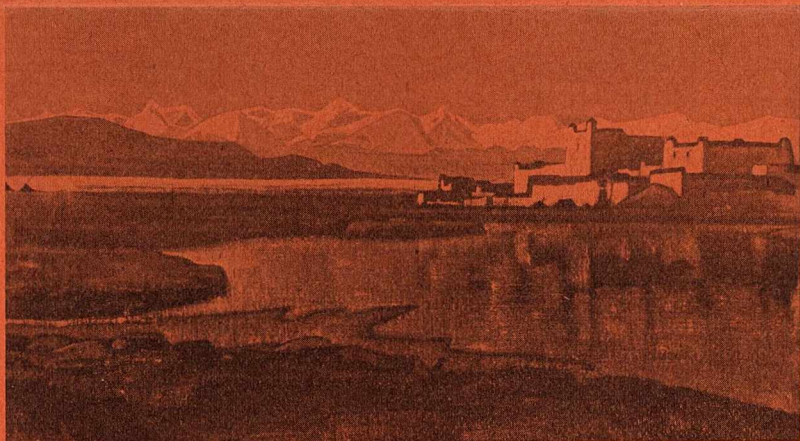


TRAILS TO INMOST ASIA

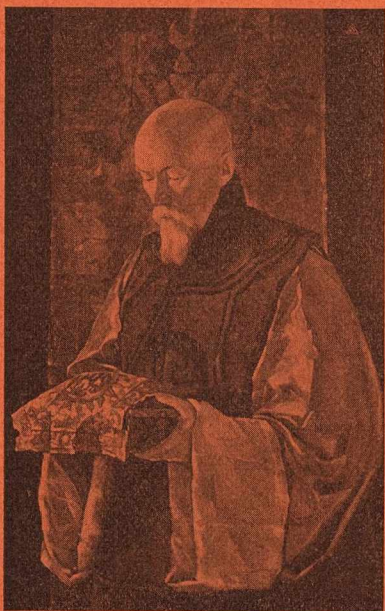
BY GEORGE N. ROERICH



LING-KAR

Painting by Nicholas Roerich

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS



PROFESSOR NICHOLAS ROERICH
Leader of the Expedition

Trails to Inmost Asia

Five Years of Exploration
with the Roerich Central
Asian Expedition

By GEORGE N. ROERICH

With a Preface by LOUIS MARIN

"When the record of adventures undertaken and accomplished in this twentieth century of ours has been written for future generations, the period will stand forth as an age of explorations comparable in importance as in accomplishment with that other great century of adventure, the six-

teenth. . . . And quite on a par with all that has been undertaken as yet, both in its importance and its dangers (is) this Roerich Expedition into the little-known region of towering mountains, limitless deserts, and wind-swept plateaus of Inner Asia." Thus does the *Boston Transcript* characterize the expedition which set out in 1925 under the direction of the famous Russian artist, Nicholas Roerich. For five years they journeyed. Nicholas Roerich painted the pictures which, housed in the Roerich Museum in New York, form a unique record of the land and the people; George Roerich, his son, studied the dialects of the various tribes, and unearthed a treasure-house of information concerning the life, the culture, and the remnants of past civilizations of the high plateau. Evidence that their information was not easily obtained is apparent on every page of the book. They faced intolerable heat and burning desert sands; they watched helplessly while their caravan perished in swirling snow swept into drifts by a raging gale. They crawled along cliff and glaciers where a single mis-step meant death; they climbed mountains so high that men and animals fell



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unconscious in the rarified atmosphere. They were attacked by bandits; they were harassed by the local authorities who resented their penetration of the land of mystery. Throughout all of their dangers and hardships, however, they kept their goal in sight, and they reaped a rich reward. They visited monasteries and palaces probably never before entered by white men; they saw rare libraries of ancient volumes, including a vast collection of works connected with the weird Bön-Po religion of nature-worship and necromancy, concerning which so little has heretofore been known. They discovered Megalithic monuments similar to those of Brittany, and frescoes in cave temples which strangely resembled those found near the Danube.

The whole magnificent record of the expedition—its hardships, its dangers, and its accomplishments—is spread out in panorama in *Trails to Inmost Asia*. The volume contains many illustrations, some from the paintings of Nicholas Roerich and others from photographs. A glance through the pages of this fascinating volume will convince the most skeptical that the members of the expedition fully deserved the tribute paid to them in the preface by Louis Marin, who says "Through their efforts and their sacrifices, their fortitude in the face of danger which threatened their lives again and again, their bravery under attack, the members of the expedition have greatly served science, art, and all nations advancing the progress of humanity."

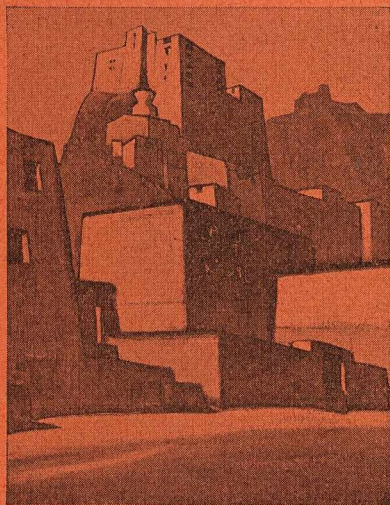
If your interest lies in the fields of art, archæology, ethnography, strange lands and people, or sheer high adventure, you will enjoy this volume.

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TRAILS TO INMOST ASIA

Excerpts from Reviews:

"There is a strange feeling of unreality in this chronicle like a journey to another planet, a feeling which is only partially dispelled when one reads of the coöperative stores in Mongolia, the communism, and the modern methods of agriculture. People, land, and rulers are all mystical, apart from all life as we know it. . . . The record of the travel and of the adventures reads like a page from Arabian Nights." *The Boston Transcript.*

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