

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

3910 Los Felix Blvd. - Los Angeles 27, Calif. - NOrmandy 3-2167

MANLY P. HALL
President - Founder

HENRY L. DRAKE
Vice-President



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

CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- OCTOBER 1963

Dear Friend:

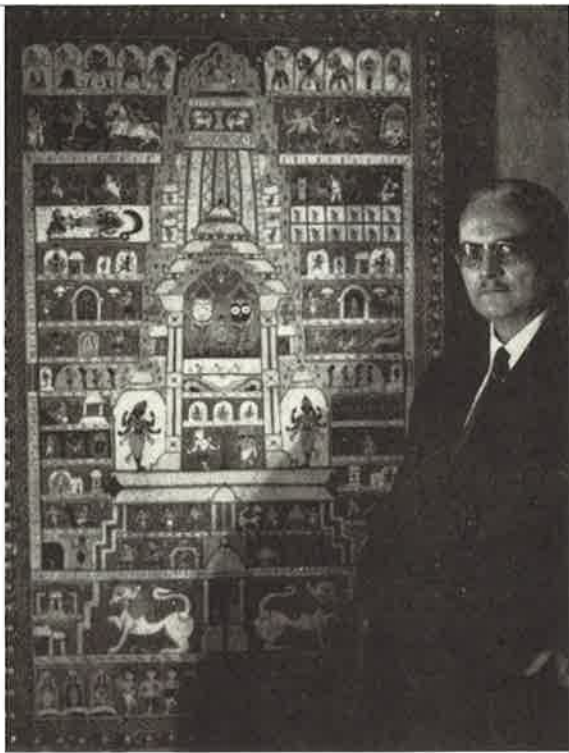
You have already received the announcement of our special building fund project by which we hope to pay off the remaining mortgage on our Auditorium in January 1964. Although it is too soon to give a report on progress, we are happy to say that the friends here are most enthusiastic and are planning various events to aid this cause.

On October 5th, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barry are opening their home in North Hollywood to one hundred guests for a buffet dinner for the benefit of the building fund. This is certain to be an enjoyable and successful event, and we deeply appreciate this wonderful expression of cooperation and helpfulness.

An afternoon party has also been promised by Mrs. Nancy Schneider, another friend who has long been active in Committee entertainments. The date has not yet been scheduled, but it will probably be in November.

A special event is also scheduled for December 8th at 2:00 p.m. in our Auditorium. In cooperation with the Friends Committee, Mrs. Vera Leeper will present a puppet show of unusual interest to our friends -- "The Story of Kuan Yin" and "The Legend of the Christmas Rose." Mrs. Leeper is an outstanding puppeteer and instructor in puppetry, and personally creates the charming and original figures that she uses in her plays. She was in our library recently doing research for a legend about the goddess Kuan Yin, and showed me the puppet she was preparing; it was most beautiful and graceful. We are delighted that this program will be presented in December, close to the Christmas holidays, as it will give our friends the opportunity to bring their children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, etc., to our headquarters for an afternoon of inspiring fantasy. If you live in this area, be sure to reserve this date.

The Library Exhibit for October is devoted to "Persian Miniatures and Leaves from Indian Illuminated Books." In this display we pay tribute to the wonderful artistry of these Eastern nations with a well-balanced group of material from our permanent art collection. In Persia and Arabia, and also in Moslem India, calligraphy was considered a fine art, and exquisite examples of writing, often richly rubricated and heightened in gold, are precious things greatly to be admired. Manuscript leaves and examples of ornamental writing go back to the 7th and 8th centuries, with fine examples of sections of the Koran and commentaries thereon. In addition to leaves, several complete manuscripts are included in our exhibit. The Indian group includes a number of paintings associated with the ragas or musical modes. There are leaves from early Jain and Rajput manuscripts, and a remarkably fine example of a complete illuminated manuscript of the Ramayana. This is the one we had specially micro-filmed for His Highness the Rajah of Benares. Also to be shown are Indian miniature paintings on mica, or eisenglass, depicting the various customs and pursuits of the people.



Among the folk arts included in this exhibit are examples of Puri painting. The one reproduced here shows the temple of the Hindu deity Jagannatha. This style of art has greatly influenced modern trends in East Indian painting. The great temple of Jagannatha at Puri, in the province of Orissa, is one of the most extraordinary shrines in India. A crude image of the deity, which is one of the forms of Vishnu, is enshrined here. The image itself is renewed every twenty years, and the holy relic which it contains is placed in the new icon. There is also an elaborate ceremonial in which a great shrine on wheels is drawn through the streets. The unusual art technique developed by the native artists is called Puri painting. In very brilliant colors, the deity Jagannatha is depicted with his brother and sister, surrounded by attendants and symbols. The paintings are on a heavy cardboard-like paper covered with lacquer, and an exceptionally large and fine one is included in the present exhibit.

Our "Fall Festival" is set for October 27th. This popular annual event is always a gala occasion. It has become known far and near as the time and place where Christmas shopping is not only painless but positively a pleasure. There will be light refreshments devised by the Hospitality Committee, and special exhibits throughout our headquarters. The gift shop will feature its line of inspiring and symbolic Christmas cards and gift items, and the library committee will offer unusual original Oriental drawings, prints, and paintings. Since our previous thrift sales have been so very successful -- one enthusiastic friend suggested that we hold them weekly!! -- this will be an added attraction. Thrift sales are lots of work and lots of fun, and appeal especially to philosophically minded bargain-hunters. May we invite friends everywhere to donate suitable material, especially books and curios (no clothing or pianos please). At 2:30 p.m., I will give a short talk on "The Graphic Arts of India and Persia," explaining in some detail the rare material from our collection which will be on exhibition. If you live in the Los Angeles area, we hope you will make note of the date, October 27th, and plan to be with us on this special occasion.

This is the top of the news for this time. Very best wishes to you and yours, and many thanks for your continuing interest in our activities.

Most sincerely yours,

Manly P. Hall