

**VISIT ROERICH CREATIONS IN EUROPEAN CENTER**

From the European Center of the Roerich Museum in Paris, comes word that among the first visitors to the Center to view the Paintings of Nicholas Roerich which have entered the collection were such eminent friends of our work as Mme. Baschmakoff, M. Paul Chabas, M. and Mme. Gabriel Chiklaver, Princess Sviatopolk-Chetwvertinskaya, Princess Essad, Count Grabbe, His Excellency Prince Bianchi de Medicis and General Potocki.

Another visitor was Dr. Berlich of Belgrade, nephew of M. Maturanie, Yugoslavian Minister in France, who brought the gratifying news that His Majesty King Alexander, during a recent visit to Zagreb, spoke in high terms of Professor Roerich and mentioned that he was eagerly awaiting Professor Roerich's painting, "Terra Slavonica."

In this measure, the many friends who have expressed their wish to form a collection of reproductions of the paintings of Nicholas Roerich, may now make these new additions to their list.

The "Life of Anton Bruckner" by Gabriel Engel, printed by the Roerich Museum Press, in collaboration with the Bruckner Society of America, has appeared and received much cordial comment. It is the first work published in America on the life of this great musician, for whom appreciation is constantly growing.

The new edition of the Messages of the Roerich Museum, covering the complete annual achievements of the Roerich Museum in all aspects of its work, will appear shortly.

The book of the beautiful verses by Sundar Giffin, entitled "The Barren Woman's Son" is announced by the Press for September publication. The Preface is by Mary Stegert.

**SUBSCRIPTION FOR “BULLETIN”**

Monthly publication of the Bulletin will continue throughout the year, covering all activities of the Roerich Museum and its affiliated institutions throughout the world, as well as other endeavors aiming toward greater cultural unity and spiritual evolution.

Annual subscriptions for the Bulletin, covering the twelve issues are $1.00, and single copies are ten cents each.

**PRICE TEN CENTS**
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The opening of the Conference at Brugge approaches, further news reaches us of the enthusiasm which this movement is arousing.

The lover of Beauty and Culture cannot fail to rejoice in anticipation of this gathering on September 13th, when the note of Peace through Culture will resound in the Great Hall of the Palace of the Governor of Flanders. Nor can he fail to hail a singular fitness in the fact that this note is pronounced in a city which cherishes the precious memories of the Palace of the Governor of Flanders.

It is announced that already 200 Societies have enrolled under the “Roerich Peace Banner” with a total membership of 400,000. The Conference dates are from September 13th to 20th, during which it is anticipated, results of universal significance for world peace will be communicated. Interest is so widespread that in some of the questions presented there are as many as thirty subdivisions to be discussed.

FRENCH ACADEMIES SPONSOR CONFERENCE
Paris, July 27—By cable from the European Center of the Roerich Museum.
We are delighted to inform you that the Académie Française, the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, and the Académie des Beaux-Arts have approved the idea of the International Union and Conference devoted to the Roerich Peace Pact, to be held at Brugge.

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BANNER OF PEACE
(1) The Conference in Belgium
Written for “Visva-Bharati” Quarterly of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Santiniketan
By NICHOLAS ROERICH

At the end of Kali-Yuga, weary and seemingly inconquerable difficulties obscure humanity. A multitude of problems apparently insolvable, burden life and divide nations, states, communities, families . . . People try desperately to face them with materialistic inventiveness, but even the most formidable colossus of mechanical civilization are shaken. Every day brings news of commotions, confusions, misunderstandings and misrepresentations. Life is filled with a multitude of petty lies. Everything uplifting and calling becomes, in the eyes of ignoramuses, something shameful and demeaning. Thus do the Vishnu Puranas describe the end of Kali-Yuga. But the same Puranas announce also the blessed Satya-Yuga. What great conception, what bliss primarily lies at the base of this purification and formation of life? Certainly it is that bliss, in which are united the all-embracing, the all-beautiful, the all-inspiring and all-uplifting. Verily, it will be that great conception which humanity envisages under the name of Culture. To this great conception let us undeniably direct all our best thoughts and creativeness. In this realization let us reveal for the sake of a glorious future the ancient wisdom. For the glory of this treasure let us utilize our mutual great responsibility and let us not impede each other from solemnly carrying this tabernacle of Light. Let us consider our routine work not as hideous shackles, but as prizes which awaken and coordinate our highest energies. Let us lose neither a day nor a night in sowing the blessed seeds of refinement and enrooting Culture among the broad masses.

To this great Service was our Peace Pact with the Banner of Peace proposed, for the protection of all cultural treasures of humanity. Our great Rabindranath Tagore, he who is one of the most enlightened protectors of Culture, writes to us as follows about the Peace Pact: “I have keenly followed your most remarkable achievements in the realm of Arts and also your great humanitarian work for the welfare of the nations of which your Peace Pact idea with a special Banner for protection of cultural treasures is a singularly effective symbol. I am very glad indeed that this Pact has been accepted at the Museums’ Committee of the League of Nations and I feel sure that it will have far-reaching effects on the cultural harmony of nations.”

I am not astonished that we receive so many enthusiastic responses to our Peace Banner. Our past is filled with deplorable, sad and irreparable destructions. We see that not only in times of war but also during other errors, creations of human genius are destroyed. At the same time the electrified humanity understand that no evolution is possible without the accumulation of Culture. We understand how indestructible are the ways of Culture. Hence the more carefully we guard the paths which lead to it. It is our duty to create for the young generation traditions of Culture. There, where is Culture, is Peace. There is achievement where is the right solution for the difficult social problems. Culture is the accumulation of highest Bliss, highest Beauty, highest Knowledge. And humanity can not yet pride itself that it has done enough for the flowering of Culture. For after ignorance we reach civilization, then gradually we acquire education, then comes intelligence, then follows refinement and the synthesis opens the gates to high Culture. We must admit that our precious and unique treasures of Art and Science are not even properly catalogued. And should our Banner of Peace be that impetus which will urge such an achievement in behalf of the universal treasures, this alone would be the fulfillment of a colossal task. How much of the useful and beautiful could be easily attained. Let us imagine a universal Day of Culture, when simultaneously in all schools of the world will be instilled the true values of Nations and Humanity. Amidst the varied works of enthusiasm must be pointed out the great sympathy of the women of America. At a recent celebration dedicated to the Banner of Peace the representatives of four hundred thousand women, Mrs. W. D. Spoor, pledge their support for the Peace Banner. Vast is the list of organizations.
ROERICH MUSEUM BULLETIN

5

Commission of the League of Nations under the societies, museums, libraries, schools and statesmen, who have expressed the great hope that this project will enter into life. Several organizations have already thrown down the Banner of Peace. The Museum's Commission of the League of Nations under the presidency of M. Jules Destrie, Belgian minister, have unanimously accepted this project. And now thanks to the initiative of M. Camille Tulpnick, the president of Dr. Adolphe, president of the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, a special conference is being organized in Bruges, for which a broad program is being planned. In connection with this Conference, of great interest in the proposed League of Cities united under the same Banner of Peace. M. Tulpnick and other enlightened minds have joined in this idea. A letter from Paris indicates that our friend the poet, Marc Cheneau, will represent the old city of Rouen. I have just received an important article by Dr. George Chkaveri, "Le Pacte Roerich et la Société des Nations," an excerpt of the "Revue de Droit International," which highly recommends the Pact from the legal point of view. Verily, the protection of treasures of culture belongs among those all-unifying foundations upon which we gather in friendship without any petty feelings of envy and malice.

We are tired of destruction and negation. Positive creativeness is the fundamental quality of the human spirit. In our life everything that uplifts our consciousness and appreciation of the treasures of Culture, which above all will assure a radiant future. Let us salute all those who, overcoming all personal difficulties, casting aside petty selfishness, propel their spirits to the solicitous preservation of Culture, which above all will assure a radiant future. Use all means of making the beautiful necessity of Culture paramount. If we would possess other adjectives of magnitude, we should use them in speaking of the most essential conception of the world. We must not be afraid of enthusiasm. Only the ignorant and others who are spiritually impotent can scoff at this great and pure feeling; but such scoffing is only a sign to inspire the true Legion of Honor. It would be horrible, if in connection with great manifestations, adjectives "small" and "little" would be used. Thus we should beware of being guilty of the most hideous sin of all—to be a little. This would be dangerous. Nothing can impede us from dedicating ourselves to the services of Culture, as long as we believe in it and are giving to it our best flaming thought. Do not believe! The great Agni singes the drooping wings. Only in harmony with evolution can we ascend and nothing can extinguish the unfailing, flaming wings of enthusiasm!

INSPIRING CEREMONY AT SAINT SERGIUS CHAPEL

A ceremony of extreme beauty marked the transfer and dedication of the Saint Sergius Chapel in Radonega, Churavya, Conn., on July 18, of the days dedicated to the memory of Saint Sergius. The Chapel of Saint Sergius is a lovely structure, built after the design of Professor Roerich, under the auspices of the Siberian Roerich Society of which Mr. Grebenstchikoff, eminent Siberian author and Honorary Advisor of the Roerich Museum is President.

The ceremony opened with a beautiful invocation pronounced by Mr. Grebenstchikoff, after which Mr. Ovchinnikoff played a small choir in hymns dedicated to the beloved Saint.

Mr. Grebenstchikoff gave the opening address, in which he spoke of the significance of the day for him, as it marked also the anniversary of his first link with the work of Professor Nicholas Roerich and the Roerich Museum. He spoke of the great ideals of Saint Sergius. "As a symbol of our spiritual link with the Roerich Museum," Mr. Grebenstchikoff concluded, "and as an expression of our readiness to go hand and hand with the work of otherThinker, permit me to present to you, the representatives of this Museum, this modest gift from the Siberian Association of Friends of Roerich Museum, with the ground surrounding it—the Chapel built by our labors and your help."

Expressing his belief that no one had greater love for Saint Sergius than Professor Roerich, Mr. Grebenstchikoff said, "I am happy to transmit to the Roerich Museum this modest temple dedicated to the Saint of Radonega, to the great temple builder, Roerich!" Thereupon Mr. Grebenstchikoff handed to Mr. Lichtmann, First Vice President of the Roerich Museum, the deed to the Chapel.

Mr. Lichtmann then read the "Message to the Dedication of the Saint Sergius Chapel," from Professor Roerich, in which he speaks of Saint Sergius as a cup of benediction to all peoples, and as the blessed one who in flaming language unites all dedicated to the Great Light.

Mr. Manzovostoff then read an address from Professor Roerich to the Society of Slavonic Culture in St. Louis, Mo., and twelve canvases have been included in the Pan-American Exhibition sponsored by the Baltimore Museum of Art, which has also been circulating the country. The tour of the Brazilian Exhibition is soon to be completed and the collection will thereafter be returned to South America. It has been most gratifying that this Exhibition of Contemporary Brazilian Art has been so universally successful, arousing such unprecedented interest at each exhibiting point.

Another link in Brazilian-American cultural interchange was forged by the first Exhibition and Contest of Brazilian Art Photography sponsored by the International Art Center of Roerich Museum, under the distinguished patronage of Hon. Sebastiao Simas, Consul General of Brazil.

The Committees of Judges, with Mr. Frank C. Mamon, as Chairman, comprised Mr. Elie Clark, Mr. Howard Giles, Mr. Arnold Genthe, Mr. Louis L. Horch and Mr. J. W. Martin, who awarded First Prize to Mr. G. Maffett, for his photograph, "Forchaf Island"; Second Prize to Mr. V. de Barros, for his picture of "Late Afternoon," and Mr. Pozzi was awarded Third Prize for his photograph entitled "Flood."

The photographs, which were assembled by the National Brazilian Photographers Association and the Rotary Club of Brazil, served to stimulate great, enduring interest in Brazil's art and nature.

Other Traveling Exhibitions sponsored by the International Art Center, are on the following list: "Paintings by Ramon de Zubiaurre, Grand Rapids Art Gallery, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Contemporary Brazilian Paintings, Art Association of St. Louis, Mo., and twelve canvases have been included in the Pan-American Exhibition sponsored by the Baltimore Museum of Art, which has also been circulating the country. The tour of the Brazilian Exhibition is soon to be completed and the collection will thereafter be returned to South America. It has been most gratifying that this Exhibition of Contemporary Brazilian Art has been so universally successful, arousing such unprecedented interest at each exhibiting point.

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MASTER INSTITUTE HOLDS ACTIVE SUMMER SESSION

The Summer Session of the Master Institute, announced last month, continues its enthusiastic activity. The Evening Session in Painting and Drawing under Mr. Samstag meets three times weekly, while the Morning Session in Painting and Drawing based on Dynamic Symmetry is held daily under Mrs. Morris Davidson. The Terrace of the Master Institute quarters has served as a splendid setting for the Sunday Morning Outdoor Session in Painting.

Miss Gertrude Prokosch is giving her summer course in Creative Dancing. As a well known exponent of the Modern Dance Technique, this highly talented artist is stressing the creative aspect of her work in the Dynamics, Design and Individual Creation of the Modern Forms of Dance.

Master Institute deeply appreciates the generous donation of Professor Roerich to its Educational Fund in granting permission for the use of his painting "Terra Slavonica" from the collection of His Majesty, King Alexander of Yugoslavia, for a post-card. The proceeds from its sale will go to the Educational Fund of the Master Institute. The reproduction is being made in Paris through the kind assistance of the Roerich French Society, Mme. de Vaux Phalipau, President, Dr. George Chklyaver, General Secretary.

Master Institute has arranged two recitals at the Foundation Settlement of New York, when two scholarship students, Elsa Cabrera, pianist, and Maria Pacheco, singer, both South American students, gave programs which were enthusiastically received.

The visit of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hayes of the Foundation for the Blind and their enthusiasm for Professor Roerich's work will result, it is hoped, in closer association with the splendid institution, the American Foundation for the Blind. Mr. Hayes has given several suggestions toward further development of the Braille Division of the Roerich Museum Library for the Blind. He also evinced great interest in the work of Malcolm Coney, a music student, holder of the Lionel and Florentine Suroto Scholarship for the Blind.

The murals from the Students Exhibition are at present on exhibition in the New York Public Library, Woodstock Branch, East 160th Street and in the Music Department of the 58th Street Branch, which specially requested the mural, "The Dance" by Fanny Nintsizowa.

URUSVATI TO TAKE PART IN SCIENCE CONGRESSES

Urusvati, Himalayan Research Institute of the Roerich Museum, is to participate in several important scientific congresses to be held in Europe this coming Summer and Autumn.

The French National Office for the study of medicinal plants, a leading French scientific institution, has invited the Himalayan Research Institute to participate in the forthcoming Congress to be held this Summer in Paris, in connection with the French Colonial Exhibition. Mme. de Vaux Phalipau will represent Urusvati and will read the statement of the Director, Dr. Georges de Roerich, regarding the Institute's work. Our corresponding member, Dr. Rahder, will represent Urusvati at the Congress in Leyden, Holland, the beginning of September, 1931. He will read a communication regarding the Institute's work and plans.

The Himalayan Research Institute expresses its deep appreciation to its President-Founder, Prof. Nicholas Roerich for his gracious gift in permitting the use of the postcard reproduced from his painting, "Pantaleimon—the Healer" for the Campaigns for Cancer Research and Bio-chemical Laboratories. The proceeds from the sale of this postcard will go towards the funds of these campaigns. The postcard is now being ordered in Paris, through the kind assistance of the French Roerich Society, Mme. de Vaux Phalipau, President, Dr. George Chklyaver, General Secretary.

Lama Lobzang Mingyur, a distinguished Oriental scholar, has joined the staff of the Institute at Kulu.

Word has come from Dr. Walter Koelz that he has safely reached Kylang, Lahul, and will have to wait there for a few days, since the next snow pass, Bashalacha (16,200 Feet) is still closed by snow. The botanical collection has been enriched with new species of Lahul Spring flora.

Two cases of ornithological and zoological collections have been sent from Urusvati headquarters to the United States. One case is for the Institute's Museum in New York, and the other for the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass. The Czechoslovakian Ministry of Public Instruc-tions has subscribed to a considerable number of copies of the French Edition of the "Trails to Inmost Asia," which is appearing shortly in Paris. The Yale University Press has lent its kind assistance and cooperation to M. Geuthner, Paris, publishers, in sending photographs of the "Trails to Inmost Asia" by Dr. Georges de Roerich, which the Yale Press is publishing.

LATEST QUESTS OF NICHOLAS ROERICH

Letter from the Himalayas

By Esther J. Lichtmann

We are on the eve of leaving for Lahoul, Indian Tibet. Before leaving our Silver Valley for the snowy Rhotang Pass and narrow, winding roads, I behold glowing, calling quests. How inspiring it is to follow the direction pursued by the creativeness of Nicholas Roerich during this recent period. We witness an incessant, satiated tempo of daily work, and one image seems as though to generate the next, thus creating a multicolored, but no-less-unified wreath. The paintings of the Maître vary greatly in tonality; their subjects are as always unexpected, nevertheless they combine into a wondrous suite.

"The Queen of Heaven," in her majestic garb, prays for the Bliss of the World. "Madonna La-boris" in untried vigil saves the souls who have wandered astray while the Lord marvels at this achievement. There is another "Madonna," with an infant, but the glance of her eyes is sorrowful. Her image unites the tryptic dedicated to Jeanne d'Arc. To this same Heavenly Mother the holy warrior appeals before her victory and to her also the sanctified heroine directs her eyes, when on the stake. And the sky, in victory and above the pyre, is the very same—immensurable, saturated with waves of blue which have so justly gained the name of "Roerich skies."

The hero of achievement "Lumen Coeli." The Blessed One, in a luminous aureole, carries in His hand a flaming chalice. Multi-varied are the blue, azure and purple streams—the florescence of achievement. In the same multiform, resplendent glow, "Fiat Rex," the Lord, descends from the heights, bearing the crown of Peace, crown of the World. On the wings of this tryptic are two images—of a woman and man, both in a radiant light. She carries a chalice and censer. He is armed with a sword and shield.

Another attainment, also surrounded with intense light, "The Tables of the Covenant." On rocky
THE SHAH OF PERSIA SENDS MESSAGE

In response to the presentation of the volume, "Himalaya," to H. I. H. the Shah of Persia has come the following message to Professor Roerich transmitted through the Imperial Persian Legation at Paris:

"Legation Impériale de Perse
Le 23 juin, 1931

J'avais transmis en son temps à Téhéran, le volume "HIMALAYA" que vous désirez voir remis à sa Majesté Impériale le Shah.

Je viens de recevoir de son Altesse Teymourtache, ministre de la Cour, une lettre par laquelle je suis chargé de vous adresser les sincères remerciements du Gouvernement Persan, et de vous, dire combien mon Auguste Souverain a été sensible à votre délicate attention.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma très distinguée considération.

(Signé:) HUSSEIN ALA.

Electived Members Esteem Roerich Society Honors

In response to notification sent to them of their recent election as Honorary Members of the Roerich Society of New York, the following distinguished leaders of culture have sent the Society their gracious acceptances:

His Excellency Count Ehrenswârd, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of His Majesty the King of Sweden in Paris, writes, "I beg to express my sincere gratitude for the honor which the Roerich Society has given me in electing me an Honorary Member. It gives me great pleasure to accept this membership and I highly appreciate being thus associated with you and your noble work."

The Hon. Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovakian Minster to London, who writes, "I am most honored by being elected an Honorary Member of the Roerich Society and I should be grateful if you would convey to the members of the Society my great appreciation. The aims of the Society, especially their efforts to create goodwill among nations, have always been near my heart and will always receive my sincere support."

General Gouraud, Military Governor of Paris, in his letter of acceptance, "Thank you for your letter informing me of my election as an Honorary Member of the Roerich Society. I appreciate the honor thus bestowed upon me by your Society, and am very happy to see the bonds of esteem and sympathy, already existing between us, made still more firm in this way."

His Excellency, Prince Bianchi de Médicis, de l'Académie Diplomatique Internationale, du Comité France-Amérique, de L'Institut International d'Anthropologie, says, "Very grateful for this eminent token of friendship and esteem, I accept most heartily your courteous proposal. I avail myself of the opportunity to convey to you, at the same time, my earnest enthusiasm for the great work of international concord engaged in with so much art and humanitarian confidence by the dear and illustrious Professor Nicholas Roerich. My sympathetic interest for the noble purpose toward which he aims grows greater as I ascertain its most patent benefits."

Dr. Hagberg Wright, Director of the London Library, replies, "I feel highly honored by this token of your friendship and appreciation, though, in truth, I can hardly think that I am deserving of it... Nevertheless, I accept it with much pleasure and thank you and the Roerich Society for it."

M. Henri Verne, Directeur des Musées Nationaux et de l'Ecole du Louvre, who says, "I am well aware of the distinction which has just been accorded me in being elected Honorary Member of the Roerich Society of New York. This friendly thought has touched me deeply and I hasten to accept so distinguished a title. I shall always strive to keep in touch with the praiseworthy efforts which your beautiful work is accomplishing for the purpose of a better intellectual understanding between nations."

Join Bruges Conference

The following New York branches of the Roerich Society have enrolled as Society Members in the Bruges Conference thus far: Academic of Creative Arts of Roerich Society, Finnish Roerich Association, German Roerich Association, Origen Roerich Association, Pan-American Woman's Association of Roerich Society, St. Francis of Assisi Association of Roerich Society, Siberian Roerich Association, South African Roerich Association, Spanco Center of Roerich Society and Woman's Unity of Roerich Society. The Himalayan Roerich Society, in Asia, has also joined the Conference.

Mme. de Vaux Phalipau and Dr. Georges Chklover, president and secretary of the French Association of Society of Friends of Roerich Museum, Paris, respectively, are planning to attend the Conference which will be held September 13 in Bruges. Miss Frances Tarbox, member of the Roerich Society, has also informed us of her intention to attend the Bruges Conference.

With Our Societies Abroad

Professor and Mme. Roerich have graciously accepted the honorary position of Protectorship over the Latvian Roerich Society, in Riga.

Mr. Jacusev, president of the Siberian Society in Prague, reports that his Society recently arranged a special meeting dedicated to Professor Roerich. Mr. Jacusev delivered a lecture on Professor Roerich's activities, and excerpts from Roerich's works were read and were received with great enthusiasm by the audience.

M. Paul Chabas, member of the French Academy of Fine Arts, Grand Officer of the Legion of Honor, President of the Society of French Artists, has accepted the first vice-presidency of the French Association of Society of Friends of Roerich Museum, Paris.

His Excellency Baron M'hel de Taube, has accepted the vice-presidency of the Russian Section of the French Association (Friends of Culture).
ROERICH MUSEUM BULLETIN

ROUEN PATRIMOINE DE BEAUTE
ET LE
PACTE ROERICH POUR LA PRESERVATION DES VILLES D'ART.

CONFERENCE DE MARC CHESNEAU, POETE ET CRITIQUE D'ART.

Prononcée le 6 juin 1931 à l'Association Française des Amis du Roerich Museum.

(L'EDITOR'S NOTE: WE ARE PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO PRINT HEREWITH THE LECTURE BY M. CHESNEAU, DISTINGUISHED POET OF FRANCE, ON WHICH ANNOUCEMENT WAS MADE IN LAST MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN.)

C e n'est une vraie joie de vous parler de Rouen, vieille ville historique que Michelet a pu appeler "ville musée."

Après avoir beaucoup pensé, beaucoup travaillé on comprend l'influence vraiment profonde qu'exerce sur soi la ville où l'on est né quand cette ville est toute fervente d'un passé magnifique de noblesse. Cet apport du passé remonte en vous, met en communion l'être qu'on était hier et celui qu'on est aujourd'hui c'est-à-dire l'être de demain.

Les grands monuments sont là pour nous donner le sens de l'éternité ; ils ont brûlé les éléments de la terre et du ciel, ils ont résisté à la force des hommes parfois plus cruelle que celle des éléments.

Nous nous rendons compte que ces pierres sculptées par les générations disparues apportent des trésors de beauté vivante aux générations qui continuent, elles semblent dire : voyez tout parait éphémère, mais la tradition demeure rien ne peut mourir.

Quelle ville au monde a un passé aussi vivant et aussi riche que Rouen ? Il faut aimer Rouen pour son passé et ce passé nous devons apprécier à la connaissance afin d'en concevoir la splendeur. Lorsque du pied de la cathédrale le regard s'élève vers deux pyramides de pierres ciselées comme des bijoux, patinées par les siècles, on peut se dire que l'homme est vraiment grand de pouvoir faire des choses éternelles. Et quand ce regard, après avoir atteint la dernière flèche du plus haut clocher, se pose sur les belles flèches, belles que les anciennes.

Si à différentes reprises la cathédrale fut détruite par le feu de la terre elle fut aussi victime du feu du ciel. Au 17e siècle la foudre tomba sur la flèche en charpente et en plomb dont l'effondrement endommagea la voûte une fois de plus. Sans se lasser l'homme reprit sa cathédrale de l'an 1200 et reconstruisit une flèche. Il la voulut en plein ciel à 152 mètres au-dessus du sol.

Voilà de quel effort perpétuel ce monument qui s'impose à l'admiration du monde entier fut le tribut. Ne doit-il pas dans les siècles futurs être entouré d'une pierre toujours croissante pour en faire la gloire du passé.

Rouen ne possède pas que sa cathédrale ; elle a mérité le nom de "ville aux cent clochers." N'oubliez pas St. Ouen au magnifique cloître, St. Maclou et ses pyramides de pierres ciselées comme des bijoux, patinées par tant de maîtres d'oeuvre anonymes ; tout fut inexorablement fondu, la cathédrale prit le nom de "temple de la raison."

Le calme revint, l'homme rétablit son église dans sa splendeur première, lui forgea de belles flèches belles que les anciennes.

Lorsqu'on regarde une cathédrale comme celle de Rouen il ne faut pas croire qu'elle est l'oeuvre de quelques années. Incendiée une première fois en l'an 1200, le labeur de l'homme la réédifica plus grande et plus haute sur les mêmes fondations. En 1490 les beaux de l'oeuvre de pierre, riches que l'infini se manifeste de l'intérieur furent de nouveau anéantis par le feu. L'homme toujours patient, soutenu par une foi profonde rebâtit sa cathédrale avec le même amour.


En 1793 les soldats de la Révolution manquèrent de leurs pénitents de la remise de la cathédrale et firent avec une admirable habileté un monument merveilleux de belles ouvrages pour chasser l'ennemi. Ces belles ouvrages demandèrent à l'airain des cloches, aux fers de ces grilles admirables, ciselées par tant de maîtres d'oeuvre anonymes ; tout fut inexorablement fondu, la cathédrale prit le nom de "temple de la raison."

Le calme revint, l'homme rétablit son église dans sa splendeur première, lui forgea de belles flèches belles que les anciennes.

Une ville belle de son antiquité et de son dynamisme moderne qui a encore le charme de faire des choses éternelles. Et tout en contraste avec ces vieux monuments, ces adorables vestiges du passé, voici le port de Rouen : Corneille, Poussin, Baudelaire, Maupassant dont les ombres semblent encore errer dans les vieilles vues. Qui saurait exprimer le charme de ces venelles où circule un ruisseau ; la poésie délicate des vieux toits à pignons qui d'un côté à l'autre de la rue semblent se rapprocher comme pour se souviennent, comme pour oublier peut-être leur condamnation au nom de l'hygiène. Chers vieux toits où tant de pluies ont ruisselé, petites cours délicieuses où tant de chansons ont retenti, de tels espaces sont envolés.

Et tout en contraste avec ces vieux monuments, ces adorables vestiges du passé, voici le port de Rouen : le premier port de France — où les bateaux arborant tous les pavillons trouvent pour décharger leurs cargaisons, l'ostillage le plus moderne, les vaisseaux qui les bois de Normandie s'entassaient à côté de caisses et de barils venus de Hollande, où se préparaient couleurs de douanes réservées. A quelques pas de leurs calmes demeures les Rouennais sont plongés dans ces tourbillons de trafic intense du dynamisme moderne qui ont leur poésie parce qu'ils sont déjà une anticipation vers l'avenir.

Ces jours derniers, à l'occasion des fêtes de Jeanne d'Arc j'ai vu l'enthousiasme indescriptible de la foule laborieuse qui sortit des ateliers, des docks, des usines, des fabriques de rouenneries, peuple magnifique conscient de sa force. La joie répandue sur tous les visages et au moment où partait le cortège reconstituant avec une admirable fidélité historique, l'entrée de Jeanne d'Arc à Rouen, ce fut un véritable délire.

Cette ville belle de son antiquité et de son modernisme il nous appartient de la continuer de la développer dans l'harmonie. Lorsque l'on comprend ce que représente le patrimoine d'une ville d'art, comment ne pas se tourner vers la grande et noble idée du Professeur Nicholas de Roerich !

Il a eu la conception grandiose et humaine de protéger en cas de guerre tous les monuments, les œuvres d'art, grâce à un pavillon analogue à celui de la Croix-Rouge. C'est une utopie direz-vous. Contre la volonté de l'homme il n'y a pas d'utopie. Il faut que nous ayons cette fierté, cette bonté de nous connaître, car nous connaissant nous arriverons à nous aimer, à consolider la paix : ce sont les artistes, les poètes qui nous aideront à atteindre ce but.

Il ne faut pas considérer les artistes comme des gens en marge de la société, l'art est une de nos premières nécessités. Si l'on supprimait toutes les fleurs, toutes les œuvres généreuses, la vie ne vaudrait pas la peine d'être vécue. Nous n'oublions pas cette notion essentielle : l'art seul peut apporter notre salut. Donc protégeons l'art, les artistes, leurs œuvres éternelles.

Vraiment je parais des fleurs qui sont indispensables, mais ces monuments ne sont pas les fleurs de notre esprit. Tout a une correspondance profonde, tout a sa raison d'être. Voilà pourquoi nous devons connaître et aimer nos œuvres d'art, nos villes, nos monuments, les étoiles d'une voluté puissante avec la ferme confiance que tous les hommes dignes de ce nom arriveront à s'entendre dans le domaine de l'art, patrimoine commun de l'humanité.

Voilà pourquoi je salue l'idée générale de Nicholas de Roerich. Il faut affermir cette idée, la rendre officielle.

Vraiment une grande ville d'art est un flambeau qui ne peut pas s'éteindre et si nous en possédons un reflet, une chaleure vitale, nous devons à notre tour nous employer à faire rayonner cette flamme autour de nous.