

25 YEARS FOR H.P.B.

Your rebuttal to “Priestess of the Occult” denotes rare perspicacity and a marvelous familiarity with the records of Madame Blavatsky’s life and teachings. Your ability to discern the errors of her accusers and to confound the traducers is indeed worthy of mention.... It is gratifying to one who appreciates facts that newspaper hacks cannot catch up defamatory re-writes without being called to account, and by one who has made a thorough study of both sides of the case and is qualified to present both sides in their true light. I only wish that you would undertake to refute the mouthings of some of those who try to discredit astrology.

—*Llewellyn George*
Late Dean of American Astrologers

Your invaluable pamphlet has come....I value it highly, and prevailed on Mr. Stagg to wire Covina for 25 copies...We must try to get a copy into the hands of every Theosophist....I approve of your idea of a compendium of evidence against all and sundry attacks....With heartiest wishes for your success in your laudable undertaking, which will surely be a piece of good Karma for you....

—*Mary K. Neff*
Late Historian & Archivist, The Theosophical Society (HQ, Adyar)

The work that you are undertaking will make, when completed, a very important though bulky volume, but it is a task worth doing....I wish you full success in your undertaking....Your work....is a very necessary piece of labour of love to be undertaken.

—*B. P. Wadia*
Late leading Associate, United Lodge of Theosophists (India)

This is to thank you for your....telling me of progress in the matter of your work relative to H.P.B... It all shows very great promise and is a very important piece of work that I am sure is being most thoroughly done and will be of tremendous value.;

I... am quite convinced you are the man to do it.

—*Sidney A. Cook*

Late Vice-President, The Theosophical Society (HQ, Adyar)

Needless to say, I am highly delighted that at last someone will dedicate himself to such a difficult task. Of course I will co-operate in every possible way...

—*C. Jinarājadāsa*

Late President, The Theosophical Society (HQ, Adyar)

You have my hearty support for the steps you are taking for the defence of Madame Blavatsky and her works... as you have already registered The Blavatsky Foundation, I express the hope that its work will meet with continued success.

I highly appreciate the exhausting manner in which you are proceeding with your research. It is wonderful to think that the material you are unearthing might present H.P.B. to the world in a completely different light...I wish you all the success that you can possibly achieve in the labour that you have undertaken.

—*N. Sri Ram*

President, The Theosophical Society (HQ, Adyar, India)

I admire your enormous industry...I congratulate you on your splendid discoveries...in the work that you are doing...

—*Christmas Humphreys*

President, The Buddhist Society (London)

...let us express our unqualified appreciation of your unselfish devotion to the defense of Madame Blavatsky; activities conceived in a spirit such as yours are bound to bear good fruit... you have all our goodwill and our earnest wishes that you will be able to do what you think is important in behalf of the Theosophical Movement.

Those who through the years have been occupied with a similar objective....could not help but be impressed by the thoroughness and persistence of your efforts along the lines that you have chosen to work.

—(*Anonymity preferred*)

I consider his efforts as the most valuable that have been contributed for many decades—and this primarily because Mr. Carrithers has been a free agent in the matter.

—*James A. Long*
Late Leader, The Theosophical Society (HQ, Altadena)

1947* 1972: A TRIBUTE

THE WORLD'S CHIEF DEFENDER OF MADAME BLAVATSKY toils alone—not by choice or by chance but because he *alone*, it seems, has the vision to see a duty others have forgotten, the dedication to bear a burden others have rejected. Much of his work is finished; but even more remains to be done. On a dozen bookshelves and in three safes and two of the biggest fireproof filing cabinets, he has assembled the largest, most extensive compilation of material (pro and con on the controversies surrounding H.P.B.) anywhere in private ownership.

For more than a quarter-century, mining this growing mountain of data heretofore largely untapped, he—of all the billions born on earth during the last hundred years—has unearthed, in quality and quantity, the most remarkable discoveries ever for H.P.B.'s vindication. He has had published directly in her defense more books, articles, reviews and letters than any other living historian. He began in 1947 by routing the all-time-star traducer of H.P.B.; seven years later he pried from the Society for Psychical Research the best documentary proof of Dr. Richard Hodgson's deliberate deceit; and after seven more years of one-man effort he wrested from the same Society (on a microfilm made at his request and expense) all the material remaining in its

archives from the 1884-1885 investigation of H.P.B., a record which startled historians by revealing for the first time that members of the investigating committee more than once had witnessed phenomena in her presence, phenomena they could not explain to their own satisfaction.

In 1962, after reading a copy of the Symonds biography of Mme. Blavatsky I had sent him, he broke the official silence barrier for the first time when the American S.P.R. published his 9-page review (elevated to status of an accepted paper), the first non-comittal study and the longest notice of H.P.B. published in 69 years by any recognized society for psychical research. And, as I can attest, it was only his pioneering research that made possible the extraordinary findings published by Adlai E. Waterman in 1963 in a book that was the first in H.P.B.'s defense to be recognized, reviewed and defended in the pages of the British S.P.R. Besides these "firsts" in his unparalleled record of work for Mme. Blavatsky, there is the establishment of The Blavatsky Foundation, exclusively dedicated to the public defense and ultimate vindication of H.P.B. and her works. Today it is recognized as the world's leading center of research and defense for H.P. Blavatsky the Messenger, the greatest the White Lodge of Mahatmas has sent out in a thousand years. The Foundation's remarkable record of positive achievement in its field is before us—unexcelled by any other—, from the "Manual for Revolution" affair in the year of its founding, 1968 to its current exposure of Daniel Cohen.

Even yet he struggles alone, its Founder-Secretary, solitary in the midnight hours or round-the-clock, his every thought and decision shaped towards his life's goal, the vigilant defense of his "Great Teacher" and her final triumph. The best years of his life are gone—and who knows how many or how few he still has? Will he complete this chosen labor? Who—in *this* world—wants him to? Who does *not* want him to? And if he doesn't, how long will the

world then have to wait for the answers he had and couldn't give to it *for lack of support?*

Another 80 or 90 years? Or forever? One in four billion is not a good figure to play with statistically. I have watched his health decline: 320 pounds now, pulse "sometimes in the low 50's." Reduce? On one meal a day? For peak physical tone, nothing beats sitting all day or all night (like H.P.B., "gargantuan"), just reading and writing. He has closed his business down; it was "robbing" him of "time." Only one small job occasionally to buy cigars or a magazine (gets by on "one new shirt and pair of pants every three years, a new pair of shoes every five"). His brother lets him eat at his dinner table and sleep under his roof (Christian—not theosophical—charity!).

Why is he doing this? Maybe it is the only way this grinding research can be done; certainly no one has accomplished a tenth as much any other way. If his grandfather had not sold the land under (now) Pershing Square in Los Angeles for a mere pittance, he wouldn't have holes in his shoes, but Mme. Blavatsky probably wouldn't have this valiant defender. With an I.Q. of 140—good springboard for *any* start—, this wasn't the *only* thing he might have done. An entry of his placed first in a national art scholarship competition; and in 1958, for delineating some of his original discoveries in horoscopic technique (still awaiting exposition in book form), he was awarded first prize in the most prestigious Astrological essay contest ever held (with entries from 13 countries). Then too, he has beaten experts at their own games—in psychiatry and in medicine, when lives were at stake; and, in land promotion and title-searching, when ten years ago in the heart of the county with the highest level of real estate activity in the U.S., he discovered and claimed a parcel of land measuring 998 feet on one side, and, after proving it had been lost by error on the assessor's map for 40 years or more, got it "cleared" by the county's

Board of Supervisors and assessed and sold! Some of the money went for machines on which he plans to typeset his *magnum opus* in H.P.B.'s defense.

Despite advice to prepare for an academic career (“pick *anything*”), he skipped college. He rummaged through vocational manuals, feeling inspired for *something*—not finding it until March 7, 1947: a plan for the final, public vindication of Mme. Blavatsky! Upshot, 1972: no job, no pension credits, no health or life insurance, no money. No car, home or credit. No wife or kids. All he has is The Blavatsky Foundation, his plans, and *hope*, all founded on the greatest collection of knowledge and handling of facts that today can be brought to bear on the controversies surrounding

Knowledge and handling of facts that today can be brought to bear on the controversies surrounding H.P.B. and her career. (If any doubt it, let them come up with another critique, clearer and better than his “Masters of the Lie,” shredding the major biographical attack on H.P.B. in these last 25 years!)

He has all this, but it isn't enough! He still needs money to get his discoveries prepared for the press and for the press to get them before the people. However penetrating his intuition or adequate to the job his analytical powers, his plans will never be realized without the financial support that only *others* can bring to the task, the essential help that can make it a *mutual* achievement among many supporters of Mme. Blavatsky. But where are they? If his plans fail, *who would care?* Albert E. S. Smythe, founding-Editor of *The Canadian Theosophist* once observed that Mrs. Beatrice Hastings, with her unprecedented work on behalf of Mme. Blavatsky, thought “that the theosophical world would be eager to support any effort in her defense from the slanders of the past....But she was mistaken. Members of The Theosophical Societies are not interested in the work of outsiders, and only a few of the F.T.S. responded and

it was left to intelligent outsiders to contribute the chief help she had in publishing the two volumes of *Defence of Madame Blavatsky* and the several valuable issues of *New Universe...*” “She felt keenly,” revealed Smythe, her last theosophical correspondent, “the failure of Theosophical officialdom to recognize or support the work she was doing. She estimated their devotion to Theosophy by the interest they showed in establishing the reputation of its foremost modern messenger.”

That was 35 years ago—is it even more true today? If so, does any one of them really imagine that *adeptship* can ever be attained by *skipping* even one of “the golden stairs up the steps of which the learner must climb to the Temple of Divine Wisdom”? If so, why then did their chosen Teacher, in her *Practical Occultism*, add to “A clean life, an open mind, a pure heart, an eager intellect, an unveiled spiritual perception,” etc., *this* step, *this MORAL OBLIGATION*: “a valiant defence of those who are unjustly attacked....”?

So, as he sits alone and unhelped (or helped *damn* little by *those who have to depend upon the U.S. Mail*—by those who profess to be H.P.B.’s devotees on their way up “the golden stairs”!), my old pen-pal must often wonder what it would mean to *him* if he should ever get sufficiently disgusted at the laggards, and despair to the point of selling all his books and safes and filing cabinets, of *burning* all his files and manuscripts and notes. He could join the herd, grab a few more of the creature comforts and maybe live a “normal” life for a few years. But I don’t think he ever will, for he puts it to me in this way:

“There is no better excuse for living, and, for the wise man at death, nor greater reward, than to know that by one’s own life or work or *sacrifice*, mankind will have gained some new measure of truth—however small that may be—for its permanent betterment.” And, he adds, “It is my long-held conviction that the pursuit of true Science is the ideal human endeavor, that of

all scientific pursuits the highest is the study of Man himself, and in this study Psychological Research is the most important of all, while the greatest case in the annals of Psychological Research is the case of Madame Blavatsky.”

To have that as one’s conviction must be truly the ultimate justification for *any* self-sacrifice.

William L. Biersach, Jr.