

March 3, 1947

Dr. Von Harbach
General Secretary
Austrian League of Culture
Salzburg, Austria

Dear Sir:

Your letter of January 4th, addressed to Dr. Alex Rencs, in Leonstein, was subsequently mailed by him, in its entirety to us, and, despite our deep regret at this whole unfortunate circumstance, we feel obliged to explain to you now our exact relations with Dr. Rencs.

We never gave authority to Dr. Rencs to form any branch of the Roerich Academy of Arts, nor of Roerich Society, in Austria, although we were bombarded by Dr. Rencs for over a year, in voluminous, insistent correspondence. Whereas personally we would have been sympathetic to any sincere offer to participate in our altruistic work, and in fact did not hesitate to offer to send him material necessary to organize a Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace Committee in Austria, the Committee itself here demanded to know more of the man, his motives, capabilities, and present position.

Although Dr. Rencs claimed former association with a society in Riga with whom we were in close contact before the war, no mention of his name could be found in correspondence nor recalled. However, a deluge of letters followed, in which Dr. Rencs told us that he had already formed several institutions using our name and at the same time demanded from us official papers appointing him as our representative. He also demanded "statutes" of our institutions and addresses of our American friends and members of our institutions, also of other institutions and individuals in America for the purpose of asking also their support. He informed us that he was promoting a number of projects and undertakings most of which were impractical and completely unadaptable to the post-war conditions in Austria. We drew his attention to this fact and carefully explained the situation as regards our work and the possibilities of his participation, but without any good results.

We therefore wish to inform you that we have ceased all correspondence with Dr. Rencs and are requesting him at this writing to withdraw from use the names of our

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organizations, which he wilfully adopted without our permission in Leonstein, Austria. Neither Roerich Society, nor Roerich Academy of Arts, nor Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace Committee organized by Dr. Rencs in Leonstein, Austria have our approval, as we have written him, distinctly forbidding him to use these names.

Again assuring you of our sincere regret, I am

Very truly yours,

Dudley Fosdick
Chairman