

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN - October 1970

Dear Friends:

On June 15th we left Los Angeles for a trip to Germany. One of the main reasons was to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play, but we also gathered some first-hand information on present conditions in the Federal Republic. We returned home on July 17th. The winter issue of our Journal will include highlights of the journey, illustrated with photographs taken by my trusty polaroid camera. Most of the time was spent in the southern states of Württemberg, Baden, and Bavaria. There were short detours into rural Austria, northern Switzerland, and the Principality of Lichtenstein. On our way over we flew directly to London and there changed planes for Zürich. The flights were very pleasant and comfortable, but of course at 30,000 feet altitude you see little except banks of clouds.

The airport in London is beyond question the most complicated and extensive that I have ever seen. One must travel about in buses, as the distances are far too great for walking. On the return trip we flew from Zürich to Copenhagen, and our hotel overlooked the Tivoli Gardens. The weather was not entirely favorable, but at night the gardens were beautifully lighted and there was a display of fireworks.

In addition to Oberammergau, we visited Munich, where the art museum contains some of the finest works of the European masters, with special emphasis upon the paintings of Dürer and Rembrandt. Some of these pictures are well known through publication in art journals, but a series of paintings by Rembrandt of the Stations of the Cross is outstanding and seems to be little known.

Travel is strenuous, and nearly all facilities are overcrowded. We were therefore grateful for a three-day cruise down the Rhine from Basel to Cologne. Much of the trip was through highly industrialized areas, and waste from these installations is giving grave concern because of the rapidly increasing pollution of the river. Those who are familiar with the Wagnerian Operas will remember Siegfried's Last Journey as musically and dramatically set forth in Götterdämmerung, or "Twilight of the Gods." Actually, Wagner took many liberties with both history and geography, and the terrain which his story implies would be above Basel, a region which is still abundant in natural beauty. It is probable that the house of the Gibichungs, where the hero met his death, was in the vicinity of Worms, a most historic city associated with Martin Luther and the beginning of the protestant Reformation.

That part of the Rhine which is most famous is called the Rheingau and extends from Mainz to Cologne. It is here that the river passes through a narrow gorge, with hills rising steeply on both sides. The slopes are covered with vineyards which produce some of Germany's finest grapes. On the crests of the hills stand ancient castles in various states of repair. Some are uninhabited ruins and others are occupied by the descendents of the ancient builders.

At Cologne I was most interested in the great Cathedral, which contains the gleaming reliquary of the Three Kings, or Wise Men, who are said to have brought their treasures to the crib of the newborn Christ. Cologne is a most important cultural center and is itself a veritable museum. It was founded on the site of an ancient Roman town, and excavations continue to bring to light important works of art dating back to Roman times.

We attended the Oberammergau Passion Play on July 1st. It was certainly an impressive performance, lasting for over seven hours. It is easy to understand how this play has come to attract worldwide attention. In spite of various conflicts of opinion, the present trend toward deeper religious experience has increased attendance. I am told that in spite of many extra performances, more than a million persons were unable to secure tickets. We will discuss some of our travels in greater detail in our later publication; suffice it to say at this time that we were rewarded for our trip by an increased appreciation for the substantial ethical gains which have been achieved in Western Europe in the past twenty-five years.



On August 5th I was invited to attend one of the press conferences held every Wednesday morning at Los Angeles City Hall. After the conference, Mayor Yorty presented me with a handsome plaque bearing the colorful seal of the City. Beneath the seal is an inscription: "To Manly P. Hall in recognition of Fifty Years of distinguished service as Lecturer, Author, and Teacher. -Sam Yorty, Mayor." The presentation was later televised, and Mayor Yorty was kind enough to send me the accompanying photograph taken at the time of the ceremony. The Mayor said he has attended many of our lectures and has been interested in our work since 1927. We are very grateful for this kindly gesture and feel that our friends will be glad to know that we have received this token of official approval.

We are happy to report that in recent months we have received several important donations of books, presented by thoughtful friends, to assist in the advancement of our activities. A number of the better volumes have been placed in the permanent collection of our library and will be available for public use. As the gifts have been diversified, several different areas have been enriched with basic texts and outstanding modern volumes. A number of books on Oriental wisdom, including Tibetan religion and philosophy, are especially useful. We have also been able to enlarge our astrological collection with recent standard texts. We are most grateful for all these contributions, as it is difficult to purchase such books with our available funds.

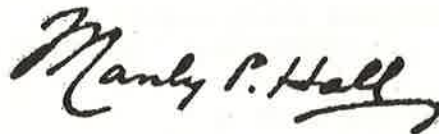
The facsimile reprint of Thomas Stanley's Life and Teachings of Pythagoras will be available in a limited edition in the near future. This is one of the most comprehensive books dealing with Pythagorean wisdom and has been out of print for nearly three hundred years. It is reproduced by photographic facsimile and is suitable for all students of this important subject.

We sincerely hope that it will be convenient for you to attend some of our activities at headquarters, if you live in the Los Angeles area. Our Library displays are receiving many favorable comments, and new works of art are often being added to the permanent collection. In planning your Christmas shopping, we hope you will remember our various books and publications and our Journal, which we believe should be in the home of every person sincerely concerned with self-improvement.

The fall 1970 issue of the PRS Journal includes a forty-page illustrated supplementary section on "Koyasan - Sanctuary of Esoteric Buddhism." The article contains about all the information available on this strange and wonderful place. It is illustrated with many photographs which were taken last year and therefore are up to date in every sense of the word. As we feel that libraries, schools, and groups concerned with comparative religion should know of this complex mountain temple, we are also issuing a limited number of copies of the article in separate booklet form. Please note the listing on the next page.

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and have programs for self-culture and enlightenment planned for the fall and winter seasons. We will write again before Christmas. In the meantime, may we express once more our gratitude and good wishes for your happiness and well-being.

— Always most sincerely yours, —

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manly P. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

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 works in future issues. Be sure to read this page carefully:

<u>Titles</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Retail</u>
Koyasan - Sanctuary of Esoteric Buddhism	Manly P. Hall	1.25
Magic and Mystery in Tibet	A. David-Neel	7.50
Mahatma Letters	A. T. Barker	6.00
Man Against Himself	K. Menninger	7.50
Man and Agression	M. F. A. Montagu	5.00
Man and His Symbols	Carl Jung	6.00
Man and Time (Eranos #3)	Ed. by J. Campbell	5.00
Man and Transformation (Eranos #5)		5.00
Man the Unknown	Alexis Carrell	5.50
Man's Place in Nature	Teilhard de Chardin	3.50
Man's Search for Himself	Rollo May	3.00
Many Golden Ages- Ruins, Temples, Monuments of the Orient	Frank Macshane	10.00
Many Mansions	Cerminara	5.00
Medieval Philosophy	Ed. by Herm & Shapiro	2.45
Meditation in Action	Chogyam Trungpa (paper)	2.50
Meditations	Marcus Aurelius	2.45
Meditations and Selections from the Principles of Rene Descartes		2.00
Message of Milerepa	H. Clark	2.00
Message of the Stars	Max Heindel	6.50
Memories, Dreams, Reflections	Carl Jung	7.95
Meeting with Remarkable Men	Gurdjieff	6.00
Milton and Jakob Boehme	Bailey	3.00
Modern Man in Search of a Soul	Carl Jung	5.75
Moral Discourses	Epictetus	2.45
The Morning of the Magicians	Pauwels & Bergier	7.00
Mudra - A Study of Symbolic Gestures in Buddhist Sculptures	E. Dale Saunders	10.00
Mysteries (Eranos #2)		5.00
Mysteries of the Egyptians, Chaldeans and Assyrians (Iamblichus)	Thomas Taylor	8.50
The Mystery Religions and Christianity	Samuel Angus	10.00
Mysterium Conjunctionis (#14)	Carl Jung	7.50
The Myth of the Eternal Return	Mircea Eliades	2.75
Myths of the Greeks and Romans	M. Grant (paper)	3.45
Myths and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilization	Heinrick Zimmer	6.50
The Mystic Vision (Eranos #6)		7.50
Mysticism	E. Underhill (paper)	3.95

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.