

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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40th ANNIVERSARY
OF MANLY P. HALL'S
PUBLIC WORK
1960

CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- JULY 1963

Dear Friend:

For a number of years, friends have been writing to us suggesting that we publish a book of quotations suitable for daily meditation or helpful to those seeking inspiration and general guidance along the path of life. From time to time, I have received extensive lists of such quotes derived from our various publications or jotted down during lectures. In the last few weeks, several letters and requests have come in, so perhaps the time has come to carry this project a little further. As our printed publications now total considerably over two million words, it becomes evident that selecting just the right lines for inclusion in a small book of quotations would not be easy. Perhaps you would like to help us by submitting your own favorite quotations from our various writings. They should be limited to about fifty words or less, and each must be accompanied by the title and page number of the publication in which it occurs; or if it is from an unprinted lecture, submit either the title or date of the talk. Of course, we cannot promise that all your favorite quotations will be used, and we cannot give a publication date for the book, but we feel that this would be a step in the right direction.



For nearly thirty years, we have had a very interesting and rare group of Chinese stone rubbings. They were gathered at a time when such material was still reasonably plentiful. Today it is almost unobtainable. Rubbings are usually made on a very thin type of rice paper, and are extremely fragile, especially those made long ago. To protect these rubbings as much as possible, we have made no effort to display them. In the last few months, we have sent three groups of these rubbings to Japan to have them mounted upon heavy paper with a protective edging which prevents tearing. An additional lot will go to Japan in the next few weeks, and when the delicate labor of preserving these valuable antiquities is completed, we shall have more than fifty of these interesting artistic works.

The Chinese inscribed most of their important religious, philosophical, artistic and historical records upon stone. They carved the inscriptions on massive stela, many of which stood in the gardens of temples. It was the practice of scholars to take rubbings from these inscriptions as the most authentic way of perpetuating ancient learning. The inscriptions were cut into the stone, and the rubbing was taken by laying a piece of thin paper, which had first been dampened with water containing sizing, over the inscription to be copied. The paper was

then carefully pressed into the indentation of the letters and designs, and allowed to dry. Then black ink, made of soot, was rubbed over the surface of the paper. It required considerable skill to prevent the ink from running into the depressed areas. If expertly done, the lettering or pictures stood out in white on a black background. First rubbings from valuable stones were often made in red derived from cinebar, and are extremely scarce.

Our rubbings include impressions taken from stones as early as the Han Dynasty, about the beginning of the Christian era. One includes a scene depicting the meeting of Lao-tse and Confucius. There are also portraits of early Chinese poets, representations of deities, and beautiful scenic views similar to old Chinese paintings. The master of this technique could secure different shades of black and gray by the distribution of his ink, and we have several in which the sky areas are shown in a rich, deep blue. Many rare rubbings show only primitive inscriptions in characters that go back to the beginning of Chinese writing. Most rubbings are extremely decorative, especially those in two or more colors, and are now considered important and authentic works of art. Small inscriptions on stone and even jade are also known, and rubbings from these could be collected in the form of books. Collections of this kind precede any other form of printing, and are recognized as forerunners of the woodblock books which became popular at a later date. Rubbings are still used by scholars who wish to be absolutely certain of the accuracy of some early historical or literary reference.

On our recent lecture series in San Francisco, we included our talk on "Crime and the Law of Karma." On this occasion, we permitted a tape recording to be made by a friend who is a volunteer teacher in the San Quentin Prison Adult Education Center, and who also carries on activities in other California Department of Correction institutions, including the medical facility at Vacaville and Folsom State Prison. This gentleman studied for three years at the American Academy of Asian Studies in San Francisco, and leads discussion groups devoted to studies in Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism in the institutions named above. I think our friends will want to know that work of this kind is going on, and that it is meeting with genuine interest and success. We can hope that such a program will flourish among men who are in definite need of a better understanding of life and living. Many years ago, I spent several summers in Sacramento, and gave a number of talks at Folsom Prison, which were well received.

We sincerely hope that your summer vacation will give you an opportunity to relax a little from the pressures of living, and even perhaps allow you to come into closer communion with nature. There is a great revival of interest in exploring the beauties of California, especially those areas which have not yet been subjected to human exploitation. We hope that each of you may find his Walden, as Thoreau did, and learn to appreciate the sermons so silently but eloquently delivered by flowers and trees and sunsets over the great mountains. If it is not possible to travel in the flesh, may your minds journey to peaceful places where kindly reflections enrich the soul.

Very sincerely yours,

Manly P. Hall

P. S. Our 1963 book list is now ready. We will be glad to send you a copy upon request.

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-- and other interesting articles --

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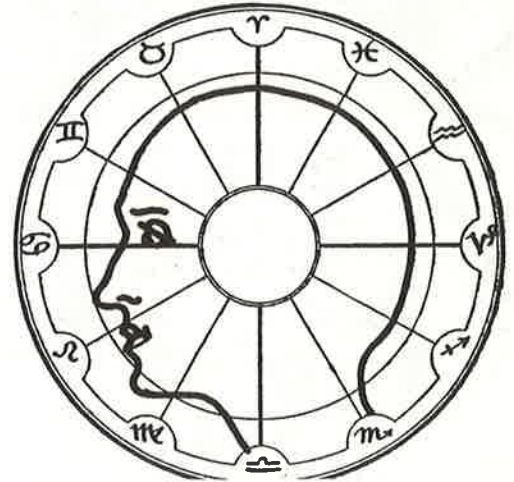
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—W. L., Penna.

Words do not adequately express my thanks for the satisfaction I receive from the PRS Magazine.

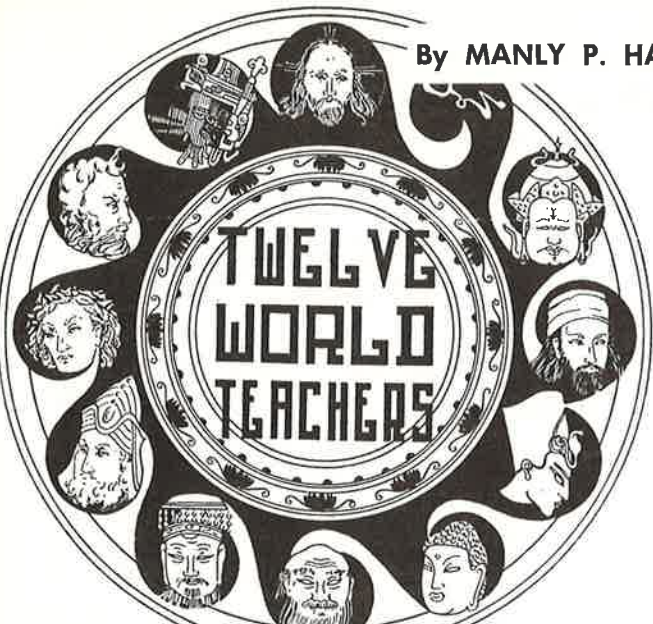
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D O N ' T F O R G E T the JULY 28th OPEN HOUSE at P.R.S. HEADQUARTERS

Manly P. Hall's morning lecture (11:00 a.m.) in the Auditorium will be:
"THE FIRST SIX SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC -- The Spiritual Resources They Confer"

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY, July 28th — 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
AT P.R.S. HEADQUARTERS

Spend a pleasant day at headquarters—and bring your friends. Our art exhibit will include fine Oriental pieces not to be found elsewhere. The library and gift shop will be open and you can browse and shop at your leisure—prints and paintings, art objects, note cards and greeting cards, jewelry, miscellaneous gifts, used and new books, and a preview of our Christmas card line. Refreshments will be available in the patio after Mr. Hall's morning lecture.

At 3:00 p.m., in the Auditorium, a talk by MANLY P. HALL on
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