

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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

CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- APRIL 1964

Dear Friend:

Getting ready for a vacation is quite an arduous undertaking. Even though I will be gone for only one month, there are countless details that require attention. Barring acts of Providence, I will leave on May 13th, via Japan Airlines, and will spend a few days in Tokyo before setting up field headquarters at Kyoto. It would be quite impossible to rest without a few interesting projects, and we have already established contact with several experts in the fields of religion, philosophy, and art. When I return, it is my plan to publish some kind of a report so that I can share my findings with our friends here. The program includes a photographic record of unusual places and objects.

This year the Association for Research and Enlightenment, the group perpetuating the work of Edgar Cayce, is holding one of the meetings of its annual Los Angeles Conference at our headquarters. On this occasion -- Thursday, April 23 -- I will be the speaker of the evening, taking the general theme of the Conference, "Venture Inward." Through the years, I have spoken at most of the Los Angeles Conferences of the A.R.E., and it is always a pleasure to cooperate with this fine group.

On February 20th, the monthly meeting of the Pacificulture Foundation was held in our library, with the Advisory Board and some twenty-five members of the organization present as guests of our Society. The theme of the meeting was Buddhism in art, and we showed the visiting group artifacts, books rarely seen, Japanese scrolls, beautiful sutras and temple souvenirs, and other treasures. The evening was described as "richly rewarding" by the guests, and one of our friends has given the following gracious description of the atmosphere that prevailed on this occasion: "Quiet spread over the whole audience as Mr. Hall unrolled the great scroll paintings of the terrestrial universe and the celestial universe. Such a stupendous display of talent, technique, labor, and love is almost beyond the comprehension of the modern mind. Mr. Hall amazed his listeners with his profound knowledge of these hundred works of art, and his power of recall when questions were asked regarding details of the work or dates of various happenings. Quietly, as these treasures were relinquished by the guests, the Library Committee removed them from the tables, and the evening was then given over to the P.R.S. Hospitality Committee, who served refreshments in the Reading Room, where Japanese carvings of the great Buddha and of Rahula, his son, silently presided over all."

I would like to express my personal appreciation to the members of the Library Committee for their efficient help, and to the Hospitality Committee members for providing the delicious refreshments and beautiful decorations, which added much to the enjoyment of all.

The accompanying photograph is an unusually fine example of one of the temple souvenirs, or ofuda, shown at the meeting. It represents the deity Kannon, with



attendants, and above the figures are the inscriptions and seals of the temple issuing the print. Ofuda were given to pilgrims who made long and often difficult journeys to the principal shrines of their faiths. These sacred pictures were never sold, but were treasured in families for generations. Ofuda of this type have not been in use for nearly a hundred years. The example shown here was formerly in the famous collection assembled in Japan by Mr. Natsumoto.

In the last few weeks, we have received word of a bequest consisting of a private library of books in our field of interest. We deeply appreciate this gift and the kindly understanding that inspired it, and would like to point out that gifts of this kind are of the greatest assistance in the perpetuation of our activities. A simple and direct way of supporting non-profit organizations is through a will, which makes it possible for the individual to designate a part of his estate for the purpose of serving the principles in which he believes. For those who cannot make contributions now without endangering their financial security, bequests afford an opportunity to make an important gift in the future.

Our monthly library exhibits at headquarters have been responsible for introducing a number of new people to our Society in recent months. The press has been most cooperative, and radio stations have announced our displays as part of their public service program for this community. The success of these exhibits is largely due to the time and effort contributed by Elizabeth Connelly, who works not only on our own shows, but also arranges the loan exhibits from our Society to colleges, public libraries, and other institutions. Needless to say, this program requires frequent additions to our collection of available material. The Birthday Club has cooperated with me most generously in providing the funds for the purchase of rare items suitable for research and display. The expansion of the cultural side of our work is especially gratifying to me, as I feel it to be a very important part of our basic program.

During the month of April (through the 26th), we are exhibiting over fifty prints and paintings of Otsu folk art. The art value of these pictures is now generally recognized, but their delightful humorous content must be seen in order to be fully appreciated. The display includes original paintings of the 17th and 18th centuries. . . . From May 1st through 31st, the library exhibit will consist of selected pages from my prize-winning collection of the Postage Stamps of the Native Feudatory States of India. The Indian Rajahs regarded a private postal system as a status symbol, and many of the stamps they issued are quite spectacular, with curious and even barbaric designs. . . . "Japanese Book Illustrations of the 19th Century" will be displayed from June 7th through the 28th. This exhibit will feature covers, dust jackets, and frontispieces of rare Japanese fictional books. The lovely woodblock prints include the work of many of the great Ukiyo-e masters.

As we are running out of space, we must continue our notes and news in our next letter. In the few lines that remain available, I want to thank you, once again, for your help and encouragement through the years, and invite you to visit our headquarters and look over the interesting things we have at your first opportunity.

Always most sincerely,

Marilyn P. Hall



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