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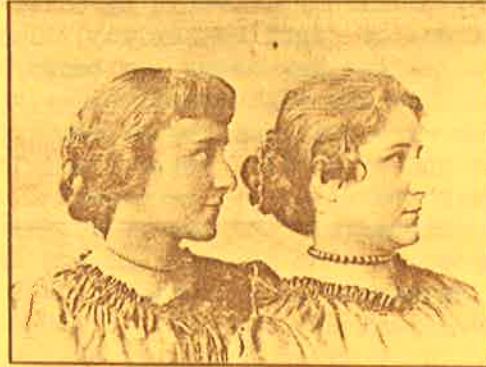
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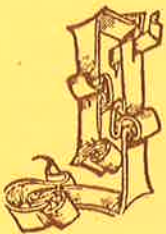
## CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN - AUGUST 1978



Grandmother's "two daughters."  
From a photograph taken in  
Germany. At the viewer's  
left is my mother.

### TRAVEL AND SOUL GROWTH

DEAR FRIENDS:



GOING OVER SOME OLD FAMILY PAPERS OF LATE, I came upon my grandmother's passport. It was a magnificent document, resembling more than anything else an early diploma from the Sorbonne. The quality of paper was such that the cost today would be prohibitive. It was one sheet, quite large (about 15x20"), and with a magnificent engraved heading followed by an ornate Spencerian script. It requested all foreign nations to assist in every way possible Mrs. Florence L. Palmer and her two daughters. The girls were full grown, but did not have separate passports. It is interesting to note that no photograph was required, and there were no visas attached to the document. Grandmother assured me that the mere presentation of this signed and sealed proof of identity and citizenship was never questioned, and only on one or two occasions was she required to show it.

Grandmother preferred to travel on the ships of the Hamburg-American Line. She felt that they had a cultured, European atmosphere. She would never have considered traveling with a group, or following a strict itinerary. During the two years that she spent on her "grand tour," she went when she pleased, and where she pleased, and never encountered any difficulties. While all this was going on, her husband stayed at home protecting his business interests. No escort was considered necessary, and wherever Grandmother went, she was simply at home, away from home. The two girls had a modest amount of finishing school French, and Grandmother gradually assembled a workable German vocabulary. Tourism, as we know it today, simply did not exist. There were a few massive, old hotels, but these Grandmother avoided--she wanted to live with the people, and always felt that this informality made travel more important. She used to regale me with the details of life in Germany, Austria, France, and Italy.

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

She brought one or two addresses with her from the States, but serenely assumed that Americans were well liked and would enjoy the same privileges as native citizens. She never experienced traffic congestion, inflated prices, or unfavorable political attitudes. She felt herself to be completely safe and never hesitated to go out at night or take her daughters to a late opera. In each country she visited she found friendliness and helpfulness. In Italy the group rode about in horse-drawn carriages, and was not surprised to find that the name of the horse was George Washington. Grandmother never enjoyed congestion and considered confusion to be uncivilized. It would be difficult to imagine her waiting months for a reservation, or fighting her way through a milling crowd at an international airport. There was never any baggage to carry, or mistakes made, or articles lost. This was not exceptional--it was simply the way of life at that time. Nations were not growling at each other, and there was no terrorism except on the Island of Sicily. Here, as a precautionary gesture, the coach in which she was traveling was accompanied by an armed escort. Every effort was made to depreciate the need for such an entourage and she was assured that the purpose for the mounted riders, in their quaint uniforms, was to extend courtesy rather than protection. It was not until she was long home that she became aware that she had been in possible danger.

The financial factor in travel must be described in order to be appreciated. In those days there was very little fluctuation in rates of exchange. Twenty-five cents in American money equalled a shilling in England and a mark in Germany, but for all practical purposes the German mark was equal to an American dollar in buying power. If one stayed in the most fashionable hotel, his accommodations might run as high as \$1.50 per day. Few seasoned travelers, however, were so extravagantly minded, and chose pleasant rooms, including breakfast, in a comfortable inn for about \$1.00 per day. The cost of travel was also affected by transportation. If you stayed in the best hotels, ate in their dining rooms or other premium spots, depended upon carriages for even short runs, hired a guide, and made use of a professional program director, the cost might reach \$8.00 per day. If you liked to walk, you could deduct \$2.00. Incidental expenses were usually paid in pfennigs, and it took a hundred of these to make one mark. Twenty pfennigs would move a heavy trunk and was considered a generous gratuity. There were also special rates on a weekly basis with considerable saving. Grandmother's two daughters could add \$1.50 each per day. This is why many Americans could travel and at the same time save money from their expense budgets at home.

Certain luxuries that we now consider indispensable did not exist, or were not generally available, in those good old times. Private telephones, radio or television sets, and outlets for electric razors were notable for their absence. In the early 1920's, I was told that a certain London hotel was a favorite with the local gentry. It was excellent, the meals were good, and I soon learned that there was one bathroom to each floor. Among the luxuries offered on the \$1.25 luncheon were one pound cans of Russian black caviar. These were placed on each table and the customer ate as much as he pleased. A full dinner cost about \$2.00, but included separate courses of fish, poultry, and beef. It was rounded out with a handsome dessert, featuring whipped cream. Financial conditions did not change greatly on the Continent until after World War I, but instability was slow in developing until after the Depression of 1929. From that time on, difficulties increased rapidly. Traveling in foreign countries

was an important psychological experience, and was most beneficial when the visitor shared the life of the local population. To jump from one luxury hotel to another has never produced better relations between countries. Improved transportation and higher incomes can contribute much to the inner life of a human being. As the opportunities have increased, much of the good has been sacrificed to rapid speed and high expense. Long trips, especially outside the country fatigue the soul and deplete the purse. It is difficult to have good feelings while being overcharged and troubled with continuous inconveniences. While in London last fall, I took a serious cold, and the druggist charged \$1.80 each for antibiotic pills. Moderate-priced hotels are as expensive as those here at home. Reservations are uncertain, meals consistently poor, and necessary services are bestowed grudgingly. One of the best representatives of any country is a cheerful, kind-hearted person, with a natural friendliness. Like most of the other simple pleasures of living, the native humanity which binds us all together is being sacrificed to economic objectives. We are inclined to think of countries in terms of their imports and exports and their competitive armaments.

It is still possible to live in some foreign countries with a reasonable degree of physical safety. Instead of the whirlwind tour, it would be far wiser to limit a trip to one country and while there, mingle with the people in their daily activities. Strive for a little penetration and less coverage. It is pleasant to see famous churches, palaces, and scenic wonders, but far more valuable to learn something of the hopes and aspirations that sustain the morality and ethics of the community. It is through understanding that we come closer to the hearts of human beings. We are losing a great opportunity for soul growth when we think of travel as a shopping tour. The bargains we look for are no longer to be found, but there is always the possibility of discovering the secret hopes and aspirations of our fellowmen. Grandmother had a deep respect for Europe because she stayed long enough to make lasting friendships and shared the simple virtues of those living in small towns and farming districts. Incidentally, Mark Twain had exactly the same reaction, and did not hesitate to express his admiration for the kindly associates who shared their life patterns with him. Travel is most meaningful for those who love music and art, appreciate the village churches and wayside shrines, and make pilgrimage to long-respected centers of learning.

Many years after Grandmother departed from this mortal sphere, I visited many of the places which had enriched her memory and contributed to her internal well-being. It is important to all of us to share our common heritage of customs, beliefs, dreams, and aspirations. To travel for lesser reasons is more expensive and exhausting than it is worth.

Always most sincerely,

Mandy V. / Salt

The following list of books is recommended reading. These books may be ordered from The Philosophical Research Society, Inc. (address on page one.) Please add 50¢ each for handling. California residents, include sales tax. Note: Prices subject to change without notice.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
Heart of Buddhist Meditation	Nyanaponika Thera	(p) \$ 3.95
Hara, The Vital Centre of Man	Karlfried Durckheim	7.50
Hatha Yoga	Shyam S. Goswami	8.50
History & Origins of Druidism	Lewis Spence	7.50
Heart of Confucius	Archie J. Bahm	4.50
Hidden Treasure of the Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna	Sri Surath	6.95
Hokusai's Views of Mt. Fuji	--	5.50
Hiroshige's Tokaido (Prints & Poetry)	--	4.50
Healing & Regeneration through Music	Corinne Heline	(p) 1.95
How to Live with the Stars	Marc Edmund Jones	8.95
H.P. Blavatsky & The Secret Doctrine	Virginia Hanson (Ed.)	(p) 2.25
How to Learn Astrology	Marc Edmund Jones	(p) 1.95
The Healing Mind	Dr. Irving Oyle	(p) 4.95
Hermit in the Himalayas	Paul Brunton	(p) 3.00
Hypnotism Handbook	Cooke & Van Vogt	8.95
Hypnosis & Suggestion in Psychotherapy	H. Bernheim, M.D.	10.00
Hand Reflexology, Key to Perfect Health	Mildred Carter	(p) 3.45
The Human Aura	Swami Panchadasi	(p) 1.00
The History of Magic	Eliphas Levi	(p) 4.00
Handbook to Higher Consciousness	Ken Keyes, Jr.	(p) 2.95
Helping Yourself with Foot Reflexology	Mildred Carter	(p) 3.45
How I Believe	Pierre deChardin	(p) 1.25
The Hero with a Thousand Faces	Joseph Campbell	(p) 3.95

BOOKS BY MANLY P. HALL

Adventures in Understanding	\$8.95	Very Unusual	8.75
Astrological Keywords	6.95	Way of Heaven	5.95
Pathways of Philosophy	7.90	Words to the Wise	7.50

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