

# The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

3910 Los Feliz Blvd. - Los Angeles, Calif. 90027 - 663-2167

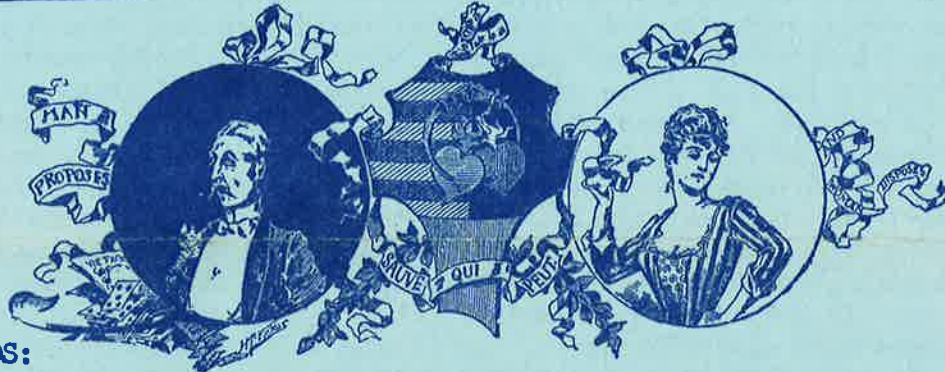
June 77

MANLY P. HALL  
President - Founder



HENRY L. DRAKE  
Vice-President

## UPSTAIRS - DOWNSTAIRS



DEAR FRIENDS:



ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TELEVISED SERIALS, UPSTAIRS - DOWNSTAIRS, recently completed a four year's run in the United States, where it was distributed through a non-commercial television outlet. According to Alistair Cook, who contributed introductory material and commentaries, the programs were released in thirty countries and were viewed by over one billion persons. The overall theme was English life during the Edwardian period and the early years of the reign of King George V. The cast was most adequate. The acting was restrained and dignified, comparatively free of the melodramatic flourishes which distinguish most American productions. While it was concerned with a class structure which had no actual parallel in the American life way, it had an enthusiastic audience in this country. Perhaps much of its appeal resulted from its portrayal of a disciplined society, dominated by traditions and the breaking down of the class system after World War I when England came under the pressure of the cultural upheaval in the United States. This era of irresponsibility ended with the financial collapse of 1929.

I was born the year that Queen Victoria died, and my early life covered the span of time dramatized in the film. My esteemed grandmother was a typical Victorian, and claimed a remote kinship with the English Queen. Well educated and highly talented, grandmother never made any attempt to adjust to the foibles of a changing world. Like Queen Victoria, she donned widow's weeds when her husband died, and wore them to the end. She lived by a code of gentility, but had no intention of criticizing or condemning those with different social convictions. She was never snobbish, but in her sphere there were no men or women, only ladies and gentlemen. Wealth was never a factor of grandmother's selection of friends. She chose persons who were responsible, sincere, and dedicated to good principles. Her husband served in the Civil War as a musician, and after his death she received a pension of \$8.00 each month, which was later increased to \$12.00 a month by act of congress. Born in New England, of English descent, she would have moved graciously through the early episodes of UPSTAIRS - DOWNSTAIRS.

As I grew up largely in association with grandmother, I remember the dignity with which she adjusted to her first ride in an automobile, and her rather grim expression

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOUNDED IN 1934, DEDICATED TO THE DISSEMINATION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE  
IN THE FIELDS OF PHILOSOPHY, COMPARATIVE RELIGION, AND PSYCHOLOGY

when viewing early motion pictures. It took her awhile to accept William S. Hart's early Western films, which she regarded as definitely uncouth. She was also confused when actors moved from one place to another by what appeared to be miraculous means. Such procedures, according to her thinking, were strictly "downstairs."

Looking back to a generation comparatively free of the complications which have led to the present world confusion, I realize that there were many advantages in the older ways; certainly we never felt underprivileged for lack of commodities now regarded as indispensable. There were wood stoves in most kitchens, and few private families had telephones. We read in the evening by the light of incandescent gas jets, and interior plumbing was a wonder to behold. In large cities most of the people lived in flats, and it was no problem to climb three or four flights of stairs. Furnishings were largely cumulative. A chair that belonged to grandfather occupied a place of honor. Portieres were in great fashion. They hung in nearly every doorway and were homemade, consisting of strings of beads, dried nuts, and rose hips. All windows were heavily draped and grandmother liked to hang small mementoes on the draperies. There were always pictures, and in our house there were several that grandmother had painted herself--incidentally, these were rather good. From a practical point of view, costly redecorating was virtually unknown. When you bought a piece of furniture, you purchased the best, and fifty years later it was still the best. Nothing useful was discarded as out of date, and one lived in familiar and well-loved surroundings.

Each person built a life for himself. He or she found ways to be busy. Grandmother bustled around all day and rewarded herself with evenings of leisure. She had considerable distinction for her beautifully made quilts with traditional New England designs. She was also a gifted correspondent, writing a fine Spencerian hand. Her words were always carefully chosen, and even the briefest notes included fragments of her personal philosophy. She always walked to the store to do her shopping and took a hansom cab to more distant destinations.

By the time I reached my teens I had assembled a personal library of several hundred volumes. At that time many informative works by distinguished authors were available to young readers. Volumes on travel, biographical essays, historical books, and literary masterpieces could be purchased for a few cents each in used bookstores. They broadened the foundation of learning, enriched vocabularies, and inspired the development of personal character. There was no speed reading then, which was fortunate for all concerned. To the present generation, a long quiet evening must seem intolerable but the young people that I knew spent their evenings reading and frequently exchanged books. Grandmother felt that religious studies were appropriate, and we read the entire Bible together when I was about twelve years old. The "begats" were confusing, but I was not allowed to pass over them lightly. When the proper time came, grandmother decided that I should have a weekly allowance, but in order that it be expended wisely, she always recommended that it be deposited immediately in a cast iron bank, which was my pride and joy. I sometimes wonder if the extravagant youngsters of today ever achieve the contentment that results from a well-ordered existence.

Unlike the English social structure which was almost completely homogeneous, American society came from many diverse racial and national backgrounds. I cannot remember

that we ever had a class that corresponded to the "downstairs" of the English film. For those who came from other countries, America was a land of infinite opportunity. After a generation or two the trend was toward careers which promised financial improvement and higher social status. An inevitable consequence was the rapid growth of time and labor saving devices and this trend has continued up to the present time. There are virtually no servants and the word "employee" covers a wide variety of working associations. The English mind has always placed distinction above financial remuneration, and those working for titled families bathed in reflected glory. Here, such loyalty to tradition is virtually unknown.

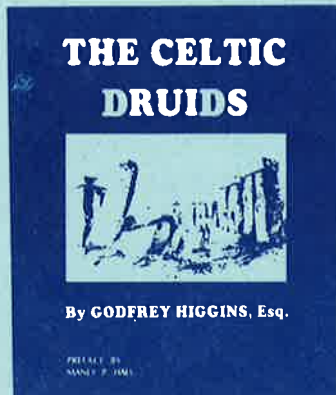
The kind of life pictured in the film may return, at least in part, because of circumstances beyond our control. Tea was the polite beverage of that day, and with the present price of coffee, it may regain its popularity. For some at least it is a distinct relief to turn off television and spend a quiet evening with a good book. Taxes are breaking up the great estates, and the land will soon be used for condominiums and high rise apartments. The costs of maintenance are becoming prohibitive and with smaller families which scatter at the slightest provocation, palatial homes are at best temporary symbols of an insecure opulence. The energy shortage will not be solved in our time, and we must return to a simplified way of life. Dining out at present prices is a strong inducement for home cooking. The explosion in publishing seems to suggest that many people are reviving the reading habit, and a large percentage of paperbacks deal with serious and useful subjects. Fifty years ago a trip of a hundred miles or more was a major undertaking. They tell of a Frenchman who planned to visit a city two hundred miles from Paris, and made his will before leaving. If the gasoline situation worsens, communities must depend more completely upon local activities. It might be that jogging is a practical preparation for a return of our original form of transportation.

Broadly speaking, the Edwardian years (1901-1910) were free from unreasonable fears concerning the future. People lived with the confident expectation that they could plan their lives and careers in a stable society. World War I was the beginning of the end. Unrest prevailed throughout the world, the level of morality fell sharply, and a disillusioned humanity became rapidly materialistic and self-centered. Ambitions went out of control and our present generation has inherited a chaos. Religion lost leadership in the educational world and science was heralded as the new savior of mankind. We have paid a tremendous price for economic and industrial progress. The only answer is that the individual must discipline himself and bear the burden of his own conduct. Traditional values must be re-established to support a program of social rehabilitation. If we can accomplish this, we can restore the dignities of the past and regain confidence in a purposeful future. We all have the right to hope for the best, but we must build a solid foundation to support our hopes. There is a definite trend in this direction, and UPSTAIRS-DOWNSTAIRS presents symbolically the challenge of a changing social order and the inner strength which will enable us to accomplish what is necessary.

Always most sincerely,



MANLY P. HALL



NOW AVAILABLE

Limited Editions of  
Four Additional Titles of the  
**RARE BOOK REPRINT SERIES**

with introductory prefaces by

**MANLY P. HALL**

These rare books are reprinted to make available to the public valuable information on esoteric philosophy and comparative religions otherwise very difficult to obtain.

*THE CELTIC DRUIDS*, by Godfrey Higgins, Esq.

Folio-sized photographic facsimile of a basic text on the Druids, dealing with ancient archaeological monuments. Includes in addition to 452 pages of text, 86 magnificent plates, and a comprehensive index.

8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ "—530 pp.

\$37.50

*THE FABLE OF CUPID AND PSYCHE*, Thomas Taylor

Translation of the Latin original by Apuleius, originally published in 1795. The extensive introduction by Taylor deals with the allegory of the mystery of the human soul, divine love, and human regeneration.

6" x 9"—192 pp.

\$12.50

*THE HERMETICK ROMANCE: or THE CHYMICAL WEDDING OF CHRISTIAN ROSENCREUTZ*

One of the rarest and most curious landmarks of European alchemistical literature, being a photographic facsimile of the first English edition published in 1690.

5" x 7"—208 pp.

\$12.50

*THE RED BOOK OF APPIN*, by Ethan Allen Hitchcock

One of the first Western thinkers to explore the abstract realm of archetypal symbolism through fairy tales and folklore, the author offers a valuable key to their allegorical interpretation. To the modern psychologist this volume provides unique insights into the mysterious world of the subconscious.

6" x 9"—320 pp.

\$15.00

(California residents please add 6% sales tax)

Order from:

THE PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY, INC.  
3910 Los Feliz Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90027