

# The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN - June 1971

Dear Friends:

In spite of the recent addition to our library, we are again confronted with a shortage of space. Fortunately, however, we originally planned to use the room above the present library extension to house several of our growing collections. By the time you receive this letter, considerable additional shelving will be installed which will provide space for several thousand volumes. They will be arranged as in the stacks of public libraries and will help to make our material easily available to readers. We may be able to include a photograph of this improvement in our next letter if my trusty Polaroid continues to function.

A further improvement is also in process of construction. Ever since the library was opened, we have been in real need of some kind of display facility for books and manuscripts. We have a nice case in which various objects can be shown, but no practical way for exhibiting horizontal scrolls, autographs, and groups of related literary items. To meet this problem, we are building an attractive viewing case with a glass top and interior lighting in which small groups of choice illuminated books and scrolls can be on constant display. The demand for better types of research books is greater than ever before in the history of the Society. These additions to our facilities--the new shelving and new case--are more than justified by the increasing use of our library.

For thousands of years man has struggled with the problem of time. He was never able to influence the hours and days as they passed, but he liked to record them. The American Indians kept their historical records in terms of moons or lunar months. The Egyptians seemed to have calculated the precession of the equinoxes by the largest of all known timekeepers--the complex of pyramids at Giza. Later, more convenient means were found to keep sequences of events in their proper order. In the mountains back of Nara in Japan is a Shinto temple dedicated to those celestial powers which inspired man to invent timekeepers. Adjacent to the temple is a clock museum with an unusual collection of Eastern and Western horological devices, from sundials to Ingersoll watches. It might be interesting to devote a few paragraphs to this rather neglected subject.

Man has been time conscious for thousands of years, and he invented both the clock and the calendar to measure various phases of human activity. The calendar has always been closely associated with agriculture, and even now the Farmer's Almanac is popular in rural areas. Clocks were used to measure shorter intervals and made possible the organization of daily events. Old or unusual clocks and watches are in constant demand, as many collectors specialize in this field. While in Japan I heard of a wealthy Japanese connoisseur who has one of the world's finest collections of old American railroad watches.

The oldest measure of time that we know is the sundial. Some of these are small enough to carry in the pocket like a watch, and others--as in the Observatory at Jaipur, India--are sixty feet high. Sundials fashioned long ago are in most European cities and very ingenious ones are found in China. However, the sundial has certain limitations. It is of little use on rainy days, and is not sufficiently accurate to make possible the measurements of seconds or minutes.

The Egyptians are believed to have invented the waterclock, which measured time from the number of minutes or hours required for water to flow out of a tall cylindrical container. This device was used in Europe and Asia simultaneously.

It is believed that the pocket watch was invented in the 16th century by Peter Henlein of Nuremberg, Germany. This watch, often called the "Nuremberg egg," led to more complicated devices, like the cuckoo clock, which is motivated by weights. Time measuring devices using mainsprings retained their popularity for centuries, but watches are now being powered by electric cells.

The hourglass was convenient for many purposes. Men who were paid for their services on an hourly basis could estimate accurately the time required for a specific task. Kings and Popes timed their public audiences by this handy mechanism, which has descended to us in miniature form and is useful when boiling eggs.

Oriental nations were most ingenious in developing means for measuring short periods of time. Candles of various sizes and thicknesses were used to keep track of the performances of professional entertainers. The candles burned usually for one or two hours, for which there was a regular fixed charge.

We have recently received a very interesting Japanese incense clock. This device has many uses, some of which may be religious. It can measure the length of a mass and direct the activities of monks in their daily disciplines. The clock consists of a wooden box nine and one-half inches long, seven inches wide, and seven inches high, including the upper grill. The lid has lattice-like openings, and the wood shows traces of reddish-gold lacquer. Inside the wooden case is a heavy ceramic fire box. For practical purposes this is filled about two-thirds full with fine sand, the surface of which has been carefully smoothed over. An open-work frame is laid on the sand, and powdered sandalwood is poured into the grooves. When the frame is removed, the lines of sandalwood are connected at the end with additional incense. If the sandalwood is lit at one end, it will continue to burn along the connected rows until it is entirely consumed. This is timed to require approximately one hour. By



The Astronomical Observatory at Jaipur

disconnecting the center row, one-half hour can be measured, and with the use of a little ingenuity, various other time periods can be approximated. Another example of this strange clock has a drawer near the base for storing the powdered sandalwood, and is ornamented with a family crest.

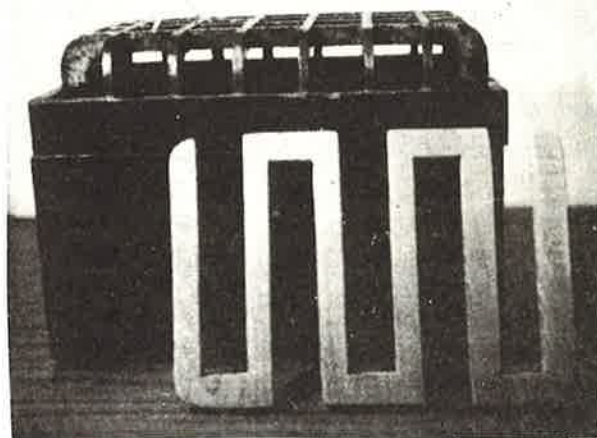
The boxes we have were made in the late Edo Period, between 1750 and 1850, before Western clocks were generally available. I have not seen any examples earlier than the 17th century, but they may exist.

Our library display for July features a number of Japanese paintings of the Tosa and Kano Schools, which continue to perpetuate the classical styles of technique and design. The traditional background for these representations of Japanese life and manners is the Heian Period, (794-1185), usually referred to as "the ancient times." The Imperial Court, with its refined and delicate atmosphere, ruled from Kyoto and set the styles for the entire nation. During this gay and charming era, the Japanese developed a type of script writing which modified the old Chinese form and made possible an elaborate national literature.

You will be happy to know that interest in our literature is increasing in foreign countries. We are now shipping books to England, Australia, India, and several Latin American countries. We have also received requests for rights of translation into foreign languages. We have not yet decided, however, the best course of procedure but will let you know if foreign translations are actually made. Our growth is very largely due to the cooperation of our good friends, and we cannot too often express to you our deepest appreciation.

Always most sincerely;

*Manly P. Hall*



Old Japanese Incense  
Clock with Frame to  
Control the Distributing  
of the Incense



## Contributors' Bulletin - June

## 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.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Price</u>
Ramakrishna and His Disciples	C. Isherwood	\$ 7.50
The Reality of the Psyche	Joseph Wheelwright	8.00
Reflections of a Universal Idealist	K. Heussenstamm	3.00
Reincarnation in World Thought	Head and Cranston	8.50
Religio Medici and Other Writings	Sir Thomas Browne	3.25
The Religion of Man	Tagore	1.95
The Religion of Tibet	Sir Charles Bell	7.00
The Religions of Man	Huston Smith	5.75
Religions of the World	McCasland/Cairns	8.50
The Road of Life and Death	Paul Radin	4.50
Romance of Two Worlds	Marie Corelli	4.50
Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam	E. Fitzgerald	1.95
Rumi the Persian	A.R. Arastah	3.75
Sand and Foam	Kahlil Gibran	4.95
The Sayings of Lao Tzu	Introduction by Lionel Giles	1.75
Science and Secrets of Early Medicine	Jurgen Thorwald	12.00
The Secret Doctrine	H.P. Blavatsky	10.00
The Secret Doctrine in Israel	A.E. Waite	5.00
The Secret of the Golden Flower	Richard Wilhelm	4.50
The Secret Oral Teachings in Tibetan Buddhist Sects	A. David-Neel (P)	2.00
Secret Societies of All Ages and Countries	Heckethorn	15.00
Selected Writings of St. Augustine	R. Hazelton	2.25
Sepher Yetzirah	W. Wynn Westcott	2.25
VII Septum Sermones and Mortuos	C.G. Jung	4.50
Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life	William Law	2.45
The Sermon on the Mount According to Vedanta	Swami Prabhavananda	2.50
The Serpent Power	Sir John Woodroffe	10.00
Seven Lucky Gods of Japan	Reiko Chiba	2.95
Shakti and Shakta	Sir J. Woodroffe	9.75
Shamanism, Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy	M. Eliade	8.50
She	Sir H.R. Haggard	1.95
Siddhartha	Hermann Hesse	1.25
Simplified Scientific Astrology	Max Heindel	3.50
Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus	Jaspers (P)	1.45
Sound and Symbol, Music and the External World	V. Zuckerkandl (P)	2.95
Spirit and Nature - #1	Ed. by J. Campbell	5.00
The Spirit in Man, Art and Literature #15	C.G. Jung	4.50
Spirit of Chinese Philosophy	Yu Lan Fung	1.75
Spiritual Breakthroughs for Our Time	Marcus Bach	3.95
Spiritual Disciplines--Eranos Papers #4		5.00
Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius	T. Corbishley	2.95

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.