

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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Dear Friends:

One of the many interesting folk arts that have come to the West from Japan is Origami, which means paper folding. There are many ingenious ways of folding small squares of paper into amusing models of cranes, boats, flowers, boxes, animals and fish. Although Origami is now generally considered an amusement for children, it also has considerable fascination for persons of older years. There are many famous exponents of paper folding, and new designs are continually being added to the more ancient and traditional forms.

It may not be generally known that Origami developed during the Heian Era (782 - 1184 A.D.). It increased in popularity and by the early 16th Century had many enthusiastic exponents. The art was divided between kindergarten projects for small children, and stately gatherings of solemn faced scholars in formal black kimono. During the late 19th Century, Origami was included in the Public School curriculum. It has considerable educational value because it not only invites originality, but requires considerable self-discipline.



It might have seemed that in more recent times this charming folk-art would have fallen into neglect. Actually, however, interest has increased and a number of books have been published in English, that have been widely distributed in the United States. It is estimated that the number of different designs originating from sheets of paper about 6-inches square now exceeds 5,000. Origami are also popular offerings at shrines and temples. They are considered as equivalent to prayers and small children especially find delight in making gifts of these folded paper objects to the various Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

We have recently come across a publication printed in Japan called "Sunny Origami." It is devoted to paper folding for the purpose of creating designs which describe pictorially the principal episodes in the life of Gautama Buddha. There are ten subjects beginning with an Annunciation scene, in which the vision of a sacred

elephant came to Buddha's mother in her sleep. That last scene is the Nirvana of Buddha, showing his departure from mortal life at the age of eighty.

In this book the folding is done entirely with circular sheets of paper, of many colors. A supply of this paper is included in the book. It is one of the most delightful examples of this art which has come to my attention.

The accompanying illustration shows the enlightenment of Buddha under the Sacred Bo Tree. The figure of the great Sage is entirely made by folding circles of paper. This particular book combines a pleasant pastime for the young, with the incidents in the career of Buddha, which are especially significant to the members of his faith.

Many years ago I modelled a portrait head of the distinguished Freemason, General Albert Pike. He always impressed me as an outstanding American scholar. He was self-educated and combined several careers in which he attained distinction. He taught himself Latin and translated the massive Corpus of Roman Law. He learned Hebrew in his older years and translated many important texts in this language. At a time when the United States was deeply involved in the development of the Far West, General Pike was exploring the mysteries of the Zend-Avesta of Persia and the Vedic writings of India.

When we realize the doldrum in modern learning, it is good to remember men who by sheer courage and dedication mastered arts and sciences because of a deep love of learning within themselves. As a young man, Pike walked many miles to seek admission to a great University. He was rejected for lack of funds. In the closing years of his life, the same University offered him an honorary doctorate. The General declined, explaining that when he needed help there was none, and he had come to that place where such honors were meaningless.

In the Library of our Society, we have a substantial collection of General Pike's literary works, especially those concerned with the revisions of the rituals and ceremonies of the Scottish Rite Degrees of Freemasonry. He was Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction, and there is a splendid collection of his original works in The House of the Temple in Washington, D. C. We have autographed copies of several of Pike's most important books, and an unusual group of photographs taken at various periods of his lifetime, including the famous Brady portrait made during the Civil War. Several of his valuable manuscripts dealing with Indian and Persian religions have been published in limited editions by the Masonic Fraternity, and these are in our Library. Those interested in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry are invited to make use of our research material.

During July and August there was a special exhibit devoted to the work of Helene Fairbanks, a native Californian with unusual artistic skill and insight. She has spent many years in close communion with the Pacific Ocean, and using materials derived from the sea, she has created remarkable and beautiful pictures that are much in the spirit of Japanese flower arrangements. Sea plants are laid down on pieces of paper and as the materials are completely dried, the patterns will last indefinitely. Helene Fairbanks shows a sensitive awareness of the potentials of her media. Each pictorial composition differs from all the others and reveals an intuitive sense of harmony and proportion. The subdued colors are most restful and are appropriate to modern homes.

In addition to these delightful pictures, Helene Fairbanks has collected almost countless fragments of driftwood. These she has combined in a most whimsical arrange-

ment, showing remarkable imagination and ingenuity. Most of these compositions are quite small, but she has also designed many larger and more impressive designs. Some of the compositions show birds or animals, and the designs are so perfect that the meaning is immediately clear to even the casual observer. One of her driftwood arrangements is reproduced here, and gives a fair idea of the high quality of her work. Many friends who have seen this display have expressed their delight at Helene Fairbanks' artistic genius.



We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Mr. Stanley S. Slotkin, who is engaged in a most unusual project. Mr. Slotkin, Founder and President of Abbey Rents of Los Angeles, is distributing original leaves from various Bibles to religious organizations or educational groups throughout the country. All the Bibles from which these leaves are taken date before the year 1800, and each leaf is accompanied by a facsimile of the title page of the book from which it was taken.

We have long believed in the Foliophile Program. This is a project for exhibiting single leaves from famous volumes. When the complete book - which may be rare and difficult to exhibit - is opened in a case, only two pages are actually visible. By making use of single authentic leaves, one receives the full impact of the old printing, paper and composition, and the leaves can be stored in a comparatively small space. We have used this system many times in our own library, and have covered most of the history of printing in both the East and West. Mr. Slotkin's gift of twelve fine mounted leaves is greatly appreciated and will definitely contribute to the completeness of our display.

Among the leaves presented to our Library is the Paraphrase of the Old Testament by Edward Whitechurch, dated 1551; an original leaf from a Catholic Bible published in Strasburg in 1701; a leaf from Select Works of William Penn, London, 1771; a leaf from the New Testament printed by Robert Barker in London, 1602; an original page from the Martin Luther Bible, Frankfort, 1574; a leaf from a Hebrew Bible printed in Switzerland in 1609; and a leaf from a Greek Book of Religious Works, published in Frankfort in 1610, etc. These leaves will be exhibited with our next display of examples of rare printing.

We are ever mindful of the wonderful help and cooperation we have received from our dedicated friends. We hope you will accept our thanks and our assurance that we shall continue to be as useful as possible in the years that lie ahead.

Always most sincerely,

SPECIAL NOTICE
FROM OUR BOOK DEPARTMENT

A number of important and scholarly volumes in our fields of interest are now available in attractive and accurate reprints. Most of those listed here are included in Mr. Hall's list of recommended reading and have long been rare and out of print. To these have been added selected works by outstanding modern authors. The Contributors' Bulletin will list additional books in future issues. Be sure to read this page carefully.

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Retail</u>
A to Z Horoscope Maker and Delineator	L. George	12.00
Adonis, Attrs, Osiris	J.G. Fraser	10.00
The Advancement of Learning	Bacon	2.45
Aion (Vol. II- #9)	Carl Jung	7.50
Alchemical Studies - #13	Carl Jung	7.50
Alice in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	1.95
All and Everything	Guirdjoeff	8.95
Amulets and Talismans	E.A.W. Budge	10.00
Anacalypsis, Vols. I and II	Godfrey Higgins	50.00
Analytical Psychology, Its Theory & Practice	Carl Jung	6.95
Ancient Society	L.H. Morgan (paper)	3.95
The Ancient Wisdom	Annie Besant	3.95
Answer to Job	Carl Jung (paper)	1.95
The Apocrypha	Ed. by Goodspeed	2.45
Appolonius of Tyana	Mead	5.00
Archetypes & The Collective Unconscious (#9)	Carl Jung	7.50
Arts of the Alchemists, The	C.A. Burland	9.95
Art of the Ancient Near East	S. Lloyd	7.50
The Art of the Byzantine Empire	Grabar	6.95
Art of the Byzantine Era	D. T. Rice	7.50
Art of China, Korea and Japan	P. Swann	7.50
The Arts of Japan	H. Munsterberg	8.75
Art of the Renaissance	P. & L. Murray	7.50
Art and Creative Unconscious	E. Newman	3.50
The Art of Driftwood & Dried Arrangements	Tatsuo Ishimoto	3.95
The Art of Symthesis	Alan Leo	7.50
Asian Psychology	Gardner & Murphy	7.50
Astrological Types	Howard Duff, Sr.	1.50
Astrology, Your Place Among the Stars	Evangeline Adams	5.95
Astrology for All	Alan Leo	5.00
Astrology and Religion Among the Greeks	Franz Cumont (paper)	1.50
Asklepos	Kerenyi	5.00
Auroa Consurgens (Aquinas)	Marie von Franz	10.00
The Awakening of Faith	Asvagasha	5.00
Basic Writings of C.G. Jung	Ed. by V. DeLazlo	2.45
Beyond Good and Evil	Nietzsche (paper)	1.65
Bhagavad Gita	Annie Besant	1.50
Book of the Dead	E.A. Budge	12.50

These Books may be ordered directly from The Philosophical Research Society, Inc., address on first page. Please add 25¢ for handling on orders of less than \$5.00. (Sales tax should be included by California residents).