

New York City
March 12, 1936

Major J.G. Phelps Stokes
88 Grove Street
New York, N.Y.

My dear Major Stokes:

I have been wanting to write to you since your answer to Chas. Fleischer appeared in the paper, but have hesitated to do so, not wishing to impose upon your time. As I was impressed previously by your constant support of Urusvati Himalayan Research Institute, I am now equally moved by your public defense of Professor Roerich and his loyal co-workers in this recent letter to the Herald Tribune.

Although I never met Dr. Fleischer, I have heard him speak, and always understood that he was most devoted to Prof. Roerich and his ideals, and had for years enjoyed closest association with the Roerich Museum and all its workers. In view of this and the fact that Dr. Fleischer always spoke and wrote of Prof. Roerich in the highest terms of tribute, I can only view his sudden denunciation in the newspaper as a very traitorous act. Certainly your letter in answer is a very excellent and timely contrast, - honorable and just, - quietly and thoroughly refuting his every point.

I have decided now to speak because on one Saturday evening many months ago - (before my work demanded all my evenings) - I had an opportunity to be present in your home, and in recalling this occasion I am assured of your understanding. The visit to the shrine was a most wonderful privilege, your remarks addressed to the gathering convinced me of your faith and knowledge, - in short, I recognized your noble purpose and appreciated the spirit of true generosity.

Another factor which appealed to me strongly at this time was the evidence of your thorough Americanism. My heart had already been drawn to the work and ideals of Prof. Roerich and I was strengthened to find that you, whom I knew as one of the earliest and most steadfast friends of the Roerich Institutions, were one rooted in American tradition, and a worthy representative citizen of the United States. Your people have remained here building our nation while mine traveled to the Middle West in covered wagons and also helped make our history. The spirit of early America was a fine one in all parts and places, and I am sure you agree that we who wish to perpetuate this spirit cannot build a great future on narrowness, blindness and selfishness, but must enter the New Era with greetings to the whole world.

It certainly would be unthinkable that the present treacherous attempts by 3 members of the Roerich Institutions to undermine them and destroy Prof. Roerich's name and work should proceed unhindered, as if America silently consented to this attack.

In their support of the foundation laid here years ago by Prof. and Mme. Roerich which has worked untiringly toward such desirable cultural growth for us, Mr. and Mrs. Lichtmann and Miss Grant are now acting as key stones, to whose defense we must rally.

I am ready to follow any suggestion from you as a natural leader under the circumstances, and am anxious to help in every possible way. I have had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Ferman and Mrs. Sutro, and have read Mr. Cosgrave's letter, and I am sure that there are many more true friends who will be glad to make common cause at this time in the name of Justice.

Thanking you again, I remain,

Most sincerely yours,

Dudley Fosdick