## Current Titles

- TUP Online and *Sunrise Magazine*  
- Selected Titles from Other Publishers  
- Title Index  
- About Theosophical University Press  
- Ordering Information  
- Overseas Agencies  
- “The Path” (art print)  

## 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
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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

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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H. P. Blavatsky

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Prepared by John P. Van Mater

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H. P. Blavatsky

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*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.

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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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H. P. BLAVATSKY and the SPR
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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1888–1891

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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).

Published by Path Publishing House

6 x 9 ¼, 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

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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.

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Compiled by Dara Eklund

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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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El Océano de la Teosofía (Spanish translation)
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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
William Q. Judge

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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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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Katherine Tingley

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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

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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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G. de Purucker

H. P. Blavatsky pointed to the fundamental concepts of *The Secret Doctrine* as comprising the principles of a timeless ancient wisdom. Underlying and seeding the world’s spiritual traditions, it is this doctrine and wisdom-teaching which G. de Purucker unfolds.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Mysteries: A Sourcebook</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anugita</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhagavad-Gita/Essays on the Gita</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhagavad-Gita (Sargeant)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. P. Blavatsky (Special Issue)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. P. Blavatsky and the SPR</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. P. Blavatsky &amp; the Theos. Movement</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. P. Blavatsky: Collected Writings</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. P. Blavatsky to the Am. Conventions</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPB: The Extraordinary Life</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book of Enoch the Prophet</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book of the Three Dragons</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caves and Jungles of Hindostan</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chalchihuite Dragon</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Booklist</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Hindu Mythology</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonel Arthur L. Conger</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damodar and Theosophical Pioneers</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin's Black Box</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawning of the Theos. Movement</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhammapada: Wisdom of the Buddha</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divine Pymander</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does Chance or Justice Rule Our Lives?</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echoes of the Orient</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyptian Book of the Dead</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleusinian and Bacchic Mysteries</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esoteric Buddhism</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esotericism of the Popol Vuh</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esoteric Tradition</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esoteric World of Madame Blavatsky</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution &amp; Creation: A Theos. Synthesis</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution: A Theory in Crisis</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding Horizons (English &amp; Spanish)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring Theosophy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain-Source of Occultism</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Sacred Seasons (English &amp; Spanish)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of the Esoteric Philosophy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gems from the East</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gods Await</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Precepts of Esotericism</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iamblichus: On the Mysteries</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation to The Secret Doctrine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isis Unveiled</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Q. Judge (Special Issue)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key to Theosophy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of H. P. Blavatsky: Vol. 1</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters That Have Helped Me</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and Teachings of Paracelsus</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life's Riddle</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light on the Path/Gates of Gold</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Fragments of Proclus</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madame Blavatsky: Case for Her Defense</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man in Evolution</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masks of Odin</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Messages to Conventions</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mystery Schools</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mythical Monsters</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nag Hammadi Library in English</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes on the Bhagavad Gita</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occult Glossary</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“The Path” (print)</td>
<td>back cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path of Compass</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plotinus: The Enneads</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Occultism</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gottfried de Purucker (Special Issue)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pythagorean Sourcebook and Library</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebirth of the Occult Tradition</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reincarnation: A New Horizon</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reincarnation: Phoenix Fire Mystery</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reminiscences of H. P. B. and the SD</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Mysteries of Mayas &amp; Quiches</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanskrit Pronunciation: Booklet &amp; Audio</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secret Doctrine &amp; Index</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secret Doctrine Commentary</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies in Occultism</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies in Occult Philosophy</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise Magazine</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theosophical Glossary</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theosophic Correspondence</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theosophy in the Qabbalah</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theosophy: The Path of the Mystic</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Tingley (Special Issue)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Light a Thousand Lamps</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedanta Philosophy of Sankaracharya</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice of the Silence</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind of the Spirit</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing of The Secret Doctrine: Chron.</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga Sutras of Patanjali</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About Theosophical University Press

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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