

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN - APRIL 1968

Dear Friend:

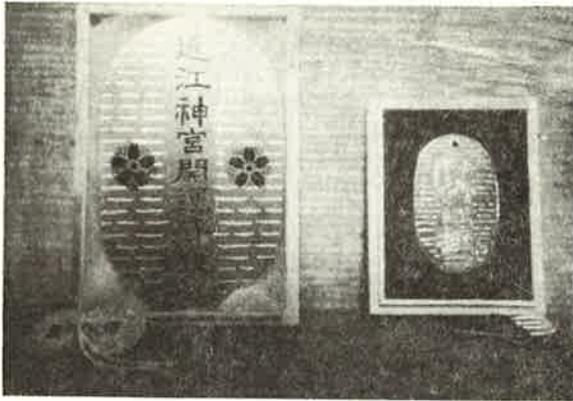
There has been considerable noise around here lately. One of our major construction projects is right outside my office window, and the power drills do not improve literary style. We are patient, however, because the work is progressing and very soon we will be able to make use of the new facilities. We like to include a picture in each of the Contributors' Bulletins, but unfortunately by the time this little publication reaches you, things will look quite different and further advanced. In any event, we include in this Bulletin a last minute snapshot which we hope you will enjoy.

On May 16th I will open a series of six lectures at the Scottish Rite Temple, located on the corner of Van Ness Avenue and Sutter Street in San Francisco. The lectures will be given on May 16, 21, 23 and 28 at 8 p.m., and on Sundays, May 19 and 26 at 2:30 p.m. Those of you who have friends in the Bay area might like to let them know of our program, which we will be happy to mail to them if you will send us their names, addresses and zip code numbers.

Among shipments coming in from the Orient, there are always one or two curiosities which we think you might enjoy hearing about. Not long ago, we received an interesting item (illustrated) which appears to be an old Japanese dagger in a traditional type of sheath. Actually, however, it is simply a carved and decorated piece of wood. It does not open and there is no blade. A friend in Japan told me that this article was worn by physicians who were not permitted to carry swords. Whether it is because they did not rank as Samurai (two sword men) or because a weapon was inconsistent with their profession of healing, no one seems to really know. In any event, this dummy dagger thrust nonchalantly into the Obi (sash) gave an air of gentility. Also, in case of need, this wooden stick could serve as a short club. This is the only example that has come to my attention, and as far as I can learn is not mentioned in the average books dealing with the history of weapons.

There is also shown a small group of souvenirs which I gathered in various shrines and temples in Japan last summer. You will note that several resemble antique Japanese coins. For the benefit of numismatists, it might be interesting to point out that there are large catalogues devoted entirely to the temple coins of Japan. Many of the temples seem to have issued their own coins, usually





brass, and were probably intended principally for the convenience of pilgrims. These devout persons could purchase what they needed when they stopped at the temple of their sect for rest or refreshment. Most of these coins resemble old Chinese money. They are round or oval, stamped on both sides, and usually have a square hole in the center. Another curiosity is the rice currency, which was issued by the Daimyos, who ruled the various Provinces. They received their own income in rice currency and paid their retainers with this type of money.

The two large oval coins in our picture are made to resemble the large gold coins issued in Japan during the 16th and 17th Centuries. These coins had seals stamped into them, and elaborate inscriptions were painted on their surface in black ink. These coins are quite large, approximately 3 by 5 inches, but very thin. Unfortunately, these coins cannot be brought into the United States, even by collectors, because the rule prohibiting the importing of gold extends to antique coinage. The Japanese, however, have made excellent facsimiles suitable for exhibition, but these are not greatly esteemed by coin collectors. For travelers in the Orient, these small tokens, charms and other curiosities, available in the temples, form a delightful and inexpensive group of keepsakes. They are good conversation pieces and a continuous reminder of interesting places visited.

A large number of our publications are now out of print, so we have an intensive printing and binding program on our hands. At the moment, a new edition of our book Questions and Answers is nearly ready for delivery and will be available by the time you receive this letter. Several smaller publications are also at the printers, including "The Therapeutic Value of Music". There is a continual demand for this essay, and it seems to be out of print most of the time. Plans are also under consideration for a new set of plates for our large book on Symbolical Philosophy. You will receive announcements of these publications as soon as they are available.

We are under heavy pressure from rising costs in printing and distributing our literature. Each reprinting represents an increase in cost of from 10 to 20 percent, and now there is another rise in postage rates. While inflation seems to be inevitable, we are doing everything possible to maintain the prices of our books. It is likely, however, that there will have to be a small rise in the near future, so we recommend that you purchase books in which you are especially interested as soon as possible. Some publishers are now offering books for one price if purchased at the store, and a slightly higher price if ordered by mail. For example, an entry may read "Price: \$2.00, postpaid \$2.25." This seems to be fair, because handling and mailing are now major expense items.

Exhibits in the Library are attracting favorable attention. The March Exhibit was a showing of woodblock prints of very fine quality, produced by famous Japanese artists of the 19th Century. With these prints we showed an exquisite set of ceremonial dolls and doll furniture, used in the Girls' Dolls Ceremony celebrated

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every year on March 3rd. The April Exhibit featured a group of enlarged photographs of Japanese shrines and temples, from pictures taken in 1967. These rare and unusual pictures were taken by me through the cooperation of influential friends in Kyoto and Nara. The May display will be devoted to Chinese embroideries of the Manchu Dynasty. The beautiful handwork shows extreme skill and patience, and sometimes years were required to decorate a single robe. Several types of embroidery will be shown, including decorations for coats and robes, elaborate collars, sleeve and cuff designs, old pocketbook decorations and exquisite examples used for pipe cases. Most of the work was done in the 18th or early 19th Centuries.

Speaking of exhibits, we recently cooperated with the Art Gallery at UCLA, which put on a comprehensive showing of the arts of India. We loaned them two examples of fine stone carving from Gandhara, dating from the 3rd or 4th Century, A.D.

The Program of Workshops under the direction of Dr. Drake is helping to strengthen our friendly relations with leaders in the fields of philosophy and psychology, and attracting to Headquarters students enrolled in local colleges and universities. Many of these persons have had no previous contact with our activities, but a number are already expressing interest in the point of view we are stressing. They are now receiving programs, catalogues and announcements of our various activities. Many prominent educators today are deeply concerned with religious and social issues, but programs generally available do not fully express the idealism which is becoming a strong undercurrent in every field of education.

We are in the process of enlarging the book department in our Art and Gift Shop. A number of valuable texts of interest to us (which have been out of print for many years) are being republished. Among these reprints are many of the books of G.R.S. Mead, who wrote so extensively on mystical Christianity, the Gnostics, the early Hermetic and Orphic Mysteries. Also worthy of mention are the writings of Dr. Evan-Wentz, whose works on Tibetan religion are of basic importance, and books by Arthur Edward Waite on the Cabala, the Rosicrucians and Alchemists, and other standard texts. As the project develops, we will refer special items to this Bulletin.

A light note appears in a recent press notice. A Japanese nature lover is planting one thousand trees on top of a nine-story office building in Downtown Tokyo, so that the harrassed citizens may have a chance to enjoy the chirping of wild birds as they hasten about in the celebrated confusion of the world's largest city.

With sincere gratitude for your help and interest through the years, I am

Most respectfully yours,

Manly P. Hall



New construction on Los Feliz
side of Headquarters.

To keep the record straight, this picture was taken late in March. By the time the next Contributor's Bulletin is issued, we can hope that the work will be finished. We are told that the most time consuming part has been completed, and from here on progress will be rapid and obvious.

Do You Have This Book in Your Library?

TWELVE WORLD TEACHERS -
A Summary of Their Lives and Teachings
by Manly P. Hall.

This generation is in desperate need of essential knowledge. By this we mean the knowledge made spiritual and philosophical through vision and experience. The search for this knowledge leads naturally to the Great World Teachers, who by word and example have set down the immovable footings of the House of Truth.

In this book the reader meets many great spiritual leaders with whom he is already somewhat familiar, but others seldom included among the illustrious benefactors of humanity. The twelve inspired instructors of mankind included in this book are: Akhnaton - the first to teach the Brotherhood of Man, Hermes Trismegistus - the Messenger of Cosmic Mind, Orpheus - the Founder of the Greek Mysteries, Zoroaster - the Fire Prophet of Iran, Buddha - the Light of Asia, Confucius - the Superior Man, Lao-Tze - the Obscure Teacher, Plato - the Philosopher King, Jesus - the Anointed Christ, Mohammed - the Desired of all Nations, Padma Sambhava - the Wizard Guru of Tibet, and Quetzalcoatl - the Priest of the Feathered Serpent.

There is a brief description in this book of the life of each of these men, based upon history or sacred legend. This is followed by a summary of their teachings. At the end of each section are quotations from the writings of these inspired sages, or statements attributed to them by their followers and interpreters. There are twelve portraits which are traditional, but convey the likenesses associated with these venerated Teachers.

All together this is a valuable and concise handbook bringing together information from many obscure sources.

Bound in full cloth, stamped with gilt, 237 pages.
Price: \$4.00 (Plus 5% sales Tax in California).