

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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40th ANNIVERSARY
OF MANLY P. HALL'S
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Dear Friend:

We are happy to report that we have had an unusually busy summer here at headquarters. The attendance at our Sunday morning meetings has been well above average, and visitors have been more numerous than in previous years. The distribution of our publications has also markedly increased, and it has been difficult in some cases to keep our stock equal to the need. National conditions have probably contributed to this focusing of attention on philosophical and cultural subjects. In line with the general trend, we have accepted the invitation to join the California Chamber of Commerce.



Through the cooperation of the Birthday Club of the Society, our library has been enriched by the gift of a group of rare books on Oriental art, including the important work by Dr. Coomaraswamy on Rajput painting. This was especially welcome as we already possess a number of manuscripts and notes by Dr. Coomaraswamy which I purchased many years ago in New York. The Birthday Club has also arranged to secure the assistance of a Siamese scholar to translate the

texts of letters and documents of King Mongkut of Siam, one of the most enlightened of Eastern rulers and a philosopher and religious leader of outstanding ability. The translator also read sections from several of our Siamese manuscripts. The title page of one of them is reproduced herewith.

While the Royal Collection of the Arts of Thailand (Siam) was on exhibition here in Los Angeles, we featured in our library displays of art and manuscripts relating to this area. Although our collection is not large, we have a number of pieces as fine as any shown at the Los Angeles Museum. Demands for exhibits of our cultural treasures become more numerous every day. A fine showing of North African material was kept through the summer by the Santa

Monica Public Library. One item in this group which drew attention was the autograph of the Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia on the title page of my collection of Ethiopian postage stamps, which he was kind enough to consider outstanding.



As most of you know, I have always emphasized the value of good art as a spiritual force in the lives of thoughtful persons. Most modern art commonly available is lacking in shibui (esthetic quality) or rihin (moral value). It is also obvious that truly great art is rare and expensive. We are making contact with certain museums in this country which are able to supply authentic and accurate reproductions of many of the finest examples of the world's creative artistry. We reproduce herewith three examples of such reproductions. Left: Stone lion of the Gandhara period in India, about 300 A.D., showing the blending of Grecian and Buddhist elements of design; $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. Center: Egyptian figurine from Thebes, about 1400 B.C., representing a seated priest. The color is cream white, and the image is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. Right: Statuette of the Buddha Vairocana; Tibetan, finished in gilt; $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high. I believe that such pleasant and meaningful objects add dignity to the home. All are inexpensive. If this project interests you, drop us a card and we will let you know what is available.

Almost every Sunday morning, the refreshment committee serves coffee in the patio after the lecture. Friends gather about to chat and become better acquainted. To add to the comfort of these occasions, several attractive benches have been installed at strategic points. These have also been provided by the Birthday Club, and we are most grateful.

We think you will like the enclosed sheet grouping together pictures of our building and telling something of our recent history. We hope that you have all enjoyed a happy summer, and our deep appreciation for your interest and help accompanies this Bulletin.

Most sincerely yours,

Mandy P. Hall