

(Confidential)

Saturday, July 1st/39 1

Dear Katherine: -

I have received luckily your letter, while I am here; and while I have a bad right hand and hardly can write, I think the memo sent from India, and excerpts from the letter to you, which you so kindly communicated to me, are too important. Am therefore writing to you, after having sent to you a wire to day.

More than 4 weeks ago I gave to Jackson the first memo, which Page gave me, and which contained different figures, practically all your donations. I went over them very carefully with Page, checking up on them, and brought this memo to Jackson, in Dudley's presence. He was eager to get it, as he began already negotiations with a man in Washington, offering 2500.00 to settle the tax-case. I understood that the memo which I gave him, he would show to that man, as there was a considerable curiosity in Wash. regarding the purchase of the house.

More than that, Jackson told me, that the investigator will come from Wash., and I will have to tell him personally all I know about Prof. Roerich's finances, in the past and present.

That meant that I would have to back up by my statement the first memo, known to Jackson, and probably to the man in Wash. Now with the arrival of the 2nd memo, with entirely different items and figures, the whole matter becomes very complicated.

I strongly advise you to go at once to Jackson and ask him if he already made use of the first memo, that is, has given it to the man in Wash. If so, you better cable at once to India about it, as we must do all we can, not to put Prof. R. into a very bad position, by trying suddenly to substitute one memo for another one, with totally different figures!

However if Jackson has not yet shown the memo to anybody, ask its return to you, and give him this one, if you think, this is the best method.

But I wish to draw your attention to the following facts: most of the sums shown in the new memo are from 1918-1923. Yet it was known that during that period, or rather

from 1922-1923, Prof. R. was in difficult financial circumstances. A bank gave him a loan against his paintings, which Horsch later cleared up by paying the sum to the bank. Horsch testified to this, and will not only confirm it, but do worse things. I am sure that he will get wind of the idea of settlement, and will try to spoil it, especially when he will learn of the 2nd memo (you know, he has influence in Washingt.) He can easily show certain sums he paid to Prof. R., for instance, for 2 paintings in 1922, which he got very reasonably, because Prof. R. needed the money then. I repeat again, it is a very awkward situation, and I consider the first memo by far a most satisfactory and clear one for our present purposes.

This 2nd memo is absolutely correct, but it will be difficult for me to testify that all the sums from 1921-1923 were put aside, as savings, and not used for Prof. R.'s necessary living expenses. In fact, I don't think anybody will believe me, and we will only weaken Prof. R.'s chances to settle the tax case.

On the other hand the several donations given by you after 1925 sound very strong and convincing, and show your faith in great man's art and mission.

I leave therefore the decision to you - am writing all these considerations to India. However, whatever you decide to do, after seeing Jackson, would be best to cable to India, as a letter takes too long.

Will be here for a few days more, so you can wire me, if needed. After that, better communicate with me through Dudley, until I settle somewhere and can write you after my hand will be well again.

My love to you and Inge
Sina

P.S. I think the deposit for the estate given in 1929 and the balance paid in 1931 should be given to Jackson