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Current Titles	1
TUP Online and <i>Sunrise</i> Magazine	28
Selected Titles from Other Publishers	29
Title Index	32
About Theosophical University Press	<i>inside back cover</i>
Ordering Information	<i>inside back cover</i>
Overseas Agencies	<i>inside back cover</i>
"The Path" (art print)	<i>back cover</i>

## The Theosophical Society

Information about The Theosophical Society and its activities may be obtained by contacting the Society's International Headquarters, P. O. Box C, Pasadena, CA 91109-7107 USA (Tel: 626-797-7817/Email: [tstec@theosociety.org](mailto:tstec@theosociety.org)); also by visiting its website: [www.theosociety.org](http://www.theosociety.org).

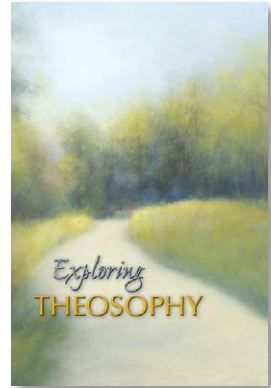
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*Cover photo:* Regina Thackara, Rocky Mountain Columbine

## EXPLORING THEOSOPHY

This collection of 14 articles, condensed and edited from theosophical publications, is an invitation to inquirers to explore and enjoy the depth and beauty of theosophy. The Theosophical Society is dedicated to making universal brotherhood better understood and more deeply felt in human hearts. Its philosophy, drawn from the universal wisdom tradition of mankind, offers timeless principles that stimulate intuitive knowing and cast light on any question. These principles provide tools that can help students discover truth within themselves and unlock the mysteries of nature, fostering altruism and compassion for all beings.



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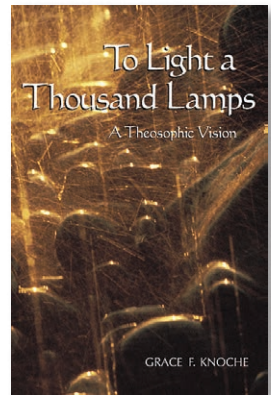
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## TO LIGHT A THOUSAND LAMPS

*A Theosophic Vision*

Grace F. Knoche

Written with directness and warmth, this book shares a universal perspective on the central questions of human existence, while providing practical insights on daily living and spiritual growth. Offering a thoughtful critique of religious and scientific views and current practices in light of theosophy, the author presents the foundation ideas of mankind's spiritual heritage, addressing our responsibility as partners in a oneness that reaches to the core of each and every being. In so doing she suggests how we can live with dignity, purpose, and compassion, whatever our circumstances.



**Grace F. Knoche** was leader of The Theosophical Society and editor of *Sunrise* magazine from 1971 to her death in 2006.

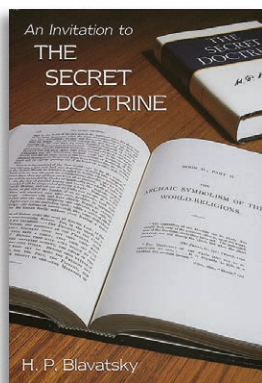
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## An Invitation to THE SECRET DOCTRINE

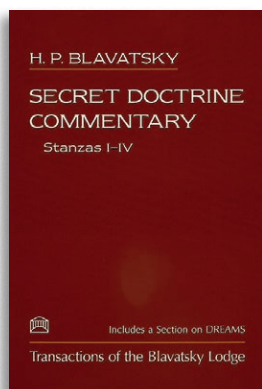
H. P. Blavatsky

To those who would like to explore the essence of the *SD*, or who have had difficulty penetrating its two large volumes, *An Invitation to The Secret Doctrine* should prove welcome. Based on Blavatsky's study suggestions given to her personal students, it is a succinct and appealing statement of the *SD*'s principal teachings in her own words. Included are the Bowen notes of HPB's comments, relevant pages from *The Secret Doctrine*, photographs of HPB's manuscript, a historical account of "The Writing of *The Secret Doctrine*" by Kirby Van Mater, and a glossary of terms.

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## SECRET DOCTRINE COMMENTARY: Stanzas I-IV

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H. P. Blavatsky

In response to the demand for further light on the Stanzas of Dzyan, H. P. Blavatsky answered a variety of questions at weekly meetings of the Blavatsky Lodge of the Theosophical Society in London. Her replies illumine many important facets of the teachings that are often difficult for students and inquirers.

The discussions cover the first four stanzas of Volume I and treat such topics as cosmic genesis, universal mind, man's inner nature, the relation between consciousness and matter, religious symbolism, and the evolution of worlds and men. Of particular interest is a section on dreams.

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H. P. Blavatsky

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## THE SECRET DOCTRINE: INDEX

Prepared by John P. Van Mater

This companion volume is as much an index of ideas as it is of subjects, works, persons, and proper names. Major subject entries are cross-referenced; foreign terms identified by language, often with one or two word definitions. Cited works and authors, whose titles or names are not given in the *SD*, are placed in brackets for convenient identification. Includes an Appendix of foreign phrases with translation and source reference.

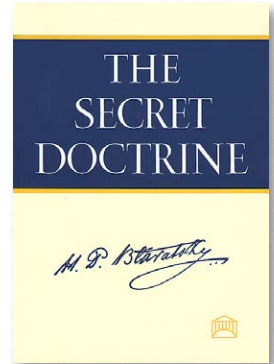
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*“This massive study of man, of nature, of spiritual evolution, of the essence of reality is an astonishing document. . . . Blavatsky synthesizes science and spirituality into an exhilarating journey of spiritual awareness.”*

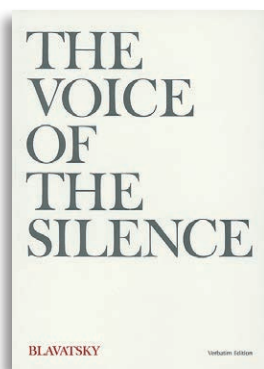
— The Book Reader (1988)

## THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE

H. P. Blavatsky

*I believe that this book has strongly influenced many sincere seekers and aspirants to the wisdom and compassion of the Bodhisattva Path. — 14th Dalai Lama*

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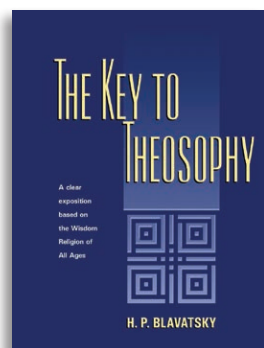
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## THE KEY TO THEOSOPHY

H. P. Blavatsky

Written in the form of question and answer, *The Key to Theosophy* is an excellent introduction for the inquirer. After the publication of *Isis Unveiled* and *The Secret Doctrine*, the author was deluged with questions about the human constitution, spiritual and psychological; the mysteries of periodic rebirths; and the difference between fate, destiny, free will, and karma. These and many other questions on the theosophical philosophy are answered simply and directly.

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# ISIS UNVEILED

H. P. Blavatsky

*One of the most remarkable productions of the century.*  
— New York Herald, 1877

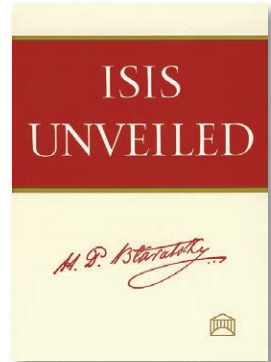
*Isis Unveiled* is H. P. Blavatsky's first major literary effort, a critical response to the growing materialism in both scientific and religious institutions, and a vindication of mankind's ageless quest. In the author's words, *Isis* "is the fruit of a somewhat intimate acquaintance with Eastern adepts and study of their science. . . . They showed us that by combining science with religion, the existence of God and immortality of man's spirit may be demonstrated." Supported by extensive evidence from religious and mystical traditions, classical scholarship, and the testimony of nature, these volumes aid the student in detecting the vital principles underlying the philosophical systems of old.

Volume I focuses on the prevailing scientific theories of the time, balanced against the "anciently universal Wisdom-Religion."

Volume II examines the creeds of religions past and present, alongside the myths and symbols of various cultures.

Throughout, the author strikes at the root of dogma and affirms the "paramount importance of re-establishing the Hermetic philosophy in a world which blindly believes it has outgrown it."

This edition also includes two articles by H. P. Blavatsky on the writing of *Isis Unveiled*: "My Books" (1891) and "Theories About Reincarnation and Spirits" (1886).



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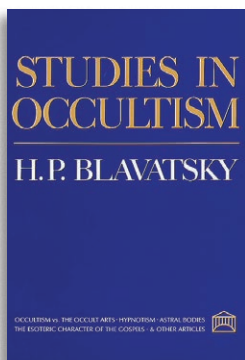
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## STUDIES IN OCCULTISM

H. P. Blavatsky

Occultism (from the Latin *occultus*, meaning “hid”) refers primarily to the esoteric theosophy concealed in religion and nature. In this series of articles, HPB clarifies the “essential difference between theoretical and practical Occultism,” and the gulf that separates the potentially harmful occult arts from the path of altruism. Included is a 3-part article on “The Esoteric Character of the Gospels” which casts light on the mystery of Christ and the succession of messianic ages.

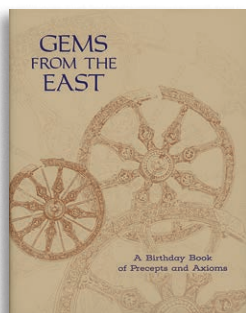
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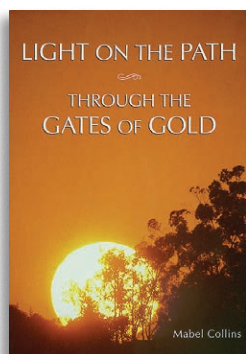
A Birthday Book of Precepts and Axioms

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## H. P. BLAVATSKY TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTIONS: 1888–1891

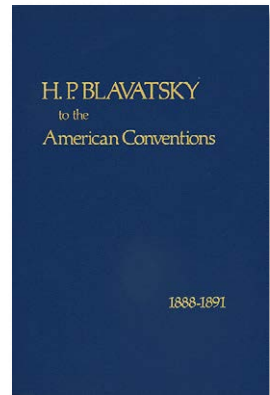
These messages are charter documents, addressing many issues confronting us today: spiritual and psychic development, dogma and sectarianism, the need for brotherhood and altruism, and the role of theosophists and the Theosophical Society in the modern world.

An essay by Kirby Van Mater provides the historical setting. Sketching important events from the founding of the Society to HPB's death in 1891, it gives the reader a better understanding of the major currents affecting H. P. Blavatsky and her lifework.

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## H. P. BLAVATSKY and the SPR An Examination of the Hodgson Report of 1885 Vernon Harrison, Ph.D.

In December 1885 the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) in London, England, published a 200-page report by Richard Hodgson. The report is perhaps best known for its denunciation of H. P. Blavatsky as an “impostor,” and is often quoted in encyclopedias, reference books, and biographical works.

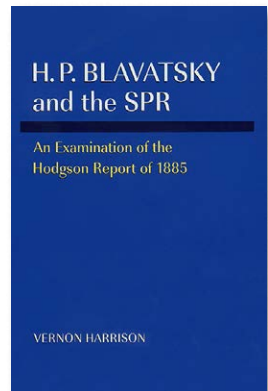
In April 1986 the *SPR Journal*, “in the interests of truth and fair play,” published a critical analysis of the Hodgson Report by handwriting expert Vernon Harrison, who found it “riddled with slanted statements, conjectures advanced as fact or probable fact, uncorroborated testimony of unnamed witnesses, selection of evidence and downright falsity.”

Dr. Harrison, a professional examiner of questioned documents, continued his research, including a line-by-line examination of 1,323 color slides of the Mahatma Letters, and in a second monograph (1997) concluded that “the Hodgson Report is even worse than I had thought.” *H. P. Blavatsky and the SPR* combines both of Dr. Harrison's papers together with his Opinion, Replies to Criticism, formal Affidavit, and 13 full-color plates of sample pages from the Mahatma and Blavatsky letters.

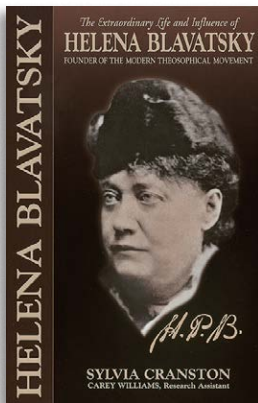
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See also *Madame Blavatsky: The Case for Her Defense*, p.30



## H.P.B.: The Extraordinary Life and Influence of Helena Blavatsky

Sylvia Cranston

In her quest for truth and universal brotherhood, HPB opened a new realm of ideas to the world, influencing poets, writers, artists, philosophers, and scientists alike — among them Yeats, James Joyce, L. Frank Baum, Kandinsky, Mondrian, Scriabin, Gandhi, William James, Thomas Edison, and Einstein. Social historian Theodore Roszak ranks her “among the modern world’s trailblazing psychologists of the visionary mind.”

A product of 14 years’ research and writing, “this book portrays HPB’s supporters and detractors, using newly uncovered materials to present as complete a biography of this enigmatic woman and her wisdom as possible” (*Booklist*, American Library Association).

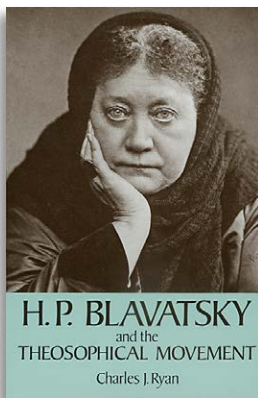
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## H. P. BLAVATSKY AND THE THEOSOPHICAL MOVEMENT

Charles J. Ryan



*... some day, if not at once, the loftiness and purity of her aims, the wisdom and scope of her teachings, will be recognized more fully, and her memory will be accorded the honor to which it is justly entitled.*

— Editorial, *New York Daily Tribune*, May 10, 1891

This well-researched portrayal of HPB’s life and work also covers the years following her death on May 8, 1891, and the efforts of theosophists to carry the movement into the next century. Combining primary source material with concise narrative, Professor Ryan has crafted a penetrating synthesis of history and philosophy which reveals the impact of spiritual truths on humanity’s thought-life. *2nd and Revised Edition*

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# THE LETTERS OF H. P. BLAVATSKY TO A. P. SINNETT

Transcribed and compiled by A. Trevor Barker

A companion volume to *The Mahatma Letters* (see next page), this correspondence from the 1880s is a profoundly moving documentary of H. P. Blavatsky's life and character. In the words of A. Trevor Barker:

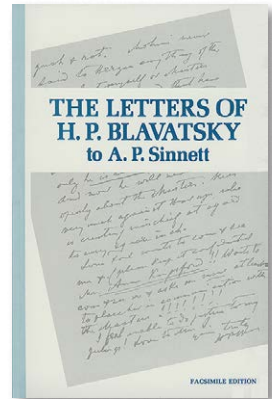
*The reader is therefore left to form his own conclusions as to whether the heroic figure which stands out so vividly in these pages was . . . what she claimed to be — no medium indeed, but the conscious Agent of the Masters who sent her forth, performing her prodigious task under conditions which would make the bravest halt; an occultist pledged to silence as to the true reasons for most of her actions, ever fearful of giving out too much, but yet through it all labouring so fiercely and wholeheartedly.*

— pp. vii-viii

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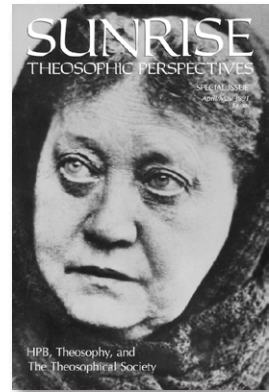
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## SUNRISE Special Issue: HPB, Theosophy, and The Theosophical Society

Published for the 1991 HPB Centenary, this issue features biographical essays, HPB's articles "What is Theosophy?" and "What Are the Theosophists?," studies on the history and purposes of the Theosophical Society, and discussions of ideas presented in HPB's writings, including two articles on modern science and theosophy.

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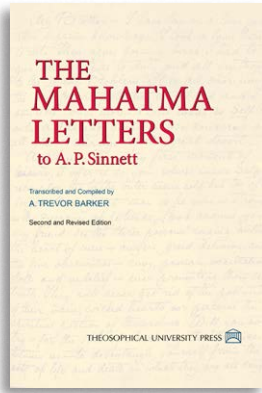
**Helena Petrovna Blavatsky** was born on August 12, 1831, at Dnipro (Ekaterinoslav), Ukraine, daughter of Colonel Peter von Hahn and novelist Helena Andreyevna (née de Fadeyev). In 1849 she married N. V. Blavatsky, and shortly thereafter began more than 20 years of extensive travel, which brought her into contact with mystic traditions the world over. She was the principal founder of the Theosophical Society in New York City in 1875, and devoted her extraordinary literary talents to its humanitarian and educational purposes until her death in London, England, on May 8, 1891.

In addition to her books, H. P. Blavatsky kept up a voluminous correspondence and a steady stream of articles to periodicals in English, French, and Russian. Fourteen volumes of her *Collected Writings* are now in print plus a Cumulative Index (see p. 29).

# THE MAHATMA LETTERS TO A. P. SINNETT

Second & Revised Edition

Transcribed and compiled by A. Trevor Barker



No other book is quite like this private collection of letters. Preserved in the British Library, they were written between 1880 and 1890 to Alfred Percy Sinnett, editor of a leading Anglo-Indian newspaper, *The Pioneer*, and to his friend, Allan Octavian Hume, a founder of the Indian National Congress. Their correspondents were two Mahatmas whom H. P. Blavatsky had acknowledged as her teachers and the inspirers of *Isis Unveiled* and *The Secret Doctrine*.

First published in 1923, this important volume is filled with sublime philosophical and ethical instruction, revealing not only far-reaching concepts of religious and scientific thought (since proven in large degree prophetic), but also practicality, warmth of heart, patience, and ripeness of humor. The letters, moreover, yield a clearer understanding of H. P. Blavatsky and of the Mahatmas' aim in fostering a better understanding of our kinship with all peoples.

*The term "Universal Brotherhood" is no idle phrase. Humanity in the mass has a paramount claim upon us. If it be a dream, it is at least a noble one for mankind: and it is the aspiration of the true adept.*

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## ECHOES of the ORIENT: The Writings of William Quan Judge

Compiled by Dara Eklund

Echoes are heard in every age of a timeless path that leads to divine wisdom and knowledge of our purpose in the universal design. Today's resurgent awareness of our physical and spiritual interdependence affirms those pioneering keynotes set forth in the writings of H. P. Blavatsky (see pp. 2-9). Her task was to re-present the broad panorama of the "anciently universal Wisdom-Religion," to show its underlying expression in the world's myths, legends, and spiritual traditions, and to show its scientific basis — with the overarching goal of furthering the cause of universal brotherhood.

Some have found HPB's books difficult and ask for something simpler. The writings of William Q. Judge, a co-founder of the Theosophical Society and close personal friend of HPB, help fill this need. His *Ocean of Theosophy* and *Letters That Have Helped Me* (see pp. 12-13) remain classics in the literature, describing in clear language the basic ideas of the wisdom-tradition and its path of spiritual quest. Yet the greater part of Judge's literary output is to be found in his magazine articles and other writings gathered together here in *Echoes of the Orient*.

**Volume I** comprises about 170 articles from *The Path* magazine, founded and edited by Judge. These are chronologically arranged and supplemented by his popular "Occult Tales." Also included are a well-documented 50-page biography, numerous illustrations, photographs, and facsimiles.

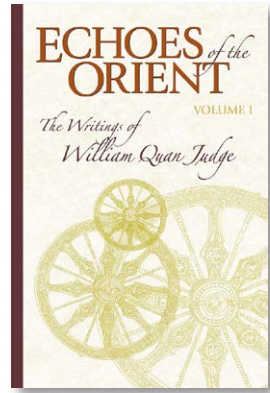
**Volume II** comprises Judge's "Hidden Hints in *The Secret Doctrine*," his lectures at the World's Parliament of Religions, articles and replies to questions in other magazines, and "Faces of Friends" who were actively helping the Theosophical Society in Judge's time.

**Volume III** contains tracts and pamphlets, newspaper and journal articles, miscellaneous articles and extracts, and "Suggestions and Aids" to fellow travelers on the Path.

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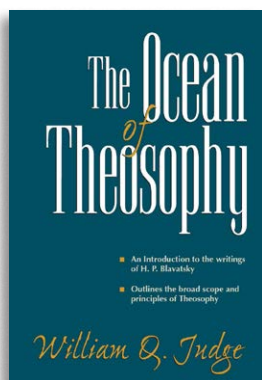
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## THE OCEAN OF THEOSOPHY

William Q. Judge



In the early 1890s Judge recognized the need for a book on theosophy that could be readily understood by all. The *Ocean* provides a concise yet comprehensive survey of the basic tenets of theosophy. Written with the beginner in mind, it clarifies such topics as the sevenfold nature of man, reincarnation and karma, dangers of psychic practices and the pitfalls of pseudo-occultism, earth's sevenfold being, cosmic and terrestrial cycles, afterdeath states, the existence of highly advanced human beings, and many more. Here is knowledge based upon evidence and experience, written with brevity and depth.

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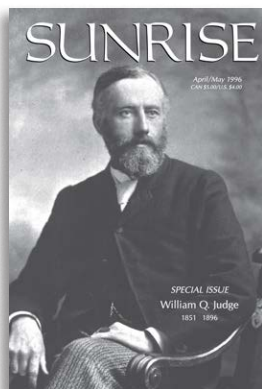
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## SUNRISE Special Issue:

William Q. Judge (1851-1896)

Published for the 1996 Judge Centenary, this issue provides a rounded picture of Judge as theosophist and humanitarian. Illuminating biographical sketches and articles form a concise yet thorough introduction to the man, his ideas, and the work of the Theosophical Society during his lifetime.

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**William Quan Judge** was born in Dublin, Ireland, on April 13, 1851. His family emigrated in 1864 to New York where he specialized in corporate law (New York State Bar, 1872). A co-founder with H. P. Blavatsky and Henry S. Olcott of the Theosophical Society in 1875, he later became General Secretary of its American Section and Vice President of the international Society. In this capacity he organized and presided over the Theosophical Congress at the World's Parliament of Religions held in Chicago during the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Writing and lecturing from coast to coast, he made theosophy known and respected throughout America. He died in New York City on March 21, 1896.



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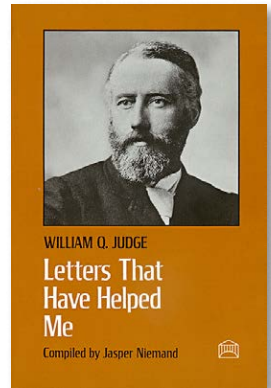
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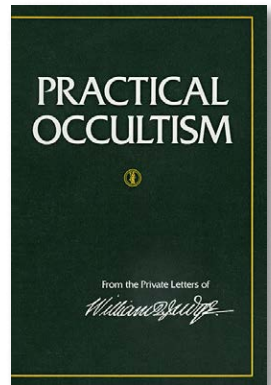
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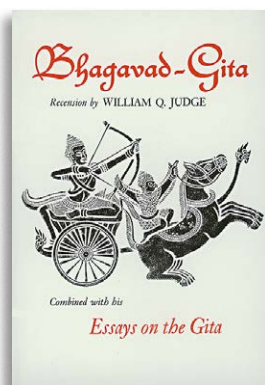
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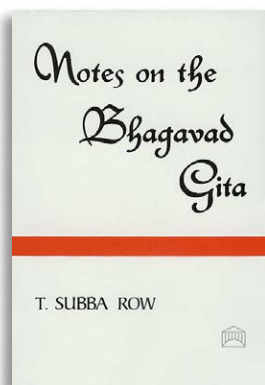
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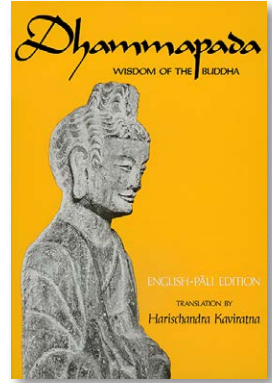
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**Bruce Cameron Hall** studied Sanskrit at the University of Hawaii, in India, and at Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in Sanskrit and Indian Studies in 1983.

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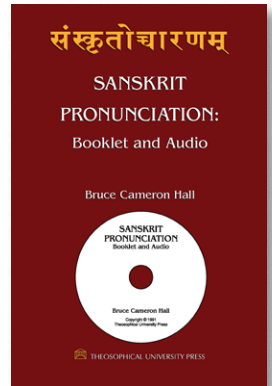


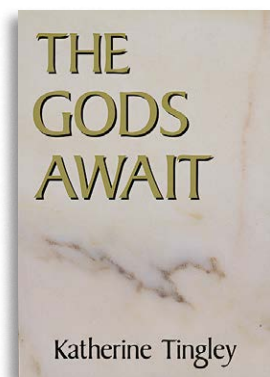
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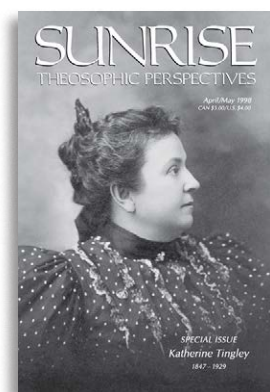
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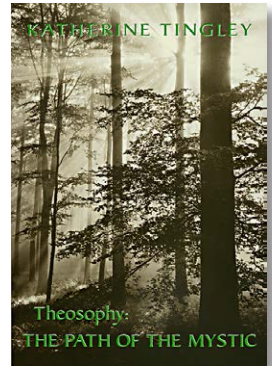
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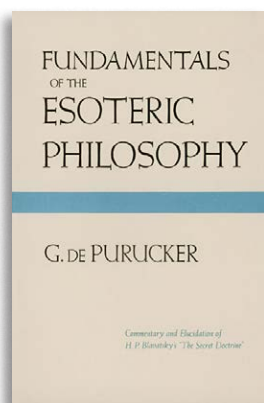
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**Katherine Tingley** was born July 6, 1847, in Newbury, Massachusetts. Reared in an atmosphere of culture, she felt a profound sympathy for the victims of poverty, misery, and war, and worked all her life to alleviate suffering. In 1893 she met William Q. Judge, who introduced her to theosophy. Soon she knew that here was a philosophy which, if practiced, could lighten the burdens of humanity. Mrs. Tingley and Judge became coworkers and, upon his death in March 1896, she succeeded him as head of the Theosophical Society. In 1900 she moved its international headquarters to Point Loma, California, where she continued her humanitarian efforts and founded the Rāja-Yoga School, Academy, and College, and Theosophical University. She lectured extensively in the US and abroad until her death at Visingsö, Sweden on July 11, 1929.



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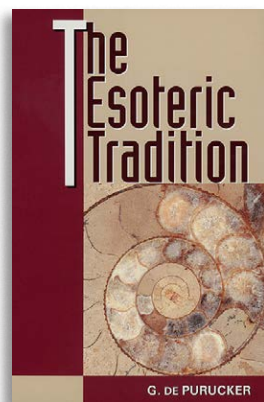
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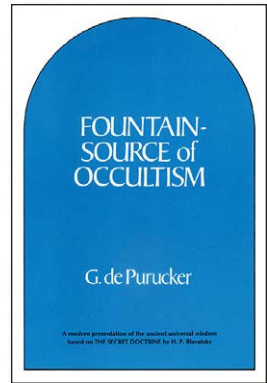
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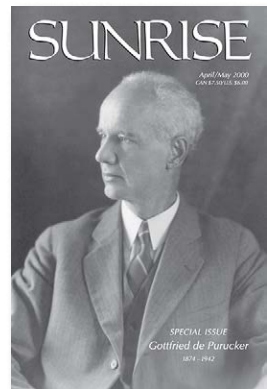
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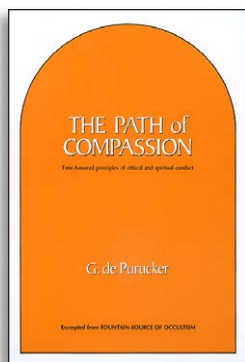
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**G. de Purucker** was born on January 15, 1874, at Suffern, New York, son of an Anglican minister. In preparation for the ministry he specialized in Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and the writings of the early Church Fathers. However, study of Eastern philosophies and Sanskrit led him to theosophy with its broad comprehension of religion, philosophy, and science. After working closely with Katherine Tingley, he succeeded her as head of The Theosophical Society from 1929 until his death on September 27, 1942. Perhaps his greatest contribution to spiritual thought was his elucidation of the writings of H. P. Blavatsky.



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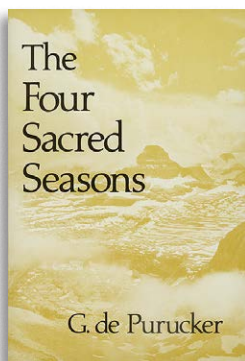
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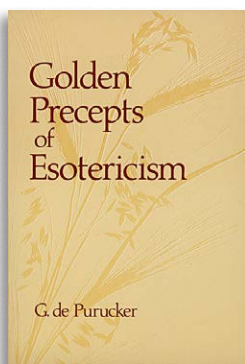
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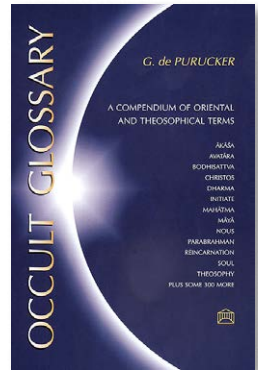
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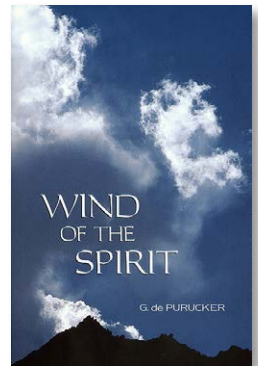
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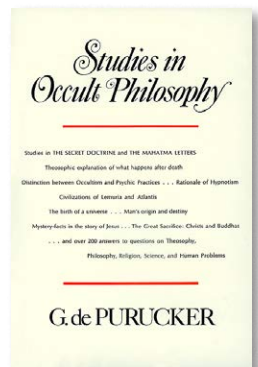
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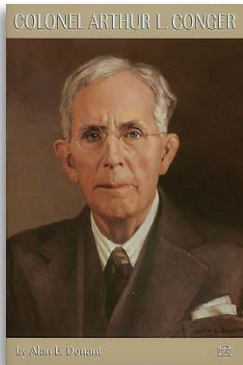
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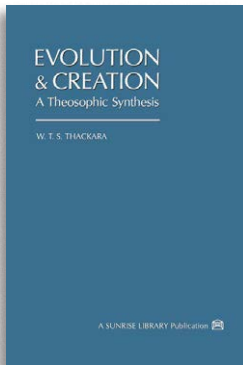
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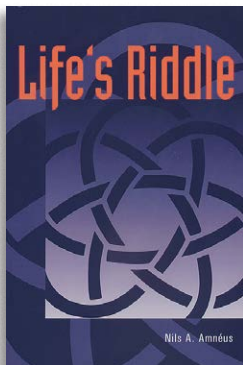
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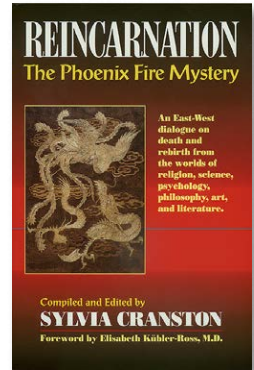
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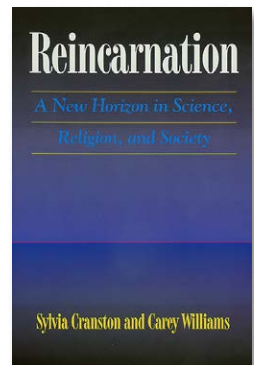
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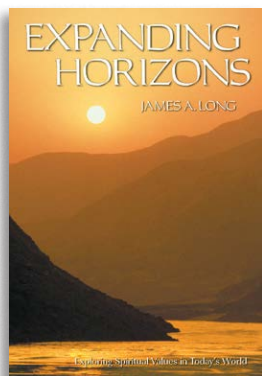
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**James A. Long** was born on August 27, 1898, at York, Pennsylvania. Following a career in private business, he served as a management consultant during WWII in the office of the Quartermaster General in Washington, DC, and was later transferred to the Department of State where he assisted in the changeover to peacetime responsibilities. While there he was sent as an Advisor to the US Delegation to the United Nations at the opening of the Second Session in 1946.

Mr. Long joined The Theosophical Society in 1935 and in 1939 became business manager of its American Section. He worked closely with Arthur L. Conger, whom he succeeded as leader of The Theosophical Society in 1951. The same year he founded *Sunrise* magazine, which he edited until his death on July 19, 1971. A primary aim of his administration was “to the best of our ability, to be an example of practical theosophy in action.”

**Grace F. Knoche** was born February 15, 1909 at the international headquarters of The Theosophical Society, then at Point Loma, California. There she attended the schools founded by Katherine Tingley, receiving a PhD from Theosophical University in 1944. In the 1930s and '40s she worked on the headquarters staff in the Press and in the secretarial and editorial departments. She also taught violin, Greek, Sanskrit, and Hebrew at Theosophical University, and painting and sculpture to younger students at the Lomaland School.

After serving as private secretary to two leaders of The Theosophical Society, Colonel Arthur Conger and James A. Long, in 1971 she became leader of the Society and editor of *Sunrise* magazine. Ms. Knoche passed away on February 18, 2006.



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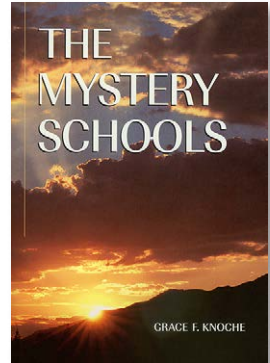
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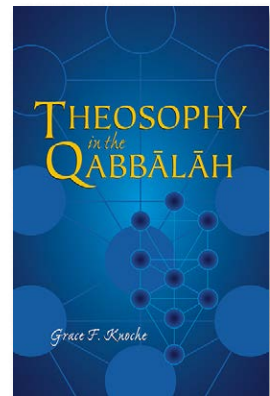
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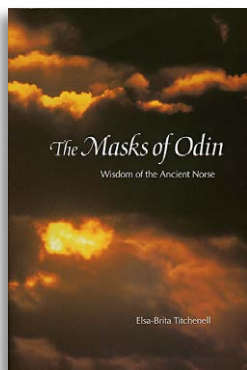
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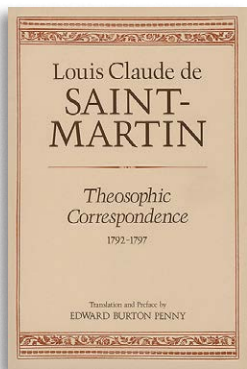
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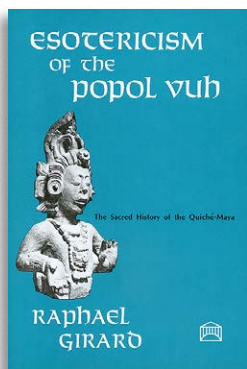
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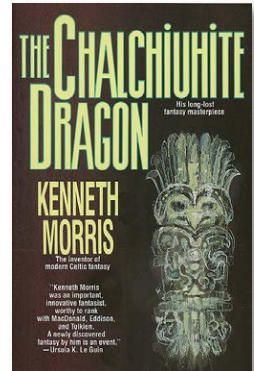
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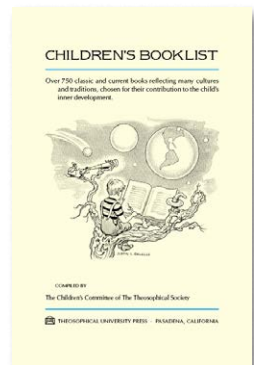
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Reginald W. Machell

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**Reginald W. Machell** (1854–1927), a member of the Royal Society of British Artists, exhibited at the Royal Academy in the late 19th century. After having met H. P. Blavatsky in London in 1888, he joined The Theosophical Society. In 1900 he was invited by Katherine Tingley to the Society's international headquarters, then at Point Loma, California, where he gave fully of his considerable talents in art, drama, and literature until his death.

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