

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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Dear Friend:

It is now possible to present a meaningful report on our building program. The new facilities have been completed with the exception of some interior furnishings and fixtures which will come along as finances permit. We hope that as many as can conveniently do so, will visit Headquarters and actually see for themselves what kindly cooperation has accomplished. For those who live outside the area, I have dusted off my trusty camera and taken a number of pictures which reveal the facts, but unfortunately are deficient in over-tones. The buildings look much better "in living color" than on the printed page.



The Library has turned out especially well. Although we have built in commodious shelving and drawers, it continues to appear spacious and inviting. It is especially effective when seen through the large doorway that connects it with the original Library structure. The ceiling is not as high as we might have liked, but this compromise was necessary in order to provide an equal space on the second floor. We have compensated by providing an unusual amount of light on both floors. This is not only practical for readers, but provides a way of presenting art material most effectively.

The shelving arrangements are my personal invention and naturally I felt a deep responsibility for such originality. My plan was to make each of the separate sections of the downstairs cases separate display areas. Any pair of doors when opened frames a complete unit where books, manuscripts, pictures and small art objects can be combined attractively. The overall doors have inlays on both sides of cork, covered with a special plastic material. This makes it possible to transform the entire room into a small but attractive gallery for the display of paintings, sketches, prints, maps and similar material. When the doors are open, the inside can also be used for display purposes. I think we have made the best possible use of the space with this simple contrivance.

When used for Library purposes, the inner shelving, as well as the drawers or bins below, are covered by hinged doors which can be locked, providing equal protection for all material. When a section of shelving is devoted to display, removable glass panels have been provided, which can be inserted in slots made for this purpose and locked in the conventional way.

The new room will permit us to keep on permanent exhibition larger and more important items than we have been able to display with previous facilities. One nice feature will be that we can show easily and efficiently many horizontal scroll paintings and our collection has a number of valuable and important works in this category.

The upstairs room will be fitted out to take care of all groups of material available for display, either on our own premises, or in Public Libraries, Universities, Museums and Galleries. These displays can be kept together as complete units and there is no danger of confusing the permanent collection with material which we do not intend to include in our basic collection. The upper room will finally be equipped with conventional library stacks, that is, storage shelves for books, which are needed but not used with great frequency. Here runs of Journals, foreign dictionaries and encyclopaedias and standard reference works, will be kept, thus liberating the space in the main Library for works in constant demand. This will open up considerable space in sections that have become so overcrowded that books cannot be properly classified. We are already at work planning not only for efficiency, but for the protection of books and manuscripts that must be given special care because of their age and value.

To facilitate our odds-and-ends collection, which actually includes many of our choicest items, we have purchased a number of boxes which can be shelved like books, with proper labeling for contents. In these boxes unbound pamphlets, scrolls and works in oriental bindings, which cannot be adequately protected by ordinary shelving, will be arranged together under subject matter. For example, one such box will be labeled "Manuscripts on Flower Arrangement". The box will be large enough to hold the largest volume, and will neatly unite many beautiful hand-written textbooks provided by Masters of the various flower arrangement schools, for the benefit of their more advanced disciples. Many of the hand-painted books on flower arrangement are extremely beautiful. Some day we can open this section and present an exhibit of the books without removing them from the shelves.

The new facilities also include the best possible means of protecting oversized prints, framed pictures and scroll paintings. These are always difficult to classify unless very large storage facilities are available. We can, however, accommodate many hundreds of prints and an almost equal number of scrolls. Best of all, we can find them immediately.



The new entrance on Los Feliz Boulevard is also a most successful addition to our premises. It blends pleasantly with the older construction and adds a pleasing contemporary note. It will serve not only as an extension to the Library, but provides a particularly good atmosphere for intimate group activities. By degrees we will be able to add to our present programming types of events that might be especially meaningful to a dozen or twenty people. Such an intimate setting and one that is a little separated from the normal traffic flow, will be most welcome to those who might like to look forward to classes in arts and crafts, and

adventures in such cultural fields as the Tea Ceremony, Flower Arrangement, and folk art activities. Here things can remain undisturbed for the duration of the course and there will be storage space for necessary equipment. We hope that this room will inspire new interest in personal skills and help to make our Headquarters more of a cultural home for all our friends.

The additional storage space at the rear of our property is completely dedicated to utility and will help us to be more efficient in maintaining the routine activities of the Society. It will also enable us to add a new note of tidiness to our work areas. It will be easier to take inventory, be more pleasant for those who assist in our work, help us to fill orders more promptly, and bring a general note of integration to our now scattered assets.

This letter is a little longer than we intended, but we are quite enthusiastic at the moment and we believe that you will enjoy our enjoyment with us.

In our next Bulletin we will continue our usual general news coverage. This time we wanted to share with you the experience of fulfillment. We have long hoped for this occasion and now our hopes have found practical realization.

We want you to know that we are eternally grateful to the many friends who have contributed to this building program. It is your help that has made it all possible, and with your continued interest and support, we will do all that we can to use our new facilities for the public good and for the service of those who come to us for instruction and guidance.

Please accept my sincere thanks and kindest regards.

Always most faithfully yours,

Manly P. Hall

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM OUR BOOK DEPARTMENT

A number of important and scholarly volumes in our fields of interest are now available in attractive and accurate reprints. Most of those listed here are included in Mr. Hall's list of recommended reading and have long been rare and out of print. To these have been added selected works by outstanding modern authors. The Contributors' Bulletin will list more books in its next issue, so be sure to read this page carefully.

Babbitt, Edwin D. THE PRINCIPLES OF LIGHT AND COLOR. Many illustrations.
(Reprint 1967) \$15.00. The old classic on color. A curious work
in a most obscure field.

Baring-Gould, Sabine. CURIOUS MYTHS OF THE MIDDLE AGES. (Reprint 1967). \$10.00.
A source book of legends that we all love and few understand.

Budge, E. A. Wallis (Transl.) THE BOOK OF THE DEAD. Magnificent illustrations.
(Reprint 1960), \$12.50. The most widely accepted translation of this
great Egyptian religious work.

Budge, E. A. Wallis. AMULETS AND TALISMANS. Profusely illustrated. (Reprint 1961).
\$10.00. The source book on the ceremonial magic in North Africa and the
Near East.

Bucke, Richard M. COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS. (Reprint 1961). \$5.95. Still one of
the best texts in a very difficult field.

Corelli, Marie. THE ROMANCE OF TWO WORLDS. (Reprint 1964). \$3.50. One of
the most famous mystical novels in the English language.

Corelli, Marie. LIFE EVERLASTING. (Reprint 1964). Paperback. \$1.95. A
beautiful story by a greatly loved author.

David-Neel, Alexandra. MAGIC AND MYSTERY IN TIBET. (Reprint 1958). \$7.50.
A work on Tantric Buddhism by one of the few women who studied in Tibet.

Evans-Wentz, W. Y. THE TIBETAN BOOK OF THE DEAD. Illustrated (Reprint 1957).
Paperback. \$1.95. A basic text of the mystical philosophy of Tibetan Lamas.

Evans-Wentz, W. Y. THE FAIRY-FAITH IN CELTIC COUNTRIES. (Reprint 1966). \$12.50.
For many years virtually unobtainable. This book is so outstanding that
Mr. Hall gave a lecture on it a few years ago.

Franck, Adolph. THE KABBALAH. Diagrams. (Reprint 1967). \$5.95. One of the
best, though less known, studies on Kabbalistic Philosophy.

Garver, W. L. BROTHER OF THE THIRD DEGREE. (Reprint 1964). \$7.50. A romantic
story involving initiation into an Esoteric Society.

Heckethorn, Charles William. SECRET SOCIETIES OF ALL AGES AND COUNTRIES. 2 Vols.
(Reprint 1965). \$15.00. The best available survey of Esoteric Organizations
of the ancient, medieval and early modern world.

These Books may be ordered directly from The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.,
address on first page. Please add 25¢ for handling on orders of less than \$5.00.
5% Sales Tax should be included by California residents.