

The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

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Dear Friends:

As promised in our last letter, we are including herewith pictures of the recent improvements installed in our library. The additional upstairs shelving is not aesthetically significant but will make possible a far better organization of our reference books. There is a tendency for some sections of the library to grow more rapidly than others, and we need greater flexibility in our system of classification. As you will see from the photograph, the new shelves are already in use, and we all feel that they meet an urgent need.

The new showcase we installed downstairs is also a real contribution to our display facilities. Collections of books like ours always include many choice and unusual items of interest to both visitors and readers. The new case gives a better impression of the nature of our research material and also provides a facility to show especially interesting manuscripts as we actually acquire them. We have received many compliments on the appearance of our library extension and the displays which are featured there.



I made another trip to Japan this year, leaving Los Angeles on June 11th and returning on July 8th. On this occasion I made my first visit to the city of Osaka, a thriving industrial metropolis of 4,500,000 persons. You will remember that Osaka was the site of Expo '70, which is said to have the distinction of being the only world exposition that ever balanced its budget. Osaka has always been the commercial center of the Japanese Empire. Centuries ago its merchants and bankers kept the wheels of industry turning. The rich men of Osaka were solid citizens of rather grave deportment who

carried their responsibilities with dignity and integrity. There is not much of philosophical importance in the area, but I resolved to make a pilgrimage to the site of the Shi-Tenno-ji, which has the distinction of having been one of the first Buddhist temples in Japan. It is said to have been founded about 600 A.D. by the great prince and statesman, Shotoku Taishi. As a young man, Shotoku became a champion of the Buddhist religion and was required to defend it against the leaders of prominent families who were devout Shintoists. As a result of a dream in which the Four Guardian Kings of the world appeared to the prince, he is said to have carved their images with his own hands and placed the small wooden figures on the visor of his helmet. The Buddhist faction was victorious and in gratitude, Shotoku built the Shi-Tenno-ji sanctuary in honor of the Shi-Tenno, the Four Great Deva Kings. The temple became exceedingly popular, and the number of buildings increased to form an elaborate and curious complex of structures. The fane was burned several times and promptly rebuilt. Lafcadio Hearn describes its condition in the late years of the 19th century. There were pools and springs and vendors of all kinds selling birds and turtles and small fish so that they could be liberated by the faithful. After the fish had been purchased by a devout believer and he had restored it to the pool so that it could swim about happily, it was promptly captured again and the procedure repeated.

The Shi-Tenno-ji was almost completely destroyed by aerial bombing during World War II. For a time the prospect for reconstruction was dim. Recently, however, the five-story pagoda has been rebuilt, a new Kondo, or Golden Hall stalled, was erected and where the images are in- mural paintings. For all present buildings are taking on an appropriate look of antiquity, and before long no one will doubt that they are the original structures. This is an interesting phase of Japanese psychology. One after another of the great monuments have collapsed from natural causes, been shaken down by earthquakes, or destroyed by devastating fires. In due course they have been quietly replaced until it seems that the old sanctuaries live on indefinitely, com-

I was anxious to photograph ancient associations. It pictures of old temples, minds us of the heroic Constantine of Japanese



It was in Osaka that we fourteen-hour scenic boat Japan. This is one of the there are more than 600 large and small islands--some inhabited and others merely out-croppings of volcanic rock. There are fishing villages along the shore with occasional temples, and the red Torii gates of Shinto shrines. One fascinating little island was a single rocky spike not more than twenty feet in diameter with a solitary handsome tree growing majestically on the top.

Late in the evening our boat docked at Beppu, famous for its hot springs and often referred to as the second largest spa in the world. Beppu has been a health resort for hundreds of years. Back in the days of Hokusai and Hiroshige, the hot mineral waters were piped into the native inns through bamboo tubes. Today, all is plush and luxurious, and correspondingly expensive. Many of the bubbling hot springs are appropriately named. The names, of

the Shi-Tenno-ji because of its is seldom included among the but it has a dignity and re- young man who became the Buddhism.

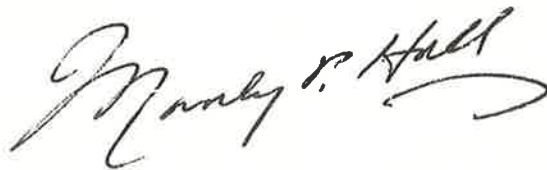
boarded the steamer for a trip through the Inland Sea of showplaces of the nation, and

course, are in Japanese, but the English equivalent describes them as various levels and degrees of purgatory. One faithful old pool which reminds one of Dante's Inferno is known as "The Big Hell" and another, not so pretentious, is called "The Little Hell".

From Beppu we took a train to Hiroshima, where the first atomic bomb was detonated. All signs of the catastrophe have disappeared, except a monument dedicating the city to everlasting peace. Hiroshima is certainly the most modern and Western-appearing of the Japanese cities I visited. The streets are wide, the buildings are bright and new, and there is considerable evidence of careful city planning. There is an old castle at Hiroshima, but this is also a reasonable facsimile of the one destroyed during the war. There are interesting shopping streets and some curious folk art belonging to the neighborhood. Actually, however, the principal attraction of the region is the island of Itsukushima, which is located on the west side of Hiroshima Bay. Better known as Miyajima, this island is the site of a world-famous Shinto shrine. The corridors of this shrine extend out over the water, and at high tide appear to be floating. In the water, about 530 feet from the main temple, is a huge Torii gate that is fifty feet in height. Although this may seem to be a genuine antique, it was actually built in 1875. Since that time, however, it has become a favorite subject for Japanese painters and non-Japanese photographers. In old days it was unlawful for any person or creature to die on the island. Anyone taken sick was immediately transported to the mainland. This particular practice has been discontinued, but many superstitious believers attempt to prevent sick persons from visiting the island.

We have taken a number of interesting pictures of Miyajima and may go into further detail about this strange place in our next letter. In the meantime, we once again want to express our appreciation for your continuing interest in our activities. Your help makes it possible for us to expand our activities at this very critical time.

Always most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marjory R. Hall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Marjory R. Hall".

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>
Sri Aurobindo, or the Adventure of Consciousness	Satprem	\$ 8.60
The Stanzas of Dzyan	H.P. Blavatsky	.75
The States of Human Consciousness	King	7.50
The Stoic and Epicurean Philosophers	Whitney J. Oates	3.95
The Story of Philosophy	Will Durant	6.00
The Structure and Dynamics of the Psyche #8	C.G. Jung	10.00
Studies in the Middle Way	Humphreys	2.00
✓ Sumi in Three Weeks	Sadami Yamada (P)	1.50
✓ Sumi-e Self Taught	Kohei Aida	2.95
Sun Signs	Linda Goodman	7.50
The Supreme Philosophy of Man--The Laws of Life	A.A. Montapert	5.00
Surimono	Kurt Meissner	12.50
The Survival of the Pagan Gods	Seznec	8.50
The Symbolic and the Real	Ira Progoff	6.00
The Symbolic Quest	Edward Whitmont	9.00
Symbols of Transformation	C.G. Jung	5.00
Secrets of Health and Beauty	Linda Clark	5.95
The Story of Pearls	Shohei Shirai	7.95
✓ Sumi--An Introduction to Ink Painting	Nanae Momiyama (P)	1.00
Sesshu's Long Scroll--Zen Landscape Journey	Reiko Chiba	2.95
The Sufis	Indries Shaw	7.50
The Single Reality	Preston Harold	7.95
The Shining Stranger (Jesus and His Mission)	Preston Harold	7.50
✓ The Soul of the Universe	Gustaf Stromberg (P)	3.00
The Searchers	Gustaf Stromberg (P)	3.00
Table of Houses for Northern Latitudes	Dalton	4.00
Tai Chi--A Way of Centering and Iching	Gia-Fu Feng/Kirk	6.95
Tantraraja Tantra	Sir John Woodroffe	3.00
The Tarot	Paul Case	4.00
Tarot	S.R. Kaplan	3.00
The Tarot of the Bohemians	Papus	6.50
✓ Tertium Organum--A Key to the Enigmas of the World	P.D. Ouspensky (P)	2.95
Textiles	Tomoyuki Yamanobe	3.35
Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum	Elias Ashmole	17.00
✓ The Theology of the Early Greek Philosophers	W. Jaeger (P)	1.25
Things Japanese	Mock Joya	10.00
This Man from Lebanon	Young	4.50
Thomas Taylor, The Platonist--Selected Writings	Intro. K. Raine and Harper	8.50
The Thought of Teilhard De Chardin	Michael Murray	4.95
Three Pillars of Zen	P. Kapleau	6.95
Three Ways of Asian Wisdom	Nancy Ross	7.50
Tibetan Book of the Dead	Evan Wentz (P)	1.95

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.

These prices are subject to change