

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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Dear Friends:

At this season of the year it is timely to examine the omens and portents to discover something of the fates and fortunes of 1969. It is a busy time for the astrologers of China, Korea and Japan. These countries use the sexagenary cycle consisting of the combination of twelve zodiacal signs with five elements. As a result there are sixty possible combinations, after which the cycle repeats itself. By this system 1969 is the Year of the Rooster, and is generally represented by this bird, standing alone or on a drum, or accompanied by a hen and chicks.



From Hong Kong to the Hokaido, business men, political leaders, astute merchants, together with scientists, priests, school children, housewives and farmers, are pondering the implications of the rooster symbol. The findings will influence the stock market, affect promotional enterprises, and be reflected in exports and imports. No one will wish to go contrary to the traditional readings found in the little black books carried about by professional soothsayers.

It should be noted that persons born in the Year of the Rooster will be specially affected. Recent years of the Rooster are 1885, 1897, 1909, 1921, 1933, 1945 and 1957. If you were born

in one of these years you are naturally endowed with the courage, vigilance and high sense of responsibility that distinguish this noble birth.

In Japan the rooster plays a very important part in the ancient Shinto Mythology. When the Sun Goddess, offended by her brother, retired into a cave, leaving the world in darkness, the rooster was induced to crow even though there was no sunrise. The Sun Goddess perturbed lest the sun had risen without her assistance, came out to investigate, thus restoring light to the solar system.

When we realize the astonishing complications of sounds and syllables that make up the Chinese language, it does not seem remarkable that the sound made by the crowing of the rooster can be neatly changed into meaningful words. These words incidently can be translated as "Happiness to our land".

The Year of the Rooster is a very fortunate one, for it brings with it the five virtues associated with this bird. The head and comb suggest the phoenix and symbolize the advancement of culture and the progress of civilization. The feet, which are very strong and its principal means of defence, suggest the importance of a proper foundation under enterprises which are to endure. When the rooster finds food, he calls all other members of the flock to share it with him. Thus he is faithful to the common good. The prints of the bird's feet resemble Chinese ideographs, and it is claimed that the inventor of writing was inspired by these markings to invent the characters of the written language. This bird is also a symbol of watchfulness, for it announces the coming of the dawn and is in a sense at least a sun worshipper. It is a bird of protection, which seems to have inspired Western people to place it at the top of weather vanes. Because it crows at dawn it also frightens away evil spirits and all the ghostly creatures that are abroad at night. In European folklore the shades of the dead must return to their graves with the first crowing of the rooster.

All of these attributes pertain to the year that is ruled by this lord of the barnyard. The Oriental therefore looks forward to 1969 as the dawn of a brighter and better day. He is particularly convinced that by the proper use of vigilance, he can correct the difficulties resulting from indifference to the public good. He resolves to practice the five virtues and in this way insure the benevolence of heaven.

You will note on the fourth page of this Bulletin a list of books in our field, which will be useful to many students concerned with the mystical side of life. Among these is *DISTILLED WISDOM* by Alfred A. Montapert. The volume is published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. Through the courtesy of the author, a number of copies have been set aside as a contribution to the advancement of the work of our Society. We have also been authorized to offer the book at a substantial reduction, well below the normal retail price. *DISTILLED WISDOM* is a collection of quotations from persons in many fields of activity, which have been collected under appropriate headings. It is a very nice and useful work and is the first book in its field to include quotations from my writings.

Every year or two I have exhibited the artistic metal reproductions of Japanese postage stamps, which I collect as part of my interest in philately. These enlarged facsimiles are mounted in folders or on the outsides of specially designed envelopes. They are usually accompanied by the actual stamp from which they are taken, and there is also a pictorial first-day cancellation. This most artistic display will be featured in our Library from February 2nd to 23rd and will include an exceptionally interesting array of the National Treasures of Japan, shown on stamps in the last two years. These have not been shown before. The metal work is done by first engraving the design and then overplating it with various shades and tones of gold and silver. The stamp shown here pictures the principal buildings of the Horyuji Temple at Nara. I have taken many photographs of the original structures.



Kondo (left) Main Gate
and Pagoda at Horyuji

Some years before her death, Dr. Natacha Rambova, who gained distinction for her work in the field of Egyptology, presented the Society with a small but rare collection of early Greek gold and silver coinage. We hope in the not too distant future to develop a small research project around these coins and some other material of a similar nature which we own. Classical coins are of interest far beyond the general field of numismatics. For example our best and most authentic likenesses of the Roman Emperors are based upon their coinage. Here we can find the noble head of Marcus Aurelius, and the kindly features of the Emperor Julian, the Neo-Platonist. On the coinage of Byzantium is found the likeness of Christ, and many symbols associated with early Christianity. The Colossus of Rhodes is preserved only on the coinage of that city, and it is from a Greek coin that we have gained our knowledge of the appearance of the huge statue of the Olympian Zeus, a wonder of the ancient world.

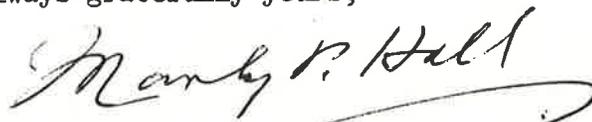
Among the coins presented by Dr. Rambova is a small gold piece with a ram's head in relief. This paid the fee for consulting the Oracle of Delphi. Another fine example has the profile of Alexander the Great, presented as a personification of Hercules. The coins of the Egyptian Ptolomies have on one side an eagle closely resembling the bird appearing on the reverse of the United States half-dollar. It would seem that the modern coin is copied from the older one. We also have a piece of baked clay which closely resembles a modern sandwich bun. On the underside is an elaborate seal. When a noble Egyptian went shopping he carried his seal with him. When he purchased something, the shopkeeper gave him a piece of clay. On this the Egyptian impressed his seal and the merchant then baked the clay to preserve its hardness. Later the seal impressions were taken to the door of the great man's house. Here the steward recognized the debt, settled the account and kept the seal impressions. Perhaps something of this nature was the original of modern credit cards.

It is a mistake to assume that the value of money is based upon the precious metal it may contain. The true value has always been and always will be the integrity of the State or the honor of the person giving his guarantee. Today one of the prime sources of ancient money is the long forgotten grave. There is an old saying which may not be very philosophical, that those departing to the realms beyond this world may not need money, but as a precaution can carry a little with them to meet emergencies.

We are now planning a new publication which should be ready for distribution in late Spring. This volume will bring together the notes of eight lectures for which there has been considerable demand. They were originally issued as part of our monthly lecture notes program, but several of them are out of print. Each of the sections deals with a problem likely to arise at any time in daily living. The emphasis is upon practical solutions through enrichment of understanding and a correction of negative attitudes. We believe you will find the material helpful and we will give you further information in our next letter.

In closing this letter, may I again express to you my most sincere appreciation for your help and friendship through the years. We will write again in the near future.

Always 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 additional books in future issues. Be sure to read this page carefully.

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Retail</u>
1	AWAKENING OF FAITH	Asvagasha	\$5.00
1	ADONIS, ATTIS, OSIRIS	Fraser	10.00
1	ANSWER TO JOB	Jung (paper)	1.95
1	ALCHEMICAL STUDIES = 13	Jung	7.50
2	ANCIENT SOCIETY	Morgan (paper)	3.95
1	ASIAN PSYCHOLOGY	Murphy	7.50
0	ARTS OF THE ALCHEMISTS, THE	Burland, C.A.	9.95
0	ANCIENT WISDOM, THE	Besant, Annie	3.75
2	AUROA CONSURGENS (Aquinas)	Von Franz	10.00
5	ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING, THE	Bacon	2.45
3	ART OF CHINA, KOREA AND JAPAN	Swann	7.50
0	ASTROLOGICAL TYPES	Duff, Howard (paper)	1.50
1	AESCH MEZAREPH	Westcott (paper)	2.00
1	BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY		3.95
1	BASIC WRITINGS	Jung	2.45
1	BHAGAVAD GITA	Besant	1.50
1	CHINESE RELIGIONS	Smith	6.60
2	CICERO ON MORAL OBLIGATION	Higginbotham	5.00
2	CHEIRO'S COMPLETE PALMISTRY	HAMON	7.50
9	CIVILIZATION IN TRANSITION	Jung	6.75
2	CLOUD OF UNKNOWING, THE	Progoff, Ira	4.00
0	COLOR PSYCHOLOGY AND COLOR THERAPY	Morrow <i>Birrin</i>	7.50
2	COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS	Bucke	5.95
3	CURIOUS MYTHS OF THE MIDDLE AGES	Baring-Gould	10.00
2	CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS	Attar, F.	3.50
2	DEATH OF SOCRATES, THE	Guardini, R. (Paper)	2.45
6	DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY #13 & 17	Jung	4.50
3	DHARMA, THE RELIGION OF ENLIGHTENMENT	Carus	2.00
2	DIVINING ROD	Barrett & Bestman	7.50
5	DOCTRINE OF THE SUBTLE BODY	Mead (paper)	1.45
1	DREAM, THE	Hartwick	4.50
2	DAYSRING OF YOUTH	M.	8.50
43	DISTILLED WISDOM (A book of quotations on learning, living and achieving, by outstanding modern leaders, including quotations by Manly P. Hall).	Montapert	5.00
3	ESSENTIALS OF MYSTICISM	Underhill (paper)	1.35
2	ESSENTIAL UNITY OF ALL RELIGIONS	Bhagavan Das (paper)	2.25
2	Essays	Bacon	2.45
2	ESSAYS ON FAITH AND MORALS	James (paper)	2.45
2	ESSAYS ON A SCIENCE OF MYTHOLOGY	Jung & Kerenyi <i>Paper</i>	1.95
2	EVERYMAN & MEDIEVAL MIRACLE PLAYS	Cawley	2.45
2	EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHERS, THE THEOLOGY OF	Jaeger (paper)	1.25

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).