

From Claude Bragdon's Introduction:

"On May 8, 1923, Nicholas Roerich left America for India, and he has been wandering about in remote, dangerous and seldom-visited parts of Asia ever since. 'Altai-Himalaya' is the record of these wanderings. Though penned on horseback and in the tent, under conditions the most difficult, it is much more, and much richer than the ordinary diary of travel, just as his paintings of the Himalayas are more than a literal transcription of some of the earth's most magnificent scenery. For in whatever medium Roerich works, or in what he is expressing, there shines forth not only the artist but the embodied intelligence—the man, the whole character of the man."

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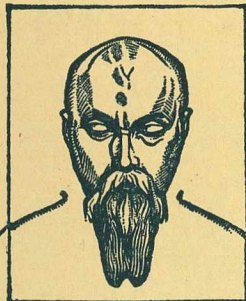
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writes a travel diary
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in

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ALTAI HIMALAYA *By Nicholas Roerich*

With an Introduction by Claude Bragdon

A FASCINATING record of Nicholas Roerich's expedition to the mystical lands of the Far East. In his diary he jots down each moment of the journey as he lives it. He sets down his thoughts and impressions much as an artist would take quick sketches. He meets all manner of men, rich and poor, high and low. He stays in the former Palace of the Dalai Lama, visits ancient monasteries, discourses with pilgrims and monks and discovers signs of a new stirring and a fulfilment of ancient prophecies. He tells of old manuscripts and traditions, referring to Issa, the Jesus of Christianity, who trod these same paths and preached in these same places; of Confucius and Buddha, and other great teachers and prophets; of hardships, blinding blizzards, pillaging officials, ignorance, decay, sloth, brutality. But through it all one feels that there is a hope for a new unity of East and West.

Who Is Nicholas Roerich?

Nicholas Roerich was born in St. Petersburg in 1874. To those who have watched his career as artist, archæologist, philosopher and educator, there is something in it of the phenomenal. As artist, he is regarded among the great historic figures, an evidence of which is the Roerich Museum in New York, dedicated entirely to his art, and now erecting its magnificent new twenty-four story structure. In addition to the 800 paintings by Roerich in the Roerich Museum, about 2500 other of his works are in the outstanding collections of the world: in the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Luxembourg, the Athenæum, the Hermitage, the National Museum in Stockholm and others, and in America his works may be found in the Detroit Museum, the Kansas City Art Institute, the Chicago Art Institute, and elsewhere. America has also opportunity to see the Exhibition of about 200 of his paintings which under the auspices of the Chicago Art Institute has been touring through America's museums since 1920.

Roerich's numerous writings, his educational activities as well as his efforts for international peace in some thirty countries have brought him renown as philosopher and educator. And his life-time of research and study bear witness to his achievements as archaeologist and scientist.

In his present expedition to Asia, as leader of the Roerich Central Asiatic Expedition, one finds that penetrating comprehension of the new pulse of Oriental life—a penetration which has made someone write of him that "His is the world-soul, the onward-moving spirit of cosmic evolution."