

Theosophy

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Forward

21st
century

Special edition

Theosophy
and the
Theosophical
Societies

James A. Santucci, PhD



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Theosophy and the Theosophical Societies

by James A. Santucci, PhD

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Theosophy and the Theosophical Societies

James A. Santucci, PhD

 Theosophy Forward

Meeting held at
No 46 Irving Place
on
Wednesday Evening, September 8th 1875.

In consequence of a proposal of Col. Henry A. West, that
a society be formed for the study and elucidation of the
cultures that obtain in the East and gather them
and their present teachers themselves into a meeting
and upon motion of Mr W. E. Judge it was
Resolved, that Col. H. A. West take the chair
Upon motion it was also
Resolved, that Mr W. E. Judge act as secretary.
The Chair then called for the names of those persons
present who would agree to found and belong to a society
such as had been mentioned. The following persons handed
their names to the Secretary:

Col. West, Wm. H. P. Macintosh, Chas. Johnson,
Dr. Chas. E. Bennett, H. D. Manaster, C. C. Murray
of London, W. L. Allen, G. H. Felt, D. E. Adams,
Dr. Britton, Mrs. E. H. Britton, Henry J. Weston, John
Westcott, J. H. Jones, W. H. Jones

Upon motion of Herbert D. Manaster, it was
Resolved, that a committee of three be appointed
by the chair to draft a constitution and by leave and to
report the same at the next meeting.

Upon motion it was
Resolved, that the chair be added to the committee.
The Chair then appointed Messrs. H. J. Weston, H. D.
Manaster and C. Johnson to be such committee.

Upon motion it was
Resolved, that we now adjourn until Monday
Sept 13th at the same place, 46 Irving Place.

Wm. H. P. Macintosh
Secretary.

Notes of meeting proposing the formation of the Theosophical Society, New York City, 8 September 1875

Theosophy and the Theosophical Societies

Versions or segments of this article have been published in Syzygy 6.1-2 (Winter-Fall 1997): 221-45; in *The Encyclopedia of Cults, Sects, and New Religions*, ed. James R. Lewis (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1998): 388-9 (2nd ed.: 573), 476 (2nd ed.: 722-3), 480-3 (2nd ed.: 727-30), 483-7 (2nd ed.: 730-4), 503-5 (2nd ed.: 760-2), and 527-8 (2nd ed.: 802-3); and in *Odd Gods*, ed. James R. Lewis (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2001), 270-89.

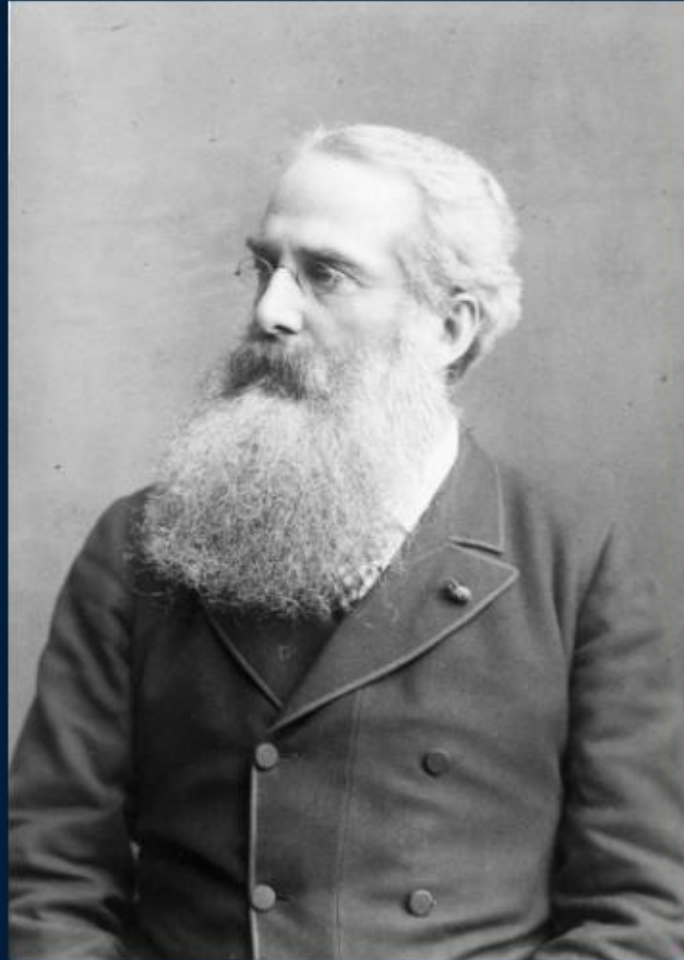
This version was updated in 2013 through the efforts of Janet Kerschner (Archivist of the Theosophical Society in America, Wheaton, Illinois), S. Ramu (General Manager, Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar), Kenneth Small (Point Loma Publications), Herman C. Vermeulen (The Theosophical Society, Point Loma, The Hague, The Netherlands) and Jan Nicolaas Kind (Theosophy Forward). [In addition, it has been edited for Web publication by John Algeo.]



Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

Theosophy

The modern Theosophical movement is represented today in the United States primarily through six organizations: the Theosophical Society, internationally headquartered in Adyar, Chennai, India; the Theosophical Society, headquartered in Pasadena, California; the United Lodge of Theosophists, formed in Los Angeles, California; the Temple of the People, with headquarters at Halcyon, near Pismo Beach, California; the Word Foundation of Dallas, Texas; and Point Loma Publications in San Diego, California. Of these groups, the Adyar Society is considered by most (though not by all) Theosophists to be the parent organization. All claim to disseminate Theosophy, a term popularized and defined by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-91) to denote the wisdom of the ages, embodying "higher esoteric knowledge" - hence, a "Secret Doctrine" - partially recoverable in imperfect and incomplete form in those portions of the scriptures of the world's great religions that express mystical teachings and in those philosophies that display a monistic or pantheistic bent.

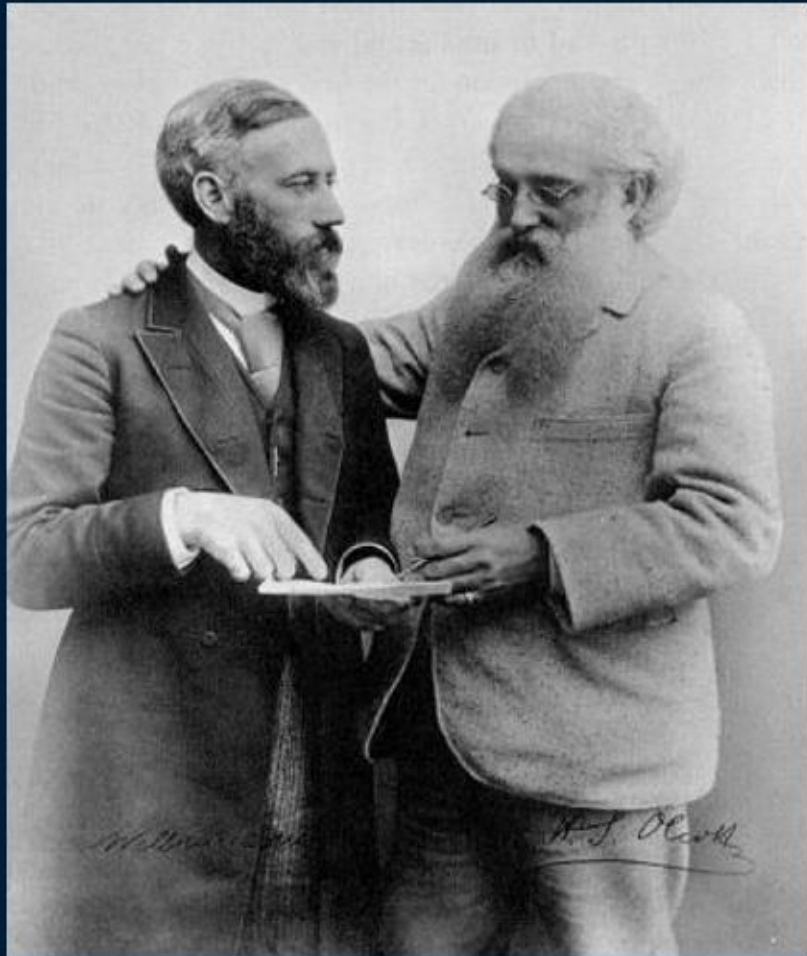


Henry Steel Olcott

Early History

The Theosophical Society was founded in New York City in 1875 with Henry Steel Olcott (1832-1907) as its first president, H. P. Blavatsky as its first corresponding secretary, George Henry Felt and Seth Pancoast as vice presidents, and William Quan Judge (1851-96) as counsel for the Society. First proposed on September 7 by Col. Olcott, the society - entitled "The Theosophical Society" on September 13 - was inaugurated on November 17 by Olcott's presidential address.

Less than three years later, in May 1878, the Theosophical Society affiliated with a reformist Hindu organization known as the Arya Samaj, under the leadership of Swami Dayananda Sarasvati (1824-83), whose promotion of the Vedas - the ancient scriptures of the north Indian Aryan tribes composed between 1600 and 500 BCE - as the font of Truth served as the basis of his attempt to return Hinduism to a more pristine form devoid of later corruptive teachings and practices such as polygamy, child-marriage, caste, suttee, and polytheism. Due to differences that arose within a few months of affiliation - one of which was the Swami's adoption of a personal supreme God, a proposition that was not acceptable to many members of the Theosophical Society - it was decided to modify the association



William Quan Judge and Henry Steel Olcott

by distinguishing three bodies: (1) the Theosophical Society, (2) the Theosophical Society of the Arya Samaj of Aryavarta, a "link society," and (3) The Arya Samaj. Separate diplomas existed for each, with only members of (2) belonging to both (1) and (3). By 1882, all affiliations were broken because of Swami Dayananda's attacks on the Theosophists in response to their leaders, Olcott and Blavatsky, associating with Buddhists and Parses and formally converting to Buddhism in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) by taking *pansil* (*pancasila*) "the Five Precepts" in May 1880. About this time, the headquarters of the Theosophical Society were moved by H. S. Olcott and H. P. Blavatsky first to Bombay in early 1879 and then to Adyar, Madras (now Chennai), in December 1882.

During the 1880s, four significant events occurred in Theosophical history: (1) the Coulomb affair (1884), (2) the formation of the Esoteric Section of the Theosophical Society under Madame Blavatsky on October 9, 1888, (3) the publishing of *The Secret Doctrine* - the seminal work of the Theosophical Movement - in 1888, and (4) the joining of the Theosophical Society in May, 1889, by Annie Besant (1847-1933), the second President of the Adyar Society and certainly the most prominent Adyar Theosophist in the twentieth century.

(1) Regarding the Coulomb affair, Emma Coulomb, a housekeeper at the Adyar headquarters, charged that Blavatsky had produced fraudulent psychic phenomena and was responsible for writing letters in the name of her Masters or Mahatmas. She was investigated by Richard Hodgson on behalf of the Society for Psychical Research (S.P.R.), whose 1885 report (which was the second report issued by the S.P.R. on Blavatsky, the 1884 S.P.R. preliminary report being more neutral)

H. P. BLAVATSKY and the SPR

An Examination of the
Hodgson Report of 1885

VERNON HARRISON

H.P. Blavatsky and the SPR by Vernon Harrison

charged that she committed these misdeeds, thus calling into question her claim that Masters or Adepts actually existed.

Although the Hodgson Report was accepted by the S.P.R. at its general meeting held on June 26, 1885, it was never the official or corporate opinion of that organization. Hodgson wrote most of the Report, but it was the product of a committee consisting not only of Hodgson but also of E. Gurney, F. W. H. Myers, F. Podmore, H. Sidgwick, J. H. Stack, and Mrs. H. Sidgwick. Because the Hodgson Report was never officially adopted, the S.P.R. could not withdraw a report that it never issued. What it did instead was to issue a statement making "amends for whatever offence we [the S.P.R.] may have given," as stated in the editorial note to Vernon Harrison's article "J'Accuse" (*Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 53.803 (April 1986): 286). The article begins with a strong statement: "*The Report of the Committee appointed to investigate phenomena connected with the Theosophical Society* (commonly called the Hodgson Report) is the most celebrated and controversial of all the reports published by the Society for Psychical Research. It passes judgment on Madame H.P. Blavatsky ...; and the final sentence in the *Statement and Conclusions of the Committee* has been quoted in book after book, encyclopedia after encyclopedia, without hint that it might be wrong. It runs: 'For our part we regard her neither as the mouthpiece of hidden seers, nor as a mere vulgar adventuress; we think that she has achieved a title to permanent remembrance as one of the most accomplished, ingenious and interesting impostors in history.'" Harrison goes on to demonstrate that the "case against Madame Blavatsky in the Hodgson Report is NOT PROVEN - in the Scots sense." The damage was done, however. Ill at the time, Madame Blavatsky departed from Adyar.

THE SECRET DOCTRINE :

THE SYNTHESIS
OF
SCIENCE, RELIGION, AND PHILOSOPHY.

H. P. BLAVATSKY,
AUTHOR OF "ISIS UNVEILED."

सत्यात् नास्ति परो धर्मः ।
"There is no Religion higher than Truth."

VOL. I.—COSMOGENESIS.

London :
THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED,
7, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C.
WILLIAM Q. JUDGE,
117, Nassau Street, New York,
THE MANAGER OF THE THEOSOPHIST,
Adyar, Madras.
—
1888.

The Secret Doctrine by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

(2) Blavatsky eventually settled in London, where she instituted - at the suggestion of W. Q. Judge - **the formation of the Esoteric Section** (or E.S.) under her leadership as Outer Head (the Inner Heads being the Mahatmas), as declared in the anonymously written (but most likely by Annie Besant) "The Eastern School of Theosophy: Historical Sketch," reprinted in *Theosophical History* 6.1 (January, 1996): 11, originally published in Madame Blavatsky's journal, *Lucifer* 3.14 (October 15, 1888). The E.S. is an organization designed to "promote the esoteric interests of the Theosophical Society by the deeper study of esoteric philosophy" (notice of "The Esoteric Section of the Theosophical Society," October 9, 1888). Although it had no institutional connection with the T.S., the E.S. is only open to T.S. members; furthermore, all teachings and activities are conducted privately.

(3) **H. P. Blavatsky's major work, *The Secret Doctrine*** (1888), states three propositions that serve as the basis of Theosophy for most Theosophists: (1) the existence of an absolute, infinite, reality or principle, (2) the cyclic nature or periodicity of the universe and all therein, and (3) the fundamental identity of the individual soul with the universal oversoul and the pilgrimage of all souls through the cycle of incarnation in accordance with karmic law. Theosophy, in this sense, is a non-dualistic or monistic view of ultimate reality, which is manifested or emanated in a dynamic complementarity and evolutionary progression.

(4) Olcott's activist role was continued by the second president of the T.S., **Annie Besant**, who became involved in numerous activities both within and outside the Society, including such



Annie Besant

diverse activities as occult investigations, education, politics, social reform, and the introduction of ritual within the Society. Among her numerous contributions, Besant was instrumental in founding the Central Hindu College in Benares in 1898, became active in Indian politics serving as president of the Indian National Congress, forming the Home Rule League and later drafting the Home Rule Bill (1925). Within the Theosophical Society, she founded the Theosophical Order of Service in 1908, which is intended to carry out the first object of the Society - to form a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity - by carrying out works of compassion and alleviating suffering, including such activities the giving of good, medicine, clothes, etc. to the needy and the abolition of the cruelty of animals.



William Quan Judge

Later History

With the death of H. P. Blavatsky on May 8, 1891, the leadership of the Esoteric Section (by that time called the Eastern School of Theosophy) passed to William Q. Judge and Annie Besant. A few short years later, charges were brought against Judge that he was "misusing the Mahatmas' names and handwriting," in other words, claiming that he received messages from the Masters, or, as Besant put it, "giving a misleading material form to messages received psychically from the Master." Although the charges were dropped in July, 1894, by Besant and Olcott, they were reopened toward the end of 1894 by Besant, who proposed a resolution during the December, 1894, Convention of the T.S. at Adyar that President Olcott "at once call upon Mr. W. Q. Judge to resign" his vice presidency of the Society. The resolution having been passed, Judge refused to resign. Later, at the convention of the American Section of the T.S. in Boston (April 28-29, 1895), delegates voted for autonomy of the American Section from the Theosophical Society at Adyar with Judge elected president for life, calling itself "The Theosophical Society in America."

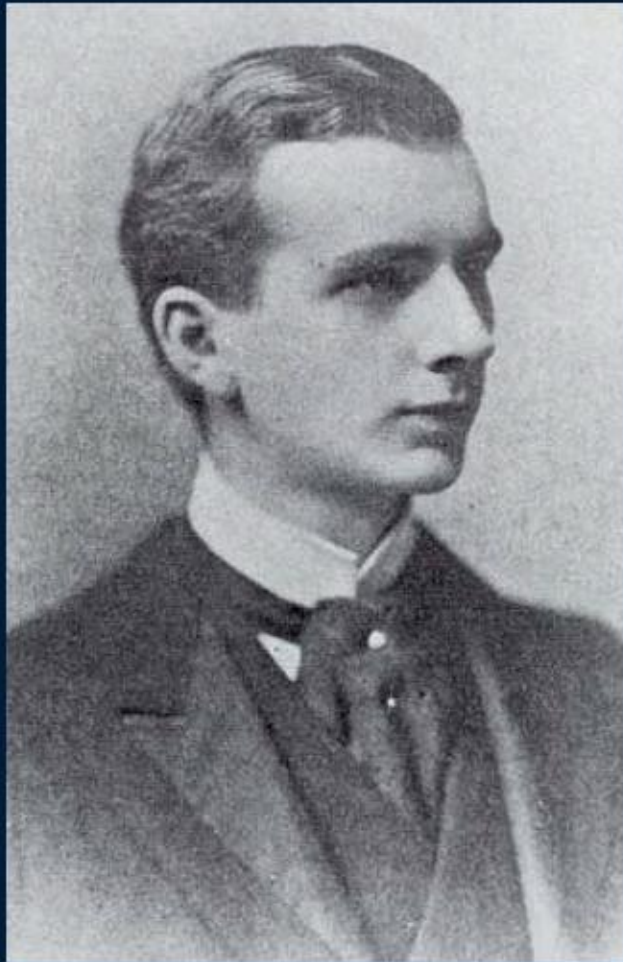
Whether this separation is to be interpreted as a schism - the position of the Adyar T.S. - or simply the recognition that there



Katherine Tingley

was never any legal connection between the Adyar T.S. and the original New York T.S. in the first place, according to the interpretation of "The Theosophical Society in America" - is a matter of opinion. This is discussed by W. Q. Judge, "The Theosophical Society," *The Path* 10 (May 1895): 55-60, reprinted in *Echoes of the Orient: The Writings of William Quan Judge* 2, compiled by Dara Eklund (San Diego: Point Loma Publications, 1980), pp. 197-202. The vote of the American Section was followed by the expulsion by Olcott of Judge and all who followed him. This included more than 5000 members in the United States and affiliated societies elsewhere, including lodges in England and Australia.

After W.Q. Judge's death on March 21, 1896, Ernest Temple Hargrove (1870-1939) was elected president of Judge's T.S. in America. The Eastern School of Theosophy (the new name of the Esoteric Section as of 1890) had also split on November 3, 1894: one group remaining in the Adyar Society with Annie Besant as Outer Head, and one within Judge's Society under an Outer Head whose name was to have been kept secret until 1897, but it was revealed (in the *New York Sun* of May 27-28, 1896, and in *Theosophy*, a new name for the *Path* of June 1896) that Katherine Tingley (1847-1929) was to be Judge's successor. Tingley followed and further developed the direction that Judge pursued in the later years of his life, emphasizing less theoretical and more practical applications of Theosophical teachings in the area of social and educational reform. In February 1897, she laid the cornerstone of a community in Point Loma, San Diego, which was to become the new international headquarters of the T.S. in America (the old headquarters being in New York). In the same year she founded the International Brotherhood League with herself as president, and which was



Ernest Temple Hargrove

designed to carry on a number of humanitarian functions ranging from educational to philanthropic. Furthermore, all of the lodges of her Society were closed to the public in 1904.

By the latter part of 1897, Hargrove became disenchanted with Tingley's activities and also perhaps with her unwillingness to share her power with him or with anyone else. He resigned the presidency and attempted to gain control of the 1898 convention held in Chicago but was unsuccessful both at the convention and in subsequent court action. As a consequence of Hargrove's intense opposition at the convention over the contents of the new constitution composed by Tingley (about which he knew nothing until its introduction at the convention, as discussed in Emmett Greenwalt, *California Utopia: Point Loma: 1897-1942* [San Diego: Point Loma Publications, 1978], pp. 37-40), Hargrove left the Society and formed his own organization with about 200 former members of Tingley's T.S. in America.

Hargrove's New York-based reformed Theosophical Society in America, later renaming itself the Theosophical Society in 1908 (John Cooper, "The Esoteric School within the Hargrove Theosophical Society," *Theosophical History* 4.7-8: 179), with A.H. Spencer becoming the acting president. It remained a viable organization for many years until the Society, and possibly its own Esoteric School of Theosophy, entered a period of "indrawal" from active work. The last document ascribed to the E.S.T. is *Aids and Suggestions* No. 18, dated December 7, 1907; see Cooper, "The Esoteric School within the Hargrove Theosophical Society," p. 185. The "indrawal" most likely took place in the latter part of 1938 although John Cooper, "The Esoteric School within the Hargrove Theosophical Society," p.



Robert Crosbie

180, considers 1935 to be the actual date. *The Theosophical Quarterly*, the major magazine of the Society, ended its publication run in October 1938.

The direction of Tingley's forceful leadership led to two dissenting bodies: The Temple of the People, founded in 1898, and the United Lodge of Theosophists, established in 1909, by Robert Crosbie and others in Los Angeles. According to Jerry Hejka-Ekins in a private communication (February 20, 1996), the U.L.T. actually broke off from the Hargrove Society since Crosbie joined the latter after he left Tingley's Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical Society. Hejka-Ekins adds, however, that "it [the U.L.T.] appears to be more of a reaction to the Point Loma Society [the U.B. and T.S]."

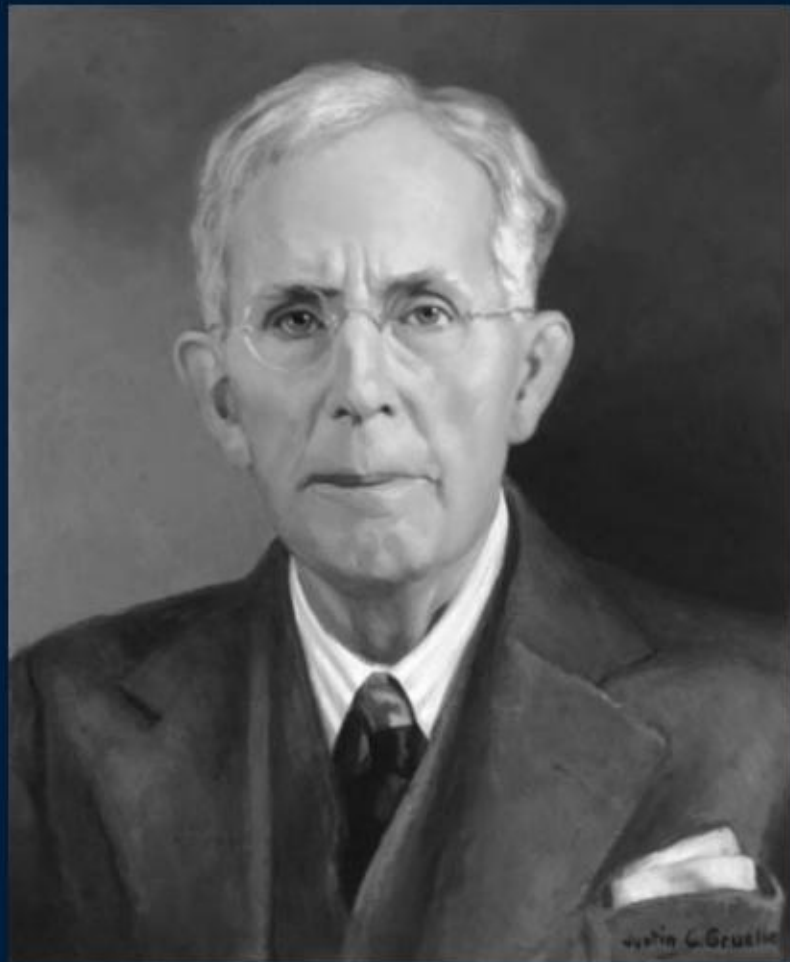
In 1898, Mrs. Tingley renamed the T.S. in America as the Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical Society. As its "Leader and Official Head" she pursued her activities in applied Theosophy, including an ambitious educational program, called Raja Yoga, which was initiated in 1900 and emphasized an integration of physical, mental, and spiritual training and education. From the earliest student population of five, the number quickly jumped to 100 by 1902, two-thirds of whom were Cuban, because of her abiding interest in Cuba arising from the Spanish-American War in 1898 and the support by Mayor Bacardí of Santiago of Tingley's objectives. In 1919 the educational program was expanded with the establishment of the Theosophical University. With the closing of the lodges in 1903, most of the committed and talented members were thereafter at Point Loma, engaging not only in this formal educational experiment but also in related activities such as agriculture and horticulture, writing, researching, publishing, and dramatic and musical productions.



Gottfried de Purucker

By the 1920s, however, these activities began to taper off, mainly because of financial problems. With the death of Tingley in 1929, the direction under its more intellectual and scholarly leader, Gottfried de Purucker, moved once again in the direction of theoretical Theosophy, with emphasis on the teaching and study of the core Theosophical works. Renaming the U.B. and T.S. as the Theosophical Society, de Purucker embarked on a Fraternization Movement - partly because of the approaching hundredth anniversary of the birth of H. P. Blavatsky in 1831 - with the ultimate aim of reuniting all the societies. Unification, however, was not possible, but conventions and other cooperative activities between Adyar and Point Loma were held throughout the 1930s.

Toward the end of de Purucker's tenure, he made the practical decision of selling the community holdings at Point Loma, called Lomaland, and moving the Society to Covina, a small community east of Los Angeles. In that same year (1942), de Purucker died, and the Society was led by a cabinet for the next three years until a new leader, Col. Arthur Conger, was elected in 1945. According to one dissident account, shortly after his election, those members of the cabinet who did not acknowledge Conger's esoteric status as "mouthpiece for the Masters" - thereby claiming the same status as H. P. Blavatsky - were stripped of all responsibilities in the T.S. These former officers and several other individuals in the U.S. and Europe eventually left the T.S. headquarters: some voluntarily resigning their memberships, others having their memberships involuntarily canceled. The work of the Point Loma tradition established by Tingley was continued by an organized number of groups in the United States and Europe, one such group being Point Loma Publications, which was chartered in 1971 as



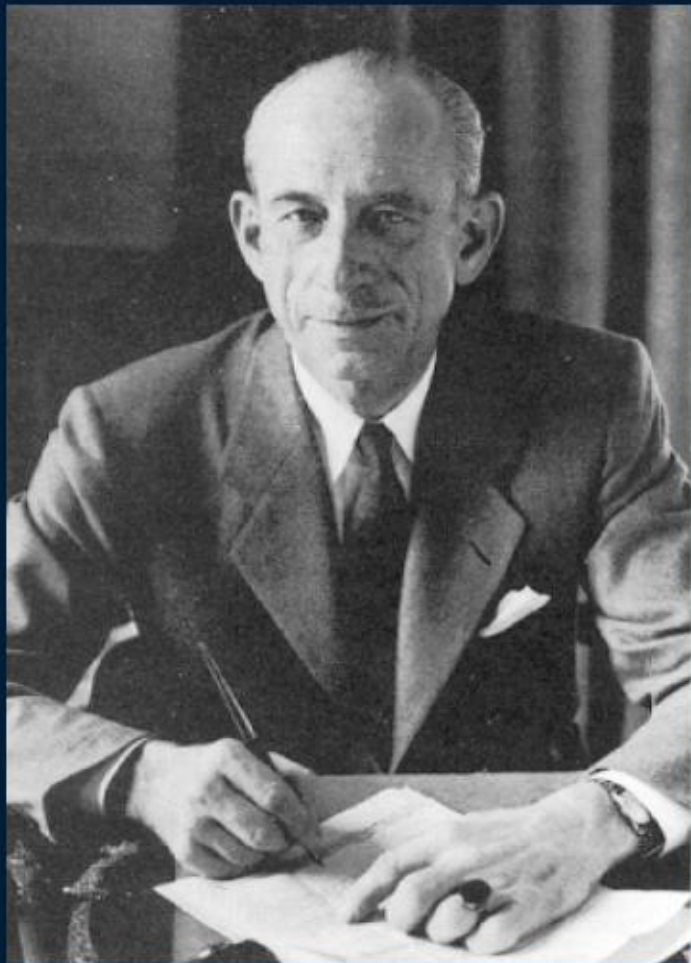
Arthur L. Conger

a non-profit religious and educational corporation.

In the meantime, the Theosophical Society in Covina remained under the leadership of Conger until his death in early 1951. William Hartley (1879-1955), a long-time resident member of the Society, was appointed by Conger as successor, but James A. Long (1898-1971) was accepted by the cabinet of the T.S. instead, the argument for his appointment being that the original document containing Conger's designated appointee was not produced, only a photo static copy. Hartley, together with his followers, left Covina and continued "The Theosophical Society" (Point Loma). In 1958 Dick J. P. Kok (The Netherlands) succeeded Hartley and since 1985 it is led by Herman C. Vermeulen (still headquartered in The Netherlands).

James Long continued to head this Theosophical Society. A number of significant events took place during his leadership. The Theosophical University and all the lodges (chartered during the tenure of de Purucker) were closed; the national Sections (including the Swedish property in Visingsö) were also closed; the printing and publishing activities, headquarters, and library were moved to Altadena and Pasadena in 1951; and *Sunrise*, a monthly magazine, was established. Long also went on extensive lecture tours overseas and set about visiting the membership outside the U.S. Upon his death in 1971, Grace F. Knoche became the leader of this Theosophical Society.

During the eventful year of 1898, another Theosophical organization came into existence with the founding of the Temple of the People by William H. Dower (1866-1937) and Francia LaDue (1849-1922), who believed that they were following the instructions of the Master to separate from the Tingley-led Universal Brotherhood and T.S. and, according to its



James Long

own declaration, to lay the "mental, physical, and spiritual foundations of the coming sixth race." Arising out of the Syracuse (New York) Lodge of the U.B. and T.S., they and their group moved to California in 1903, where they settled on land east of Oceano, establishing the headquarters known as Halcyon. By 1904, Dower opened the Halcyon Hotel and Sanitorium in order to continue his medical practice, treating such maladies as tuberculosis, nervous disorders, alcoholism, and drug addiction. The following year (1905), the Temple Home Association was incorporated, which laid out a town plan and sold or leased house sites, thus organizing a cooperative colony with LaDue, also known as Blue Star, becoming the first head - Guardian in Chief - of the Temple. In 1908, the Temple was incorporated under the title "The Guardian in Chief of the Temple of the People, a Corporation Sole." After LaDue's death in 1922, Dower became the second head of the Temple, supervising the construction of the Blue Star Memorial Temple. Begun in 1923 and completed in 1924, the Blue Star Memorial Temple was built in accordance with mathematical and geometrical symbolism illustrating the unity of all life, or the higher self. Upon Dower's death in 1937, Pearl Dower became the third Guardian in Chief, who organized the property according to its present specifications, a 95-acre property consisting of 52 homes, 30 of which are owned by the Temple, the William Quan Judge Library, which also houses the Temple offices and an apartment for visitors. The successor to Dower in 1968 was Harold Forgostein, who painted twenty-two pictures in the early 1930s at the request of Dower, depicting the native Americans' contributions to understanding the balance in nature and scenes from the life of Hiawatha, both important in Temple teachings. These paintings are now in the Temple's University Center.



Francina LaDue

Forgostein remained head of the Temple until 1990; the present Guardian in Chief is Eleanor L. Shumway.

Another association, the United Lodge of Theosophists, was organized by a former member of the U.B. and T.S. at Point Loma and Hargrove's Theosophical Society. Robert Crosbie (1849-1919), a Canadian living in Boston who became a Theosophist under the influence of W. Q. Judge, originally lent his support to Tingley as Judge's successor. Around 1900, he moved to Point Loma to help in the work she initiated there. In 1904, losing confidence in her leadership and methods for private reasons, he left Point Loma and moved to Los Angeles, where he associated for a time with Hargrove's Theosophical Society and with a number of Theosophists who were later to support the U.L.T., John Garrigues among them.

In 1909, Crosbie, with these same interested acquaintances who shared his view that only the source Theosophy of Blavatsky and Judge carried the teachings of Theosophy as it was intended to be delivered in modern times (i.e., in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and beyond), formed the United Lodge of Theosophists in Los Angeles. What set this group apart from other Theosophical societies was (and continues to be) its stress only on source Theosophy and such writings as are in accord philosophically with those of Blavatsky and Judge but excluding the letters of the Masters K.H. and M. written between 1880 and 1886 to the prominent Theosophical writer, vice-president of the T.S., and rival to H. P. Blavatsky, A. P. Sinnett, that is, the letters in *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*. But those in Sinnett's *The Occult World* are accepted, as is the letter from the Maha-Chohan. The reason for rejecting most of the letters is that private letters are no substitute for the actual Theosophical teachings; also, many U.L.T. members



B. P. Wadia

consider that the letters were never intended for publication.

The U.L.T. rejects leaders and teachers (all associates in the U.L.T. are described as students) and lays stress on anonymity for those who write on behalf of the U.L.T. Even Crosbie himself claimed no special status, although he is held in high esteem by associates. After Crosbie's death, the Lodge in Los Angeles established the Theosophy Company in 1925 to serve as fiduciary agent for the associates. No leader was recognized, but John Garrigues was acknowledged as a major figure in the Los Angeles U.L.T. until his death in 1944, along with Grace Clough and Henry Geiger, but students in the U.L.T. insist that the principle of anonymity outweighs its disadvantages.

The U.L.T. developed into an international association of study groups through the efforts of another important figure in the Theosophical Movement, the Indian Parsi B. P. Wadia (1881-1958). Originally a member of the Adyar T.S., which he joined in 1903 and where he served in a number of capacities - including that of Annie Besant's secretary - he resigned in 1922 because of his perception that the Theosophical Society "strayed away from the 'Original Programme'." From 1922 to 1928 he remained in the U.S. and assisted in founding U.L.T. lodges in New York, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia. Following his departure for India via Europe, he encouraged local students to found U.L.T. lodges, including those in Antwerp, Amsterdam, London, Paris, Bangalore, and Bombay. At present, U.L.T. lodges and study groups are located throughout the U.S. and in Belgium, Canada, England, France, India, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Sweden, and Trinidad (West Indies). Because of the considerable contributions of Wadia, he is the only person, with the exception of Crosbie, within the U.L.T. who is identified by name.

Adyar



TS Adyar Headquarters aerial view

The Theosophical Society, Adyar, is the largest Society by far (despite the loss of most of the original American Section in 1895), the work that was conducted primarily by Col. Olcott, and also to a lesser extent by Mme. Blavatsky during her abbreviated stay in India, adopted an activist stance with their championing of Hinduism and Buddhism upon their arrival in India in 1879. Col. Olcott was especially active in helping to initiate a Buddhist revival in India and Sri Lanka and to upgrade the position of the outcasts in India. As the first American to convert to Buddhism overseas in 1880, he worked with great enthusiasm for the cause of Buddhism not only in Sri Lanka but also in other Buddhist nations: promoting the foundation of Buddhist schools, writing the *Buddhist Catechism* - which attempted to unite both Northern and Southern Buddhists - helping to design a Buddhist flag that all Buddhist nations could adopt as their universal emblem symbolizing Buddhist unity. In India, Olcott established "pariah schools" for the uplift of the depressed classes.

One such school, known today as the Olcott Memorial School in the vicinity of Adyar, has celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary. Its purpose is to offer free education for the children of these classes in skills that would provide self-sufficiency,



Jiddu Krishnamurti

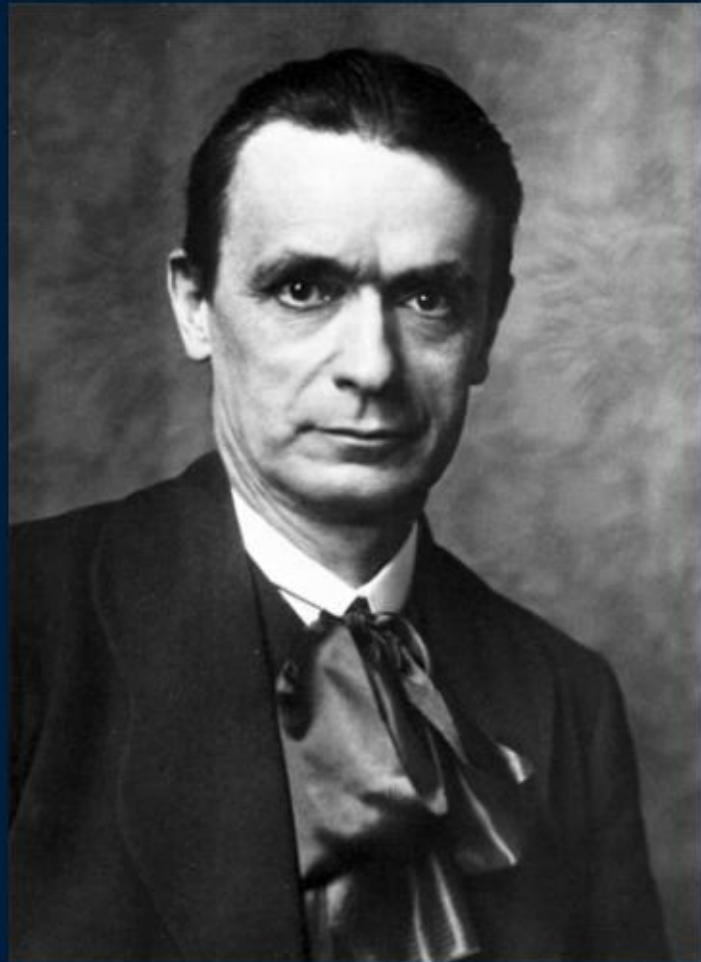
such as tailoring, gardening, carpentry, and printing. One further contribution made by Olcott was the establishment of the Oriental Library in order to preserve Indian manuscripts from neglect and to keep them in India. The manuscripts are housed in a newly build Adyar Library building, formally opened in December 1886.

Leadbeater, Krishnamurti, and Later

Besant's activities within the Society during her presidency are closely associated with another prominent though controversial Theosophist, Charles Webster Leadbeater (1854-1934). In large part, under his influence, Theosophical teachings were introduced in the T.S. that were considered by Blavatskyites to have deviated from the original teachings of Blavatsky and her Masters. Derisively called "Neo-Theosophy" by F. T. Brooks, a Theosophical writer and the tutor of Jawaharlal Nehru in the early years of the twentieth century, these teachings were considered by those who limited themselves to the writings of Blavatsky and Judge to be heretical, judging from the opinions that appeared in Theosophical literature of the 1920s.

"Neo-Theosophy" included two highly significant and innovative actions: Leadbeater's discovery, in 1909, of the physical vehicle for the coming World Teacher - known as Maitreya or the Christ - Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986), and also an alliance with the Old (later, Liberal) Catholic Church from 1917 under the direction of Bishops Leadbeater and James Wedgwood.

As if the foregoing activities were not controversial enough for many within the Theosophical movement, the man behind these innovations, Leadbeater, was himself under a cloud of scandal. In 1906, charges were raised by the secretary of the Esoteric

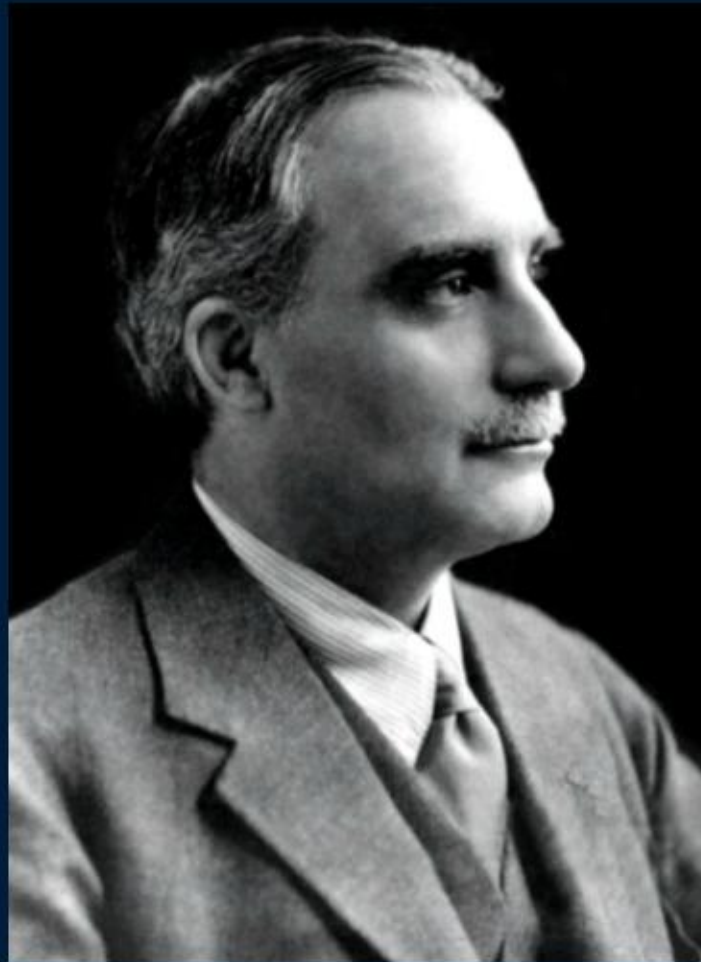


Rudolf Steiner

Section in America, Helen Dennis, that he was teaching her young son and other boys masturbation as a form of occult practice. This charge, which raised the specter of pederasty in the eyes of his accuser, led to Leadbeater's resignation from the Society. Upon his reinstatement in 1908, with the help of Besant, Leadbeater soon thereafter discovered J. Krishnamurti, a young Hindu boy who he said was to be the vehicle for the coming World Teacher. Much of the work of the Society revolved around the training of the boy and preparing the way for the World Teacher's coming.

In 1911, another organization known as the Order of the Star in the East (O.S.E.) was founded in Benares by George Arundale - which soon became a worldwide organization with the help of Mrs. Besant - specifically for this purpose. In the official organ of the Order of the Star in the East, *The Herald of the Star* 1.1 (January, 11, 1912): 1-2, J. Krishnamurti (or whoever wrote on his behalf) notes that George S. Arundale, the principal of the Central Hindu College, was the true founder of the Order, known at the time of its formation as the "Order of the Rising Sun." Its purpose was "to draw together those ... who believed in the near coming of a great Teacher, and were anxious to work in some way to prepare for Him."

Not long thereafter, the General Secretary of the German Section, Rudolf Steiner, disenchanted with the O.S.E. and displeased with Besant's presidency, took action that caused the General Council of the T.S. to advise the President to cancel the German sectional charter and to issue a new sectional charter to some German Lodges (*Theosophist* of February 1913, p. 637). Fifty-five out of sixty-nine German lodges followed Steiner, who soon organized a new society, the



George S. Arundale

Anthroposophical Society, in early 1913. Despite the defections of Steiner and others, however, the Theosophical Society gained more members than it had lost. The promise of the imminent coming of the World Teacher in the vehicle of Krishnamurti contributed to both unprecedented controversy within, and wider popularity of, the Theosophical Society until 1929, when Krishnamurti renounced his role and left the Society. Thereafter, the Society never regained the popularity that it had in the 1920s.

The second event that generated controversy was the promotion of the Old Catholic, later Liberal, Catholic Church by members of the Society. This promotion was primarily the brainchild of C. W. Leadbeater, who, with James Ingall Wedgwood (1883-1951), helped to establish the Church. Theosophists, especially those belonging to non-Adyar groups, viewed the L.C.C. ritual and the acceptance of the apostolic succession, on which the bishopric is authenticated, as having no place in Theosophical teaching. As the 1920s progressed, there was an attempt to combine the claims centering on the World Teacher with the ritual of the L.C.C., including the selection of twelve "apostles" for Krishnamurti, but ultimately the whole plan dissolved with Krishnamurti's rejection of the role of World Teacher.

After 1929, the T.S. retrenched and returned more to those teachings generally associated with Theosophy. After the death of Besant in 1933, the presidency passed on to George Arundale (1934-1945), who continued the activism that was so typical of Besant's term. During his tenure, his wife, Srimati Rukmini Devi (1904-1986), established the International Academy of Arts on January 6, 1936 (later known as Kalakshetra "the Field or Holy place of Arts"), having as its

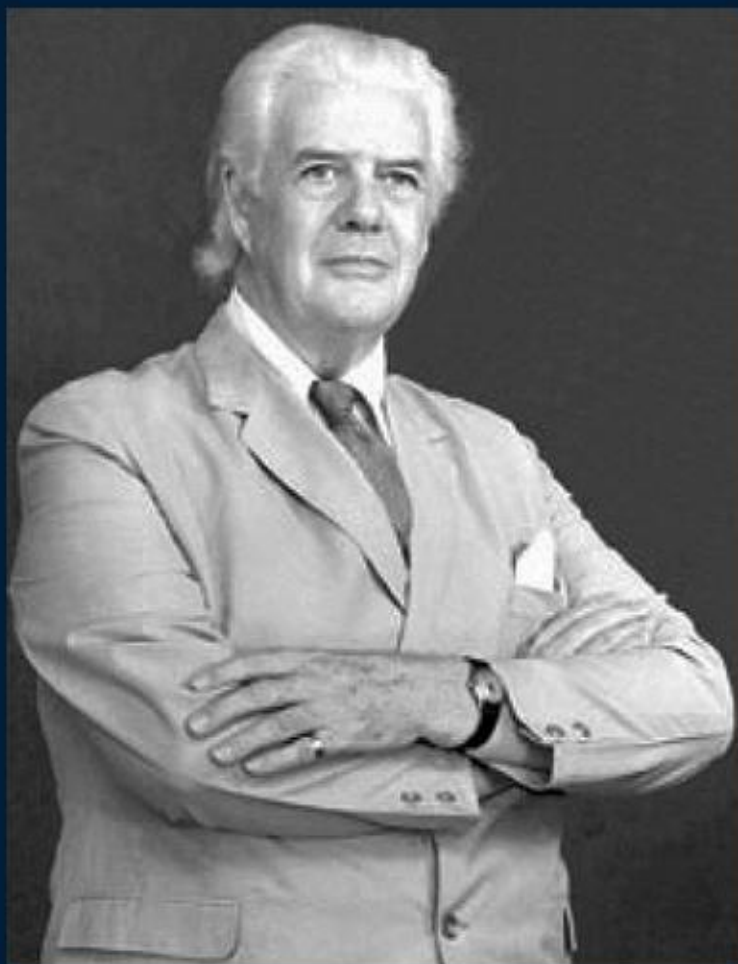


C. Jinarajadasa

objects (1) "[t]o emphasise the essential unity of all true Art"; (2) "[t]o work for the recognition of the arts as vital to individual, national, religious and international growth"; and (3) "[t]o provide for such activities as may be incidental to the above objects." Associated with the second purpose of Kalakshetra, was a revival and development of the ancient culture of India. To Arundale, Indian dance revealed occult ritual, in his words "the occultism of beauty." Following him was a protégé of Leadbeater's, C. Jinarajadasa (1946-1953), who, among his many contributions to the Society, displayed an active interest in publishing many documents relating to the history of the Society from the early years of the T.S. As one of the foremost Theosophical authors, Jinarajadasa displayed a distinctly scholarly bent in his published works, and, in order to carry out the third object of the Society, inaugurated in 1949 The School of the Wisdom at the international headquarters of Theosophical Society at Adyar on the date of the T.S.'s own inauguration, November 17. It was called the International Centre of Theosophical Studies in the 1970s but renamed The School of the Wisdom in 1985.

In his address on the inauguration of the school, Jinarajadasa stated that its purpose was "to equip its students to become, each according to his temperament and aptitude, philosophers, scientists, ethical teachers, artists, givers of economic law, statesmen, educators, town planners and every other possible type of server of humanity" ("The School of the Wisdom: Inaugural Address Delivered on November 17, 1949," *Theosophist*, 71.3 [December, 1949]: 156).

Following Jinarajadasa were N. Sri Ram (1953-1973), responsible for building the current Adyar Library building, John



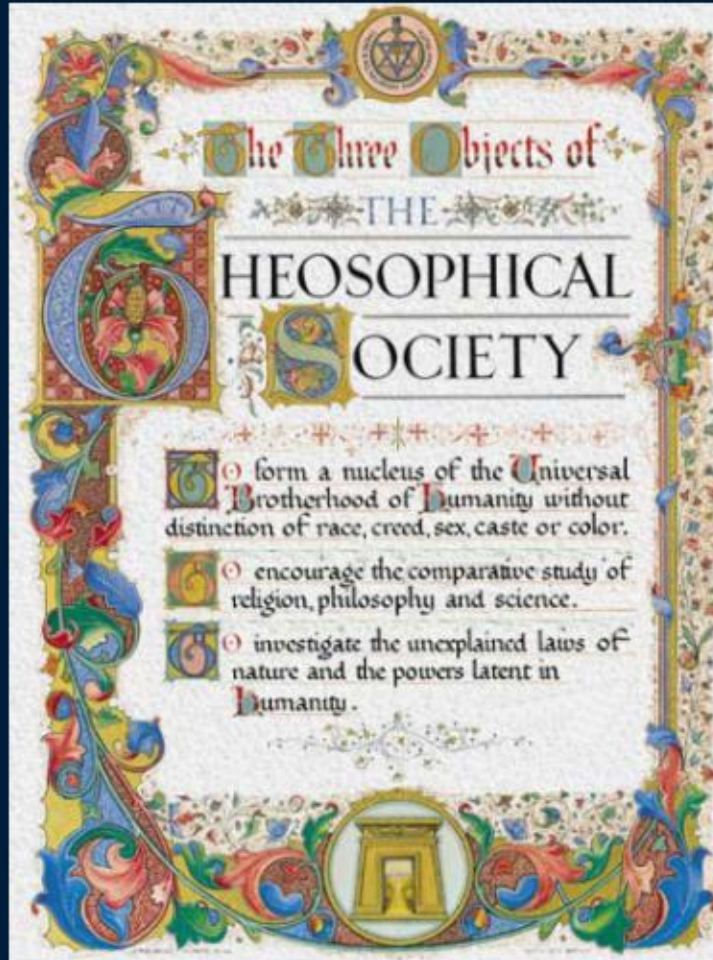
John S. Coats

S. Coats (1973-1979), and the present international president of the T.S., Radha Burnier (1980-). Coats died on December 26, 1979. From January to June 1980, Surendra Narayan served as vice president in charge, and Burnier took office in July 1980.

Beliefs and Practices

The teachings promulgated by the Theosophical societies are ultimately those that have secured the attention of its members as well as what individuals understand Theosophy to be. As a rule, most Theosophists associate the basic teachings with the "three fundamental propositions" contained in the Proem of H. P. Blavatsky's magnum opus, *The Secret Doctrine*. An overview of the development of Blavatsky's and other Theosophists' understanding of Theosophy reveals a variety of interpretations. In fact, the term "Theosophy," chosen to represent the aspirations and objects of the Society, had little to do with its later development. Theosophy was accepted as the name of the Society in accordance with the definition found in an edition of Webster's dictionary (published ca. 1875), which is as follows: "supposed intercourse with God and superior spirits, and consequent attainment of superhuman knowledge by physical processes as by the theurgic operations of ancient Platonists, or by the chemical processes of the German fire philosophers." The term, however, was not unknown prior to this period (September, 1875). Blavatsky employed it in February 1875 in a letter to Professor Hiram Corson ("theosophy taught by the Angels") and in her article "A Few Questions to 'Hiraf'."

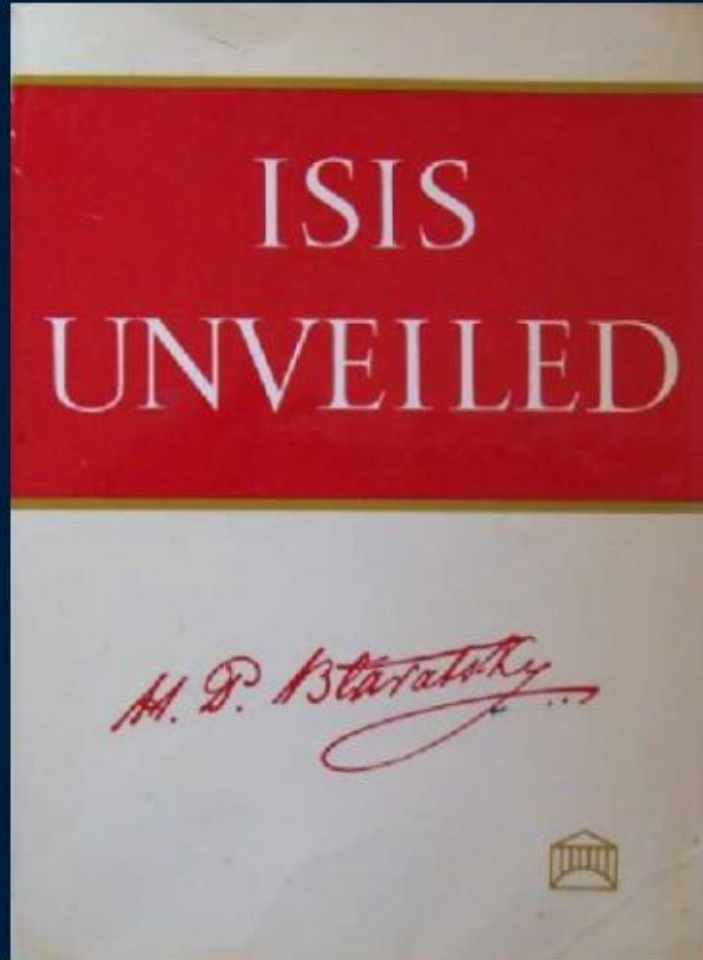
In a gathering held on September 7, 1875, a lecture given by George H. Felt on "The Lost Canon of Proportion of the Egyptians" echoed that definition. On that occasion, the future



The Three Objects of the Theosophical Society

president of the Theosophical Society, Henry S. Olcott, proposed the formation of a society for the purpose of obtaining "knowledge of the nature and attributes of the Supreme Power and of the higher spirits *by the aid of physical processes.*" Such was the statement in the Society's "Preamble and By-Laws" (October 30, 1875) as well as in Col. Olcott's Inaugural Address as President of the Society: "... how can we expect that as a society we can have any very remarkable illustrations of the control of the adept theurgist over the subtle powers of nature? But here is where Mr. Felt's alleged discoveries will come into play. Without claiming to be a theurgist, a mesmerist, or a spiritualist, our Vice-President promises, by simple chemical appliances, to exhibit to us, as he has to others before, the races of beings which, invisible to our eyes, people the elements. ... Fancy the consequences of the practical demonstration of its truth, for which Mr. Felt is now preparing the requisite apparatus!"

In other words, the original purpose of the Theosophical Society was - in the words of the minutes taken on September 8, 1875 - "for the study and elucidation of Occultism, the Cabala &c." or perhaps to use a term that more directly reflects the remarks given by Olcott above: to demonstrate, by what passed as scientific means, the existence of a hidden world, replete with occult forces and beings therein. Taken in this light, the Society's original 1875 objects ("to collect and diffuse a knowledge of the laws which govern the universe") take on enhanced meaning. Over the ensuing years, however, the term took on different connotations, with most Theosophists viewing it as the wisdom that has existed from the dawn of humanity, preserved and transmitted by great teachers such as Pythagoras, Buddha, Krishna, and Jesus from its inception to



Isis Unveiled by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

the present and ascertained in the myths, legends, and doctrines of the historical religious traditions, such as Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, and lesser known mystery cults. The first book-length expression of this wisdom and of the Theosophical Society's original (1875) objects was Blavatsky's *Isis Unveiled*, published in 1877. In the ensuing two years, more than 10,000 copies were sold, making it one of the most popular books of its kind in the nineteenth century. It continues to have considerable influence in Theosophical circles, with more than 150,000 copies sold since its first publication.

The wisdom described in *Isis Unveiled* was given a more "Oriental" (i.e., Indian) flavor in the 1888 publication of H. P. Blavatsky's book *The Secret Doctrine*. Its three fundamental propositions were stated above as the existence of an absolute underlying all manifestation, the cyclicity of the universe, and the identity of the individual with the universal oversoul and the pilgrimage of all souls through reincarnation and karma.

Theosophy, in this sense, took on a non-dualistic or monistic view of ultimate reality, manifested or emanated in a dynamic complementarity and evolutionary progression. These general "propositions" presented by Blavatsky were restated in more specific teachings in *The Secret Doctrine* and elsewhere, some of which may be summarized in the following statements:

- The evolution of the immortal individual continues through innumerable lives, such continuity made possible through reincarnation: the entrance of Self - the trinity of Spirit, Soul, and Mind - into another (human) body.
- The complement of reincarnation is that force, known as the "Law of Cause and effect (Karma)" that fuels future rebirths and



Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

determines the quality of the experience therein.

- The structure of the manifested universe, humanity included, may be viewed as septenary in composition, and cooperative in all relationships.
- Humanity evolves through seven major groups or periods called root races, each of which is divided into seven subraces. At the present time, we humans belong to the fifth root race, known as the Aryan (Sanskrit "noble") race. The term, however, is not limited here to "Indo-European" peoples; it has a much broader meaning.
- The individual is in actuality but a miniature copy or microcosm of the macrocosm.
- The universe - including humanity - is guided and animated by a cosmic hierarchy of sentient beings, each having a specific mission to fulfill.

Although most Theosophists would subscribe to all or most of the above statements, one should keep in mind that those statements may take on various interpretations depending on the understanding of each Theosophist. Furthermore, although some commentators emphasize the presence of Eastern (Hindu and Buddhist) philosophy in Theosophical teaching after 1880, when Blavatsky and Olcott arrived in India, this does not preclude the presence of important Western (Kabbalistic, Christian, Masonic, and pre-Christian) teachings and myths and doctrines after 1880 or the presence of Eastern thought prior to 1880, as evidenced in *Isis Unveiled*.



TS Adyar Headquarters

Organization and Membership

The Theosophical Society, with international headquarters in Adyar, Chennai, India, had a worldwide membership of about 26,606 as of end 2011, distributed in almost seventy countries. The Theosophical Society in America, one of its sections, had a national membership of 3357 in December, 2012. The Adyar society considers itself to be the parent Theosophical Society and thus goes back to its New York origins in 1875, although the Theosophical Society (Pasadena) takes the position that the original Theosophical Society divided in 1895, with each T.S. having equal claim to the 1875 New York origins. The Theosophical Society (Adyar), incorporated at Madras (now Chennai) in 1905, is under the presidency of Radha Burnier, who has held this office since 1980. It comprises fifty-one national societies or sections, the oldest being the American Section (the Theosophical Society in America, as it is now known), formed in 1886 and the English Section (chartered in 1888). After the separation of Judge's society from Adyar in 1895, Olcott cancelled the charter of the American Section. A new charter was issued, with the San Francisco Lodge serving as temporary headquarters, in the same year for the American Section of the Adyar T.S., making the charter retroactively valid to 1886 (*Theosophist*, Supplement of October, 1895).

Sections are composed of Lodges. A small number of Lodges are directly attached to the international headquarters at Adyar. The governing body of the T.S. is the General Council, consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, all elected General Secretaries of the national sections, and up to twelve additional members nominated by the president and elected by the General Council. The international president is



TS in America Headquarters - Rogers Building

elected by popular vote of all eligible members every seven years from among candidates who receive at least 12 nominations from the General Council members. The national president of the American Section is similarly elected every three years. An international convention is held annually, usually at Adyar. The Society has a magnificent library on the grounds of the headquarters, which houses original manuscripts in Sanskrit and other Asian languages and books and journals on Theosophy, philosophy, and religion. The archives of the Society are currently housed in the headquarters building and contain many thousands of documents, including the important scrapbooks of Blavatsky and the Olcott diaries. The Theosophical Publishing House also functions in Adyar and produces a number of pamphlets and books, written primarily by members, and continues to issue the oldest Theosophical periodical, the *Theosophist*. In addition, the quarterly *Adyar Newsletter* is published by the Society, as is also the respected *Adyar Library Bulletin*, a scholarly journal specializing in oriental research.

Theosophy in America

The Adyar Theosophical Society's American Section, though substantially decreased in members in 1895, when many of its Lodges followed Judge in becoming independent of Adyar, quickly regained its strength under the leadership of Alexander Fullerton (1895-1907), and as a result of an 1897 tour of the American Section by Annie Besant and Countess Constance Wachtmeister (1839-1910), a close associate of H. P. Blavatsky and enthusiastic worker for the Theosophical cause. This and subsequent tours by Charles Webster Leadbeater beginning in



TS in America Headquarters - Rogers Building

1900 and by Olcott and Countess Wachtmeister in 1901 led to a membership increase from 281 in 1896 to 1455 by May 1901. The American Section continued as a major player within the Theosophical Society under a number of General Secretaries (or Presidents as the leaders were later called). Following Alexander Fullerton were Weller Van Hook (1907-1912), who moved the headquarters of the Section from New York to Chicago; A. P. Warrington (1912-1920), who was responsible for establishing a new headquarters at Krotona, Hollywood; and L. W. Rogers (1920-1931), under whose stewardship the cornerstone of the new headquarters building at Wheaton, Illinois, was laid in 1926. Membership of the Section reached 8,500 by 1927. Sidney A. Cook (1931-1945) presided over the Society at a time when its membership declined to a low figure of about 3000 in 1941, due in part to Krishnamurti's dissolving the Order of the Star and in part to the Depression; he was succeeded by James S. Perkins (1945-1960), Henry Smith (1960-1965), Joy Mills (1965 as acting national president and 1966-1974 as president), Ann Wylie (1974-1975, acting president), Dora Kunz (1975-1987), Dorothy Abbenhouse (1987-1993), John Algeo (1993-2002), Betty Bland (2002-2011) and Tim Boyd (2011 and later).

The Theosophical Society in America's headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois, is the site of an extensive lending and research library. It also publishes a number of works, including Quest Books, through the Theosophical Publishing House (Wheaton). The T.S.A. also publishes *Messenger* for its members, *Quest* magazine for the general readership, and a monthly e-mail newsletter. Although organizationally not a part of the T.S., the Esoteric Section is closely associated with the T.S.



Krotona Institute

Its headquarters in the United States is in Ojai, California, at the Krotona Institute. On its grounds is also the Krotona School of Theosophy, whose principal purpose is to serve as an educational arm of the Society, to promote its work, and to implement the three objects of the T.S. These objects (according to the international Society's wording) are: (1) To form a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or color. (2) To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science. [The Theosophical Society in America has "comparative study of religion ..."] (3) To investigate unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in man. [The T.S.A. substitutes "humanity" for "man."] Members of the T.S. are expected to approve and promote these Objects. They are also expected to search for truth through study, service, and devotion to high ideals. The Society states: "All in sympathy with the Objects of The Theosophical Society are welcomed as members, and it rests with the member to become a true Theosophist."

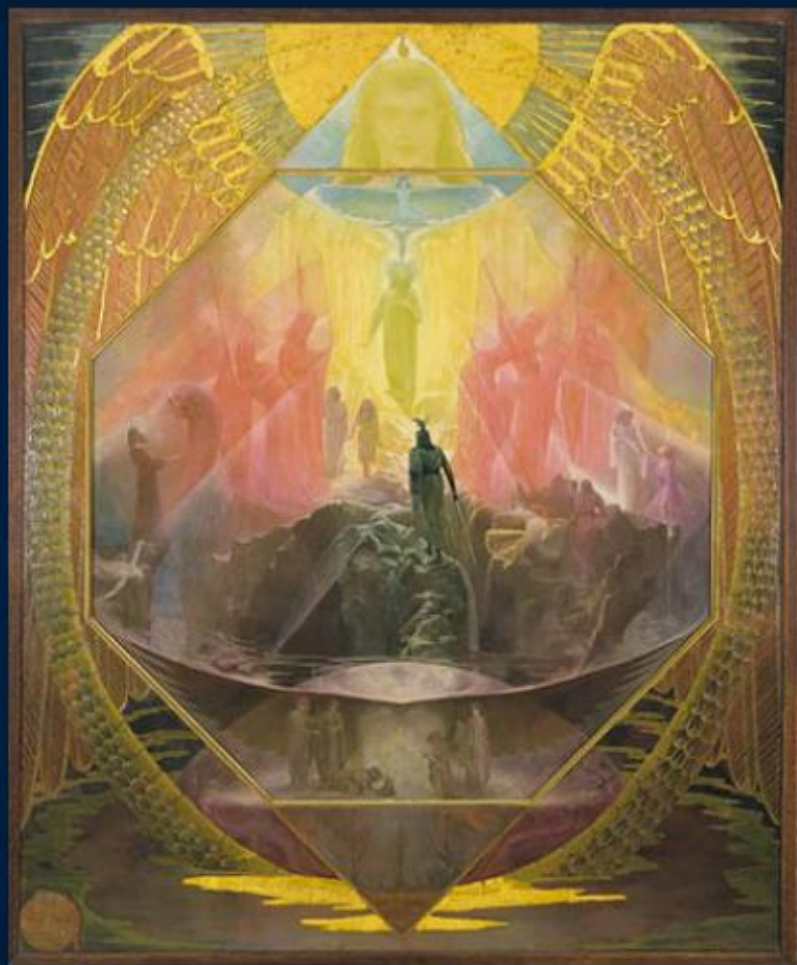
Other Theosophical Organizations



Point Loma

In addition to the Adyar-connected Society in America, several others sprang up in that country, although most of them subsequently spread abroad.

The Theosophical Society, headquartered in Pasadena, is the direct descendant of the Theosophical Society in America, of which W. Q. Judge was the first president, followed by Tingley's Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical Society. It is currently described as a worldwide association of members "dedicated to the uplifting of humanity through a better understanding of the oneness of life and the practical application of this principle." Membership figures are not given out; the number, however, is low, perhaps a few thousand. Members are known as Fellows of the Theosophical Society (F.T.S.); their only obligation is the acceptance of the principle of universal brotherhood and a willingness to try to live it. Fellows are received as probationary Fellows; full Fellowship is implemented with the issuance of a diploma, signed by the Leader and Secretary General, which is issued by the International Theosophical Headquarters. Other groups within the T.S. include Branches, formed by three or more F.T.S. who apply for a charter, and National Sections, the latter headed by a National Secretary. The head of this T.S. is



TS Pasadena Headquarters - Reginald Machell painting The Path

designated as Leader - at present it is Randell C. Grubb - who serves for life and who is also responsible for appointing a successor. The General Officers include the Members of the Cabinet, the Secretary General, Treasurer General, and the National Secretaries, all of whom are appointed by the Leader. The Leader has the power to remove from office any officer of the Society. The publishing arm of this T.S. is the Theosophical University Press, which has published more than forty book titles authored by H. P. Blavatsky, Katherine Tingley, G. de Purucker, A. Trevor Barker, William Q. Judge, James A. Long, Charles J. Ryan, and others. The Theosophical Society (Pasadena) has correspondence courses, library centers, public meetings, study groups, and overseas translation and publishing agencies in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia, Germany, South Africa, and Nigeria. The objects of this T.S. are as follows: (1) To diffuse among men a knowledge of the laws inherent in the Universe. (2) To promulgate the knowledge of the essential unity of all that is, and to demonstrate that this unity is fundamental in Nature. (3) To form an active brotherhood among men. (4) To study ancient and modern religion, science, and philosophy. (5) To investigate the powers innate in man.

The United Lodge of Theosophists is "a voluntary association of students of Theosophy" founded in 1909 by Robert Crosbie and others, having as its main purpose the study of Theosophy using the writings of Blavatsky and Judge as their guide. Because personality or ego is considered to have negative effects, "associates" pursue anonymity in their Theosophical work. Regarding this work, the U.L.T. Declaration, the only document that unites associates, states that its purpose "is the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles of the philosophy of

United Lodge of Theosophists

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To spread broadcast the teachings of
Theosophy as recorded in the writings of
H.P. Blavatsky and William Q. Judge

U.L.T., founded in 1909, has Lodges throughout the world offering regularly scheduled lectures and study classes that are free and open to the public. In other areas there are smaller study classes that also meet regularly to study the original writings of Theosophy. A brief philosophic declaration is its sole guiding document.

Declaration

The policy of this Lodge is independent devotion to the cause of Theosophy, without professing attachment to any Theosophical organization. It is loyal to the great Founders of the Theosophical movement, but does not concern itself with dissensions or differences of individual opinion.

The work it has on hand and the end it keeps in view are too absorbing and too lofty to leave it the time or inclination to take part in side issues. That work and that end is the dissemination of the fundamental principles of the Philosophy of Theosophy, and the exemplification in practice of those principles, through a truer realization of the SELF; a profounder conviction of Universal Brotherhood.

It holds that the unassailable basis for union among Theosophists, wherever and however situated, is "similarity of aim, purpose and teaching," and therefore has neither Constitution, By-Laws nor officers, the sole bond between its Associates being that basis. And it aims to disseminate this idea among Theosophists in the furtherance of Unity.

It regards as Theosophists all who are engaged in the true service of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, condition or organization, and

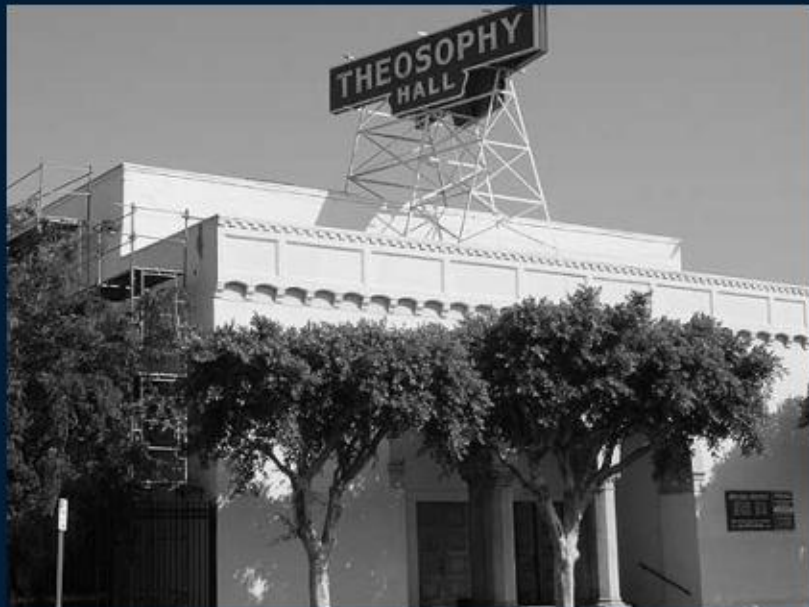
it welcomes to its association all those who are in accord with its declared purposes and who desire to fit themselves, by study and otherwise, to be the better able to help and teach others.

"The true Theosophist belongs to no cult or sect, yet belongs to each and all."

United Lodge of Theosophists Declaration

Theosophy and the exemplification in practice of those principles, through a truer realization of the SELF; a profounder conviction of Universal Brotherhood." It regards as Theosophists all "who are engaged in the true service of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, condition or organization."

The work of the U.L.T. is mainly practical and educational, conducting meetings and classes on various Theosophical subjects, and publishing books, pamphlets and magazines. Lodges and study groups exist, with lodges typically consisting of between twenty and one hundred associates, and study groups from five to thirty associates. Associates can voluntarily participate in the work of a study group or lodge, ranging from attending or teaching classes in the public dissemination of Theosophical teachings. All activities are voluntary. In addition, there are associates who do not belong to any lodge because they live in countries and regions that have no proximate U.L.T. center. No leader exists in the U.L.T., nor is there any formal organization, although the Theosophy Company serves as fiduciary agent for the U.L.T. and its publications. All lodges and study groups are independent of one another but are united in a common goal, the individual goal of pursuing the three objects of the U.L.T., which are nearly identical to the objects of the Adyar T.S., namely: (1) "To form the nucleus of a Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or color"; (2) "The study of ancient and modern religions, philosophies and sciences, and the demonstration of the importance of such study; and (3) the investigation of the unexplained laws of Nature and the psychical powers latent in man." The work of the lodges focuses on the dissemination of source Theosophy.



ULT Building in Los Angeles, California

Those who are in accord with the U.L.T. Declaration are considered associates. They express their sympathy with the work of the U.L.T. in the following manner: "Being in sympathy with the purposes of this Lodge, as set forth in its 'Declaration,' I hereby record my desire to be enrolled as an Associate, it being understood that such association calls for no obligation on my part, other than that which I, myself, determine. The number of associates is uncertain because renewable or "sustaining" memberships do not exist, nor is there a published list of associates. The only figure supplied by an associate in Los Angeles is that "many thousands of associates" have belonged to the U.L.T. since 1909, but the figure today is not more than a few thousand worldwide. Lodges and study groups exist in Los Angeles but also in other parts of the U.S., Canada, Belgium, England, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, and Sweden. Publications include the works of Blavatsky and Judge, compilations of articles, letters, and talks by Robert Crosbie, entitled *The Friendly Philosopher*, his commentary and discussion on Judge's *The Ocean of Theosophy*, entitled *Answers to Questions on the Ocean of Theosophy*, and a small book, *Universal Theosophy*. The Theosophy Company also publishes works that are associated with ancient theosophy (such as *The Bhagavad Gita*, Patanjali's *Yoga Sutras*, and *The Dhammapada*), and the magazines *Theosophy*, *The Theosophical Movement* (Bombay), and *Vidya* (Santa Barbara, California).

The Temple of the People as a religious society and the village of Halcyon are both currently under the leadership (known as Guardian in Chief) of Eleanor L. Shumway, who was selected by her predecessor. In addition to this office, there is a seven-member board of officers, selected each year by the

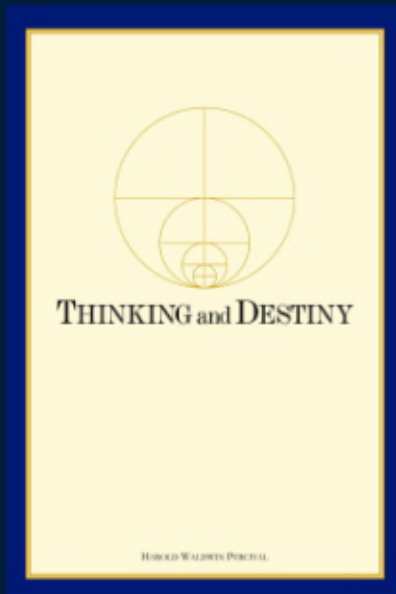


Temple of the People

Guardian in Chief. On the board is an Inner Guard and Treasurer, both reserved for women, an Outer Guard and a Scribe, both reserved for men, and three Delegates at Large, selected from members not living in Halcyon. Membership of the Temple is neither solicited nor closed to any individual; the only responsibility of the member is his or her own development. Of the total of some 250 members worldwide, about eighty reside at Halcyon. An annual convention that lasts about a week begins on the first Sunday of August. The objects of the Temple are:

(1) To formulate the truths of religion as the fundamental factor in the evolution of the human race. And this does not mean the formulation of a creed. (2) To set forth a philosophy of life that is in accord with natural and divine law. (3) To promote the study of the sciences and the fundamental facts and laws upon which the sciences are based which will permit us to extend our belief and knowledge from what is known to the unknown. (4) To promote the study and practice of art on fundamental lines, showing that art is in reality the application of knowledge to human good and welfare, and that the Christos can speak to humanity through art as well as through any other fundamental line of manifestation. (5) The promotion of a knowledge of true social science based on immutable law, showing the relationship between one human being and another, and between human beings, God, and nature. When these relationships are understood we will instinctively formulate and follow the law of true brotherhood: the unity of ALL life.

The Word Foundation, Inc. was established in 1950 "to make known to the people of the world all books written by Harold Waldwin Percival, and to ensure the perpetuation of his legacy to humanity." The books of Percival include *Thinking and*



Word Foundation logo and publication

Destiny, Adepts, Masters and Mahatmas; Masonry and Its Symbols; Man and Woman and Child, and Democracy Is Self-Government. Percival (1868-1953) was born in Bridgetown, Barbados, British West Indies. He came first to Boston, then to New York City, with his mother after the death of his father. There, he joined the Theosophical Society in 1892, eventually established the Theosophical Society Independent, which emphasized the study of the writings of H. P. Blavatsky and Eastern "scriptures" and from 1904 to 1917 published *The Word* magazine. In addition, he established the Theosophical Publishing Company of New York. In 1946, the Word Publishing Co., Inc. was constituted, and it was under this aegis that Percival's books were first published and distributed. The Foundation is directed by a Board of Directors consisting of the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. In addition to publishing the works of Percival, it also has introduced in 1986 a new series of *The Word* magazine, published quarterly. The Foundation claims a worldwide membership of about 1000, as of 1994. The purpose of membership is to support the Foundation's publishing activities and to facilitate "student-to-student" study groups.

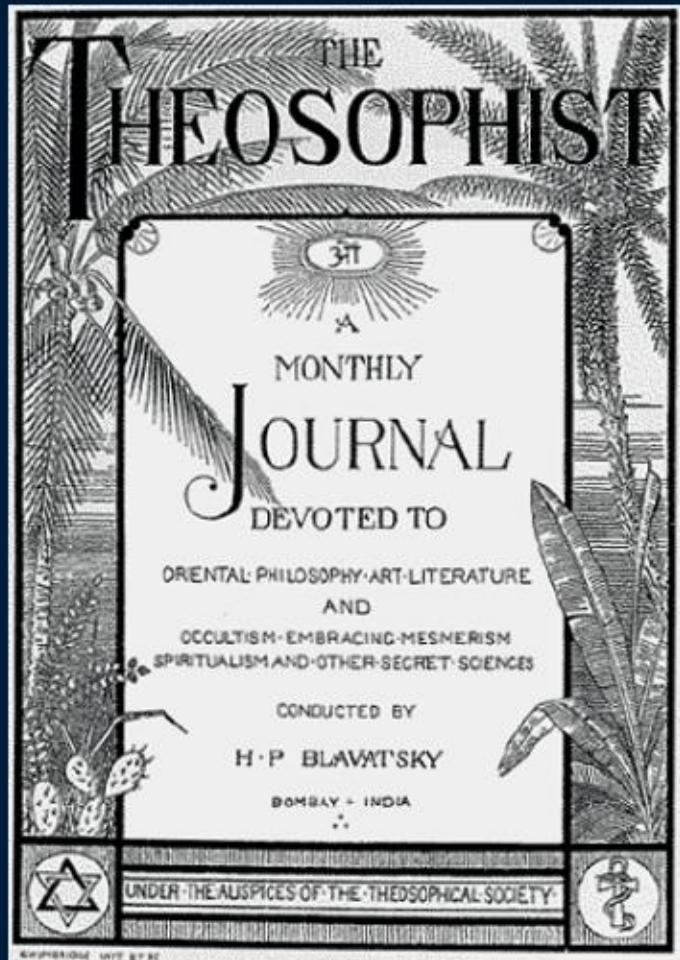
Point Loma Publications, Inc. is not a society but an independent publishing firm whose aim is to carry on the literary legacy of members of the Point Loma Theosophical Society (now the T.S., Pasadena). It was established on January 22, 1971 by former members of the cabinet of that T.S. who refused to acknowledge the esoteric status of Conger, the new Leader of that T.S., in 1945. The former chairman of the cabinet of the T.S., Iverson L. Harris, became the president and chairman of the board of directors. In the 1950s, disaffected members started to organize and give public lectures in San Diego,



Point Loma

California. The importance of the name "Point Loma" in the history of the Theosophical movement, however, led eventually to the establishment of P.L.P. in San Diego as is evident in its articles of incorporation: "to publish and disseminate literature of a philosophical, scientific, religious, historical and cultural character, faithful to the traditions and high standards maintained by the Theosophical Society with International Headquarters formerly at Point Loma, California, under the leadership of Katherine Tingley from 1900 to 1929, and of Gottfried de Purucker, from 1929 to 1942; to pursue and perpetuate the aims of the original T.S., founded in New York City by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, Col. H. S. Olcott, Wm. Q. Judge and others, as enunciated by them on October 30, 1875."

P.L.P. remained under the leadership of Harris until his death in 1979. W. Emmett Small became the new president that year and remained so until his retirement in 1993. Branches of P.L.P. are in The Hague, The Netherlands, and Costa Rica. There are no members belonging to P.L.P., only associates or "friends" who support the work of the corporation. As a side note, other organizations based on the original work of Point Loma T.S. arose in Europe. One group is the Theosophical Society - HPB, which was founded by William Hartley after James Long was elected Leader (see above). This Society now functions in The Hague, the site of its international headquarters, under the presidency of Herman C. Vermeulen. England and Germany also have small groups following the Point Loma tradition.



The Theosophist frontcover

Publications and Educational Outreach

The first magazine of the Theosophical Society, the *Theosophist*, was initiated with the October 1879 issue in Bombay under the editorship of H. P. Blavatsky. The periodical, published at the international headquarters in Adyar, Chennai, continues to this day and is the official organ of the international president of the T.S. (Adyar). Also published are the *Adyar Newsletter* and *Adyar Library Bulletin*. *Quest* and *Messenger* are both published by the T.S. in America, and journals are published by each of the fifty-one national sections of the Society. In addition to periodical literature, the T.S. also carries on an active publishing program through the Theosophical Publishing House in Adyar (India) and Wheaton (Illinois), the headquarters of the Theosophical Society in America, and in Quezon City, Philippines. The T.P.H. of the T.S. in America also publishes *Quest Books*, books devoted to a variety of subjects that reflect the Theosophical viewpoint in its broadest perspective. Additional outreach of the T.S. in America comes in the form of audio and video recordings, webcasts, and webinars.

The Theosophical Society (Pasadena) through its publishing arm, Theosophical University Press, features the source literature and classics of Theosophy, including the works of H. P. Blavatsky, W. Q. Judge, Katherine Tingley, G. de Purucker, and others. An extensive library is available on line.

The Theosophy Company, the fiduciary agent of The United Lodge of Theosophists, publishes the journal *Theosophy*. In addition, *Vidya* is published by students at the Santa Barbara Lodge U.L.T., California, and *The Theosophical Movement*, founded by B. P. Wadia, is published in Bombay, India.

ECHOES *of the* ORIENT

VOLUME I

*The Writings of
William Quan Judge*



Echoes of the Orient by W. Q. Judge

Both the Theosophical Society (Pasadena) - through its Theosophical University Press - and U.L.T. - through the Theosophy Company - publish the major works of Blavatsky (*The Secret Doctrine* and *Isis Unveiled*) and Judge (*The Ocean of Theosophy*) as well as a variety of other works.

The Temple of the People publishes the quarterly *The Temple Artisan* at Halcyon, as well as several works unique to its organization: *Theogenesis*, *Temple Messages*, *Teachings of the Temple*, and *From the Mountain Top*.

The Word Foundation publishes *The Word*, revived in 1986, as well as the works of Harold W. Percival mentioned above.

Point Loma Publications published *The Eclectic Theosophist*, at first a bimonthly journal, later a quarterly, under the joint editorship of W. Emmett Small and Helen Todd (until her death in 1992). Point Loma Publications also publishes a variety of works that were originally issued during the Point Loma years of the Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical Society as well as a number of original works, including *The Buddhism of H. P. Blavatsky* by H. J. Spierenburg, *The Way to the Mysteries* by L. Gordon Plummer, and *Introduction to Sanskrit* by Thomas Egenes. The Theosophical Society - Point Loma in The Hague, The Netherlands, publishes the bimonthly magazine *Lucifer* in both English and Dutch.

In early 2007, the entire inventory of P.L.P. was relocated to near Dulzura, California, east of San Diego, where during the extraordinary wild fires of October 2007 the entire stored P.L.P. inventory burned. Since that time a total reorganization of focus and network of Theosophical work was made. A collaboration started with other Theosophical publishing groups in Europe and elsewhere to maintain availability of books previously published,



Point Loma

beginning the process of making a number of books formerly out of print available in both printed and e-book form. Additionally, Point Loma Publications has now "rebirthed" itself as the "Point Loma School of Theosophic Perennialism." It holds regular classes and presentations in San Diego. Point Loma Publications is the publishing outreach of the Point Loma School. The school co-hosts with "Blavatsky House" in The Hague, The Netherlands, the annual "Point Loma Convivium: Theosophic Insight on Religion, Philosophy, Science and the Arts" (San Diego, Aug. 1-4, 2013). More information is available on these websites (under construction Feb. 2013): www.pointlomaschool.com and for the Convivium www.pointlomatheosophynetwork.net.

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