



FLAMMA

INC.

ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF CULTURE

PHONE: RIVERSIDE 9-0273
CABLE: FLAMMA NEWYORK

PROF. NICHOLAS ROERICH
Hon. President

227 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

February 21, 1938.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Miss. Tarbell:

Your very gracious and sympathetic letter of Feb. 9th is at hand. We have delayed this answer to it, knowing that you would be out of the city and also because we have been occupied with a most unhappy task.

On January 29th the Institutions founded by Professor Roerich were evicted from the Roerich Museum building by Mr. Horch and his associates, and since that time the Museum itself has been kept closed to the public four days a week. We will not now burden you with details of the injustice and indignities suffered as an immediate result of this last venomous action, but wish to advise you that we have found a temporary shelter for the evicted Institutions, through the kindness of one of our friends, at 163 West 72nd Street. From here we are continuing the work to which we have dedicated our lives, as ably as its wounded condition permits.

We are grateful to hear from you that you are interested in having a copy of the Appellate Court's decision, but wish to state that, should the decision be as unfair as the previous ones were, due to the tactics of the official of the Administration about whom we spoke, we have no intention of abiding by that decision. We will then have to appeal higher, namely to the Court of Appeals and perhaps to the Supreme Court, if the truth is not brought to light before that time.

You justly state that Horch has not given enough convincing testimony to justify his ignoble acts and malicious attacks upon Professor Roerich and his loyal co-workers. It is as though he and his associates are possessed by some evil force which is not content with a simple disassociation with that which is betrayed, but rejoices in the viscious and complete destruction of the object of their former devotion. However, Judas' betrayal did not stop Christianity, Benedict Arnold's did not defeat America and, likewise, Horch's



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will not stop the advancement of Culture. Please understand that what ever happened to Horch's mind and feelings in 1935 did not affect, in any manner whatsoever, the loyalty and devotion to the ideals of Professor Roerich which his co-workers continue to evidence in the most steadfast manner. The work which was begun is being continued, it is only that for the time being efforts must be divided between further advancement and defense of that which has already been accomplished. It is in this defense that we beg your aid. We have reached a point in our legal procedure which seems to indicate that justice cannot prevail because of pressure brought upon it.

Calmly realizing the seriousness of these circumstances, we feel that only by an arousal of a just indignation in the hearts of the American people, can this hideous outrage to American justice be prevented. But as you say, to one not very close to the facts an opinion cannot be reached without thorough investigation, and we have no right to ask or even to expect such a sacrifice of time as would be required by an investigator who could reveal the truth to the people at large. In the name of the highest principles of humanity, this investigation must be done by one whose voice is unimpeachably accepted when raised in defense of justice. We feel that in America your voice is one which is honored to such a degree, and that you are unanimously and gratefully respected in this country as the guardian of our ethical purity. We know you are besieged with calls for help, and just calls, for no one without a just cause would dare your exhaustive research, but as a last resort we have approached you rather than any big attorneys, praying that your heart would be touched, and that if you found it physically impossible to serve our cause, you would refer us to someone who because of your interest would give it the attention for which it cries to Heaven; and, while we are far from being wealthy, we and our friends shall be glad to make any sacrifices necessary to provide for remuneration.

We firmly believe that a clarion call is needed to reveal the flagrant and brazen abuse of justice, through the intricacies of law, which is being meted out by the courts in this case of Professor Roerich and his co-workers who are selflessly battling in the defense of Culture, and reassuring you that your answer and your interest commands our strictest confidence we beg to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Gene Fordich

President.

Mudley Fordich

Vice-President.

P.S. We take the liberty of enclosing herewith some recent correspondence between Mrs. Sutro and Mr. Ernst which is self explanatory.