

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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Dear Friends:

Fall is always a busy season. Our program of activities brings many new friends to Headquarters, and several outstanding leaders in the fields of Philosophy, Comparative Religion, Psychology and Esthetics have appeared on Dr. Drake's Workshop Programs. We might mention Dr. Houston Smith, who is Professor of Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Smith is especially concerned with the meaning of religion and is certainly in a most strategic position to reach those sincerely seeking a union of Science and Religion.

We also presented Dr. Kieffer Frantz, who gave a Workshop on C. J. Jung's Concept of Psychological Types. Zen was represented on our Fall listing by Hakuun Yasutani Roshi, who holds high credentials in Japan and has published five volumes of commentaries on Zen Koan.

So you see things move along and we are trying to maintain a strong and constructive position in a world suffering from confusion and compromise.

The Exhibit of Oriental Fabrics in our Library during the month of October was especially outstanding. This is a splendid field for a person seeking a fascinating hobby, that does not need to be expensive, or require extensive storage space. While I was in Tokyo, I saw a display in the National Museum, and later in Kyoto I visited the Silk Museum. Both of these world-famous institutions present fabrics in the form of swatches, that is, small pieces beautifully matted and described.



Well selected fragments of fair size show the details of the original material and feature a major element of the design. These swatches can be of any size that is convenient or procurable. We favor pieces approximately 11x14". They can be kept in albums, mounted under plastic sheets in loose-leaf binders, or in the case of an especially dramatic example, can be framed and hung on the wall. They are as attractive as buying prints or paintings, and can be selected to harmonize with any decor.

Nearly every culture has developed special textile techniques. Some early pieces such as those from dynastic Egypt, or among the Coptic people of North Africa, are rare. Good specimens of old Peruvian textiles are extremely scarce, and the applique work of the Ainu people of Northern Japan is now difficult to find.

Folk Art is a wonderful source of primitive design. The natural dyes give a rich and mellow quality. A good field for such a collection is the cotton fabrics of Okinawa. Some of the peasant clothing of Japan, Korea and South China, the magnificent materials of Thailand, India, Burma and Near Eastern Groups, are fascinating in their textures and ornamentations.

Fine examples of old fabrics turn up in the most unexpected places. I have found some outstanding items in rummage sales for charity, second-hand shops, Church bazaars and the like. Most art dealers specializing in handicrafts from Northern, Eastern or Southern Europe, can arrange to secure swatches from Europe. Old materials can also be found in the clothing of imported dolls, table runners, wall hangings, and even dresses and purses. The hobby is most intriguing and can lead to a study of primitive weaving, embroidery and applique. The symbolism is frequently of interest to students of religion and philosophy. There are very few who can resist the sheer beauty of old hand-made materials. They are wonderful conversation items, and collections help to preserve fragments that are rapidly disappearing.

Speaking of fabrics, the Collection of the Philosophical Research Society has been enriched by a remarkable example of Tibetan embroidery. It is the cover of a Ceremonial Umbrella carried above the head of His Serene Holiness, the XIIIth Dalai Lama of Tibet. This remarkable example of Tibetan handicraft is one of a pair, formerly in the collection of Miss Grace Nicholson of Pasadena, California. The other umbrella cover is now in the Museum at Newark, New Jersey.

The cover is entirely composed of overlapping peacock feathers, worked in natural colors. Green predominates, but the "eye" in each feather is very brilliantly represented. The diameter of the cover is approximately 6', and the embroidered plumes radiate from a central opening through which the pole of the umbrella protruded.



There is an excellent reason for the use of peacock feathers as symbols of Divine protection. They are associated with Maha-Mayura, the peacock deity who is usually represented riding on this bird. As the name suggests, Maha-Mayura is associated with Maha-Maya, the mother of Buddha. Some hold the peacock Goddess to be the deification of Maha-Maya. The peacock itself is a devourer of poisonous serpents and is therefore a protector of the Dalai Lama. The many "eyes" in the bird's tail-feathers signify protection against all secret evils. This Ceremonial Umbrella was presented to the Society by an interested friend.

In our Open House on October 13th, we featured a discussion of Japanese Flower Arrangement, which included examples of the techniques used. We were fortunate in having the services of Mrs. Muriel L. (Risai) Merrell. Her skill was appreciated by many friends who believe in the esthetic principles of this art as it is practiced by the Japanese Schools. On this occasion we also exhibited in our Library (for the day only) rare and lovely old books and manuscripts dealing with this art. It was customary in older times for Masters of Flower Arrangement to present special volumes, usually hand-written and illustrated, to their favorite pupils as a special token of esteem. The Society has a number of these beautiful manuscripts.

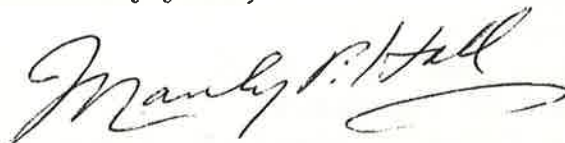
The November Exhibit in our Library will be devoted to a series of 24 Scrolls showing episodes in the life of the celebrated Buddhist Teacher St. Honen. This remarkable man was an outstanding Oriental Mystic and his life has been a source of inspiration and consolation to millions of his followers for over 700 years. When Honen was a small boy, his father was cruelly murdered. On his deathbed he admonished his son to forgive the assassins, and to pray ever for the salvation of all that lives, even the slayers of his own father. It is quite understandable that these circumstances profoundly impressed a naturally sensitive and idealistic child, and turned him to a religious life. St. Honen had a long ministry and lived to his 80th year. He passed out of this life reciting a prayer to Amida Buddha, and surrounded by his grieving disciples. The pictures in the Exhibit are about 200 years old and show many scenes from the career of Honen, and miracles associated with him. There are also items dealing with veneration for Amida and paintings of the Western Paradise.

The December Exhibit will be devoted to outstanding examples of Christian Religious Art and will include several very rare items not previously displayed. This Exhibit will be discussed in greater detail in the December issue of our Contributors' Bulletin.

As our space is running out, we must leave some news for the next issue, which will feature a special Christmas Message. You will note that we are including a further list of important Books. We can supply these familiar Classics, and orders placed with us also assist in the financing of our projects.

1968 has been an important year, marked with unusual progress in most areas of our activities. For the help and support of our numerous friends, we are profoundly grateful. The enlargement of our sphere of usefulness has been made possible through your help and encouragement. My sincere greetings to you all.

Gratefully yours,



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.

KINGDOM OF THE GODS	Hodson, Geoffrey	10.75
ESSAYS ON FAITH & MORALS	James, W.	2.45
VARIETIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE	James, W.	4.95
ALCHEMICAL STUDIES	Jung, C. G.	7.50
FREUD & PSYCHOANALYSIS	Jung, C. G.	5.00
MODERN MAN IN SEARCH OF A SOUL	Jung, C. G.	5.75
STRUCTURE & DYNAMICS OF THE PSYCHE	Jung, C. G.	6.00
THE HUMAN AURA	Kilner, Walter J.	7.50
AQUARIAN GOSPEL	Levi	4.95
ART OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST	Lloyd, S.	7.50
POPULAR STORIES OF ANCIENT EGYPT	Maspero, Gaston	10.00
DID JESUS LIVE 100 B.C.?	Mead, G.R.S.	10.00
FRAGMENTS OF A FAITH FORGOTTEN	Mead, G.R.S.	10.00
APOLLONIUS OF TYANA	Mead, G.R.S.	5.00
ELEUSIS	Mylonas, G. E.	8.50
ART & CREATIVE UNCONSCIOUS	Neuman, E.	3.50
MORNING OF THE MAGICIANS	Pauwels & Bergier	6.95
DWELLER ON TWO PLANETS	Phylos	8.50
LOST YEARS OF JESUS	Potter, C.	5.00
PAGAN CHRISTS	Robinson, J. M.	5.95
THREE WAYS OF ASIAN WISDOM	Ross, N.W.	7.50
THE CANDLE OF VISION	Shepard	5.00
ON THE KABBALAH & ITS SYMBOLISM	Scholem	7.50
SECRET OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER	Wilhelm, R.	4.50
SURVIVAL OF THE PAGAN GODS	Seznec	8.50
THE HISTORY OF ATLANTIS	Spence, Lewis	7.50
TRAINING OF A BUDDHIST MONK	Suzuki	6.00
TIBET	Tucci	15.00
MYSTICISM	Underhill, Evelyn	3.75
SPIRITUALITY THROUGH THE CENTURIES	Walsh, J.	5.50
THE HOLY GRAIL	Waite, Arthur	10.00
THE HOLY KABBALAH	Waite, Arthur	10.00
BROTHERHOOD OF THE ROSY CROSS	Waite, Arthur	10.00
PICTORIAL KEY TO THE TAROT	Waite, Arthur	7.50
HERMETIC & ALCHEMICAL WORKS OF PARACELCUS	Waite, Arthur	35.00
SERPENT POWER	Woodroffe, Sir J.	9.50
SHAKTI AND SHAKTA	Woodroffe, Sir J.	8.00
THE GREAT LIBERATION	Woodroffe, Sir J.	7.50

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.

(Sales Tax should be included by California residents.)