

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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40th ANNIVERSARY
OF MANLY P. HALL'S
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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- MAY 1963

Dear Friend:

The library exhibits for May and June are worthy of your special consideration. In May we will feature "Religious Arts of Siam," with rare and interesting books and documents. The beautiful pictures published by the United States Information Service on the occasion of the 2500th anniversary of the nirvana of Buddha will also be shown. In June we will display "Japanese Stamp Designs as Fine Art." Replicas of the stamps in metal engraving are most colorful, and will be combined with other items which show how the Japanese government uses its stamps to commemorate important cultural events. If you live in the area, be sure to drop in. If your home is elsewhere, we hope you will include our headquarters the next time you visit Southern California.

On Tuesday, May 28th, I will give a special lecture in our Auditorium, at 8:00 o'clock, for the Church of Religious Science of Redondo Beach. The subject will be "Planetary Influence and the Human Soul." The Church is providing transportation for its members, and our friends in the Redondo Beach area are invited to contact the Church, at FRontier 8-8435, for information. This lecture will also be open to the general public (donation, \$1.50).



We are happy to announce a most interesting and valuable addition to the permanent library collection of our Society. Through the generosity of a friend, we have received a curious manuscript entitled "Yawara Denju Sho" (Secret Manual of Judo). The work is in scroll form, completely hand written and illustrated, measuring 14½" high, and 21' long. There are 42 illustrations in color. 25 of these depict two men practicing judo holds, and the additional 17 are concerned with the practice of judo in connection with swordplay. At the end is a very colorful drawing showing two

deities referred to as "the gods of judo." One of the deities is Marishiten riding on a boar, and the other, Hachiman depicted on horseback. Below these is the signature of Minkozu Takaya. This name is believed to be a pseudonym to conceal the real identity of the author. There is a brief preface which includes the following information in Japanese: The master intended that a certain Mr. Ishida should be his successor. As the government had officially prohibited judo, the scroll and its contents should be held secret. Quarreling and disputation of all kinds were not allowed, and should anyone employ judo for any reason, he must not tell his teacher's name, even under the most severe questioning. A sheet has been appended to the end of the scroll stating that Mr. Ishida had in his own turn

presented the rare manuscript to Mr. Uyehara. Both of these men were natives of Banshuu, or the present Hyogo Prefecture. The scroll was given to Mr. Ishida by his teacher in 1821, but was originally written and illustrated about 1780.

Jujitsu as a science of self-defense was brought from China to Japan in the 17th century. It is interesting that this technique was probably invented by Lama monks to protect themselves when they traveled alone and unarmed in the remote regions of China. The concepts were reformed and refined in the early years of the present century by Mr. Kano Jigoro, a member of the Japanese House of Peers. Through the industry and devotion of Dr. Kano, judo has come to be well known throughout the world, and has proved of special benefit to the police in disarming criminals. As now practiced, judo has a strong Zen quality, almost approaching ritualism. Both men and women are trained in this form of wrestling, which is very popular in Japan, and contests are held regularly in the principal center of the school, which is at the Kodokwan in Tokyo. The higher degrees of judo depend largely upon esoteric exercises and disciplines somewhat suggestive of yoga. In judo, the chivalry of old Japan has survived in the ethical code governing all aspects of this sport.

You will remember Dr. Framroze Bode, who is a member of our faculty and has given a number of lectures and courses at headquarters over the years. Dr. and Mrs. Bode returned to India late in 1961, and we hear from them quite regularly. Not long ago, Dr. Bode made an extensive trip through Iran, where he gave many lectures, and had an audience with the Shah. In a recent letter, which contains much interesting information about Iranian culture, Dr. Bode writes: "While in Shiraz, I spent a whole day in seeing the ruins at Persepolis and witnessed the grandeur of the Empire of Cyrus and Darius. I saw the sculptures and cuneiform inscriptions at Nakhse-Rajav and Nakhse-Rustom, saw the tomb of Cyrus, and a very ancient fire-temple. The pillars and the statues and carvings at Persepolis are magnificent. I also visited Behustun near Hamadan and saw the trilingual cuneiform inscriptions of Darius; also Take-Bostan and many other places of interest which have left the landmarks of the Ancient Iranian world. The excavations of archeologists during the last thirty years have disclosed civilizations and cultures in Iran prior to 4000 B.C. The vast Iranian panorama in which the ancestors of Western man arose and flourished is of great importance in the study of the world cultures." In a note about the Indian political situation, Dr. Bode points out: "People in India are grateful to the United States for her generous and timely help in our hour of need. We believe that there always was and will be a closer and deeper relationship between the United States and India."

We cannot close this letter without expressing our gratitude for your kindly response to our Friends Fund letter of recent date. Your help is deeply appreciated. And so, until our next Bulletin, I remain

Most sincerely yours,

Marilyn P. Hall