

# The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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Dear Friends:



Grandmother was well educated for her day. She painted in oil and showed genuine talent. Although not an outstanding musician, she played both the piano and the organ sufficiently well to entertain her friends and meet an emergency in the church services. She took a solid course in elocution, had some skill in languages, did beautiful embroidery and while in Europe, studied lace-making. In addition, there was emphasis upon domestic management. The care of the home, the raising and educating of children, along with the appropriate social graces. Her philosophy of education was not unique, but was unusual. She admitted that she had never aspired to be an artist, but it was important to discipline her mind and explore the world of visual objects. She wanted to understand color and found many practical ways of applying it to decoration in her home and the selection of her clothing. In each subject it was the same. The important point was not attainment but discipline. She believed that the only way to control yourself was through a planned program of self-discipline. She believed that the moment you cease improving yourself, you die even though you may linger for a number of years.

When her husband died, Grandmother went into deep mourning which she continued to wear without modification until the time of her death, some ten years later. In the summertime it was black taffeta, and in the winter - black broadcloth. She wore a bonnet with a black veil and white ruching in the front and was frequently mistaken for a Catholic Sister. When this occurred, she accepted the reverence with dignity. She explained to a few of her confidants that her "widow's weeds" were a perfect solution to the stupid inconvenience of changing styles. In this matter, Grandmother was a rugged individualist. She refused to follow any of the fads of her day, and considered that as a human being it was her duty to clothe her body in a dignified and at the same time, practical way. She obviously had experimented a little in her earlier days, but when she put on traditional black she found that it perfectly suited her personality. It does not follow, therefore, that her dress merely commemorated her bereavement. It gave her an overwhelming feeling of correctness and propriety.

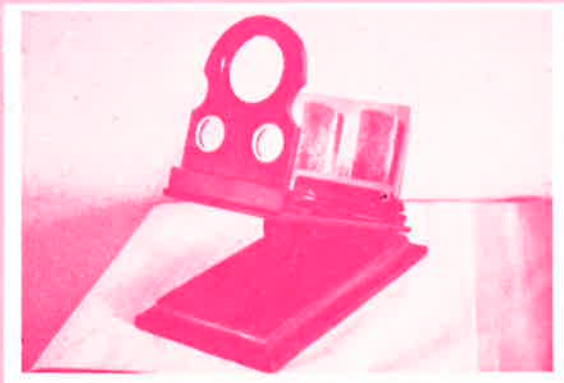
In Grandmother's later days she became aware of the suffrage movement in England and the repercussions in the United States. Her interest, however, never extended beyond this awareness. She never had the slightest feeling of being downtrodden or underprivileged. In fact, she rejoiced in the privileges of consideration appropriate to a "lady." She did not criticize men, she simply expected them to be gentlemen, and if they fell short

of her expectations, she had subtle ways of expressing her feelings. When a gentleman met a lady on the street, it was mandatory that he remove his hat, but she only extended her hand if it pleased her to do so. Gentlemen open doors for ladies, hold umbrellas for them, and always treat them with appropriate courtesy. Any man who did not fulfill these requirements was immediately removed from Grandmother's social list. In an evening gathering where gentlemen and their wives mingled socially, Grandmother considered it completely inappropriate for gentlemen to talk business at any time, and it was the worst of bad manners for two or three of them to gather in a corner to discuss the stock exchange or political situation. The conversation always had to be of equal interest to both ladies and gentlemen. At dinner, of course, the ladies were served first and the matriarch was the first of the ladies. Grandmother occasionally qualified for this distinction. After dinner it was different. The gentlemen retired to the library or the study to smoke their cigars and have a glass of brandy, while the ladies assembled in the parlor to discuss matters of interest to themselves. This usually included the health of the various members of each family, the children, the concert season, the theater and good books. Grandmother always flounced out if scandal started to circulate.

In the old days the principal hotel in Chicago had a Hindu headwaiter. He wore the full regalia of a Maharaja including a long white buttoned coat, tight trousers and a mass of gold braid. In his turban was an egret plume. I was a small boy then, and when Grandmother marched in dressed in stately black, the headwaiter bowed as deeply as though it had been Her Majesty, The Queen. Grandmother got the best table in the dining room, and the best service -- although she actually bought an inexpensive meal. This brings another phase of her temperament into focus. Culture was in no way related to money. She respected no one for their wealth, but chose her friends for the values which she regarded as indispensable. She was completely democratic but reserved the right to associate with persons who revealed well-disciplined minds and could contribute in a significant way to conversation or discussion. I never saw her snub anyone, but she had a very mobile face and there were times when she had an expression strongly suggestive of a remark attributed to Queen Victoria, "we are not amused."

Of course, Grandmother lived long before television and radio. She enjoyed attending good theater and occasionally went to one of the early motion pictures. During World War I she attended the Keith Theater in Washington D.C. with considerable regularity. I remember many occasions when just before the curtain was scheduled to rise, the interior of the theater was plunged into complete darkness and when the lights came back, President Woodrow Wilson, with his Secret Service agents, were seated in the central loge. On one occasion an actor dressed to represent Wilson, stood behind a podium and made a highly humorous speech on Wilson's 14 Points. We looked at the President and his loge, and his identical counterpart on the stage, and the President was laughing so loudly that it could be heard for several rows. When the actor found out that the President had been in the audience, he nearly fainted. On this occasion Grandmother "was amused."

"At home" with Grandmother could be quite an occasion. She was always anxious to find a good excuse for pouring tea. She had a sterling silver teapot with a beautiful tea caddy over it ornamented with the Royal Arms of the House of Hanover. She preferred tea, but could provide small cookies and she If conversation lagged, she with an extensive collection of double pictures taken from which when combined and produced the illusion of encouragement Grandmother



Old-Fashioned Stereoscope

Royal Arms of the House of Hanover. She preferred tea, but could provide small cookies and she If conversation lagged, she with an extensive collection of double pictures taken from which when combined and produced the illusion of encouragement Grandmother usually baked them herself. There usually baked them herself. There usually baked them herself. There usually baked them herself. These were slightly different angles, seen through two focuses, 3-dimensions. With a little would bring out her prize

pictures. One she especially admired was the interior of Martin Luther's Study with the black blot on the wall. According to tradition it marked the spot where the pious Luther threw his inkwell at the devil. She also had a fine interior view of the grand staircase in the Paris operahouse which was so faithfully reproduced in an old motion picture called *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Geriatrics meant nothing to Grandmother and with her aging was an elegant process. She never regretted the passing of years, considered it inevitable, complained very little, and rather looked forward to the rare visits of the family physician. She had accumulated a large number of traditional remedies, many of which had descended from her Scottish ancestors. I once heard the doctor admit that he was using some of her remedies for his patients and getting excellent results. All Grandmother answered was, "Of course." To her last days Grandmother simply declined to be bored. She never read light fiction because she felt it was badly written. She preferred the older writers because they painted beautiful word pictures, and they always added to her vocabulary. If she had a favorite writer, it was Sir Walter Scott, although I never heard her attempt to tie him into her ancestry. She read the newspapers lightly and was usually concerned over social conditions or accounts of places she had visited. In substance, Grandmother believed that whether you be rich or poor, you could always be gracious, and a self-disciplined person with complete control over both your mind and your tongue. She considered these attainments to be equally important to a lady or a gentleman, and never compromised her personal code of values.



Among recent additions to our Library collections are two old Hindu horoscopes hand-written on cloth. We will have these translated as soon as possible. The Astrologer seemed to have an artistic flair, and he decorated the beginning of the Chart, which is a long vertical scroll, with figures of Indian deities and representations of the planets and signs of the Zodiac. The elephant is present as a symbol of good fortune, and we notice the sun and moon, and a 3-headed deity -- possibly Shiva. At the top of the Chart are two peacocks and an elaborate floral design. Among the animals that can be distinguished are a tiger, rat, a deer, a ram and a dog. Two crouching animals may represent foxes. Native work of this kind is exceedingly difficult to find, and these horoscopes were discovered in a small shop in Paris. They will be exhibited on some occasion when we are showing our usual astrological items.

We hope that you will enjoy these further recollections of "Life with Grandmother." We have had many letters of appreciation and requests for further information about this dynamic little lady. May I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your many kindnesses through the year, and wish you all a most Happy Easter Season. The planets seem to indicate that many constructive things will happen in the months ahead, and we hope that these changes will bring to us all a fuller realization of the Wise Providence that governs all things.

Always most sincerely,

Marilyn P. Hall



The following list of books are included in Mr. Hall's list of recommended reading and have long been rare and out of print. These books may be ordered directly from The Philosophical Research Society, Inc. (address on page one). Please add 25¢ for handling on orders of less than \$5.00, and Sales Tax is to be included by California residents.

NOTE: Prices are subject to change without notice.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
The Sermon on the Mount According To Vedanta	Swami Prabhavananda	\$ 2.50
The Serpent Power	Sir John Woodroffe	12.00
Seven Lucky Gods of Japan	Reiko Chiba	3.25
Shakti & Shakta	Sir John Woodroffe	9.75
Shamanism, Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy	M. Eliade (P)	3.95
Siddhartha	Hermann Hesse	1.25
Simplified Scientific Astrology	Max Hefndel	3.50
Sound & Symbol, Music & The External World	V. Zukerkandl (P)	2.95
Spirit & Nature - #1	Ed. by J. Campbell	6.50
The Spirit In Man, Art & Literature #15	C. G. Jung	5.00
Spirit of Chinese Philosophy	Yu Lan Fung	1.75
Spiritual Breakthroughs for Our Time	Marcus Bach	3.95
Spiritual Disciplines - Eranos Papers #4		9.00
Sri Aurobindo, or the Adventure of Consciousness	Satprem	8.60
The Story of Philosophy	Will Durant	6.00
The Structure & Dynamics of the Psyche #8	C. G. Jung	13.50
Sumi in Three Weeks	Dadami Yamada (P)	1.75
Sumi-e Self Taught	Kohei Aida	3.50
The Supreme Philosophy of Man The Laws of Life	A.A. Montapert	5.00
The Symbolic & The Real	Ira Progoff	7.00
Symbols of Transformation #5	C. G. Jung	13.75
The Story of Pearls	Shohei Shirai	7.95
Sumi - An Introduction to Ink Painting	Nanae Momiyama (P)	1.00
Seshu's Long Scroll-Zen Landscape Journey	Reiko Chiba	3.25
The Sufis	Indries Shaw (P)	2.45
The Single Reality	Preston Harold	7.95
The Shining Stranger (Jesus & His Mission)	Preston Harold	7.50
The Soul of the Universe	Gustaf Stromberg (P)	3.00
The Searchers	Gustaf Stromberg (P)	3.00
The Secret Tradition In Alchemy	A. E. Waite	13.50
The Science Of Becoming Oneself	H. Sayardarian	6.00
The Science Of the Aura	S. G. J. Ousley (P)	.75
The Science of Meditation	H. Saraydarian (P)	6.00
The Science of Becoming Oneself	H. Saraydarian (P)	6.00
The Star-Cross, A Cycle of Process Meditation	Ira Progoff (P)	1.95

BOOKS BY MANLY P. HALL

Collected Writings, Vol. II	\$ 5.00	The Way of Heaven	\$ 4.00
Words to the Wise	5.00	Healing, The Divine Art	6.00
Buddhism and Psychotherapy	5.00	Pythagoras (Stanley)	10.00
Questions and Answers	5.00	Journey in Truth	5.00

