

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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Dear Friends:

In recent years we have heard considerable propaganda against religion. It has been assumed that it should play no part in the public life of the citizen except perhaps on Sunday morning. It has become evident, however, that the stressful attempt to make the world safe for atheism has not been much of a success. It was a passing fad completely inconsistent with man's inner need for spiritual consolation in times of stress and turmoil.



4
RAS AL KHAIMA

Madonna -

Ras Al Khaima

Glorious Koran - Egypt



The Magi - Jordan

As many of you know, I am something of a stamp collector, and a strong religious revival is noticeable in the postal issues of many countries. Here in the United States where most of the agitation began, we issued a very attractive religious stamp for Christmas. The design is a considerable improvement over preceding attempts, and depicts in full color the Angel of the Annunciation from a painting by Van Dyck. A few minority groups registered complaints, but for the most part the stamp was well accepted. In line with the same general trend, several foreign countries have developed the courage to increase the use of religious

themes for stamp designs. Japan has always included a few Buddhist or Shinto subjects, but the stamps were of small size and not especially exciting. The new series, which will appear in several sections featuring the National Treasures of Japan, is most spectacular. There are large and colorful stamps, depicting the main buildings of the Horyuji Temple, with its five story pagoda. There is a beautiful stamp of Miroku (Maitreya), the Buddha to come, and a dramatic representation of the Bodhisattvas Kannon and Fugen. A new stamp of the Republic of China on Taiwan shows the Amida Buddha on Pakuashan Hill in Central Formosa. This is the largest image of Buddha ever erected.

Interest in religion also extends to the United Arab Republic, which has issued two stamps in a very attractive souvenir sheet. The subject of both stamps is an open volume of the Koran, accompanied by the words "The Glorious Koran". Perhaps the most intriguing development has been in the near East, in the area called Trucial Oman, situated on the Eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula and extending for nearly 400 miles between Oman and Qatar. The seven Trucial States are actually Sheikdoms, with a total population of approximately 100,000. These States have become prolific stamp issuing areas, and while their productions are not well received in philatelic circles, it is certain that the Sheikdoms are devoutly Moslem.

Not long ago persons visiting these Near Eastern communities were warned against wearing either Christian or Jewish religious symbols. From these Moslem strongholds has come a deluge of beautiful religious stamps featuring Madonnas, Holy Families and related items. Also included in the flood of pictorial material are paintings by Rembrandt, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci and van Gogh. While these stamps are not exactly necessary for the carrying of mail, they are a vast improvement upon the subject matter and technical processes of many major world powers.

For more than a century Great Britain issued stamps featuring only the face of the reigning Monarch. Even this well-established tradition has broken down and a beautiful religious stamp was issued for the Christmas Season. Those countries which normally do issue stamps with religious themes, have enlarged their formats and increased the number of sacred subjects.

India has given us a stamp representing St. Thomas and several stamps devoted to their own religious leaders, including Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo. It is only fair to say that the delicate issue of using religious material on postage stamps officially issued by the Government has been rather successfully arbitrated by not recognizing the problem.

It has become customary to exchange greeting cards whenever a pretext, no matter how slight, justifies their use. Some of these cards are very beautiful. Others are humorous and quite a few are in rather bad taste. 150 years ago Japanese woodblock artists, who made their living by catering to public taste, liked to show their genius in devising works of greater merit, resulting in the Surimono. These were exquisite miniatures, often requiring from 15 to 20 blocks in the delicate process of hand-printing. Most of these cards included poems, some of which were politically slanted. The Japanese people, rebelling against the military dictatorship that governed their country, formed small circles of scholars, poets, patriots and reformers, who found ways of circulating their discontents by these charming Surimono. We know that ciphers were concealed in the designs, which sometimes included secret calendars and other useful information. Today we cannot always marry the poem to the design, and these old expressions of discontent are preserved only as works of art. We are exhibiting an extensive group of these delicate pictures in our Library during April, and we hope that many of you will find it convenient to view this collection. The moral seems to be that even if you are discontented and somewhat anti-social, you should express your feelings graciously and sympathetically. It would be rather nice if such an attitude became fashionable in our times.



Surimono - The Hand of Buddha.

We have had a number of requests to list a few of our publications that might have special interest for those just beginning to explore the world of philosophical idealism. This includes young people who are experiencing a practical need for self-help literature. We might recommend our Journal, which includes a variety of articles and always features material dealing with practical problems.

Those who have become disenchanted with scholastic attitudes toward philosophy and religion, or who find the curriculum lacking in inspirational content, might like to

read my book First Principles of Philosophy. By becoming more familiar with the great thinkers of the past, and the real content of their teachings, those seeking better understanding may regain confidence in man's basic heritage of wisdom.

A simple handbook on comparative religion can protect the truth seeker from the conflicts of competitive theological doctrines. In my book Twelve World Teachers I have tried to convey the realization that there is only one religion in the world, and all enlightened people - past and present - have lived by the same spiritual code. In the course of history, many great interpreters of man's essential religious heritage have arisen, bringing a message of love, justice and faith to the Nations of their times. This book tells the story of twelve such teachers. It includes a summary of their most important convictions, and where possible, quotations from their writings are given. I believe this would prove helpful to the increasing number of younger persons who are discovering that without faith, hope and love, their lives have little meaning.

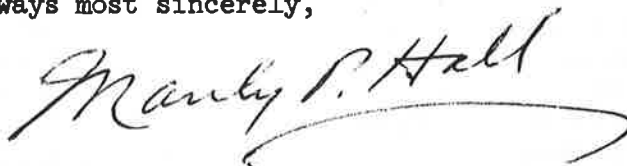
Since our last letter I have had another birthday. Kindly friends everywhere have sent me cards and small remembrances. I cannot personally acknowledge them all, but would like to express through this letter my appreciation for the kindly thoughts that have come in my direction. The better the day the better the deed, so I have decided to celebrate this year by reading proof on my new book.

A rather unusual event in the field of publishing comes so close to my interest that I cannot refrain from mentioning it in this letter. Among the recent additions to the Bollingen Series is a handsome volume entitled Thomas Taylor, the Platonist. The work contains 532 pages, with 20 illustrations. It has always seemed to me that Thomas Taylor was the outstanding interpreter of Platonic and Neo-Platonic philosophy. He was also the first to provide the English speaking world with full translations of the writings of Plato and Aristotle. We wrote an article on Thomas Taylor and his books, which will be found in Volume II of our Collected Writings. For many years Taylor's translations and original writings have been extremely difficult to secure. We published a new edition of his Theoretic Arithmetic, the best available text on the philosophy of numbers. Those interested in the Bollingen Volume may order it directly from us.

We continue to receive gifts of books and we acknowledge these with the deepest gratitude. Often they enrich our library collection and provide duplicates which can be exchanged for needed items. Although we greatly enlarged our library space, it will not more than care for the selection of books which we are assembling and which we believe will finally constitute one of the best reference collections in the country.

We close with the assurance that we deeply appreciate your continuing interest and support, and we will have new items to discuss in our next letter.

Always most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marly P. Hall". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Retail</u>
FAIRY-FAITH IN CELTIC COUNTRIES, THE	Evans-Wentz	12.50
FORERUNNER, THE	Gibran	3.95
FUTURE OF MAN, THE	de Charin	5.95
FREUD, ADLER, JUNG, RANK	Progoff	5.00
FLUDD, DOCTOR ROBERT	Craven	12.50
GARDEN OF THE PROPHET	GIBRAN	3.95
GOSPEL OF BUDDHA, THE	Carus	3.50
GREAT PYRAMID AND ITS BUILDERS	Robinson (paper)	1.25
GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD	Drummond	1.95
GEMS OF THE EAST	Blavatsky	3.00
GREAT INITIATES, THE	Schure	8.50
HEALING GODS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS	Jayne	10.00
HIDDEN WISDOM IN THE HOLY BIBLE	Hodson (Paper)	1.75
HINDUISM & BUDDHISM	Coomaraswamy (paper)	.95
HINDU MYSTICISM	Dasgupta	3.00
HISTORY OF ATLANTIS, THE	Spence	7.50
HUMAN AURA, THE	Kilner	7.50
HUMAN POTENTIALITIES	Murphy	7.50
IAMBlichUS ON THE MYSTERIES OF THE EGYPTIANS, CHALDEANS AND ASSYRIANS	Thomas Taylor	8.50
IMITATION OF CHRIST	Kempis	2.45
INDIAN AND CHRISTIAN MIRACLES OF WALKING ON THE WATER	Brown	2.00
INTEGRAL PHILOSOPHY OF SRI AUROBINDO	Spiegelberg	8.50
JAPAN'S RELIGIONS	Hearn	10.00
JUNG'S CONTRIBUTION TO OUR TIME	Bertine	6.50
JAPANESE SCULPTURES	Tolchin	15.00
KABBALAH, THE	Franck	5.95
LANGUAGE IN THOUGHT AND ACTION	Hayakawa	5.50
LIFE DIVINE, THE	Sri Aurobindo	12.50
LIFE OF THE BUDDHA	L. Adams Beck	2.00
LIGHT ON THE PATH	Collins	1.25
LITTLE FLOWERS - MIRROR OF PERFECTION	St. Francis of Assisi	2.45
LOST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE AND FORGOTTEN BOOKS OF EDEN		2.95
LOVE AGAINST HATE	Menninger	4.95
LIFE EVERLASTING	Corelli	1.95
MEDITATIONS	Aurelius	1.25
MAGIC AND MYSTERY IN TIBET	David-Neel	7.50
MAHATMA LETTERS	Barker	6.00
MAN AND TIME	Jung	5.00

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).