

C O P Y

From Buenodlers C O P Y

1

Dear Sister:

We have received your cordial letter in which you inform us that you are resting after your labors, and we hope that now you have entirely <sup>rested,</sup> recuperated.

In conformity with your wishes we held a meeting in our house of the member of the Roerich Friends. Of those who were with us before only Senora Gucovski, my wife, Dr. Fikh and Beltroy attended. If in truth we are few, the enthusiasm and the devotion with which we met made up for quantity. We discussed the present situation and came to the conclusion that in this moment of terrible preoccupation, personal and collective, an outside activity would be very difficult. We agreed to have meetings and see each other periodically, awaiting the opportune moment for intensifying together an efficacious action and now to carry our conviction in personal manner to the greatest number of people who have their life interest in things spiritual.

Dr. Beltroy has had the finesse to place in my hands the Banner of the Institute as well as all the documents which you left, and you may rest assured that they are guarded with all devotion awaiting the moment for their future application.

Senora Gukovsky has spoken to me in regard to the matter of the Paintings left in the National Museum, and already I have begun action in this, as I shall show. Confidentially I will tell you the true situation in the Museum now: The municipal authorities have now as the sole objective to do away with the old building and its beauties in order to continue the Plaza San Martin up to Retiro, and have no interest in the destiny of the Museum. The Director, Dr. Chiapori recently nominated does not wish to have any arguments and does whatever the Ministry suggests to him because otherwise they will demand his resignation. The Paintings of the Museum are most of the time veiled, together with



those of the Roerich Museum. As this situation may be extended I am informed for about six or seven months, because they intend to rehabilitate another old building which would have to be repaired. I believe that given the present time and given the characteristics of the country, things will go as I fear if not worse.

As I have taken in charge the matter of the paintings, by a general resolution, I wish to tell you what I have done thus far, and if you approve we will continue, otherwise doing as you indicate.

Among the persons of greatest worth in the artistic world in Fernan Felix Amador, art critic, professor of art, etc., and at the same time a great spirit. I had a talk with him and decided, always of course depending upon whether it seems best to you, to speak to the University de La Plata, a most important center of culture where classes are given, also to the Museum de La Plata to transport the Paintings of the venerated Professor Roerich, where this would be for the purpose of having them in charge of Amador and would be exhibited, thus fulfilling their work of inspiration. Officially we have done nothing but already we have the cooperation of the University and we are in treating with the director of the Museum de la Plata who is a friend of intimacy of Amador.

If you see that this is feasible because if so, we will speak to others such as the Director of the Museum of Santa Fe and others in order to spread knowledge of Professor Roerich's work among the widest number of persons.

It would be convenient if you find these suggestions advisable, to send us the written representation of the artistic activities of the Society in my name and that of Fernan Felix Amador who is also director of the Escuels Superior (High School of Arts of La Plata), in order to take the paintings and send them to the University or



Museum of La Plata without difficulties from official elements. Also please send us reproductions of works of Professor Roerich to illustrate with the greatest efficiency the lectures which we will give, as well as biographical material, the addresses of the other branches of the Museum in order to give all merited importance to our institutions.

~~Since~~ Now the secretariat of the Museum is considered in my house, since here we will reunite for all our decisions until we have enough members to justify a special site which is unnecessary as yet. It is my duty to tell you my point of view in regard to the form in which it seems to me the formation of the Society should be cherished; I believe that it was thus far carried out contrary to what it should have been. It seems to demand this formation of an inner group which responds profoundly to the Society; in part this already exists, which with faith and love sustains the external part of the Society. I believe that the lack of vitality before of the members and the lack of warmth in order to carry out practically all decisions was due not only to the abnormal situation of the country but also to the indifferent atmosphere to lack of spiritual union, that is the chain with the Superior. Because I am convinced that the society needs as its first medium to develop the spiritual warmth of an inner group which irradiates out to the exterior.

We are engrossed in it and wish to transmit to all my spiritual friends the desire of spiritual unity of service, to triumph, without which we will not achieve the external.

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To you, my sister, I owe one of the most transcendent moments of my life -- the acquaintance with the book, Agni Yoga. It is truly a jewel of conception, teachings and practices and if I confess that some concepts I am unable to grasp, I hope that little by little I will be



4

able to do so. It is of inestimable sustenance for the pupil who is avid to know and serve, by the emotion that surrounds it and the force which emanates from it. For long I had the book in my possession, trying to interest many people in its translation and study, fruitlessly. And when I thought that I could not accomplish it, there was presented to me Senor Albuerne, of Spanish origin, a former resident of New York. No sooner did he begin to read it, when he understood its enormous importance and became so engrossed in it that he plunged into its complete translation. Now we are occupied in its correct interpretation and I progressively study it and each time we read it we discover in it greater beauties. We are accompanied in this task by Senor Jeronimo Reus and father, both persons with finest motives and great knowledge. At time certain doubts as to its correct interpretation present themselves, and we regret deeply that you are so far as to be unable to express to us your conception.

I am making copies on the typewriter, and one is destined for you; although the translation is literal, we try to retain throughout the essence which it contains and as in the language in which it is written there are various conceptions for one word, we try to see which would be the most just and true. I will write you more about this at length, asking you that if later other publications have followed, please to send them to me.

I was moved with your words that I should write to Professor Roerich and you would send them; I believe that as yet I am not worthy of it; I await until I have crystallized into form what you have proposed to me in regard to his work.

As to Salvatora, fortunately she is in Europe with her children and Husband awaiting the time when she may return. Maria joins this address: card in spirit and sends you her love and sincere affections as to her sister, and I am ever at your service. Saenz Peña 277 (tercer piso) Alejandro Hidalgo



December 8

My dear Sister,

From a long time, from day to day, I have felt the need of writing to you and telling you an infinite number of things in relation to our activities.

Do not think, that because the special circumstances in which the country finds itself has made difficult the official formation of the Argentine Roerich group, that the idea has been forgotten; quite the contrary I can tell you with all loyalty that this idea accompanies us continually, but that due to the little comprehension of this all-binding idea and in order to avoid mal-comprehension of a sane and strong ideal we have made a pause in our external activities. Dr. Beltroy wanted to send you the details but which are indispensable, but probably he did not do so because, he like ourselves is passing a deep crisis; therefore I want to inform you that we had a reunion some months ago of those who constitute the society, naming the good sister Salvadora as Vice-resident, and myself as second president. The others posts were designated among capable persons, with Beltroy as secretary. Just now the pressure of time in which I write prevents me from giving you the major details; but I can assure you that next year we will enter disceetly to act outwardly in the most practical form, and our Salvadora will explain to you ~~xxxxxxx~~ a great idea with which we plan to be able to solve the local and outside ideals of the association; I refer to the great institutions idealist, "American Nueva" in which we will try to solve the problems of the latin race and unite under the ~~Banner~~ torch of the Banner of Peace of the Roerich Museum all ideals, above all those concerned with art and education. I shall send you during the coming week a copy of the statues which should be sent to the central seat and an official letter with all data relating to what has been effected.

Owing to a difference of interpretation as to the sending of the paintings to La Plata. I may say that, in spite of my desire to have them known in that culture cite, I was not supported morally in this mission, and moreover had to face a disagreeable disagreement, because Senora Gukovski and Senor Fikh believed that they should not leave here for a reason which might have been very real to them, but which I considered infantile; ~~such as~~ ~~the~~ ~~absence~~ ~~of~~ ~~quality~~ ~~and~~ ~~misticism~~ ~~well~~ ~~intentioned~~, but which does not permit sufficient opportunity for the work of art and education. Notwithstanding this I do not mean that the idea is abandoned and we will ~~xxxx~~ bring this about in the opportune time with lectures demonstrating this most important work for the education of artists.

As for me, ~~xx~~ I search the rhythm of the spiritual life, trying to be as usual as possible to the great work; a voice tells me that better times will come and that all our battles are not in vain and because we fight for a great ideal with our forces.

I hope that you, dear sister, are very well as all the members of this important institution and through you I beg that you place me at their orders; each day my faith in the mutual work in which we are working.

I beg you to send to the hand of Master Roerich the message of admiration and respect which I am sending; you in one of your letter suggested that I should sent it knowing that it would be a true honor for me.

As to my artistic activities, I may say that I am working in the usual way trying to do something to serve others; I think of making an exposition of paintings the coming year. One of my most fervent desires is to send some of my works to the Roerich Institution in New York for a small exposition, if there should be no obstacle in this.

Maria y Salvadora are very occupied with their spiritual activities of the present and have a great faith in the work which has been begun, which has such close relation with our activities in the museum; one may say that they are plowing and preparing the earth, a work most laborious in order that we can act in the artistic and spiritual fields.

I take the opportunity to sent this letter with the little son of Salva, Tito who goes to get his education in your great nation; I hope that this will make him a real man. I unite my wishes to those of Salvadora that you be his spiritual mother for him there. And that you have success in all your activity. Happy holidays and remaining, as always at your complete service -- your brother  
Alejandro Hidalgo.

Buenos Aires