

REPORT TO DR. GEORGES DE ROERICH, DIRECTOR OF URUSVATI, HIMALAYAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, by the New York Office of the Institute. November 9, 1931.

The nucleus of a museum has been started at the Himalayan Research Institute in New York. Expeditions into Northern India and Tibet have brought back rich collections of botanical, ornithological and ethnological specimens. Some of these have already reached the New York Museum. The Institute <sup>also</sup> acknowledges with thanks contributions from private donors in the United States: Mr. John Vlismas, and the Paterson, N.J. Museum, who have given to the Museum fine mineralogical collections.

Two galleries of the Museum have been devoted to an exhibition of Tibetan art. This includes twenty-four Tibetan thang-kas, a painted altar in honor of the Third Tashi Lama of Tibet, ceremonial pieces, a pair of trumpets, a lama dancing mask donated by Miss Esther J. Lichtmann, an elaborately figured bronze helmet worn by priests in religious celebrations, as well as a complete set of nine bronzes: Avalokitesvara, and eight Bodhisattvas.

An additional gallery was allotted to the Museum for its nature exhibits. A collection of 46 ornithological specimens has been received for display here. A butterfly collection numbering 808 specimens was donated by Mr. Svetoslav Roerich. Both of these collections are gradually being mounted for exhibition. The Institute Museum has also several mineralogical collections - the donations of Mr. John Vlismas, Mr. S. Roerich and the Paterson, N.J. Museum, numbering altogether 190 pieces. Several of the specimens are very rare, especially an aragonite vase, and samples of globular and orbikular jasper, in the Vlismas Collection.

Through the courtesy of Dr. E.D. Merrill, Director-in-Chief of the New York Botanical Garden, the Himalayan Research Institute Museum has also had on display in its Nature Room, fifty mounted sheets of the Himalayan plant collection sent to the Garden from the Institute Headquarters. This collection was mounted and catalogued by Dr. Merrill personally, and 2000 mounted sheets are /now on display in the Botanical Garden.



## Lectures

During the season 1931-1932 the following lectures were given under the auspices of the Himalayan Research Institute in New York:

April 23rd, Dr. E.D. Merrill, Director-in-Chief of the New York Botanical Garden spoke on "Twenty-two Years in the Philippines," dealing with the historical and ethnological aspects, as well as the vegetation of these islands. On November 23rd, Dr. Clyde Fisher, Curator of the American Museum of Natural History, gave an address entitled "With John Burroughs in his Favorite Haunts." This was held under the joint auspices of Urusvati and the Master Institute, of Roerich Museum. Mrs. Louis L. Horch, President of the Roerich Society, who lectured on Kulu Valley and the work of the Himalayan Research Institute during the past season, held further addresses this year before the Washington Heights Woman's Clubs on March 24th, and the Book Club of Riverside Church, New York, on May 18th. Future lectures are scheduled by the following speakers: Dr. E.D. Merrill, on "Crops and Civilizations;" Dr. R.V.D. Magoffin, President of the Archaeological Institute of America; Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, Director of the School of American Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and others.

## Publications

In August 1931, the Yale University Press published TRAILS TO INMOST ASIA, by Dr. Georges de Roerich, an account of the Roerich Central Asiatic Expedition of 1923-1928. The reception of the book, both by scholars and the press, has been most gratifying. A French translation by Mme. de Vaux-Phalipau is being published in Paris by Paul Geuthner; and a German edition by Heath ~~and~~ Company is also in preparation. We take pleasure in quoting here a few comments received:



3

Memorandum on Butterfly Collection:--

Mounted specimens:	78
In good condition:	650
Partially destroyed	
by insects:	80
	<u>808</u>

Memorandum on Stone Collections:--

Donated by Mr. S. Roerich:	47 specimens
" " Mr. John Vlismas:	28 "
" " Paterson, N.J.	
Museum:	<u>115</u> "
	190 "