

AMERICAN RUSSIAN CULTURAL
ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Annual Report
1945

200 West 57th Street, New York City

American Russian Cultural Association, Inc.

Annual Report — 1945

WHILE the year 1945 was, primarily, the year of culmination of the vital problems directly concerning the war, its second half brought the need of beginning a peaceful reconstruction program; thus its record, in review, covers both war and peacetime aims and activities. This dual aspect was definitely reflected in the exhibitions sent out by ARCA, as well as in the lectures. Most important of all, great stress was laid upon the fostering of the program of safeguarding cultural treasures in the countries which suffered severely from vandalism, looting and destruction in the war.

A great deal of material was received from VOKS, Moscow, such as exhibitions, photographs, publications of fiction and poetry by leading writers of the Soviet Union, several special publications issued by VOKS on various phases of culture of the Soviet Union, leading literary and art magazines, and newspapers. This material was added to the ARCA Reference and Research Library and was especially helpful in the Department of Information. The Board of Directors is grateful to VOKS for its cooperation in sending this material in response to ARCA's requests as expansion continues.

Mr. Mark Slonim, who has been absent the past year from active service on the Board of Directors, regretfully announced his resignation from the Board, made necessary because of illness.

The Board announces with pleasure the election of Lieut. Col. David Fogel, who at the time of his election was still in the U. S. Army, but has since resigned his commission. Dr. Fogel has been, since his election, a valued and active co-worker. He is at present engaged in scientific research in medicine at Duke University, but keeps in close touch with ARCA headquarters.

The Board is pleased to report also that Mr. Leonide Massine, another Director, has greatly advanced the art of Ballet, on tour with his company "Ballet Highlights", throughout the United States and Canada. The interests of ARCA are close to Mr. Massine's heart, and he spoke of its work whenever possible on his tour.

The Board of Honorary Advisors has been augmented by the election of Mr. Olin Downes, music critic of *The New York Times*, and internationally known as one of the foremost authorities on music in this country.

Mrs. Frank Sprague, the well-known collector of "Whitmaniana" has become a Sustaining Member of ARCA. It will be remembered that in 1944, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Walt Whitman, ARCA procured for Mrs. Sprague through VOKS, Moscow, bibliographical data and a special Bulletin issued in Russia at that time on Walt Whitman. ARCA has also sent to VOKS important publications from Mrs. Sprague's collection of Whitmaniana.

Mr. V. Kemenov, President of VOKS — the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, in Moscow — cabled New Year's greetings, which were reciprocated by ARCA.

The Netherlands-Russian Cultural Association became ARCA's first group member abroad. They wrote as follows: "We shall be glad to become a Group Member of ARCA, and partake of your kind offer to help us. We should like to receive any publications issued by, or pertaining to, your Association, and shall send you anything published by us. With hearty thanks and kindest regards, SGJ vd Berg, Secretary."

Mrs. Valentina Dutko, one of ARCA's active members, has translated several articles received from the Soviet Union pertaining to music, art, and science, as well as an article by I. Ehrenburg, "Thoughts About the Future", which first appeared in "Pravda". Mrs. Dutko left her home in Florida in November 1945, to take up residence in Prague, Czechoslovakia. She plans to continue with her creative writing in Czechoslovakian newspapers, and also to foster actively ARCA's aims and purposes in her new environment. One of the activities planned by her in the near future is the formation of a Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace Committee in Prague.

Miss Magdalene Lehrer, ARCA Midwestern Representative, although now living in New York City, nevertheless retains her contacts with the midwestern colleges and cultural institutions, thereby assisting ARCA in its work in the middle west.

During the month of August, approximately 400 letters were sent to superintendents of Boards of Education in the United States, recommending the teaching of Russian in the high schools of this

country. This is one of the major projects inaugurated by ARCA in 1945. The majority of replies to these letters welcomed the idea, and the states of California, Oregon, and Nebraska informed ARCA that they have already begun courses in the Russian language in their high schools.

The Russian language courses under Dr. E. Markoff were considerably expanded during 1945. On October 11th, 1945, a special Russian course was inaugurated, consisting of 33 sessions, for professional men and women, and teachers of Russian. A scientifically tested method specially devised by Dr. Markoff for Americans is being used by her exclusively. Dr. Markoff was given a grant by the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, for her work on "History of Relations of Franklin, Jefferson, and the American Philosophical Society, with the Russian Academy of Science in the 18th and 19th Centuries."

ARCA is sponsoring another Russian course, given under the direction of Olga Lang, using methods worked out in the special intensive preparation of selected U. S. Army personnel.

On December 17th, ARCA sent letters to the chairman of the Board of Higher Education, N. Y., and to the secretaries of Admission at Columbia and New York Universities, informing them about ARCA's Russian language courses, and its efforts to promote the study of Russian in the high schools of this country. ARCA proposed recognition of 2 or 3 years of high school Russian, should any of the New York high schools inaugurate such a course, for credit upon entrance into a college or university, on equal basis with other foreign languages.

A number of Prof. Nicholas Roerich's articles, received from India, were sent by ARCA to VOKS, Moscow, and several of them appeared in literary magazines in the USSR.

In his letters from India, Professor Roerich expressed great interest in Mr. Valery Tereshtenko's lecture "USSR: Unity in Diversity", informing ARCA that he was personally contacting several editors of literary magazines in India with the purpose of having this lecture published as an article. At the same time, the Agent General for India, Mr. J. Natarajan, Public Relations officer in Washington, D.C., wrote to ARCA requesting permission to have Mr. Tereshtenko's lecture reprinted in some literary magazines in India. Permission was granted by ARCA, and the lecture was reprinted in "Twentieth Century" Magazine published in Allahabad,

India, in November 1945. This lecture, issued by ARCA in 1945 as a special publication, has been sent out widely to colleges, universities, lecturers and groups, who have used the material in their talks and study periods.

Several publications pertaining to the art of the renowned American sculptor, Boris Lovet-Lorski, were sent to VOKS, Moscow, accompanied by a request that they be transmitted to the chairman of the Union of Artists and Sculptors in Moscow. The following were sent: "Sculpture by Boris Lovet-Lorski", a monograph by Merle Armitage, published by E. Weyhe, N. Y. 1937; "A Statue" by Boris Lovet-Lorski, text by John Erskine, published Paris 1932; Catalogue of Exhibition, January 1940, Wildenstein Gallery, N. Y.; Catalogue of Exhibition, June 1942, Pasadena Art Institute, Calif.; Catalogue of Exhibition, May 1945, Wildenstein Gallery, N. Y.; Three Program Sketches for the covers of "The Desert Battalion", "Iodine for Russia", and "Russian War Relief Gala Program," Los Angeles, Calif.; 15 Photographs of the Sculptures of Boris Lovet-Lorski. This is in line with ARCA's aim to acquaint Soviet artists with the works of leading American artists in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, music, theater, etc.

The permanent collection of paintings by Nicholas Roerich constantly attracts many visitors to ARCA, and throughout the year great interest has been shown by individuals as well as groups of visitors. Among recent visitors were Commander A. D. Lacy, R. N., British Admiralty Delegation, Washington, D. C.; two visitors from India, Mr. Ujjal Singh of Lahore, and Mr. M. S. Randhawa of Delhi, secretary of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Foods and Agriculture in Quebec, Canada; Sgt. B. Spencer, Miss M. Hart, a WAVE stationed in Washington, D. C.; Dr. Donald M. Dougall, and numerous groups of school children with their teachers.

At the request of Thornton Wilder's literary agent, two of Mr. Wilder's plays, "Our Town" and "The Skin of Our Teeth" were sent to Moscow to be transmitted to the Society of Theater Producers, for a possibility of being produced in Soviet Russia.

Miss Ingeborg Fritschi, member of the Board, had an interesting interview with Mr. Ernest Hemingway, an Honorary Advisor of ARCA, upon his return to New York in March 1945. Mr. Hemingway told Miss Fritschi that he had just come from the front. He was with the 4th Infantry Division on D-Day, June 1944, when they

occupied the Normandy beach-head, and remained with them when they took St. Lo and St. Quentin; also while they fought in France and crossed into Germany. He spent 178 days at the battlefield, and intends to write a book about his experiences. Since the Russian people are especially interested in the works of Mr. Hemingway, VOKS requested some snapshots of him, which ARCA sent, as well as the following books by him: "For Whom the Bell Tolls", "Fifth Column and First 49", "To Have and Have Not", "Death in the Afternoon", "Men Without Women", "The Sun Also Rises", and copies of articles which he wrote for Collier's Magazine, appearing in the issues of July 22, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, and Nov. 18, 1944.

On the occasion of the 220th Anniversary of the Academy of Sciences, Moscow, the following cable was sent on June 13: "Directors of American Russian Cultural Association extend hearty felicitations on the 220th Anniversary of founding of Academy. We hope that the inspired work of your great scientists, unhampered henceforth by ravages of war, will help mankind find the road to permanent peace."

Several letters from students of Mr. E. Litvinoff, ARCA member and teacher of Russian at the Detroit Institute of Technology, were sent to students of English in the Soviet Union.

ARCA sent 28 letters received from pupils of Connecticut and New York public schools to VOKS for the Russian school children.

ARCA this year sent to VOKS many photographs and press clippings of its exhibitions, shown widely in the United States.

ARCA transmitted to the Chamber Music Guild, Washington, D.C., a letter from the Beethoven String Quartette in Moscow, and the score of Prokofieff's Quartette No. 2, in response to a request from Soviet Russia.

The Instituto de Cambio, of Mexico, has been sending to ARCA throughout the year, its magazine "Cultura Sovietica", and ARCA has sent to the Director, Claudio Lopez Perera, the ARCA Monthly Letters and other material.

The ARCA 1944 Annual Report, which was sent to the leading public libraries throughout the country, was acknowledged by many letters of appreciation expressing interest in ARCA activities.

Sina Fosdick's article, "Peace Through Culture" appeared in the May 1945 issue of the Eastern Art Association Bulletin, and the following excerpts have been selected for reprinting here:

"In the many forthcoming peace conferences, be they convoked by the heads of various countries or by cultural organizations, the problems of eradicating mass ignorance with all its ensuing evils should be foremost. Nations who earnestly desire to erase thoughts of war from human minds, must encourage true understanding of the life and thinking of their neighbors. The science of modern warfare has obliterated all formerly secure boundaries of land and sea, and has made of the sky an open doorway. It therefore becomes imperative that we abolish also the "Chinese Wall" created in our minds by the practise of isolationism. America, known for years as an isolationist country, in the past accused the Soviet Union of the same sin. Now, due to war, the "dark shutters" have been removed, and we can see the reality. We learn that the Soviet Union is the only political unity in the world today which has positively proven that peoples of many nations and races can live peacefully together without sacrificing their individual cultures and autonomy. We also learn, to our amazement, that Soviet Russia, in its immense totality, evaluates and reveres culture as a governing principle of existence. Her great achievements in science, literature, art and music prove a national love for culture which is unique in the history of humanity.

Could one say that any American soldier today fights for Longfellow or for Walt Whitman? And yet, numerous reports and stories from the Russian battlefield, already immortalized by Soviet writers, prove that the Russian soldier fights for Pushkin, Tolstoi, and other great writers of Russian literature. His is a definite motivation — he loves his culture and fights for its preservation. Therefore, the Nazis are hated in Russia not only because they devastated 1/6 of the country, but because they brought with them well-developed plans to completely destroy Russia's culture. Burned and destroyed historic cities, ancient cathedrals, churches, museums, priceless collections pilaged or annihilated with unparalleled vandalism — bear witness.

Our educators and cultural leaders should lend all efforts to build the bridge between America and Soviet Russia and recognize their common goal: To win lasting peace

in which culture will conquer the savage instincts in man and enable him to eradicate ignorance. The New Era must be built on a basis of mutual understanding and cooperation, and its clarion call should be "Peace Through Culture."

MONTHLY LETTERS TO MEMBERS

Monthly letters, written by the directors, are sent regularly to ARCA members, and have been especially welcomed by those living out of town, because through this means they have been kept abreast of all ARCA activities.

Mr. Fosdick, in October, wrote as follows: "As we begin the 1945 Fall season, we are more than ever convinced of the value and urgency of the work and plans adopted by the American Russian Cultural Association at its inception. Good-will and active cooperation between America and Russia are as essential to reconstruction as they were to the winning of the war, and they will continue to be essential in the building of a new world at peace. "Peace Through Culture" has been advocated by our Honorary President, Prof. Nicholas Roerich, for many years — not only since, but long prior to, the founding of ARCA. Nations and peoples must understand each other, and must know, appreciate, and exchange each other's cultures. We are still fighting ignorance and prejudice, and the United States and the Soviet Union are two countries most advantageously situated to set the example in this difficult period."

Mr. Weed, in November, wrote: "It is a real pleasure to send you this month a greeting from our Honorary President, Prof. Nicholas Roerich. Following is his special message from India, addressed to the members of ARCA:

"Friends:

The Armageddon of war is ended, and now humanity must realize and solve the problem of the Armageddon of Culture. ARCA is an arc of magnanimous mutual understanding. Under this benevolent arc let a structure of true invincible Culture be strongly buttressed. Not a shaky civilization which at times forgets about humaneness, but glorious Culture — that inextinguishable torch upon the paths of ascent — shall be our common goal.

ARCA is not going to speak about war, about the horrors which have overtaken a confused humanity. ARCA is a messenger of joy, a messenger of luminous constructiveness. Nations must join hands not only in mutual defense, but for mutual progress. ARCA brings true information, and its work is for a strong peace, for universal peace.

Mme. Roerich has written already about a timely rebirth of the Banner of Peace — our Red Cross of Culture. Yes, it is time to speak again about cultural values. This activity is inseparably close to the work of ARCA. The field of culture is vast, and on such a spacious pasture all, from small to great, can find application for beneficent endeavor. During recent years the world has seen so much vandalism, so much savage cruelty! The Red Cross of Culture must glow again.

Recall the great international names who subscribed to and endorsed the Banner of Peace. The archives of our Conventions carry indelible and beautiful words which cannot be erased by any vandalism. If timid ones will doubt, and will question the possibility of raising again the Banner of Culture, let them know that it will not require overburdening, and that Culture is not dependent on wealth. Fruitful seeds can be sown in one's own circle, in the garden of his best striving. Everyone has access to the printed word and can use this instrument for common good. All dream of peace, of enduring peace, but it will not come through international policing; neither will it be affirmed by "don'ts" and threats. Peace must be molded first in the human heart, and the heart can develop capacity for full trust only through Culture.

"Peace Through Culture" is our constant motto. Events have proven that Culture is necessary as a protective shield for humanity. If anyone imagines that a "civilized" man cannot become savage, he is mistaken. A civilized savage is the ugliest spectacle. Therefore let us again rally around the Banner of Peace. It is not necessary to overwork, but let us work, under the Red Cross of Culture, utilizing every possibility toward the healing of humanity's wounds. In this endeavor gather small nuclei throughout the face of the earth. Each such good-creating cell somewhere, somehow will elevate the thoughts. They will create new

strongholds of Culture. The cementing of space for Common Good is a panacea within reach of everyone. Let your words about Culture, about everything Beautiful, about that which makes the human heart live, ring out incessantly.

Greetings from the Himalayas!

Nicholas Roerich, September 24, 1945."

(Mr. Weed's letter continues) . . . In closing, let me emphasize the statement of Prof. Roerich that "Peace Through Culture" is our motto. Let us do all we can to further the cause of culture."

Lieut. Col. Fogel, in December, wrote: "Eventful 1945 has taken its place in history. Let us hope that the United Nations' constructive efforts in 1946 will not fail posterity in the insurance of permanent peace for mankind. ARCA's efforts will continue in the direction of American-Russian friendship based on the ideals of culture. Today, active and discharged servicemen are struck by the national and international conflicts splashed in newspaper print. These conflicting issues are not the ideals which motivated their glorious combat efforts. Certainly, they are not the insurance for a permanent, universal peace. Wherein, then, does the solution lie? The serviceman has the keynote, if not the answer, in the ageless teaching, "Know thy neighbor". For the first time Americans have become acquainted with themselves and their allies. This acquaintance was made in military barracks, ship hulls, bomber compartments and battlefield fox-holes. These meeting places are no respectors of prejudice. In adversity, danger, and battle victory a mutual understanding was born. It must continue to live — for it is the sole foundation of universal peace. Where personal contact was absent, a substitute was found. In search for knowledge of his brothers-in-battle, the soldier referred to allied Culture. Again he found the instrument of understanding. Witness the re-birth among servicemen of Tolstoy's "War and Peace". This one work of Russian genius did more to establish a common ground between Americans and Russians than frequent fraternization. The begrimed, battle-scarred soldier had a new sense of awareness for culture. It was no longer the monopoly of a few — but a benevolent torch for the illumination of all. The re-birth of this concept made his condemnation of World War II vandalism so flagrant and final. The war's end brought the termination of personal contact. Now, more than ever, we must resort to the contact through culture — the

contact which is mutual understanding. Culture must be preserved, fostered, and availed to all to insure permanent universal peace. Let us champion our Honorary President's motto: "Peace Through Culture."

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION

From among the hundreds of interesting inquiries handled by ARCA during 1945, we have selected a few examples as being representative of the greatly varied nature of the information service rendered:

Encyclopaedia Americana, Editorial Dept. — information about the ballet, "Cinderella" by Prokofieff.

The Pharmacists' Society — exchange of publications between them and a similar organization in Soviet Russia.

N. Y. Museum of Natural History — Russian dancers for a program; also Russian-English Dictionary containing scientific terms.

United Religious Schools and Universities, Florida — illustrated material and literature on Soviet Russia.

Mr. Mort Freeman, American folk singer — songs pertaining to the various nationalities of Soviet Russia.

New York University, School of Education, Dept. of Foreign Languages — arrangement of the modern Russian alphabet on the typewriter.

Russian War Relief — contemporary Soviet Russian songs.

An American Soldier, in the Philippines — Russian textbook for self study of the language.

A Negro School, Asheville, N. C. — pictorial exhibition pertaining to life in 16th Century Russia; also advice regarding production of an operetta from Russian history of the 16th Century, preferably on Cossack life of that period.

An American Soldier, Cochran Field, Macon, Ga. — material for a discussion group meeting pertaining to the relationship between the U. S. A. and the USSR.

Prof. J. Frey, Franklin & Marshall College — general information, and the study of Russian.

University of Oregon Library, — Russian folk songs.

Nat'l. Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh, Pa. — speaker on Russia.

"News Story" Magazine — information about Marshall Zhukov.

Young Women's Christian Ass'n., Bridgeport, Conn. — lecture series on Russia.

Dr. C. Hirt, University of Southern California — Russian liturgical music.

A High School Girl, N.Y.C. — material for an essay on Nicholas Roerich and his art.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wind Gap, Pa. — Russian musicians.

American Ass'n. of University Women, Madison, Wisc. — material for Art Study Group.

Dr. P. Kolachov, Washington, D. C. — material for thesis on cultural cooperation between U. S. and USSR.

"Answer Man" Radio Program — national pastime of Russia.

Conrad G. Roskar, Buenos Aires, Argentina — general information.

Nils Ake Nilsson, Russian Institute, Stockholm, Sweden — general information.

A Schoolgirl, N.Y.C. — various nationalities comprising Soviet Russia.

"The Manchester Guardian" N. Y. representative — copies of the Russian newspapers, "Pravda" and "Isvestia."

Mrs. Alan Mac Mahan, Bookstore, Ft. Wayne, Ind. — Russian music and art.

Many other inquiries were received including requests from public schools in greater New York City and from teachers and students of colleges in California, District of Columbia, Indiana, Idaho, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin, for material pertaining to Russian music, art, the theatre, and literature, to be used for theses and instruction.

There were numerous inquiries pertaining to the study of the Russian language, grammars and textbooks, and there were also many more individual requests for general information about Russia's culture; her economic structure; co-operative farms; the Far Eastern question; Soviet science, music and composers, writers, artists, and illustrators.

EXHIBITIONS

January 28, ARCA headquarters — opening of the exhibition "Artists in the Soviet Union", attracted a large number of people. Edith Montlack played a group of piano compositions by Strimer, Feinberg, Alexandrov, Shostakovich, and Gliere, which were enthusiastically received.

Feb. 12 through 28, Bonwit Teller Company — "USSR Heroes, Twice Decorated" was displayed in the window of this exclusive New York fashion store. The exhibition was flanked on either side by the flags of the United States and the Soviet Union, and credit for the exhibition was given ARCA in a prominently displayed window card.

Throughout March and April, Mitchell Field Army Air Base, N. Y. — "Russians at War and in Peace" consisting of 60 photographs, and a large map of the USSR.

Throughout March, R. H. White Department Store, Boston, Mass. — "USSR Heroes, Twice Decorated" was shown in the windows.

March 15 to 31, John Herron Institute of Art, Indianapolis, Ind. — "Russia's Historic Cities and Cultural Monuments."

March 12 to 31, Seth Boyden School, Maplewood, N. J. — "Siege of Stalingrad", "Blockade of Leningrad", "Coal for Moscow", and "TASS Windows". In connection with the opening of this exhibit, ARCA arranged for Ariadna Mikeshina to lecture on "Ancient Russian Folk Songs."

On March 15th, the New York Main Public Library, 5th Ave. and 42nd St., opened an ARCA exhibition consisting of over 100 photographs of "Defense of Moscow" and "Blockade of Leningrad". This exhibit was extended until May 1st at their request.

April 1 to 15, Art Association of Wichita, Kansas — "History of the USSR".

April 10 to 20, Arbaugh Department Store, Lansing, Mich. — "USSR Heroes, Twice Decorated" was shown in the window.

April 15 to 30, Public School 174, Brooklyn — "Siege of Stalingrad", "Russians at War and in Peace", and posters.

May 1 to 30, Faulkner Art Reading Room, Santa Barbara Public Library, California — "History of the USSR".

On June 9th, the Biosophical Institute, New York devoting an evening to Soviet Russia, arranged an ARCA exhibition of 47 photographs of "Russians at War and in Peace", and "Fifteen Soviet Artists." A number of publications and ARCA literature, were also loaned.

During June and July, ARCA headquarters — "War Front Drawings by Soviet Artists."

During August and September, AAF Center, Orlando, Fla. — "Defense of Sevastopol" and "USSR Heroes, Twice Decorated."

During September, Public Library, Los Angeles, Calif. — "History of the USSR" and "Fifteen Soviet Artists". Prof. Schwankovsky, art chairman of the Los Angeles Manual Arts High School lectured on Russian art at the library in conjunction with this exhibition.

September 15 to 30, Michigan State Library, Lansing Mich. — 24 Reproductions of Professor Roerich's paintings.

During October, Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, San Jose, Calif. — "War Front Drawings by Soviet Artists."

During October, AAF Center, Orlando, Fla. — "A Year of Great Victories" consisting of 97 photographs and 10 descriptive placards.

October 7 to 21, Michigan State Library, Lansing, Mich. — "History of the USSR". Miss Cora Lindow, head of the art and music department of the library, requested an extension until Nov. 3rd.

During November, Tuscan School Art Gallery, Maplewood, N. J. — 24 reproductions of Prof. Roerich's paintings.

Nov. 15 to 30, Tuscan School Art Gallery, Maplewood, N. J. — "A Year of Great Victories."

Throughout the year, many letters of appreciation were received from schools and libraries regarding the ARCA exhibitions. Also, many excellent press reviews were sent in. As an example, the following review from the Santa Barbara, Calif. News-Press, May 15, 1945, of the ARCA exhibition "History of the USSR" is reprinted as follows:

"TURBULENT RUSSIAN HISTORY DEPICTED IN COLOR PRINTS

"Concurrent with the early sessions of the San Francisco Conference, the graphic color prints of the traveling exhibition put out by the American Russian Cultural Association, Inc., have arrived at the Faulkner Gallery. These reproductions of historical paintings arrived in the United States this year from Moscow. Most of the artists are of the 19th Century. The paintings were gathered from leading Russian museums in many cities. What Meissonier did with Napoleon in France, what Benjamin West did in England and America, Kotzebu and Surikov and scores of others were accomplishing with Russian history. Most of the examples at the Faulkner are literary and illustrative in flavor. A few surmount this classification as paintings in themselves. The great Realist Repin's 'Cossacks of the Ukraine Write a Letter to the Sultan of Turkey', aside from its gigantic, rather terrifying humor, is one of these. Another Repin is 'Tzarevna Sofia Alekseevna, 1698, Inspirator of the Streltzi Rebellion,' a fierce figure of a woman standing at full height. In another painting the results of the Rebellion are seen. This one is Surikov's 'Execution of the Rebellious Streltzi', a surging crowd canvas, possessing the clarity of color and smoothness of texture of painting on ivory. For beauty of color and excellence of panoramic composition, Kotzebu's 'The Battle of Poltava' from the State Hermitage is one of the most impressive of the paintings out of Russia. So little is known of Russian painting, other than the Byzantine-inspired religious art, that the average person will approach this exhibition with immense curiosity, not only to learn pictorially of the history and life of the country, but to discover what went on in the field of painting. Some of the artists, like Bilibin in his 'Trial by Fire at the Ancient Russian Court of Justice', Lansere in his 'Building of 12 Colleges, Petersburg, 12th Century', and the same artist's 'Ejection of Polish Interventionists from Moscow, 1612', paint in pseudo-primitive style the early historic scenes. 'The Tzarina Goes On a Spring Pilgrimage' by V. G. Schwartz is a Russian 'Currier and Ives.' The landscapist Lebedev shows how the harbor of Novgorod, scene of some of World War II's fiercest battles, appeared in the early days. The Romanticist Vasnetzov paints the 'Interior of an Ancient Russian Palace'. Another Romanticist, Ivanov, precur-

sor of the Realists, goes at it with a broader, more modern brush in his 'The Czar is Coming', and 'Arrival of a Chieftan'. No softness here — but a tremendous fervor and love of country and causes!"

LECTURES AND MEETINGS

January 11, Columbia High School, Maplewood, N. J. — Mrs. Fosdick spoke on "The Role of Art During the War in Soviet Russia", before the English Club, consisting of the senior students of the school, and faculty.

January 16, Thermal, California — Mrs. Elsie Rutledge, ARCA member, gave a lecture "Music in Soviet Russia" based on material prepared by ARCA, illustrating her lecture with phonograph records.

February 18, USO, Richmond, Va. — Mr. V. Tereshtenko gave a lecture on "USSR: Unity in Diversity".

February 25, ARCA headquarters — Ariadna Mikeshina gave a lecture on "Ancient Russian Folk Song" before a large and interested audience. Mme. Mikeshina gave a constructive outline of the origin and development of the folk song in Russia, from ancient times up to the beginning of this century. She illustrated her lecture with numerous selections at the piano, singing a number of folk songs.

March 4, ARCA headquarters — Mrs. Fosdick talked on "Russian Literature Before and Since the Revolution," before the Literary Club of Columbia High School, Maplewood, N. J. These students, together with their teacher, Miss M. Nichols, ARCA member, enjoyed also the permanent exhibition of Roerich paintings, as well as the current ARCA exhibition.

March 27, ARCA headquarters — was visited by a class of 33 students of Public School 174, with their teacher, Mr. Paul Rappaport, and were given an orientation session on Russia's art, theater, schools, museums, and sports.

March 31, ARCA headquarters — Sergei Kournakoff gave an interesting lecture "Historic Milestones" on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition "Defense of Sevastopol". Drawing a parallel between the siege of Sevastopol of 90 years ago and the recent one, the lecturer gave a clear-cut picture of the spirit of Soviet Rus-

sia's armed forces. He appealed for an ever-continuing friendship between the USA and the USSR. The Directors were pleased to welcome to this lecture, as ARCA's guests, several Soviet students, studying at Columbia University.

April 10, ARCA headquarters — was visited by 39 students of Public School 152, Queens, with their teacher Mrs. E. Kaese. An orientation session was given them by Mrs. Fosdick, who talked on painting, music, arts and crafts, theater, ballet and sports in the Soviet Union. The students showed keen interest, asking many questions.

April 17, Lansing, Mich. — Miss Magdalene Lehrer, ARCA midwestern representative, gave a one-hour lecture on "Culture in the USSR" before the adult evening class in History and Travel, conducted by Miss Laura Millar. The following sound films were shown after the lecture: "Russian Folk Dances", "Sports in the USSR", "Soviet Woman", "Russia's Millions Mobilize", and "Red Army Maneuvres."

April 29, ARCA headquarters — Prof. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana's lecture "Seven Soviet Arts" drew a large and enthusiastic audience. Prof. Dana described Soviet Russia's cultural achievements in architecture, city planning, music, poetry, painting, graphic, and the art of poster painting, which is very popular in Soviet Russia. Prof. Dana's lecture was illustrated by excellent slides, and presented a vivid panorama of Russia's cultural life. He was introduced by Mrs. Fosdick, who spoke of his authoritative knowledge of Soviet culture, and mentioned that his lecture was given at the most auspicious moment of the end of the war in Europe, following the historic meeting near Berlin of the American and Russian armies.

At the first fall meeting of the Institute of China and the Far East, at Hotel Sheraton, Newark, N. J. — Miss Marjorie Nichols, ARCA member, spoke on "Aims and Ideals of ARCA".

September 27, Los Angeles Public Library, Calif. — Prof. Schwankovsky gave a lecture on Russian Art, in connection with an ARCA exhibition there. The lecture attracted a large and interested audience.

October 28, ARCA headquarters — Marie Tolstoy, granddaughter of Leo Tolstoy, gave a talk on her famous grand-parent, and life in his home at Yasnaya Polyana. She was introduced to a large and appreciative audience by Lieut. Col. David Fogel.

November 16, Maplewood, N. J. — Two lectures were given by Prof. H. W. L. Dana: at Columbia High School, and at the Tuscan School Art Gallery. In connection with the latter, two ARCA exhibitions were also arranged, one exhibition consisting of 24 reproductions of Prof. Roerich's paintings, the other entitled "A Year of Great Victories" depicting Russia's final year in World War II.

November 17, ARCA headquarters — a group of 35 New Jersey school administrators and teachers came to view the permanent exhibition of Nicholas Roerich paintings, and the current exhibition of "Soviet Graphic". Miss Magdalene Lehrer delivered a talk on graphic art, and Mrs. Fosdick followed with a lecture on "The Ideals and Aspirations of Russian Culture."

November 18, ARCA headquarters — A recital of Russian music was given by Miss Hazel Harrison, gifted negro pianist. She played works by Medtner, Rachmaninoff, Prokofieff, Stravinsky, and others. Miss Harrison is a brilliant technician as well as a fine musician, and her program was enthusiastically received.

December 9, ARCA headquarters — Dr. B. A. Liu, well-known Chinese lecturer and educator, gave a lecture on "The Seven Liberal Arts of the Chinese." He stressed particularly painting, poetry, and love for the cultivation of flowers, among the seven arts which are so important in the daily life of the Chinese. Mr. Weed, who was Chairman of the day, presented Dr. Liu to the audience.

December 11, ARCA headquarters — Twenty-three students of a Long Island public school, and their teacher, Mrs. Goldblatt, came to hear Mrs. Fosdick give a 2-hour talk on children's literature in Soviet Russia, their interest in music and art, their sports activities, and child education in public schools. After the talk, the students, ranging in age from 9 to 13 years, participated in a lively discussion period.

Another major project of ARCA during 1945 was the decision of the Board on December 6, to revive the

COMMITTEE OF THE ROERICH PACT AND BANNER OF PEACE

Although this committee's functions and activities are independent of ARCA, it is, nevertheless, one of ARCA's creative outlets.

There are periods in the history of the world, when some great new ideas are introduced, beneficial for the whole of mankind, and they always mark the beginning of a new era, with far-reaching new effects, and creating new conditions of life.

There are numerous such turning points in the history of mankind. The abolition of slavery; the protection of child labor in factories; the rights of women for parliamentary franchise and equality; international agreements regarding law, labor, post and telegraphs, commerce, and airways; the founding of the International Red Cross Society in 1864; and many other such international treaties are now very firmly established, and one dreads to think of the chaos which would befall the world if these agreements were suddenly abolished.

The Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace is also one of these important contributions for the improvement of world conditions, in the safe-guarding of the world's cultural treasures from annihilation through warfare and vandalism, or in times of so-called peace, from destruction through neglect, lack of understanding, internal calamities, etc.

Surely, never before in the history of mankind has the need been so great for just such a project. In the war just ended, many European countries suffered untold loss and destruction of their cultural treasures.

Professor Nicholas Roerich conceived this great idea in 1904, proposing it to the Society of Architects in Russia, and again in 1914 he tried intensely to interest the European countries, including Russia, in this plan which would have protected their cultural treasures, but the war broke out suddenly and without warning in August of that year, putting a stop to progress in this direction.

The detailed project for the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace was published by N. Y. papers in March and August of 1930, after the Committee of the Banner of Peace was founded in 1929 in New York, and in 1930 two committees were inaugurated in Paris and Bruges respectively. Three International Conferences have been held dedicated to the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace; the first two in 1931 and 1932 in Bruges, Belgium, and the third in Washington, D. C., and as a culmination point, on April 15, 1935, Pan-American Day, a conference was held in the White House, at which the 21 nations of the Americas, represented by their ministers and ambassadors, solemnly declared their adherence to the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace. The late president Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke at

that time for the adoption of the Pact, and his speech was carried by an international broadcast to the whole world.

However, although the 21 American nations did adopt the Roerich Pact, the world, as a whole, was not ready at that time to embrace such an humanitarian ideal. As is so often the case, the best and noblest projects must struggle through the greatest difficulties, opposition, and indifference, before their value to the world is recognized. Such was the case with the formation of the Red Cross. Now, all peoples and nations respect the sacred rights of the Red Cross, and its life-saving mission.

The great importance of the Roerich Pact, besides the actual protection of world cultural treasures, lies in its enormous educative value and the subsequent raising of the general cultural level. To make people understand the real values of their own national and other nations' contributions to Culture, means to uplift the very outlook on the purpose of human existence — it means to stimulate them to create such cultural treasures themselves, to turn their efforts toward higher ideals.

At present, special material is being prepared by the Committee of the Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, in the form of a publication relative to this project. The Directors of ARCA invite the interest and support of all cultural groups and individuals interested in the Arts and Sciences, in this urgently needed worldwide movement.

Professor Roerich has never ceased his efforts to appeal to mankind to stop destruction — and one of his many appeals is reprinted, as follows:

“At the outbreak of the Second World War we wrote:

‘To All Defenders of Cultural Treasures

The thunder of the European war again demands that active attention should be paid to the defense of cultural treasures. A pact to this effect is under consideration by many of the European governments and has already been signed by twenty-one governments of the Americas. No doubt, since military operations have already begun, it is hardly to be expected that any agreement could take place during actual warfare. Yet the activities of our Committees should at all times be fruitful. Remembering the position in which the protection of cultural treasures was in the beginning of 1914, we must say that at

present this important question has been given definitely much more attention by governments and public institutions. Doubtless the activities of our Committees have had a beneficial influence upon public opinion and have contributed to such increase of attention. Besides government decrees, public opinion is the first defender of national treasures which have a universal value. During the last great war we applied our utmost efforts to draw attention to the fact that it is criminal to destroy historical, scientific, and artistic monuments. Then, during recent conflagrations, as for instance, in Spain and China, we happened to hear that our Pact was mentioned and applied in some cases. Also now all our Committees and groups of friends, to whom the preservation of world treasures is dear, should immediately draw the attention of the public to the importance and urgency of the protection of creations of human genius. Each one of us has certain opportunities of spreading this pan-human idea. Everyone who has connections with the press or who is a member of some cultural organization should consider it his duty to say, wherever he can, a good and impressive word about the defense of that on which the evolution of humanity is based. On March 24th of this year, our Committee undertook a series of steps imploring European governments to consider without delay the need of defending cultural treasures. We see now that such an appeal was most timely. Let every cultural worker remember now all his connections and possibilities in order to strengthen by all means public opinion which is, first of all, the guardian of world treasures.

Friends, act urgently.

Sept. 5th, 1939.

Our fears were justified. This war was unprecedentedly destructive and cruel. As an apotheosis of destruction arose the savage phantom of atomic bombs. It is quite natural that now our Committees of the Pact and Banner of Peace again begin their peaceful cultural work, which was stilled during the days of war.

Verily, the Armageddon of war has ended, but the Armageddon of Culture has just begun! So much is destroyed! Multitudes of people are homeless, many good works have been annihilated! At present, each peaceful construction must be heartily welcomed.

Where and how to begin? First of all with youth. Everyone can find approach to some school and say there a good word about the

significance of cultural values, and about the safeguarding of them. Youth often does not imagine that cultural values are the greatest folk treasure. The entire nation must know how to preserve them for future generations. Young co-workers will bring this call into their homes, and many hearts which are oppressed with everyday routine, will be aglow with the blessed light and hope about the beautiful life.

The young co-workers will write school compositions about the peaceful labor in the name of national treasures. They will contribute to the data about the cultural monuments of all ages and nations, by collecting that which is to be found in their very district. The light of co-operation will illumine young minds. And probably also teachers will be found who will be attracted to cultural construction.

Also approach women's organizations, remembering how strongly they supported our Pact and Banner of Peace. There are many ways open to the defenders of Culture — no effort is too small to be overlooked. And in the books "Fiery Stronghold" and "Realm of Light" whole chapters are to be found — calls and responses about the preservation of cultural values — of the great pan-human treasures.

The toilers in the field of Culture must be encouraged as heroes of the resplendent future. Without fanfare, without arguments, without harmful reproaches we must again take into our hands the plow and start work on the new planting field. God-speed!

NICHOLAS ROERICH,
October 24, 1945."

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