NEWS & NOTES
By Gen. Secretary

OUR PATRON

It was on the night of the 15th December, we received the sad news of the death of our venerable Patron Professor Nikolas Konstantinovich Roerich who breathed his last on Saturday the 13th December 1947.

The following message was sent telegraphically to Madame Helena Roerich, Naggar, on the 16th December:

"OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES. WITH PROFESSOR ROERICH HUMANITY LOST A GREAT BENEFACCTOR. MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru opening an exhibition of paintings of Prof. Roerich said, "When I think of Prof. Roerich, I am astounded at the scope and abundance of his activities and creative genius. A great artist, a great scholar and writer, archaeologist and explorer, he touched and lighted up many aspects of human endeavour."

It is said that, Roerich's abode in the Kulu Valley Commands some of the most magnificent scenery in the world. His death there constituted 'a beautiful ending to a beautiful life' according to Mrs. Devika Roerich, Professor Roerich's daughter-in-law.

"ART will unify all humanity. Art is one - indivisible. Art has its many branches, yet all are one. Art is the manifestation of the coming synthesis. Art is for all, Everyone will enjoy true Art. The Gates of the 'Sacred Source' must be wide open for everybody, and the light of Art will influence numerous hearts with a new love. At first this feeling will be unconscious, but after all it will purify human consciousness, and how many young hearts are searching for something real and beautiful! So give it to them. Bring art to the people where it belongs. We should have not only Museums, Theatres, Universities, Public Libraries, Railway Stations & Hospitals, but even Prisons decorated and beautified. Then we shall have no more prisons,"

Late Prof. NICHOLAS ROERICH
ROERICH AS PREACHER & PHILOSOPHER

Last Message of Roerich

My dear Friends:

We shall say briefly wherein the substance of our tasks and striving lies. We are helping Culture. And if someone in a moment of audacity should take upon himself the burden of saying “We are constructing Culture,” then he will be not far from the truth. Does not each one who helps, appear to be a co-worker?

We are asking our friends every day to think, to pronounce and to apply the understanding of Beauty and Culture. And this is nothing new, because there is nothing new anywhere. But we are gathering around these precious understandings a new efforts, we are striving to help towards the tension of creative energy. We are striving to learn and to reincarnate the so-called abstraction into reality. It is very easy to make an abstraction from each action, and in this abstraction to lose the possibility of action. We see constantly that the most real teaching of life is being transmuted by clever rhetoric into an unapproachable abstraction and for the appeasing of the weak will it be transported into an intangible cloudiness. To make this artificially created abstraction a reality and substance of life, is the next task of Culture. It is impossible for one to imagine that the true preception of substance, the true teaching of life is only something forbidding, obstructing or deadening.

The truth will be there where will be manifested without obstacles a constructive broadening containment and love towards the uniting achievement. Our enemies say that we are forming of ourselves a special race. If we understand by this a nation of culture, then may be this hostile definition, as too often happens, comes very close to the truth. We shall not be afraid of this truth, if as the highest condemnation, the Black Century which has already spent itself will tell us: “Here are the gathered dreamers, and they imagine they can help humanity.

Namely in this help to humanity we are being reproached. But each of our companions-at-arms, who are scattered all over the world, will smile at that and say: “Does not every natural labour appear to be a help to humanity?” Because it would be abominable to think that everyone who labours does only for himself, No, he works for someone unknown to him, And this unknown will accept the nameless labour as an expression of Benevolence which makes his passage down the earthly path easier for him.

If the division of the world into Constructors and Destructors is constantly talked about, then this measure would be a terrible sign of destruction. But Culture in its essence does not know destruction as such. It is imperiously, constantly creating, it is constantly covering with a higher dome the imperfections of yesterday. But here there is that stone which would be of use to the wise builder, which treats of every possibility. If we will eschew egotism, if we will strive not only ourselves towards the path of the Beautiful, but also actively call others to this feast of joy! And if you see allies, do not bid them depart, but find the full measures of benevolent containment in order to call us to the very same peaceful, measureless field of labour and construction. In Beauty and in Spirit shall our strength be multiplied, Look into the heights, and spread thy wings as the conqueror of the predestined Light ‘………

In the day of disturbances and tremor, we shall repeatedly affirm the very same construction and the same construction and the same benevolent Light. And there are no conditions which could turn one aside who has entered the path of construction. And we shall not be afraid in the name of the Beautiful And we shall remember that the ridicule of ignorance is only a torch of achievement. If we will eschew egotism, if we will strive not only ourselves towards the path of the Beautiful, but also by all possible means open it to our nearest ones, then we shall have already fulfilled the next task of enlightening of Culture.

ROERICH AS POET.

BY THE RULER

By Nicholas Roerich.

Again a messenger. Again Thy Command! And a gift from Thee! Ruler, Thou hast sent me Thy pearl, and hast commanded To include it in my string. But Thou knowest, Ruler, that stone which would be of use to the wise builder, which treats of every possibility.

Verily, in all parts of the world, at present is rising the tension of constructive energy. The lines of new workers cry out: “We are tired of Destruction, we are overburdened by senseless mechanization. We want to create, we want to do