

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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40th ANNIVERSARY
OF MANLY P. HALL'S
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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- FEBRUARY 1966

Dear Friend:

As this is the first Contributors' letter for 1966, it may be appropriate to include a somewhat tardy New Year's resolution. As particularly fitting to present world conditions, we have selected a few precious words from an anonymous Chinese scholar who lived long ago. He, too, was a citizen of a troubled generation, so his message should be heartening to us all:

If you cannot stop the birds of worry and care from flying about your head, you can at least prevent them from building nests in your hair.

Some of the recent hair styles might give the impression that our admonition comes too late. Incidentally, throughout history, hair arrangements have always become more complicated and extravagant in periods of anxiety and social upheaval. Long ago, the Chinese learned that happiness and security would never be bestowed upon them by some benevolent government. Everything that was worthwhile had to be unfolded within the person himself. His security, peace of mind, and optimism were his own, achieved by a cheerful disposition and a continuing dedication to high principles.

While on the subject of China's contribution to world conditions in general, we might note that 1966 is the Year of the Horse, according to the sexagenary cycle. The year of the "fire-flame horse" signifies that events will be dominated by the characteristics we associate with the horse. First of all, a wild horse must be placed under strong discipline before it can be useful to mankind. Until it is willing to accept the authority of the rider, it can be a dangerous and unpleasant animal. Once it is broken in, however, it can draw the plough or the wagon, and contribute in many ways to the life of man. In broad terms, in the year of the horse, especially when combined with fire, ambitious men must be curbed and disciplined with justice and firmness. The resources of nations must be humanely distributed. Inflation must be wisely curbed, for the tendency is for industries, political parties, and institutions of all kinds to break over the traces with headstrong selfishness. Leadership must depend heavily upon respect for those appointed to high office, and these in turn must use their power with true benevolence. The man who whips a horse, forcing it beyond its strength, will ultimately destroy the life of the animal. Even the most arrogant and militant, if their bluff is called, will subside and accept inevitables with reasonably good grace.



A person born in a year of the horse (1966, 1954, 1942, 1930, 1918, 1906, 1894, 1882) must carry heavy loads of responsibility, against which they occasionally rebel. They are faithful, however, to their duties, and once having accepted a good philosophy of life, contribute much to the happiness of others. As 1966 includes the fire element, the people born in years of the horse will have unusual opportunities for self-expression and personal achievement.

In the Year of the Serpent (1965), which is always associated with survival, it was necessary for us to reorganize our complete mailing list to meet the new postal regulations on zip codes that will soon go into effect. Accepting this responsibility in the best spirit of the Year of the Horse, the great project has been accomplished, and we have new file cards and new stencils, all duly zip coded. (Everyone on the Contributors' list was automatically put on the new mailing list). Our resolution for the new year is to keep the list up as economically as possible. There is one way in which you can be of great help. Please notify us immediately of a change of address if you are planning to move. Failure to do this will result in expense to us, and the possibility that our communications will not reach you.



You will note that accompanying this letter is an announcement about a reprint of the first volume of The Collected Writings of H.P.B. Quite without premeditation, I am giving a course of Wednesday evening lectures on "The Esoteric Philosophy of H.P. Blavatsky," beginning February 23rd and continuing through March 23rd. It seems appropriate to mention at this time, therefore, an unusual painting in the collection of our Society. It is a portrait in oils of Mme. Blavatsky, nearly life size, painted by Paul Ivanovitch, formerly court painter to the King of Serbia. Ivanovitch was an artist of distinction, whose works are in the Louvre and the Luxembourg Gallery in Paris, and the National Gallery in London. This portrait of H.P.B. hung for many years in the library of a chateau in the south of France, and after World War II, it was brought to the United States. In 1951, it was graciously presented to us. Comparison with other portraits of H.P. Blavatsky would indicate that the Ivanovitch picture was influenced by the portrait from life by Hermann Schmiechen, dated 1885. The pose is very similar, but the features are less Slavic than in the Schmiechen painting.

We plan our Spring Open House for Palm Sunday (April 3rd). There will be a lecture in the morning, and a special event in the afternoon. Luncheon will be available in the patio, and friends in the area are invited to be with us on this festive day. I will also speak on Easter Sunday at 11:00 a.m., as usual, on an appropriate theme. We hope you will be able to join us on one of these occasions. In any event, we want to express our appreciation for your interest and support through the years.

Most sincerely yours,

Manly P. Hall