

C O P Y

Kennebunkport
Maine

September 15th, 1931

Roerich Society
310 Riverside Drive,
New York, New York.

Dear Sirs:-

Is it your Society --- or the Roerich Museum --- that is doing research work as regards the Chinese plants from which medicines have been distilled, in past centuries ?

For several years I have been trying to get some information about peppermint, but without success. I am trying to find out when and where it was first known and used, and if used for confections as well as for medicinal purposes.

The Encyclopedia Britannica says that it was not known in Europe until the sixteen fifties when the plant was discovered in England. That is the only bit of information I have been able to procure anywhere about it.

I wrote the Editor of the Geographic Magazine. He was unable to help me but advised me to inquire of the American Pharmaceutical Society. I did so and they could give me no information. I then concluded that peppermint must have been known in China and wrote the Chinese Legation in Washington, but received no reply. I've even hunted through Marco Polo for a possible reference to it by him, but without success. I saw in the New York Times that the Roerich Society --- or Museum --- is doing the above mentioned research work. I wish this information for some fiction which I am writing and must know if peppermint was known before 1585 ---- anywhere in the world. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) Elizabeth G. Dow

(Mrs. Dow)

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September 19th, 1931

Mrs. E. G. Dow,
Kennebunkport
Maine

My dear Mrs. Dow:

We have been glad to forward your letter of September 15th to Dr. Georges de Roerich, Director of the Himalayan Research Institute, in Naggar, India.

An extensive survey of the Tibetan medicinal literature is being made at this time by the Institute, for the purpose of investigating ancient remedies against cancer and tuberculosis, as well as other malignant diseases. Should any information be available in regard to peppermint, we shall be most pleased to write you again.

As we believe you might be interested in the wide program of this potential outpost of scientific investigation, we take pleasure in enclosing a leaflet describing the Institute.

Sincerely yours,

Vice-President