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**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); also by visiting its website: 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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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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H. P. Blavatsky

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An Examination of the Hodgson Report of 1885
Vernon Harrison, Ph.D.


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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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).

Published by Path Publishing House
6 x 9¼, 700 pages, illus., notes, biblio., appendices, index

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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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 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.

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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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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.
LETTERS THAT HAVE HELPED ME
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The warmth and humanity of this collection of Judge’s letters has inspired many seekers on the Path. In clear, compelling language, the author shows that in our search for spirit, the need is not to escape the world but to help transform it — through our constant effort to be compassionate, resolute, and wise in daily life.

What then is the panacea finally, the royal talisman? It is Duty. Selflessness. Duty persistently followed is the highest yoga, and is better than mantrams or any posture, or any other thing. If you can do no more than duty it will bring you to the goal.

— 2:3

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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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Katherine Tingley

SUNRISE Special Issue:
Katherine Tingley (1847–1929)

During her leadership of the Theosophical Society (1896–1929), Katherine Tingley made universal brotherhood the focus of her wide-ranging activities. These included the School for the Revival of the Lost Mysteries of Antiquity; the Rāja-yoga system of education from preschool through university level; performance of Shakespearean and ancient Greek plays in the first open-air Greek theater in America; international peace conferences; prison reform efforts emphasizing the abolition of capital punishment — all are presented here, with biographical sketches and selections from Mrs. Tingley’s addresses and books.

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THEOSOPHY: 
THE PATH OF THE MYSTIC

Katherine Tingley

Katherine Tingley appeals to the heart in simple, direct language, emphasizing the dignity of the individual and the power within each person to shape his own character and life. To her, theosophy is a practical and inspirational philosophy for daily living.

This book is compiled from talks and writings on theosophy and its applicability to living the mystic life, to education, prison reform, and the problems of society and human relationships. Katherine Tingley’s great objective throughout the varied activities she undertook was to make theosophy “immensely serviceable” to all.

Never can we reach that point of spiritual discernment until we have found within our own hearts something new: a larger sympathy for all that lives, and a broader, deeper, grander conception of human life and the superb laws that govern it. — p. 22

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.
FUNDAMENTALS OF THE ESOTERIC PHILOSOPHY
G. de Purucker

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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.

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.

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In April 1886, eleven years after the founding of the Theosophical Society in New York City, William Q. Judge began publication of *The Path* magazine. Three years later a printing press was purchased for the production of additional magazines, books, and pamphlets and, shortly before he died in March 1896, Judge renamed the facility Theosophical Publishing Company. In 1900 his successor, Katherine Tingley, transferred the Society’s world headquarters and its publishing operations from New York to Point Loma, California. New printing equipment was purchased and high quality books, monographs, and magazines in English and other languages were issued, including unabridged reprints of *Isis Unveiled* (1906) and *The Secret Doctrine* (1909). In 1919 Katherine Tingley founded Theosophical University and ten years later, under G. Purucker’s direction, the Society’s publishing activity acquired its present name. During World War II, the international headquarters of the Theosophical Society and its publishing facility moved to Covina, California, and in 1951 to the Pasadena area.

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This symbolic painting hangs in the administration building at the international headquarters of The Theosophical Society, Pasadena, California. It is in oil and gesso, measuring 6' 2" x 7' 5". In the artist’s words, “The Path is the way by which the human soul must pass in its evolution to full spiritual self-consciousness.” The full-color reproduction, suitable for framing, is printed on acid-free heavy paper. Enclosed with it is the artist’s interpretation of its symbolism.

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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