ALONG TIME AGO, 230 million years before there were men to give the land or the time a name, the Appalachian Mountains were formed. Youthful giants on the distant Paleozoic horizon, these great mountains, stretching from Canada to Alabama, were well worn and lined with age long before paw or foot traced the first trail across their forested slopes.

On September 11, 1935, foot pushed shovel into the rough soil of the Blue Ridge—an older segment of the Appalachians—several hundred yards south of the Virginia-North Carolina border. There, at Cumberland Knob, on a cold morning in a rolling forest of white pine and scarlet oak, a construction crew began the first twelve-mile section of the Blue Ridge Parkway. When the road was completed last year, the dream that began as a Depression-era public works project was finally realized as a 469-mile scenic passageway through Virginia and North Carolina, connecting the Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains national parks.

The parkway winds through a world of sharp ridges and deep hollows, graceful hills and meadows, and mixed forests of conifers and hardwoods. Spring and summer wild flowers, followed by the blazing colors of fall leaves, gentle the land like a Highlander’s patchwork quilt wrapped around the family patriarch. The road travels through a region rich in American folklore and folk-craft, past small farms in out-of-the-way hollows, log cabins amidst freshly plowed fields, streams and waterfalls dashing through hardwood forests. Mile posts mark overlooks, trails, and exhibits, including Humpback Rocks (5.8), James River (63.6), Mabry Mill (176.2), Linville Falls (316.4), the Folk Art Center (382), and Looking Glass Rock (417.1).

Moments before the parkway’s final section was recently dedicated at Grandfather Mountain, the sun emerged from a foggy morning sky. It was an auspicious sign in this haunting land of valley and knob, mysterious lights, forgotten fences, wood smoke and blue haze, dulcimer music, and extravagant configurations of stone.

—Malcolm Campbell, F.R.C.

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CONTENTS

4 Thought of the Month: RCUI Update—An Open Letter From the Imperator

6 AMORC Emerges Victorious in Nigerian Libel Lawsuit

10 The Celestial Sanctum: Balance

13 Imperator Receives International Recognition

14 The Great Teacher of Culture

19 The 1988 Rosicrucian International English Convention Report and Photo Spread

23 AMORC's Junior Convention

24 Creating Your Future

28 Walking Away Your Worries

34 Rosicrucian Activities Around the World

PHOTO PAGES

Cover The American Flag & the Banner of Peace (see page 12)

3 Temple Pronaos

37 Himalayan Shrine

38 Summer Fuchsias

Temple Pronaos

On the slopes of the Himalayas overlooking Katmandu Valley, Nepal, is this tranquil garden pronaos, the outer courtyard of a Buddhist temple. The tomblike stupas, found in the gardens, are said to contain sacred relics of Gautama Buddha, who was born in Nepal.

(Photo by AMORC)
I wish to speak to you about a great, masterful servant of Light and Culture, as his ardent efforts to generate world Peace and Unity through Beauty are still of continuous importance to mankind. His profoundly creative character and worldwide cultural accomplishments during this century are worthy of our highest admiration and emulation. His name is Nicholas Roerich.

The immeasurable phases of his extraordinary creativity bring to us not only the image of a master artist, but also the images of a scholar, scientist, writer, archaeologist, creator of unique humanitarian projects, and an interpreter of our epoch.

"In Beauty We Are United!"

Nicholas Roerich, in his constant striving to bring Beauty and Unity to the peoples of the world, bestowed immeasurable spiritual gifts to mankind through great sacrifices and complete selflessness. He was constant in his labor for the general good. He spoke of Peace but accomplished more through the power of ceaseless work for Good which he himself affirmed as the direct Path of Light, of Beauty, of Wisdom—the Path to the Highest for which all people strive. He sent messages of Peace to all parts of the world, to purify the space, to help the growth of human consciousness, because "his very being radiated peace." He created the universally known Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace because he foresaw grave calamities before they descended upon humanity, and he warned, with great sorrow in his heart, against a third universal disaster. He taught those near him to serve culture and love the joy of service, and through culture to battle for Peace, for all humanity, for all times.

Culture means the cult of Ur—the cult of Light. As Professor Roerich wrote in Realm of Light, "This is not an abstract light, but the Light of Reality, as the Sun itself which warms the human heart and out of the past directs us or turns us only to the Future. Culture is reverence of Light. Culture is the love of humanity. Culture is fragrance, the unity of life and beauty. Culture is the armour of Light. Culture is salvation. Culture is the motivating power. Culture is the heart. The understanding of Culture, according to the meaning of the root itself, directs one's striving towards self-effacing study, perception and accumulation of all searchings which uplift and refine the consciousness.

In the booklet The Roerich Pact and the Banner of Peace, Culture is shown to possess "omnipotence as the sole instrument for permanent world peace." It is the means for us to secure the knowledge necessary for the mutual understanding of our global neighbors. Informing others regarding a people's constructive genius is the basis of the ageless adage, "Know thy neighbor." Esteem and appreciation of this Culture can ensure the common understanding necessary to unity and permanent peace.

Truly, "Culture belongs to no one man, group, nation or era. It is the mutual property of all mankind and the heritage of generations. It is the constructive creation of human endeavor. It transcends all obstacles, prejudices and intolerances. It is the highest perception of Beauty and Knowledge. Without Culture there is no truth, no
The protection and respect of our artistic, educational, and scientific institutions, as promulgated in the articles of the Pact, would achieve the peaceful prosperity and health of spirit which the Banner symbolizes, just as the Red Cross symbolizes protection to the physically wounded and distressed. All cultural centers throughout the world should proclaim ceaselessly the call to Peace—the beauty and ideal contained in the Banner and Pact—thus eliminating the very possibilities of war. The text of the Roerich Peace Pact is a Cultural Covenant which is the welding force necessary to world Unity and Culture. Under the Banner of Peace mankind would proceed towards the one Supreme Culture in powerful and peaceful union—in Brotherhood.

Surely within our hearts we have felt a silent prayer arise for Oneness, for Brotherhood and Peace. With Beauty this can be done, at this moment, here. In daily life can we establish Peace through Culture. Pax Cultura was Roerich's motto—his Way. It can well be ours, too. We need merely to embrace it with our minds for it is already in our hearts.

"Through Beauty We Conquer"

How do we begin to manifest this cultural Covenant? Each one of us has certain opportunities of spreading this pan-human idea. Every one of us can say a useful word about that on which the evolution of humanity is based. We can think more beautifully. We can teach children about the significance of cultural values and about safeguarding them. We can teach them to strive for quality, for Beauty which unites mankind—to educate mankind with Harmony and Meaning. To this end Professor Roerich established numerous great institutions, societies, and centers of United Arts, both in the United States and abroad. Roerich stressed the appropriate and essential enthusiasm for Peace.

"In Beauty We Pray"

Humanity has become accustomed to the sign of the Red Cross. This beautiful symbol has penetrated life not only in times of war, but has dissolved to all existence an affirmation of the concept of humanitarianism. The Banner of Peace, symbol of the same great humanitarian ideal presented in the Roerich Pact, provides in the field of mankind's cultural achievements the same guardianship as the Red Cross provides in alleviating the physical sufferings of man. The signs of a new evolution are knocking at all doors. The human mind will realign itself with renewed powers of the spirit by laboring to attain the sacred goal of Humanity—Culture and Peace. We affirm this by honoring the great artist, teacher, scientist, philosopher-humanitarian who put these principles into the world through his constant efforts for the general welfare, for the Common Good.

The exalted Beauty Professor Roerich speaks of emanates from the Highest Source, yet it must find expression in daily life by human labor. It serves to refine and unite mankind—to educate mankind with Harmony and Meaning. To this end Professor Roerich established numerous great institutions, societies, and centers of United Arts both in the United States and abroad. Roerich stressed the appropriate and essential enthusiasm for Peace.
Nicholas Roerich Exhibit at Museum ...

This summer the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum was privileged to present a major exhibition of the extraordinary paintings of Nicholas Roerich, the great Russian artistic and spiritual genius and toiler for humanity. This was a special exhibit, on loan from the Nicholas Roerich Museum in New York City.

Expressing the infinite in Art and Truth, Roerich's paintings portray an indescribably beautiful realm of majestic mountains, azure skies with perfect clouds, and "great spaces of cosmic significance" peopled with workers, heroes, legendary messengers, and saints. These awesome and magnificent paintings transfix the viewer with their inherent power and majesty, opening the perception and acceptance of Beauty "as one of the highest expressions of the human spirit." The cultural work of Nicholas Roerich, his wisdom, and his ardent labor to generate world peace and unity through Beauty are still of continuous importance to mankind, and the Rosicrucian Order, AMORC, was thrilled to be able to bring this superb exhibit—Nicholas Roerich: Messenger—to the Bay Area.

The exhibit was popularly attended, and on the weekend of July 15-16, Daniel Entin, Director of the Nicholas Roerich Museum, was on hand to present a program and gallery talk explaining Roerich's life and philosophy, and the significance and cultural importance of the twenty-five paintings on exhibit.

The fundamental doctrine underlying all the educational institutions founded by him is best summarized in his own words: "To educate does not mean to give a record of technical information. Education, the forming of world consciousness, is attained by synthesis, not by the synthesis of misfortunes, but by the synthesis of perfection and creativeness. The true knowledge is attained by inner accumulations, by daring; for the approaches to the One Knowledge are manifold... The evolution of the New Era rests on the cornerstone of knowledge and beauty."

We can effect the evolution of world consciousness by our own efforts to attain the One Knowledge, by our own labor to create Beauty and Unity. Remember, Culture is the motivating power—the unity of life and beauty in the heart. Live then from the Heart and create Beauty knowledgeably. Let us affirm this in our own lives that we may assist to carry forward both the Banner of Culture and the Flame of Beauty which Nicholas Roerich ignited upon the Altar of Unity.

The 1988 Rosicrucian International English Convention Report

Prepared by the Convention Committee

EXPERIENCE the Tradition, Live the Vision! was the exciting theme of the 1988 Rosicrucian International English Convention. And for three days in early July, more than 1500 English-speaking Rosicruicians from all continents gathered within the new and spacious Santa Clara Convention Center—just minutes from AMORC's International Headquarters—to experience the tradition of the Order's past and live the vision of AMORC's future as discussed by Imperator Gary L. Stewart.

Organized and hosted by the English-speaking Grand Lodge, whose officers and dignitaries were assisted by their international counterparts in providing Convocations, discourses, and dramas, the Convention offered participants a varied selection of information and ideas to assist them along the path to mystical unity.

Prior to the formal opening ceremonies, the International Research Council presented papers on the subject of Polarity. A surprise inclusion at the IRC Conference was a presentation of the Chinese discipline of Qi-Gong. This discourse was presented by Doctor Cai Qui Bui under the auspices of the Imperator.

At the beginning of the Convention a formal opening Processional warmly introduced the participating dignitaries to the general members. Convocation discourses by Imperator Gary L. Stewart, English Grand Master Dennis Kwiatkowski, and Supreme Legate Christian Bernard highlighted the Temple events. Many other inspiring mystical, educational, and cultural events occurred over three wonderful days, culminating in an exciting Banquet and Rose Ball.

On the day following the Convention nearby Rosicrucian Park was filled with Convention attendees taking time to visit the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium, take part in initiations and special events within AMORC's Supreme Temple, and just enjoy the beautifully-landscaped and peaceful grounds of Rosicrucian Park under a warm California sun.

Many Convention attendees chose to spend additional weeks at Rosicrucian Park, either before or after the Convention, due to an expanded Rose-Croix University International curriculum which featured courses in three languages.

Business meetings for all Grand Lodges preceded the Convention; and, all reported positively on the growth and welfare of the Order. During the meetings, plans were finalized for two future conventions. A bilingual (French and English) Convention is scheduled in Montreal in May of 1989; and a Spanish language Convention is scheduled for San Jose, California, in August of 1989.

For a photographic visit to the 1988 Rosicrucian International English Convention, please turn the page.