THE Society of Friends of Roerich Museum is an international society devoted to the ideals of brotherhood through art, as expressed in the paintings and teachings of Nicholas Roerich.

The formation of such a society under the name of a living artist is most unusual, yet this association came into being very naturally, as a result of the influence and admiration impelled by the Roerich Museum. Thousands who have seen the paintings of Roerich have felt in them an inspiration far beyond that of mere artistic beauty as it is commonly understood. Rather, they have found here a new revelation of life, embodied in beauty of color and creative conception, corresponding, as does nothing else in art or literature of today, to their own highest aspirations. Hence arose the desire to spread the knowledge and influence of Roerich's art and philosophy to the many others who, we feel, are eager for its message.

Roerich, so ceaseless and far-reaching in creative achievement, was born in Russia fifty-five years ago. Roerich attained the highest honors in his own country, and his fame became international. As a climax to this appreciation, a special Museum was established in New York as a permanent
Roerich sees the approach of the ideal combination of the visionary and aspirations. This faith he has expressed in his prophetic "Messiah" Series. Roerich felt the underlying spirituality of this country of "great and young has reached its climax in the United States. Even before his visit to America, a renascence should be first incarnate not in words, but in form and color. It is remarkable, too, that such a pulse is not narrowly human; in particular his superb Himalayan masterpieces and the young generation. The chief difference is that in Roerich the im­

These paintings of Asia depict the entire panorama of his travels; the life of Asia, its color, its grandeur, the spirit that dwells in its silences. This is the only such "Symphony" of Asia painted by a Western artist. In these paintings he has synthesized his message of the universality of beauty and its mission in the closer understanding of mankind.

In what consists the essential quality of Roerich's paintings which have appealed to noted men from all parts of the world—men such as Tagore, Stravinsky, Mestrovic, Andreyeff, Zuloaga, Stokowski—men of the most varied types and professions? Art critics have written of the soundness and mastery of the craftsmanship, but to most of those who love Roerich, the cosmic synthesis which permeates his creations is of greatest significance. Certainly the power of these paintings can hardly be suggested in words. Roerich is closest in spirit to the Italian primitives in whom deep religious feeling coordinates with virtuosity. He has a strength of design blended with an emotional gift of color which produces almost the effects of music so as to suggest the pure intensity of works of Bach. His imagination has also the same breadth that may be compared to the poetry of one of his favorite authors, Walt Whitman. And even more than with Whitman, one feels in him the dominant influence of Asia, birthplace of all the world's fundamental teachings. In a word, Roerich recreates from the vital influences of the past a new faith and a new art, much as Giotto and his contemporaries expressed in painting an enthusiasm kindled by St. Francis of Assisi. His vision of beauty appeals to artists and intelligentsia as well as to the working masses and the young generation. The chief difference is that in Roerich the impulse is not narrowly human; in particular his superb Himalayan masterpieces represent a cosmic unity of man and nature. It is remarkable, too, that such a renascence should be first incarnate not in words, but in form and color.

The recognition of Roerich's art, so fully accorded in other countries, has reached its climax in the United States. Even before his visit to America, Roerich felt the underlying spirituality of this country of "great and young aspirations." This faith he has expressed in his prophetic "Messiah" Series. And America responded by the founding of the Museum. In our day, Roerich sees the approach of the ideal combination of the visionary and practical, to accomplish his prophecy, "art will unify all humanity." America, in turn, is fortunate to come into contact with one of the few supremely great spirits in the world today and to call him her own. It is for this reason that those familiar with the Roerich Museum feel the responsibility of trans­mitting its vital influence to the life of America and of the world.

In the six years of its activity, the Roerich Museum has become an art shrine for many people of widely different social strata and traditions. In accordance with Roerich's belief in the essential unity of the arts, a broad educational program of lectures, recitals and exhibitions is conducted under the auspices of the Museum. Through its affiliated organizations, the Master Institute of United Arts and Corona Mundi, International Art Center, the Roerich Museum Press, and Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute, the Roerich Museum has been enabled to extend its educational and artistic program. Founded by Nicholas Roerich, the Master Institute is the first institu­tion to unite the teaching of all arts under one roof. Corona Mundi, founded with the purpose of widening the appreciation of art fulfills its aims through various activities. Primarily it has devoted itself to exhibitions of the art of all nations. The Roerich Museum Press has outlined a series of artistic and scientific publications. Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute, is dedicated to the cause of scientific study. Possibilities for research are provided in the Library which contains a collection of works on art, general literature and philosophy.

Branches, committees, and groups of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum have been organized in Europe, Asia, South America and throughout the United States. The purpose of these organizations is to spread the knowledge of the art and writings of Nicholas Roerich as well as the ideals of the Roerich Museum; also to promote artistic, intellectual and spiritual understanding between nations and encourage any endeavors in the cause of human progress.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum shall have the privilege of attending the Roerich Museum on weekly membership days when the reception rooms will be open for the use of members and their friends as a place of gathering.

All members shall have access to the Museum library, which contains in addition to collections of the writings of Roerich and works on his art in various languages, a library of general art literature.

Lectures and recitals given by the Roerich Museum will be open to members of the Society and their guests. The Series of Junior Lectures will be open to the children of members who on application may receive additional
cards of admission. Programs of lectures and recitals will be mailed to members upon request.

By arrangements with the Directors of the Roerich Museum, members of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum may have a special room in which to hold meetings. They may also, by making application through an officer of the Society be provided with a lecture on the paintings by a member of the Museum staff, for themselves and friends in groups of not less than 20.

Members will be entitled to receive the annual publication of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum, also the monthly bulletin.

Members of any of the international branches of the Society of Friends of Roerich Museum, will share all privileges of each national branch during their sojourn in any country in which such a branch is organized.

All members of the Society will have the privilege of purchasing all publications of the Roerich Museum Press at a twenty per cent discount. This discount privilege is limited to three volumes of each publication. Detailed information regarding all publications may be obtained by application to the Roerich Museum Press.

Members will also have the privilege of special subscription to the productions of the Roerich Playhouse and to lectures and recitals given under the auspices of the Museum.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

HONORARY MEMBERS: These and Corresponding Members to be elected by the Society and granted all privileges of members.

PATRONS: $5,000.00.
LIFE MEMBERS: $300.00.
SUSTAINING MEMBERS: Annually $25.00.
ANNUAL MEMBERS: Annually $10.00.
ACTIVE FELLOWS: Elected by the Society on grounds of merit for active participation in the work: Annually $5.00.
JUNIOR MEMBERS (Under 25 years of age): Annually $5.00.
NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS (Those living outside of Greater New York): Annually $5.00.

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