

C O P Y

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN  
Bronx Park (Fordham Branch P.O.)  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 2, 1932.

Mr. Louis L. Horch  
Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Horch:

I think you will be interested in reading the enclosed communication received this afternoon from Dr. Koelz. I have not answered the letter and do not see that any action on my part is necessary or desirable. When you have read the letters will you please return them to me? If there is anything else that I should know before Dr. Koelz's return to New York, I trust that you will keep me posted.

Very truly yours

E. D. Merrill  
Director

(Enclosure)

This is of course confidential

E.D.M.



COPY

March 12, 1932

Dr. Thomas Barbour  
Museum of Comparative Zoology  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Barbour:

I think it probable that you have had some correspondence with Dr. Walter Koelz of the Himalayan Research Institute in India. In any case a most unsatisfactory situation has developed between the Roerich Museum, the parent organization of the Himalayan Research Institute, and Dr. Koelz, the result being that he was ordered to return to New York and will arrive here about April 4th. I have no interest in this matter other than that from a purely botanical standpoint. I undertook in good faith to make the botanical identifications needed, and have supplied somewhat in excess of 2000 identifications in the past two years. The correspondence that I have enclosed for your information speaks for itself. I would therefore urge you to keep an entirely open mind in case the difficulties mentioned above have come to your attention. It is rather inconceivable to me that the fault lies wholly with the Roerich Museum.

Very truly yours

(Signed) E.D. Merrill,  
Director



COPY

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN  
New York, N. Y.

March 12, 1932

Mr. Louis L. Horch  
Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York City

Dear Mr. Horch:

For your information I enclose herewith copy of a letter that I have just sent to Dr. Bartlett, together with copies of other correspondence appertaining to the Koelz matter. I have also sent copies to Dr. Thomas Barbour, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, as I judge it very probable that Dr. Koelz has had some communication with him.

Very truly yours  
(Signed)

E.D. Merrill  
Director



COPY

March 12, 1932

Dr. H.H. Bartlett  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Dr. Bartlett:

Referring to our recent correspondence, I enclose herewith copies of certain letters that are self-explanatory. I had a long interview with Dr. Koelz before he left New York and it was agreed that when his collections were received that I would criticize the preparation of material in order to guide him in improving his technique. You will notice that my letter of September 21 was sent to him personally and did not go through the officials of the Himalayan Research Institute. When the first material was received I found that the specimens were, on the average, distinctly small and hence not entirely satisfactory for a study set. When this material was received I wrote to Dr. Koelz early in 1931 suggesting that, if possible, an extra set of duplicates be supplied in order that I would be in a position to enlist the cooperative work of specialists. This was answered by him under date of May 30th, copy of his letter enclosed. He did not examine the material that was segregated for shipment and did not even make up the sets of duplicates according to his own statement. I urged him (my letter of September 21, 1931) to make the study set more ample in order that I could in certain critical groups secure the cooperation of specialists. His memorandum to Dr. Roerich speaks for itself. I was not making a complaint, merely a request; neither I nor any other individual can name all material in all groups of plants, and the collections received cover not only flowering plants but also mosses, hepatics, algae, and fungi. In all families of flowering plants I made a distinctly high percentage of identifications to the species; it was only in certain genera of the Umbelliferae and Compositae that I was unable to make complete identifications. To any one who has done taxonomic work in botany the reasons for this are very obvious. I personally do not like the tone to Dr. Koelz's memorandum, especially in view of the fact that I have devoted a very considerable amount of time and energy to studying his collections which came from a region with which I previously had little familiarity. The two quotations impress me as what might be called double crossing.

I have no first-hand knowledge of the situation that has developed in India in reference to Dr. Koelz. I have every reason to believe that the statements made to me by Mr. Horch and Miss Lichtmann are true, and, if so, it is rather a surprising thing to me that definite action on the Koelz case was not taken earlier.

Dr. Koelz is due in New York about April 4, and I shall have an interview with him then. Until that time I have an entirely open mind in reference to the entire matter, and I would strongly advise you to assume the same attitude until you shall have had an opportunity of conferring with Dr. Koelz and perhaps other individuals with view to getting the entire picture.

Very truly yours,

E.D. Merrill  
Director



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Memorandum for Dr. Bartlett

March 14, 1932

I have no first hand information regarding the real objectives of the Himalayan Research Institute, but all the conferences I have had lead me to the conclusion that the scientific work has been developed in good faith. Some may question the emphasis on research on cancer in such a place as Naggar, but I personally do not think that anyone can legitimately question the plans for general research on medicinal plants. After all, with such an organization as the Roerich Museum, more or less dependent on contributions for the support of its work, I think we can agree that something of popular or even spectacular moment is necessary; certainly no considerable support could be secured for maintaining general research in such a subject as botany, and hence it has probably been considered necessary to make the appeal on some subject that is closer to ordinary human interests. Whatever can be accomplished in general scientific work in botany, or in any other science, is so much to the good from our standpoint. There may be more or less mysticism involved in the matter; but again mysticism, if I use the correct term, appeals to certain individuals. That there are political motives back of the work is to me inconceivable, and I think any suspicions of this nature may be dismissed as unworthy of consideration. This is a matter entirely out of my field, but I can see no good accruing to anybody by harboring, or insinuating, political motives. Nothing even hinting at this has come to my notice.

Naturally I am personally concerned at the trend of recent developments regarding the Koelz matter, as only a few months ago I had most enthusiastic accounts of Koelz's work from Miss Lichtmann, who had then recently returned from India. I suspect that she was as much surprised as we were at the recent turn of events. I feel a certain responsibility in the matter because I selected and recommended Dr. Koelz for the position in India and it is a matter of very great regret to me that the present unsatisfactory situation has developed. My reaction is that comparatively recent developments, perhaps largely due to Dr. Koelz's own actions, have rendered a radical change necessary. I am afraid that he unduly stressed his own personal zoological interests unduly subordinating the botanical matters that should have received more of his time and energy; this would be but natural in an individual primarily interested in zoology, doing field work in such a region as the Himalayas. But if this be the case, then certainly good judgement was lacking on the part of Dr. Koelz. On the basis of figures supplied to me his zoological collections are apparently much more extensive and important than are his botanical collections, as his material in the zoological field involve many more "numbers" than do his botanical collections; of course here I am not considering "duplicates", as duplicates do not exist in zoological collections as they do in the botanical material.

(Signed)  
E.D. Merrill



COPY

Quoted from a letter written December 26, 1931, by Dr. Koelz to E.D.M.

"I understand fully all you say and I have told Dr. Roerich that no one can identify Rosa, Galium, Pedicularis, etc., who has not seen the types."

Quoted from a memorandum from Dr. Koelz to Dr. Roerich:

"Dr. Merrill's grievances are laughable. He has something to complain about, but not such as anyone would mention who got things for nothing! The main wail is that he didn't get two sets! You recall he said he could identify most things at sight - hence to whom would it occur to send also a set for his grandmother? Now it seems he doesn't know Umbelliferae, Compositae, Orchedaceae, Graminae, Musci and so on."

Comment by E.D.M. March 14, 1932

The statement "but not such as anyone would mention who got things for nothing" is superfluous. The returns were in the form of some 2,000 identifications that took many days of intensive work in the herbarium and in the library. The "main wail that he didn't get two sets" represents an entirely distorted idea on the part of Dr. Koelz. The whole tenor of the correspondence was to the effect that the study set was inadequate and Dr. Koelz was urged several times to send more ample specimens so that, when necessary, the specimens could be divided and thus the services of specialists secured. One of my letters was a personal one to Dr. Koelz, deliberately so, as I did not wish the matter to be interpreted as official as might reflect on him in his relationships with the Institute. Dr. Koelz must be under a total misapprehension of the amount of time that it takes to make critical identifications of general collections from the regions in which he has collected, equally uninformed as to the general practice among botanists of making identifications for a set of the material determined, and likewise not aware of the fact that no botanist can name specimens in all groups of flowering plants, ferns, mosses, hepatics, lichens, and fungi, no matter what his attainments may be. It is true that material in special genera could have been sent to specialists, but then no reference material would be available in New York for use in making determinations of future sendings, it being assumed, perhaps erroneously on my part, that future shipments would be sent to me for study.

No comment is made on the general tone of Dr. Koelz's memorandum to Dr. Roerich; it speaks for itself particularly taken in connection with the fact it was primarily on my recommendation that Dr. Koelz received his appointment with the Himalayan Research Institute.

(Signed) E.D.M.



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COPY

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Horch:

The U.S. National Museum is another institution Koelz may have communicated with. It might be well for you to find out by writing to the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, and if so, then send copies of some or all of the enclosed documents.

(Signed) E.D. M.



C O P Y  
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Dr.H.H.Bartlett,  
Department of Botany  
Michigan University  
Ann-Arbor. Michigan,USA.

May 12, 1932.

Dear Dr. B a r t l e t t ,

It is with utmost regret that we write to inform you of a matter about which Dr.Merill has already communicated with you, and one in which we know you will share our deep indignation. I refer to the question of Dr.Koelz.

Due to the conduct of Dr.Koelz, which we regard as unprecedented in the scientific world, the Trustees of Roerich Museum were compelled to discharge him from their employ, as one who not only failed in his scientific duties, but was most harmful to the Institution. Of his failure in the adequate execution of the scientific program for which he was contracted, undoubtedly Dr.Merrill has informed you. We feel, however, that we personally must inform you of the unethical and unpardonable actions of Dr.Koelz.

Wilfully and through the grossest falsehoods, Dr.Koelz made every effort to undermine the standing of our Institution and put a slur on our honour, even going to the lengths of conveying malicious and defamatory reports, insinuating that we were engaged in political practices, implications which, as we know, he also made to several scientific institutions. I need not tell you, Dr.Bartlett, that such assertions can be motivated only by the greatest malice and are disgraceful fabrications. As a scientist, however, you can understand how the Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum could be seriously embarrassed in its work at this time of general unrest in India.

Moreover, he further embarrassed us in India by himself distributing ammunition to his native assistant, also leaving in the assistant's care two guns, both the ammunition and the guns being property of the Institute; and in numerous other ways making every effort to impair our scientific work and jeopardize our position. He also on several occasions failed to fulfill instructions given to him and in fact, insolently defied the orders given to him by the Trustees of the Roerich Museum.

I think you are entitled to know that Dr.Koelz also gave out the information that his work in India was on behalf of Michigan and Harvard Universities, notwithstanding the fact that it was known that he was under contract with the Himalayan Research Institute of the Roerich Museum, that his salary and maintenance, as well as travelling and living expenses, were being provided solely by the Roerich Museum for their exclusive work. Thus he has without authority involved the Universities in a very unjustifiable way in this matter. I know that you, as a scientist, will agree with us as to the wholly unethical procedure of Dr.Koelz.

It has also come to our attention that he has spread rumours of his intention to purchase land in the Kulu Valley, India in the immediate proximity of the Himalayan Research Institute, to establish a "competitive Institution", which we understand is probably intended for commercial or competitive purposes.

Our files and affidavits in this matter speak eloquently about the conduct and actions of Dr.Koelz, and if you are interested, they are at your disposal.

We appreciate that in failing to live up to your splendid recommendation, Dr.Koelz



has committed as gross an injustice to you as to ourselves. In consideration of his malevolent motives and his insolent disregard of even the most obvious ethical restraints, we feel that our action in discharging Dr. Koelz was imperative for the welfare of the Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum.

Dr. Koelz was instructed to return on the "Roma". However, as he did not return on the "Roma", due April 4th, neither did he advise us of his whereabouts. We therefore at that time telegraphed to you if you had heard from him, to which you replied that you were not informed. Dr. Koelz arrived two weeks later, and upon his arrival refused to give us any reason for this action.

Sincerely, yours,

Sgd L.L.Horch,

President, Roerich Museum,

New-York.



copy

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

BRONX PARK

August 5, 1932.

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann  
Vice President, Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

I have finished the preliminary examination of the Koelz botanical material, but much work remains to be done before I can evaluate the collection properly. The material was very badly mixed, including partial sets of single specimens and other sets of from one to many duplicates. Much of the material was without labels other than small slips bearing a number with no indication of the locality, habitat, or altitude. We transferred the numbers to the lower corner of the sheet and segregated the collection in thousands and are now engaged in placing the sheets in a strictly numerical order. The lowest number appears to be about 1900, and the highest about 3350, which if the numbers were collected in a single sequence, would indicate about 1450 additional collections. Unfortunately, however, Dr. Koelz apparently in some cases started with a number such as 2150 and then from probably the same locality numbered 2150 a, b, c, etc., up to nearly the end of the alphabet. It thus happens that we will be obliged to mount many more than 1450 sheets in order to account for all the numbers. I find in some cases that as many as 15 different field labels bearing different numbers had been included in a single folder with a single specimen, but I think that we will be able to place these labels properly, at least in most cases from the small numbered slips. The unfortunate thing about the matter is that it will involve several weeks of intensive work merely to straighten out the collection before we can segregate a study set and have the material mounted.

I make a rough estimate that there will be, including duplicates, about 10,000 specimens in the collection and have ordered this number of labels; I may be several thousand off one way or the other, but for your records I think that you may state that, including duplicates, the collection recently received contains approximately 10,000 specimens.

Very truly yours,

E. D. Merrill  
Director

EDM:GMS



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10  
August 10, 1932

Miss Esther J. Lichtmann  
Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Lichtmann:

Responding to your letter of August 9, I am pleased to be able to make a better supplementary report on the Koelz collection than the one I wrote a few days ago now that the material has been arranged in numerical sequence. We find that field labels are supplied in practically every case, and within the next week or two Mr. Moldenke of our staff will commence inserting the herbarium labels and getting the material in condition for taking out the study set, the material for specialists, etc. What happened was that Dr. Koelz or one of his assistants segregated a considerable number of partial sets of duplicates, and these specimens were all supplied with a little slip bearing merely the number, such as the sample enclosed. Because of the very large number of specimens supplied with these numbered slips I feared that the field data had not been supplied. As I explained in my previous letter, we transferred the numbers to the sheets and then arranged all of the sheets in numerical order, bringing together in one set all of the segregated duplicates. A part of this work was done by myself, and a part of it was done by Mr. Moldenke. The general result will be that in most cases there will be ample study material, and in certain critical families I will be able to segregate duplicates so as to get identifications from specialists in Europe. Mr. Moldenke will complete one herbarium label for each number as "copy" for duplicate labels and when this is done I will personally segregate the study set and such material as it may be desirable to send to specialists in such families as the grasses, the sedges, and other critical groups where it would be exceedingly difficult for me to make complete identifications here. This work will be completed as rapidly as possible, and in the not distant future I should be in a position to commence supplying identification lists by number.

I am very glad to learn from the statements included in your letter of August 9 that the difficulties caused by Dr. Koelz's erratic behavior seem to be in process of being solved to the mutual satisfaction of both the Roerich Museum and Dr. Koelz.

Very truly yours

EDM/GMS

E. D. Merrill  
Director

(Enclosure)



COPY

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

December 19, 1932

Mr. Louis L. Horch  
Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Horch:

I noticed in a recent number of "Science" that Mr. Koelz was returning to the Himalayan region under the auspices of the University of Michigan. The brief note gave no details, but I assume he is going back primarily to collect zoological material. I thought that you might be interested in this item.

Very truly yours,

E. D. Merrill  
Director



12  
COPY

Ann Arbor, Michigan

December 22, 1932

Louis L. Horch  
President Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York

KNOW NOTHING KOELZ ALLEGED ACTION INDIA/UNIVERSITY CANNOT  
RECOGNIZE COMPETITION CAN EXIST IN MAKING SCIENTIFIC  
COLLECTIONS / KOELZ AS MEMBER UNIVERSITY STAFF CONDUCTING  
RESEARCH NATURAL HISTORY INDIA/RIDICULOUS TO ASSUME ANY ONE  
INSTITUTE CAN HAVE MONOPOLY IN FIELDS IF PERMISSION TO  
CONDUCT WORK IS GRANTED BY GOVERNMENT OF COUNTRY IN WHICH  
STUDIES ARE BEING MADE

A. G. Ruthven



13  
December 23, 1932

Dr. Ralph V.D. Magoffin  
84 Carpenter Avenue  
Tukahoe  
Crestwood, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Magoffin:

Please accept our sincere thanks for your kindness in offering to write to the President of Michigan University as well as to the Secretary of the Law School of the University of Michigan.

You requested some data in regard to Dr. Koelz, and I thought it advisable to enclose you herewith a letter which we sent on May 12th to Dr. H. H. Bartlett, where in no uncertain terms we expressed our indignation at Dr. Koelz's unethical actions.

A lawsuit was started by the Roerich Museum against Dr. Koelz, among other things, for misappropriation of property belonging to the institution and slander. We withdrew the lawsuit upon the condition that he would retract his slanderous statements as well as give us a letter, through his attorneys, promising not to start a competitive institution in India.

Needless to say, my dear Dr. Magoffin, the Roerich Museum welcomes cooperation with all scientific institutions or scientists in its work and our request not to have a competitive institution started in India, referred only to Dr. Koelz.

The reason why the Roerich Museum demanded that Dr. Koelz should not return to India to begin such competitive work was based on the fact that he undermined constantly the standing of the Institution, which treated him generously, and also the fact that he incited the natives in that district, - this in a country which as you know is going through a time of great unrest.

I may also add that he did not live up to any of his agreements, and that the botanical collection which was sent to the United States, was found to be in a most unscientific and unsatisfactory preparation.

With cordial greetings,

Yours most sincerely,

Louis L. Horch, President



December 26, 1932.

C O P Y

~~DEAR~~

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven  
President University of Michigan

Dear President Ruthven:

As a graduate of the University of Michigan, and also as an Honorary Advisor of the Roerich Museum of New York, I beg to write you in regard to a Dr. Koelz who has become attached to our university.

A year or two ago I looked over some of the Museum file re Koelz, and catalogued him offhand as one of the genus: sneaking megalomaniac. It was my own feeling that the Museum should have prosecuted him, because his word is clearly worthless.

The case in brief was presented by the Museum to your Dr. H.H. Bartlett under date of May 12, 1932. He must surely have shown you the letter; it would have been derelict not to have done so.

Personally, as a graduate of the U. of M., I resent that such a man as this Koelz should be countenanced by the University.

It is, I think, the intention of the Museum to push prosecution against Dr. Koelz. In this I heartily concur. It would grieve me to see the University of Michigan brought into notoriety. I feel confident that when you have the facts in hand you will take measures that will bring this matter to a proper conclusion.

Very truly yours,

R. V. Magoffin

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COPY

December 27, 1932

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven  
President, Michigan University  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

My dear Dr. Ruthven:

Your telegram of December 22nd was received and its contents noted. We are astonished at your statement that you know nothing of Dr. Koelz's alleged actions in India, since on May 12th, 1932 we informed Dr. H. H. Bartlett, member of your University staff, regarding the entire case of Dr. Koelz, pointing out the unethical and outrageous actions of Dr. Koelz while in the employ of the Roerich Museum, in India. We are enclosing herewith a copy of this letter.

As a result of these accumulated actions, the Roerich Museum instituted law-suits against Dr. Koelz for slander and misappropriation of property, but withdrew these complaints upon the condition that he repudiate his false and slanderous statements spread in India, and also return the property belonging to the Roerich Museum. Dr. Koelz's malevolent attitude in attempting to incite the natives in Kulu Valley and spreading slanderous reports among British officials - statements of which reached us from civil service officers of India, - necessarily obliged us to see that Dr. Koelz would not return to India to continue his undermining schemes under the cloak of scientific work. For this reason we made demands of him not to pursue competitive work in India.

In addition it is regrettable to state that the scientific institutions to which we have sent the collections assembled by Dr. Koelz, commented on the very poor and unscientific presentation of the material as arranged by Dr. Koelz.

Since the attorney of Dr. Koelz, Mr. Burke of Ann Arbor, Michigan, stated by telephone as well as by letter to Mr. S. F. Hartman, Dr. Koelz's attorney in New York City, that Dr. Koelz would repudiate by letter all slanderous statements, also gave the assurance of Dr. Koelz not to pursue competitive work in India, the Roerich Museum withdrew the legal suits against him. A copy of this letter of repudiation was sent to Michigan University.

During the procedure of the legal suits against him, Dr. Koelz stated that Michigan University was fully aware of the case and nevertheless was backing him.

In view of the above mentioned facts we were exceedingly astonished at the attitude and contents of your telegram of December 22nd in response to ours of December 19th. In no way did our telegram infer that we exclude other institutions from scientific work, upon which you based your reply, but we clearly stated Dr. Koelz's agreement not to pursue competitive work there, mentioning his unethical actions and the litigation which was involved. The Roerich Museum, which has been endorsed by institutions and leaders of culture throughout the world, shows by its records and activities the greatest friendliness and cooperation with other institutions.



Dr. Koelz's return to India to continue work there constitutes a breach of agreement, which we shall pursue by litigation. We therefore wish to advise you to investigate the true facts of this case, as it would be regrettable if the Michigan University would be brought into an unpleasant situation which might result from this litigation in connection with Dr. Koelz.

Very truly yours,

Louis L. Horch, President



COPY

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

December 27, 1932

Mr. Louis L. Horch  
Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Horch:

In the absence of Dr. Merrill, who is devoting the week to the scientific meetings at Atlantic City, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your special delivery letter of December 27, with enclosure in regard to Dr. Koelz. Dr. Merrill's attention will be drawn to this immediately on his return.

Yours sincerely

Marshall A. Howe



COPY

December 27, 1932

Dr. E. D. Merrill  
Director in Chief  
New York Botanical Garden  
New York City

My dear Mr. Merrill:

Enclosed in the letter sent to Dr. Bartlett on May 12th, which I believe may assist you in formulating your letter to the President of Michigan University.

Be assured, my dear Dr. Merrill, that we unitedly are deeply grateful to you for your constant assistance in this case and are ready at any time to reciprocate this kindness.

With my warmest greetings to you, remain

Cordially,

Louis L. Horch - President



COPY

December 27, 1932

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven  
President, Michigan University  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

My dear Dr. Ruthven:

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In addition it is regrettable to state that the scientific institutions to which we have sent the collections assembled by Dr. Koelz, commented on the very poor and unscientific presentation of the material as arranged by Dr. Koelz.

Since the attorney of Dr. Koelz, Mr. Burke of Ann Arbor, Michigan, stated by telephone as well as by letter to Mr. S. F. Hartman, Dr. Koelz's attorney in New York City, that Dr. Koelz would repudiate by letter all slanderous statements, also gave the assurance of Dr. Koelz not to pursue competitive work in India, the Roerich Museum withdrew the legal suits against him. A copy of this letter of repudiation was sent to Michigan University.

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Dr. Koelz's return to India to continue work there constitutes a breach of agreement, which we shall pursue by litigation. We therefore wish to advise you to investigate the true facts of this case, as it would be regrettable if the Michigan University would be brought into an unpleasant situation which might result from this litigation in connection with Dr. Koelz.

Very truly yours,

Louis L. Horch, President



COPY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

President's Room - -

January 3, 1933

Mr. Louis L. Horch  
President, Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York City

My dear Mr. Horch:

I have your letter of December 27, enclosing a copy of the letter which you had sent to Dr. H.H. Bartlett under date of May 12, 1932. This is the first time that have had your criticisms of Dr. Koelz brought to my attention. Dr. Bartlett had not shown me your letter to him. I knew that you had started suit against Dr. Koelz. I had also learned that the suit had been withdrawn.

Dr. Koelz has been, off and on, a member of the University of Michigan staff for a good many years. He has been sent on many expeditions, among others the MacMillan expedition to the Arctic. For several years he was a member of the United States Fish Commission, stationed in Ann Arbor. I have been closely in touch with his work during the entire period since his graduation and I have never heard any criticisms of his work or of his integrity.

When Dr. Koelz told me that he had been asked to go to India for the Roerich Museum, I strongly advised against the project. It seemed to me that he would be more or less wasting his time in spending several years in collecting for an institution of which he was not a permanent member. However, he insisted upon undertaking the work and I did not inquire into the nature of the investigations to be made, believing that this was a matter to be determined by your institution. When he returned to Ann Arbor, he told me that he had not been satisfied with his relationships with the Roerich Museum and that, if I wished, he would tell me the reasons for his dissatisfaction. I told him that it was a matter with which I had no concern. His position with us has been in recent years that of a man on honorary appointment, without salary. He is free to go where he pleases unless we ask him to undertake a specific piece of work.

When Dr. Koelz severed his connection with the Roerich Museum, an alumnus of the University offered to provide a part of the expense of a collecting trip to India, to be made by Dr. Koelz. Finally, gift funds were secured to make the expedition possible and he returned to India about the first of November. The only inquiry that I made was to discover if the British Government would permit the work to be done. I was assured that



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permission would be given. You state that Dr. Koelz had an agreement with you not to return to India. Inasmuch as the University knew of no such agreement, I could only conclude from your telegram that you objected on the grounds that the work was competitive.

You say in the last paragraph of your letter that you intend to resume litigation against Dr. Koelz and that it would be regrettable if the University of Michigan should be brought into an unpleasant situation by such litigation. I cannot see that the University of Michigan is at all concerned in any litigation which you bring against Dr. Koelz, nor would it be concerned if, as is not the case, he were undertaking the work under State funds.

I am considerably puzzled by the fact that you assert you are not desirous of excluding other institutions from scientific work in India and also remark that Dr. Koelz has assured you that he would not pursue competitive work in India. In all my years of conducting scientific expeditions, I have never known of an institution objecting to work by other institutions in the same field. As far as the alleged slanderous statements are concerned, that must remain a matter between your institution and Dr. Koelz.

I am sure that I do not have to point out that the University of Michigan has always tried to cooperate with other educational organizations. I will be quite willing at any time to discuss questions of scientific interest or assist the Roerich Museum in any other possible way. I cannot believe, however, that it is any part of our duty to adjust difficulties between a member of our staff and an organization, when these differences are entirely personal.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Alexander G. Ruthven



COPY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

President's Room - -

January 3, 1933

Mr. Louis L. Horch  
President, Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York City

My dear Mr. Horch:

I have your letter of December 27, enclosing a copy of the letter which you had sent to Dr. H.H. Bartlett under date of May 12, 1932. This is the first time that have had your criticisms of Dr. Koelz brought to my attention. Dr. Bartlett had not shown me your letter to him. I knew that you had started suit against Dr. Koelz. I had also learned that the suit had been withdrawn.

Dr. Koelz has been, off and on, a member of the University of Michigan staff for a good many years. He has been sent on many expeditions, among others the MacMillan expedition to the Arctic. For several years he was a member of the United States Fish Commission, stationed in Ann Arbor. I have been closely in touch with his work during the entire period since his graduation and I have never heard any criticisms of his work or of his integrity.

When Dr. Koelz told me that he had been asked to go to India for the Roerich Museum, I strongly advised against the project. It seemed to me that he would be more or less wasting his time in spending several years in collecting for an institution of which he was not a permanent member. However, he insisted upon undertaking the work and I did not inquire into the nature of the investigations to be made, believing that this was a matter to be determined by your institution. When he returned to Ann Arbor, he told me that he had not been satisfied with his relationships with the Roerich Museum and that, if I wished, he would tell me the reasons for his dissatisfaction. I told him that it was a matter with which I had no concern. His position with us has been in recent years that of a man on honorary appointment, without salary. He is free to go where he pleases unless we ask him to undertake a specific piece of work.

When Dr. Koelz severed his connection with the Roerich Museum, an alumnus of the University offered to provide a part of the expense of a collecting trip to India, to be made by Dr. Koelz. Finally, gift funds were secured to make the expedition possible and he returned to India about the first of November. The only inquiry that I made was to discover if the British Government would permit the work to be done. I was assured that



224  
permission would be given. You state that Dr. Koelz had an agreement with you not to return to India. Inasmuch as the University knew of no such agreement, I could only conclude from your telegram that you objected on the grounds that the work was competitive.

You say in the last paragraph of your letter that you intend to resume litigation against Dr. Koelz and that it would be regrettable if the University of Michigan should be brought into an unpleasant situation by such litigation. I cannot see that the University of Michigan is at all concerned in any litigation which you bring against Dr. Koelz, nor would it be concerned if, as is not the case, he were undertaking the work under State funds.

I am considerably puzzled by the fact that you assert you are not desirous of excluding other institutions from scientific work in India and also remark that Dr. Koelz has assured you that he would not pursue competitive work in India. In all my years of conducting scientific expeditions, I have never known of an institution objecting to work by other institutions in the same field. As far as the alleged slanderous statements are concerned, that must remain a matter between your institution and Dr. Koelz.

I am sure that I do not have to point out that the University of Michigan has always tried to cooperate with other educational organizations. I will be quite willing at any time to discuss questions of scientific interest or assist the Roerich Museum in any other possible way. I cannot believe, however, that it is any part of our duty to adjust difficulties between a member of our staff and an organization, when these differences are entirely personal.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Alexander G. Ruthven



28  
January 18, 1933

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven  
President, Michigan University  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

My dear Dr. Ruthven:

We are in receipt of your letter of January 3rd, from which we note that the funds for Dr. Koelz's trip have been given by an alumnus and friends, and not from State funds. Dr. Koelz, who is now in India, states that he has been commissioned by the Michigan University, and, claiming the protectorate of your institution, continues to spread malevolent rumours and endeavors to undermine our Institute there. Since these actions of Dr. Koelz are obviously not of a scientific nature, but are coupled with malevolent motives, we feel strongly impelled to warn you of the seriousness of this case.

To illustrate some of Dr. Koelz's actions: We have the receipts here for two guns which are the property of the Roerich Museum. Before leaving India, Dr. Koelz gave these two guns, together with ammunition, to his native assistant, against the orders of the Director of the Institute, thus misappropriating property. You of course realize the seriousness of giving arms to natives in a foreign country which at the present is seething with unrest.

In a settlement with Dr. Koelz, through his attorney, it was agreed that these guns be returned to the Museum. We have since learned from Col. Mahon, Distinguished Service Officer, of India, that the guns have not been returned as agreed upon but that Dr. Koelz has written the Deputy Commissioner falsely claiming these guns as his property.

It was also definitely agreed upon in the settlement that Dr. Koelz would submit the second half of his Diary to the Roerich Museum, comprising data of his expedition - which was completely financed by this institution. Dr. Koelz has failed to give us the Diary.

These actions of Dr. Koelz, you can readily understand, are not simply a matter between Dr. Koelz and our institution, but involve something far graver. Now that Dr. Koelz claims to be representing Michigan University, the continuation of his hidden schemes and inciting of natives will seriously reflect upon your University. This will be especially so since we have already notified your University in a letter to Dr. Bartlett, and are again bringing it to your attention.

It seems to me that those who financed Dr. Koelz's present trip to India should be informed of his grave and unethical conduct in the past as well as at present, which, if he is not recalled by those who sent him, may reflect seriously upon the Michigan University.



Page #2.

In regard to the second to last paragraph of your letter of January 3rd, this was answered in my letter of December 27th. I herewith state that the Roerich Museum objects only to Dr. Koelz's presence at Naggar, Kulu, the reasons for which have been amply stated. The Roerich Museum has never objected to research work or expeditions being conducted by other institutions, but, in fact, is always desirous of encouraging cooperation with other scientific institutions.

In addition to the points mentioned in this letter, there are other highly objectionable aspects of Dr. Koelz's activities which we would submit personally to any representative whom you might authorize.

We have just learned from our headquarters in India that ~~Koelz~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~Koelz~~ is purchasing a plot of land in the vicinity of our institution, and is again inciting the natives against us. It will also interest you to know that ~~Koelz~~ stated here, while the legal proceedings were pending, that your University was backing him and that he had your fullest support.

We trust that you will see the gravity of this matter, and will make every effort to see that Dr. Koelz is recalled.

Very truly yours,

Louis L. Horch, President



21  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
ANN ARBOR  
President's Room.

January 21, 1933.

Mr. Louis L. Horch,  
President, Roerich Museum  
310 Riverside Drive  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Horch:

I can understand your letter of January 18th better than I can your previous messages. I appreciate its spirit and you may be sure that I will begin an inquiry at once to ascertain the facts. I wish you to know that I am quite sincere when I say that, while I have no proofs, from what I have known of Dr. Koelz for many years I cannot, without proof, believe that he has been spreading rumors of any kind. At any rate, I will get in touch with responsible people in India at once to secure the information which I need.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander G. Ruthven



January 21, 1933.

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven,  
President, University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

My dear President Ruthven:

Thank you for your letter of January 3, and  
for the copy attached of your letter of the same date to President  
Horch of the Roerich Museum.

I quite agree with you that neither of us knows  
all the story of Dr. Koelz's relations with the Roerich people. I  
hope you will agree with me that scientists and humanists alike have  
all too often an almost abnormal-unless it is ingrained and heredit-  
ary nature - willingness to be envious, jealous, and picayunishly  
vicious. We are almost as bad as musicians and other vipers.

I appreciate very much your personal slant on  
Dr. Koelz. I do not know him at all. On the other hand, I do know  
Dr. Roerich, and a man more cleanly devoted to science I have never  
met. I have known him archaeologically since my days in Germany and  
Russia in 1906 and 1907.

The Museum has just had a letter from Dr. Roerich  
some extracts from which I beg to copy herewith.

" From the beginning of our field work in India we  
extended friendly cooperation to the Michigan  
University and sent them twice collections of  
botanical specimens (6 packages Dec. 14, 1930,  
acknowledged by E. B. Mains, University Herbarium  
Jan. 14 and 2 packages June 2), and one collection  
of entomological specimens (sent on Jan. 31, 1931,  
acknowledged by Frederick M. Gaige, Director,  
Museum Zoology, March 11, and in the "Ark" of Nov.  
31, No. 1 Vol. X); and are surprised to find  
such an unethical attitude as sending to our base  
our discharged employee to conduct the same work,  
and who had deliberately alienated the services  
of our native staff and even equipped it with the  
equipment belonging to the Institute and which by  
the conditions of the agreement he was bound to  
return, but which up to now he has failed to do.  
He also spreads slanderous statements about our  
Institute. We therefore have to insist that the  
University should take proper steps to amend this sit-  
uation which in our opinion can only be done by  
recalling Dr. Koelz; otherwise we shall take steps  
to safeguard our interests".

"To employ Dr. Koelz under the circumstances stated  
when he had deliberately used his time belonging to  
the Institute in his own interest, collecting  
medicinal texts and gathering information which he  
failed to report, and when he has repeatedly slandered



us as just stated, is beyond our comprehension. If the Michigan University still takes no proper steps, are we to understand that the University takes upon itself full responsibility for damage resulting from the above-mentioned conduct of a member of their staff "?

Dr. Roerich also quotes a number of Dr. Koelz' reported remarks which in my judgment are quite slanderous. In Dr. Roerich's opinion he is spreading rumors calculated to bring discredit on the activities of the Roerich Museum. It may well be that his discharge by the Museum for rank dishonesty rankles; that I can understand. But India, as I know well from my good friend Sir John Marshall, who has been Director of Archaeology in India for some fifteen years, is a very fertile field in which recriminations grow with a super-fecundity. And Great Britain looks on such matters, especially when propagated by foreigners - as we Americans are there - with a most unfriendly eye.

I wonder if perhaps Dr. Koelz is a Jekyll in Michigan and a Hyde in India. Offhand I should say he was a skunk; certainly he does not seem to be spreading rosewater over the Indian terrain.

The fact that he is working under a subvention and not on University appropriations does appear to free our University legally; but, at the same time, if Koelz is acting as I believe from Dr. Roerich that he is, the University is likely to gain no great renown from a man whose scientific value is vitiated by excremental turpitudinarianism.

I believe that Dr. Roerich can and will deal with Dr. Koelz if it becomes necessary but personally I should like to see such an eventuality voided or avoided.

Yours very truly,

R. V. D. Magoffin



30

January 21, 1933.

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven,  
President, University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

My dear President Ruthven:

Thank you for your letter of January 3, and for the copy attached of your letter of the same date to President Horch of the Roerich Museum.

I quite agree with you that neither of us knows all the story of Dr. Koelz's relations with the Roerich people. I hope you will agree with me that scientists and humanists alike have all too often an almost abnormal-unless it is ingrained and hereditary nature - willingness to be envious, jealous, and piquantly vicious. We are almost as bad as musicians and other vipers.

I appreciate very much your personal slant on Dr. Koelz. I do not know him at all. On the other hand, I do know Dr. Roerich, and a man more cleanly devoted to science I have never met. I have known him archaeologically since my days in Germany and Russia in 1906 and 1907.

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"To employ Dr. Koelz under the circumstances stated when he had deliberately used his time belonging to the Institute in his own interest, collecting medicinal texts and gathering information which he failed to report, and when he has repeatedly slandered



us as just stated, is beyond our comprehension. If the Michigan University still takes no proper steps, are we to understand that the University takes upon itself full responsibility for damage resulting from the above-mentioned conduct of a member of their staff "?

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The fact that he is working under a subvention and not on University appropriations does appear to free our University legally; but, at the same time, if Koelz is acting as I believe from Dr. Roerich that he is, the University is likely to gain no great renown from a man whose scientific value is vitiated by excremental turpitudinarianism.

I believe that Dr. Roerich can and will deal with Dr. Koelz if it becomes necessary but personally I should like to see such an eventuality voided or avoided.

Yours very truly,

R. V. D. Magoffin



Dear Sir,

I shall be very much obliged if you will kindly inform me whether Dr. Walter Koelz is acting on behalf of the University of Michigan or whether he is authorized, in his capacity as a member of the staff of the University to apply to the authorities in India for a "Collector's Licence"?

As a member of the staff of the Himalayan Research Institute of the Roerich Museum it is my duty to act as a liason officer between the Institut and the Government of India and Government Officials. In the course of my duties it has come to my notice that Dr.Koelz is representing himself as acting on behalf of your Univeristy. At the same time I regret to say, his conduct is such that no Institution would care to have its name associated with him. His ungentlemanly behaviour, hos mode of life, his misrepresentations and deliberate falsehoods have gained him an unsavory reputation which can bring nothing but discredit to any Institution with which he is connected.

I consider it my unpleasant duty to acquaint you with these facts and to ask you whether he is, or is not, entitled to use the name of the University of Michigan in his dealings with Governemnt officials.

I understand that you have already been informed that Dr.Koezl had misappropriated certain property belonging to this Institute and made certain slanderous statements which have compelled the Roerich Museum to take legal action against him.

Very truly yours,



32  
COPY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
ANN ARBOR  
President's Room

January 29, 1933

Dr. R.V.D. Magoffin,  
Department of Classics,  
New York University,  
University Heights, New York.

My dear Dr. Magoffin:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 21. I am certainly at a loss to understand this extraordinary situation. I have told you what I know about Dr. Koelz. To add to the confusion, Mr. George Burke, who has been the University's attorney for a good many years, has been receiving the most extraordinary letters from Mr. Horch and others connected with the Roerich Museum.

I have decided to cut directly to the heart of this matter and to undertake an investigation through the British Government in India. I have the contacts that should provide me with adequate information. As I get data from India, I will acquaint you with its nature.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Alexander G. Ruthven



37  
COPY

February 2, 1933

President Alexander G. Ruthven  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear President Ruthven:

Thank you very much for your  
courteous letter of January 29. Your plan seems to me  
to be a most satisfactory solution of a problem which  
seems to need a settlement.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H.V.D. Magoffin



Copy

Confidential

No. 517.0

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven  
President University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor,  
Mich. U.S.A.

Naggar  
Kulu  
Punjab  
India  
7th February 1933.

Dear Sir,

I shall be very much obliged if you will kindly inform me whether Dr. Walter Koelz is acting on behalf of the University of Michigan or whether he is authorised, in his capacity as a member of the staff of the University, to apply to the authorities in India for a "Collector's Licence".

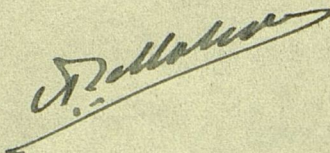
As a member of the staff of the Himalayan Research Institute of the Roerich Museum it is my duty to act as a liason officer between the Institute and the Government of India and Government officials. In the course of my duties it has come to my notice that Dr. Koelz is representing himself as acting on behalf of your University. At the same time, I regret to say, his conduct is such that no Institution would care to have its name associated with him. His ungentlemanly behaviour, his mode of life, his misrepresentations and deliberate falsehoods have gained him an unsavoury reputation which can bring nothing but discredit to any Institution with which he is connected.

I consider it my unpleasant duty to acquaint you with these facts and to ask whether he is, or is not, entitled to use the name of the University of Michigan in his dealings with Government officials.



I understand that you have already been informed that Dr. Koelz has misappropriated certain property belonging to this Institute and made certain slanderous statements which have compelled the Roerich Museum to take legal action against him.

Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A.E. Mahon", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Colonel

(A.E. Mahon)



Copy.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Ann Arbor  
President's Room

March 13, 1933.

Colonel A. E. Mahon,  
Himalayan Research Institute of the  
Roerich Museum,  
Naggar, Kulu,  
Punjab, India.

My dear Sir:

I have your letter of February 7. Dr. Walter Koelz is collecting for the University of Michigan on a gift fund made to the University for the purpose. On this basis he is certainly entitled to use the name of Michigan in his dealings with Government officials.

The University is not interested in his relations with the Roerich Museum. We are, of course, interested in his contacts with Government officials. I have written to the Government of India to inquire if the Government is satisfied with his conduct.

Yours sincerely,

( Signed ) Alexander Ruthven



COPY

31

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,  
Ann Arbor.  
President's Room.

March 13, 1933

Colonel A.E.Mahon,  
Himalayan Research Institute of the Roerich Museum,  
Naggar, Kulu, Punjab, India.

My dear Sir:

I have your letter of February 7. Dr. Walter Koelz is collecting for the University of Michigan on a gift fund made to the University for the purpose. On this basis he is certainly entitled to use the name of Michigan in his dealings with Government officials.

The University is not interested in his relations with the Roerich Museum. We are, of course, interested in his contacts with Government officials. I have written to the Government of India to inquire if the Government is satisfied with his conduct.

Yours sincerely,

(signed:) Alexander Ruthven.

Draft of proposed letter of Col. A.E. Mahon, D.S.O. to President Ruthven  
Michigan University, USA.

April.....

.....

I have your letter of March 13th and note that Dr. Koelz is collecting for the University of Michigan and is entitled to use the name of Michigan University.

It consequently results that your University considers itself responsible for the actions of its collector.

Yours.....



Charge to the account of Roerich Museum, 310 Riverside Drive, NYC

\$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	WEEK END LETTER

Persons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

March 15, 1933

Dr. Alexander G. Ruthven, President  
Michigan University  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

INFORMED THAT KOELZ IS NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE OF LAND IN CLOSEST PROXIMITY OUR INSTITUTE INDIA (STOP) CONSIDER THIS SERIOUS BREACH OF ETHICS IF UNIVERSITY CONTINUES TO BACK KOELZ'S PLANS (STOP) OTHER LEADING SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS CONSIDER ABSOLUTELY UNETHICAL AND UNACADEMIC YOUR SENDING OUR DISCHARGED DISCREDITED AND HOSTILE EMPLOYEE TO THE SAME REGION WHERE WE CONDUCT OUR SCIENTIFIC WORK (STOP) ADVISE YOUR RECALLING KOELZ IMMEDIATELY TO AVOID SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES AND PUBLIC CRITICISM

Louis L. Horch  
President, Roerich Museum



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1. The company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the unrepeated-message rate beyond the sum of five hundred dollars; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the repeated-message rate beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, *unless specially valued*; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages.
2. In any event the company shall not be liable for damages for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any message, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the sum of five thousand dollars, at which amount each message is deemed to be valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing by the sender thereof at the time the message is tendered for transmission, and unless the repeated-message rate is paid or agreed to be paid, and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one percent of the amount by which such valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars.
3. The company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company when necessary to reach its destination.
4. Domestic messages and incoming cable messages will be delivered free within one-half mile of the company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.
5. No responsibility attaches to this company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.
6. The company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.
7. It is agreed that in any action by the company to recover the tolls for any message or messages the prompt and correct transmission and delivery thereof shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal by competent evidence.
8. Special terms governing the transmission of messages according to their classes, as enumerated below, shall apply to messages in each of such respective classes in addition to all the foregoing terms.
9. No employee of the company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

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INCORPORATED

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

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Night Messages may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such night messages at destination, postage prepaid.

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#### SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO DAY LETTERS:

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A. Day Letters may be forwarded by the Telegraph Company as a deferred service and the transmission and delivery of such Day Letters is, in all respects, subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of regular telegrams.

B. This Day Letter is received subject to the express understanding and agreement that the Company does not undertake that a Day Letter shall be delivered on the day of its date absolutely, and at all events; but that the Company's obligation in this respect is subject to the condition that there shall remain sufficient time for the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter on the day of its date during regular office hours, subject to the priority of the transmission of regular telegrams under the conditions named above.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

### NIGHT LETTERS

Accepted up to 2:00 A.M. for delivery on the morning of the ensuing business day, at rates still lower than standard night message rates, as follows: The stand-

ard telegram rate for 10 words shall be charged for the transmission of 50 words or less, and one-fifth of such standard telegram rate for 10 words shall be charged for each additional 10 words or less.

#### SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO NIGHT LETTERS:

In further consideration of the reduced rates for this special Night Letter service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

Night Letters may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such Night Letters at destination, postage prepaid.

No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

### FULL RATE CABLES

An expedited service throughout. Code language permitted.

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Subject to being deferred in favor of full rate messages for not exceeding 24 hours. Must be in plain language of country of origin or of destination, or in French. This service is in effect with most countries throughout the world.

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An overnight, low-rate, plain-language service. Delivery by mail beyond London will be made if a full mailing address is given and the words "Post" and "London" are written in the address. Minimum 20 or 25 words charged for.

### WEEK-END LETTERS

At still lower rates. Similar to Cable Night Letters except that they are accepted up to midnight Saturday for delivery Monday morning, if telegraphic delivery is selected. Minimum 20 or 25 words charged for.



39

University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor  
President's Room

March 15, 1933.

Mr. Louis L. Horch,  
President, Roerich Museum,  
310 Riverside Drive,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Horch:

Your telegram is no clearer than other communications which I have had from you and other persons representing the Roerich interests. Mr. George Burke, attorney for the University and I have repeatedly, it seems to me, made it clear that Dr. Koelz is collecting in India for the University of Michigan on private grants made for the purpose.

The University of Michigan is purchasing no land in India. We cannot have the slightest interest in any purchase made by Koelz on his own funds. Why he considers it desirable to have property in India I do not know and why his ownership of land near to or far from your Institute can have anything to do with any kind of ethics is a puzzle to me.

You state that leading scientific institutions consider absolutely unethical and unacademic the sending of a former employee of the Roerich Museum to the region you are studying. There are many answers that might be made to this statement. I prefer to say only that in many years of association with scientific field work this is the first time that I have ever heard of any institution insisting that it has a monopoly on a region. I do not know to what leading scientific institutions you refer but I can tell you that some of those located near New York have not hesitated to send expeditions into regions that I have been working. Furthermore, I never thought of making an objection to this practice.

I feel moved to repeat to you that there must be something back of your attitude in regard to Mr. Koelz's work in India that has not been explained to me and also, to repeat, that I have gotten in contact with His Majesty's Government in India for the purpose of getting a report from that source on Dr. Koelz's work. Until I hear from the Government of India I can have nothing more to say on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander G. Ruthven.



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COPY

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

New-York. U.S.A.

Director-in-Chief  
Dr.E.D.Merrill.

March 18, 1933

Dear Dr. Roerich,

I enclose herewith three additional pages of identifications of the Koelz collection, by families. We still have a number of groups to study, but the determinations will be forwarded to you as rapidly as possible. Unfortunately we have had some serious budgetary troubles in the past few weeks and much of my time had been devoted to adjusting our problems to a reduced budget.

I sincerely hope that satisfactory adjustments have been made in the Koelz matter. I cannot understand why he was permitted to return to India to take headquarters in immediate proximity to your institution in view of what has transpired; and particularly so, because India is such a large country and from which material would be desirable from almost any part of it. The situation is indeed an exasperating one, and my personal regret is that I was the man who, on the basis of excellent recommendations however, recommended Dr. Koelz to you for appointment originally.

Very truly yours,

Sgd E.D.Merrill.



COPY

41

May 11, 1933.

Dr.Alexander G.Ruthven,  
President, Michigan University  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

My dear Dr.Ruthven,

Contents of your letter of March 15th have been duly noted as well as your letter to Colonel A.E. Mahon, D.S.O. of March 13th. As regards the last paragraph of your letter to us, where you write that "there must be something back of your attitude in regard to Mr.Koelz's work in India that has not been explained to me", we have to state that you have neem acquainted with the whole case in all its details, including all facts of misappropriation, slanders and threats and inciting of natives, which have already resulted in several attempts by Dr.Koelz's servants and associates to interfere with the work of the Institute. Dr.Koelz's formulae, wholly inappropriate for a scientist, like "You do not know the Lahulis (meaning the Institute's servants) and you better settle the matter with them. For them to kill a man means nothing", and "we shall show you, we shall fix you up!" (addressed to the Director and the members of the Institute present) and "my Lahulis are ready to crack someone's skulls..." shouted in presence of several witnesses and all duly recorded, can leave no doubt as to Dr.Koelz's true character. We now note that Dr.Koelz is collecting for the University of Michigan and is entitled to use the name of Michigan University. It consequently results that your University must be responsible for the actions of its representative.

Sincerely yours

Louis L.Horch, President.



42  
ROERICH MUSEUM

MEMORANDUM

TO PROFESSOR NICHOLAS DE ROERICH

DATE MAY 12, 1933

My dear Professor de Roerich:

There were just two corrections made by Professor Magoffin and the attorney: they eliminated the word "gangster", and to substitute for the phrase "considers itself responsible for the actions of its collector," the words "must be responsible for the actions of its representative."