

# The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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

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## CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- FEBRUARY 1965

Dear Friend:

January is always a busy month at P.R.S. Headquarters. Looking over the reports for 1964, we note that there is marked improvement in several areas over 1963. The sale of our books and the PRS JOURNAL have increased. The gift shop continues to help pay taxes, and income from this source is slightly larger than last year. Lecture attendance was very good, and a highlight in this department was the showing of the Lew Ayres films on religions in September and October. P.R.S. Local Study Groups have been more active, and we have had more subscribers to the Correspondence Courses. All this indicates that we have reached more persons with our teachings.

As we look forward to 1965, new projects invite completion. I am devoting all available time to my new book on Buddhist psychology. This will be my first major writing on Oriental philosophy. The manuscript is beginning to take shape, and I hope to finish it in the late spring. I have been able to secure a camera, which will enable me to photograph the various symbols and designs with which the book will be illustrated, and a considerable number of pictures are now ready. My approach to the subject will emphasize the concept of self-discipline as it is taught in the East, and adapt it to the immediate needs of Western peoples. There seems to be little available in this area at the present time. You will be kept informed on the progress of my endeavors.

Our gift shop is growing, and we have moved it into a larger room. Many friends have found it a pleasant place to browse and a convenient spot to purchase small gifts and cards as need arises. Actually, however, our real purpose is to help students of religion and philosophy to find significant art for their homes. Life is better when we live close to beauty and add charm to our immediate surroundings. With my new camera, I have taken some snapshots of the gift shop, and hope you will enjoy the pictures. On the wall is the large painting of the Parinirvana of the Buddha, which we sent to Japan to be remounted. This is not for sale, but this is the only wall high enough to show the complete painting. Done in Japan in the 15th century, this rare work shows the death, or Parinirvana, of Buddha according to the oldest historical record of the occurrence, as set forth in the Mahaparinirvana Sutra (compiled in the 3rd century B.C.). Knowing that the time of his transition was at hand, Buddha retired to a grove of sala trees by the roadside, and there gathered his disciples around him for the last time to instruct them in the Doctrine. Celestial beings and spirits from distant stars assembled for this solemn occasion, and even the animals came to pay homage to their eternal friend. Buddha's mother descended from the heaven worlds to be near her son, and she can be seen in the upper right corner of the painting. The picture is very large, being about nine by seven feet.



1964 will always be a memorable year for me because of my trip to Japan last May, made possible through the help and encouragement of our many friends. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to observe first-hand the changing face of Asia. We read a great deal, but much that we read is prejudiced or neglects the religious and cultural aspects of foreign nations. I brought home a number of rare items which will enrich my new book on Buddhism. Our 1964 library exhibits included material I found in Tokyo and Kyoto, and these displays have drawn many strangers to our headquarters. I would like to share an amusing phone call I received after my return. An old friend called me and remarked, "I hear you have just been to Japan." When I assured him it was true, he exclaimed in genuine surprise, "What, at your age!" With this kind of encouragement, I may go again someday; -- who knows.

In summarizing our accomplishments in the year just closed, I can say most truthfully that it is the kindly and generous support of those interested in this work that has made it possible for us to balance our budget. No public service program can be completely self-supporting. Even the largest universities and research centers must depend upon help from those who appreciate the work being done. Because we are in a highly specialized field that can expect no support from public funds, we must make our own way against ever increasing pressures. We want you to know how deeply grateful we are for your wonderful help, and I sincerely hope that you will be truly happy in knowing that you have contributed to a worthwhile effort to keep idealism alive and healthy in this worried and confused generation. My special thanks goes out to each of you.

Always most sincerely,

*Manly P. Hall*