Island in 1906 called it "the Switzerland of America". The Roerich Society with its principle of Peace and Culture can make it thus. You, my dear Miss Grant, are our leader. In you we see salvation, recognition, understanding. You who have travelled extensively through our lands, know us. Let us follow the Leader and ideas of Dr. Roerich.

Porto Rico has no Roerich Society. The Island needs it. Governor Roosevelt will help us. I can write to him, whenever you are ready. Please give a thought to this problem and when ever you think of Porto Rico, think of me.

I am at your disposal.

Yours gratefully,

(Signer) JUAN PEDRO LABARTHE

546 W. 147th St.