

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

3910 Los Feliz Blvd. - Los Angeles 27, Calif. - NOrmandy 3-2167

MANLY P. HALL
President - Founder

HENRY L. DRAKE
Vice-President



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

In our March 1964 Friends Fund letter, we mentioned the need for better lighting and ventilation in our library. The big news of the moment is that in August a complete air conditioning system was installed. This adds not only to the comfort and pleasure of the increasing number of visitors and readers, but helps to protect the treasures gathered here. Even on the hottest day, the temperature will be a comfortable 70°. If you live in the area, we hope that you will drop in some warm afternoon and enjoy our new "climate." We are also on the verge of solving the lighting problem, which has presented many difficulties and complications. More in the future on this subject.

Our exhibit of Buddhist art of China, Japan, Thailand, and Tibet is one of the most comprehensive displays we have ever offered. We have decided to extend this exhibit through October 25th, changing material from time to time



as art objects continue to arrive from the Orient. Highlighting the Japanese offerings is a very fine painting, measuring approximately 7 by 10 feet, attributed to the Kamakura Period (1185-1392). This piece, which depicts the Parinirvana of the Buddha, approaches the quality of a National Treasure. It was sent to Japan sometime ago for remounting, and was held there for several months by officials who were reluctant to allow it to leave the country. The Buddha is represented lying on a couch in a grove of sala trees, surrounded by his grieving disciples, celestial beings, and creatures of the animal kingdom.

A very unusual Tibetan item is also worthy of mention. This thang-ka, or hanging picture, a section of which is shown at left, is actually a passport to protect the bearer from evil spirits and natural hazards while traveling through dangerous country. It is painted on yellowish brown silk, and at the top is a representation of the great Tibetan reformer, Tsong-Ka-Pa. Below the figure are several lines of writing and red monastery seals. So far as is known, only one other version of this passport exists.

Friends attending our Fall Festival on October 25th will have an opportunity to see this Buddhist exhibit. In the afternoon at 2:30, I will give a talk on "The Sacred Symbolism of Eastern Art," in which I will discuss a number of the treasures on display. Our annual October Open House is becoming a traditional event at Headquarters, and is always a most enjoyable occasion. My morning lecture will be "An Astrological Analysis of the 1964 Presidential Election." The Hospitality Committee will then serve luncheon in the patio, and visitors will have ample time to study the library exhibit at leisure, as well as a chance to browse at the book tables, the gift shop, and special bargain tables. We will have a large selection of fine Christmas cards, and suggest that you come prepared with a Christmas shopping list.

"Oriental Flower, Bird, and Landscape Studies" will be the subject of the November exhibit in our library, which will run from the 1st through the 29th. Artists all over the world have become highly sensitive to Oriental stylization, especially the treatment of flowering plants and scenic views. The material shown will have special interest for students of the Bunjin and Nanga Schools. These artists were usually scholars, statesmen, poets, and other dignitaries, who studied painting as an avocation. Gradually, their rather freer methods of depicting various subjects influenced the formal school, and may be regarded as the modernistic movement in the Far East. Among the items shown will be albums and sketch books of advanced students, and original designs which were later developed into major works. One unusual scroll depicts thirty flying cranes, said to have been prepared by the artist so that prospective customers could select the type of crane they wished to have represented on a screen or painting. Of special interest is a Japanese scroll more than sixty feet long, showing the principal shrines and temples of Japan in their natural settings, and employing an unusual blending of architectural and scenic motifs. The result is astonishingly pictorial. There will also be charming studies of birds, flowers, insect life, and human figures in gardens or other natural backgrounds.

Our booklet "Astrological Essays," mentioned in last month's Friends Fund letter, will go to the printer in the next few days. This has been out of print for many years, and contains several articles of practical value dealing with unusual phases of astrology -- infant mortality, marriage, death, and suicide. Under normal conditions, the booklet should be available in about sixty days.

May I express a word of appreciation for your kindly response to our recent Friends Fund appeal. It is inspiring to know that you are with us in spirit and in practical support. Again, many many thanks.

Very sincerely yours,

Manly P. Hall