

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- FEBRUARY 1967

Dear Friend:

We hope you have had a very happy holiday season, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many cards and expressions of good wishes that were sent to our headquarters. The names on the cards often bring to mind many years of association with our work.

We are looking forward to an active winter season, which should be well under way by the time this letter reaches you. The general interest in art exhibits has caused us to introduce a project designed to make available inexpensive reprints of articles from our Journal dealing with art and related subjects. The first three pamphlets in this "Library Reprint" series will be: "Legends of Glastonbury Abbey," "St. Mark and His Shrine," and "The Psychological Meaning of Tibetan Art." The publications will be done by offset printing, as $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, 16-page booklets, and will include all the illustrations that accompanied the original text. They will be available at our book tables for 25¢ a copy, and by mail order for 30¢ a copy. According to present plans, the set of three will be ready for delivery by March 1.



Several years ago, we had a library exhibit of metal engraved facsimiles of Japanese postage stamps. Such engravings are considerably larger than the stamps. They are hand finished, with coloring in gold, silver, and other precious metals added by a plating process. These metallic pictures are usually made available to the public, mounted in folders and accompanied by the actual postage stamp, which also bears a decorative cancellation for the first day of issue. I have carefully collected these engravings, and now have many more than were available for the previous showing. Our display for February consists of approximately one hundred of these beautiful examples of the miniature artistry of Japanese craftsmen, depicting shrines and temples, gardens, national parks, works of art, reproductions of woodblock prints by celebrated masters, and modern events such as the opening of the monorail and the Olympic Games of 1964.

Down through the years, there has been a continuing demand for our pocket-size booklets. Due to cost increases, we have printed a number of recent editions in a larger format (6x9), which accommodates the text in fewer pages. This year we are going back to the popular smaller size with two reprints of booklets that have been unavailable as separate publications for many years: "How Belief in Rebirth Can Enrich Your Life," and "Positive Uses of Psychic Energy." A new edition of "Astrology and Reincarnation"

in this format is also in preparation. The booklets will be 4½x6 inches -- a good size for pocket or purse -- with attractive art-paper covers. They should be available by March 1, and for the time being, the price remains 75¢ a copy.

On Monday evening, January 9th, we opened a special course of instruction in sumi painting. The first series of lessons will extend for twelve weeks, and will include both the theory and practice of sumi, or Japanese ink painting. The class is taught by Dr. Hisashi Ohta, who is not only a painter of distinction, but an outstanding calligrapher and collector of Oriental art. His instruction has a strong Zen flavor, and as might be expected, he proceeds in a quiet and leisurely manner. The opening session lasted two and a half hours, and there was standing room only. Dr. Ohta is a delightful person, and captivated his audience from the first moment. By the second lesson, the students were experimenting with the potentials of the sumi brush, preparing their own inks, developing the stroke theories essential to the art, and cultivating Zen abandon. Dr. Ohta is also teaching at the University Extension of U.C.L.A. His work has been exhibited in many important galleries, and there will be a display of his paintings at our headquarters in March.



A number of friends who have supported our program for the enlargement and improvement of our premises have pointed out that there are several things yet to be done, and that many years have passed since our last major project. Obviously, our land area is restricted, and the Los Angeles building code is extremely strict. Through investigation, however, we have learned that there are still three ways in which we can increase the efficiency of our facilities and improve the appearance of our buildings.

The library continues to receive additions of books, manuscripts, and works of art, and it is our sincere hope, of course, that this growth will continue indefinitely. An adequate collection of books in our field is a major community asset. We would like, therefore, to enlarge our library by adding a room that was provided for in the original plan. The proposed unit would be two stories, with display and shelving on the lower floor, and stacks for filing books in the upper room. This extension will provide for at least 25,000 additional volumes.

In order to circumvent the necessity to raise the price of many of our publications, we are in desperate need of further storage space. By printing and binding in larger quantities, we can, in many cases, continue to distribute our literature at present prices. Storage capacity can be gained by adding a detached store room at the extreme rear of the property without interfering with our present parking facilities. This would provide space for books, metal type, and other supplies that are now overflowing in our existing storage rooms.

The third proposed improvement combines utility with better appearance. You will perhaps remember that in order to meet the parking regulations in 1958, it was necessary to change our auditorium plan so that the building itself does not have Los Feliz frontage. This resulted in an "unfinished" area, which was originally supposed to be part of the auditorium. In order to improve the appearance of the premises on the

Los Feliz Boulevard side, therefore, we can construct an attractive entrance to the buildings on the level with our Los Feliz parking lot. This part of our plan also includes further storage space of considerable size, which will be most useful in enabling us to keep intact a group of exhibits to be circulated among schools, colleges, libraries, and other public institutions. Our plans for expansion are prompted by real necessity, and after all, the most healthy sign in the world is growth.



On January 20th and 21st, we had the honor of presenting the distinguished educator, Dr. Gardner Murphy, who is well known in the field of parapsychological research. He has served as President of the Society for Psychical Research in London, and is now President of the American Society for Psychical Research. He has long been an admirer of William James, and among his recent publications is "William James on Psychical Research." One of the most important of Dr. Murphy's educational contributions is the strong idealism with which he enriches the inner lives of his students. Countless young people who have studied with Dr. Murphy hold him in the deepest personal regard and admiration.

There are two forthcoming special events at headquarters that you may wish to note on your calendar if you live within reasonable traveling distance. On Sunday, March 19th, we will hold our Spring Open House, and I am grateful for the thoughtfulness of the many friends who have decided to make this occasion a celebration of my 66th birthday. The Hospitality Committee will serve home-cooked food for a patio luncheon after my morning lecture, and at 2:15, I will give an informal talk on "The Year 1967 According to Oriental Astrology."

On Tuesday evening (8:00 o'clock), March 21st, Dr. Framroze Bode will perform the special Zoroastrian fire ceremony for the first day of spring. This is a rare opportunity to see an authentic presentation of this ancient rite, the Zoroastrian Naoroz. Dr. Bode, who is a Zoroastrian High Priest of the Parsi Community in Bombay, India, will also explain the sacred symbolism of the veneration for fire, and the significance of this festival as a cosmic mystery. In addition to the ceremony and lecture, the film made by Mr. Lew Ayres on the Zoroastrian religion, will be shown. As many friends already know, Dr. Bode appears in this film, which is part of the "Altars of the East" series, as the exponent of Zoroastrian religious customs. The evening will be concluded with a social function in which all who are present will be invited to join.

As it seems that our space is running out, we will bring this letter to a close and report further news of our activities here in April. In the meantime, may I express our continuing appreciation for your interest in the work of our Society and your generous support through the years.

Most sincerely yours,

Manly P. Hall

Transcribed from the tapes of Mr. Hall's Los Angeles lectures,
13-15 pages each. Supply is limited. Reserve your copy now!

#94 -- MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL BLOCKS: Their Causes and How They Can Be Overcome

#95 -- IS FUTILITY A FEELING OR A FACT?

#96 -- (Ready in March) -- PSYCHOANALYZING THE MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE: Can Spiritual Revelations Be Scientifically Explained?

#97 -- (Ready in April) -- MARRIAGE AND THE LAW OF KARMA

#98 -- (Ready in May) -- THE TREASURE HOUSE OF CONSCIOUSNESS: Why We Must All Explore the Inner Resources of Ourselves

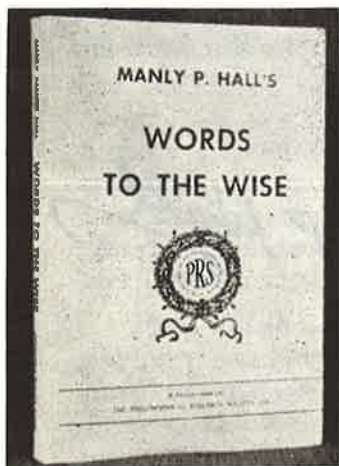
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