

# The Eclectic Theosophist

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Editors: W. Emmett Small, Helen Todd

## HELENA PETROVNA BLAVATSKY

(Commemorating White Lotus Day, May 8th, held in heart and mind by Theosophists around the world, we print below an editorial published in the *New York Tribune*, May 10, 1891, two days after H. P. Blavatsky's death.)

Few women in our time have been more persistently misrepresented, slandered, and defamed, than Madame Blavatsky, but though malice and ignorance did their worst upon her, there are abundant indications that her life-work will vindicate itself, that it will endure, and that it will operate for good. She was the founder of the Theosophical Society, an organization now fully and firmly established, which has branches in many countries, East and West, and which is devoted to studies and practices the innocence and elevating character of which are becoming more generally recognized continually. The life of Madame Blavatsky was a remarkable one, but this is not the place or time to speak of its vicissitudes. It must suffice to say that for nearly twenty years she had devoted herself to the dissemination of doctrines the fundamental principles of which are of the loftiest ethical character. However Utopian may appear to some minds an attempt in the nineteenth century to break down the barriers of race, nationality, caste, and class prejudice, and to inculcate that spirit of brotherly love which the greatest of all Teachers enjoined in the first century, the nobility of the aim can only be impeached by those who repudiate Christianity. Madame Blavatsky held that the regeneration of mankind must be based upon the development of altruism. In this she was at one with the greatest thinkers, not alone of the present day, but of all time; and at one, it is becoming more and more apparent, with the strongest spiritual tendencies of the age. This alone would entitle her teachings to the candid and serious consideration of all who respect the influences that make for righteousness.

In another direction, though in close association with the cult of universal fraternity, she did an important work. No one in the present generation, it may be said, has done more toward re-opening the long-sealed treasures of Eastern thought, wisdom, and philosophy. No one certainly has done so much toward elucidating that profound Wisdom-Religion wrought out by the ever-cogitating Orient, and bringing into the light those ancient literary works whose scope and depth have so astonished the Western world, brought up in the insular belief that the East had produced only crudities and puerilities in the domain of speculative thought. Her own knowledge of Oriental philosophy and esotericism was comprehensive. No candid mind can doubt this after reading her two principal works. Her steps often led, indeed, where only a few initiates could follow, but the tone and tendency of all her writings were healthful, bracing, and stimulating. The lesson which was con-

stantly impressed by her was assuredly that which the world most needs, and has always needed, namely, the necessity of subduing self and of working for others. Doubtless such a doctrine is distasteful to the ego-worshippers, and perhaps it has little chance of anything like general acceptance, to say nothing of general application. But the man or woman who deliberately renounces all personal aims and ambitions in order to forward such beliefs is certainly entitled to respect, even from such as feel least capable of obeying the call to a higher life.

The work of Madame Blavatsky has already borne fruit, and is destined, apparently, to produce still more marked and salutary effects in the future. Careful observers of the time long since discerned that the tone of current thought in many directions was being affected by it. A broader humanity, a more liberal speculation, a disposition to investigate ancient philosophies from a higher point of view, have no indirect association with the teachings referred to. Thus Madame Blavatsky has made her mark upon the time, and thus, too, her works will follow her. She herself has finished the course, and after a strenuous life she rests. But her personal influence is not necessary to the continuance of the great work to which she put her hand. That will go on with the impulse it has received, and 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.

## CENTENNIAL EDITION OF "ISIS UNVEILED"

Off the press and available to the public now is the new edition of *Isis Unveiled*—only Volume I as yet—which now takes its place on the shelves of the uniform edition of the *Collected Writings of H. P. Blavatsky* (the entire literary output of the chief Founder of the modern Theosophical Movement), issued under the general editorship of Boris de Zirkoff. Published by The Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Illinois, and printed by Stockton Trade Press of Whittier, California, it is a handsome volume of 657 pages. The second volume, we are informed, will probably be issued early in 1972. The price will then be \$20.00 for the two-volume set, A pre-publication price of \$18.00 is now offered for those wishing to place orders in advance.

This new edition contains a valuable 62-page Introductory by Boris de Zirkoff. From this we quote:

"The present edition, being published on the eve of The Theosophical Society's Centennial in 1975, and within sight, as it were, of the year 1977 which marks the hundredth anniversary of the original publication of *Isis Unveiled*, might very appropriately be called the Centennial Edition of that work. With this end in view,

it has been thought advisable to outline above the entire historical background against which H.P.B.'s first great work is to be projected—a background which the present Introductory essay is intended to provide.”

Nine points indicate the editorial work done in the present edition.

1. There has been no editing of H.P.B.'s literary style or grammar.

2. Obvious typographical errors have been corrected throughout, as well as the wording of a few passages, in accordance with H.P.B.'s own corrections and emendations thereof, when she quoted them in the text of *The Secret Doctrine*.

3. Correct systemic spelling has been adopted for all technical terms and proper names, according to current scholastic standards.

4. A systematic and comprehensive effort has been made to verify the text of the many quotations introduced by H.P.B. from various works, and the references indicated by her. Original sources have been consulted whenever possible, and where departures from the original text were found, these were corrected. In some cases, passages quoted by other writers, whom H.P.B. quotes in her turn, have been left to stand unaltered, particularly in cases where such works were very difficult to find.

5. No attempt has been made to check quotations from current newspapers and journals (of the day), except in the case of those few, in which the importance of the subject-matter warranted it.

6. Practically all words or expressions found in square brackets within the main text or the text of the footnotes are by H.P.B. herself, who often interpolates her own remarks in passages quoted. To this there are only a very few exceptions, where a word which seems to have been dropped has been reinserted by the Compiler within square brackets.

7. All *additional* references to authors and their works appearing as footnotes in square brackets are by the Compiler.

8. Any other explanatory remarks, notes, or additional information by the Compiler appear in an Appendix at the end of each volume. *The superior figures appended here and there throughout the text correspond to those in the Appendix.*

9. The General Index, as well as the Bibliographical Appendix, are entirely new.

Students, knowing the value and indeed necessity of faithfully preserving the teachings and writings of H.P.B. as given, will be reassured by the above editorial indications, and at the same time be grateful to the Compiler and his Staff for the immensely patient labor and erudite literary ferreting that this work has demanded. And all readers may well take note of Mr. de Zirkoff's comment. *"Isis Unveiled,"* he declares, "remains to this very day the most astounding compendium of occult facts and doctrines in the Theosophical Movement. Its contents are of the most varied kind, its array of evidence has never been surpassed, its authoritative character has never been

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## MME. BLAVATSKY DEFENDED

Under the above title Iverson L. Harris' long-awaited book is now published, the first book issued by Point Loma Publications. As its sub-title indicates, it is a "Refutation of Falsehoods, Slanders, and Misrepresentations Published by The National Broadcasting Company, Truman Capote, Walter Winchell, The John Birch Society, TIME Magazine, and Others." It would be a mistake, however, to regard the author's attitude as a contentious stance taken for the sake of mere controversy, and lightly to be dismissed by the knowing as a misdirection of energy towards "those who cannot possibly be expected to understand." What it is in plain English is a DEFENSE of one—and a Teacher and Bringer of Light at that—unjustly, cruelly and abusively and continually attacked. In a confrontation like that the student can do no less than rise and fight and loyally defend.

A list of the book's contents will give the reader an idea of its survey:

1. NBC and "Manual for Revolutionaries"
2. Truman Capote's "Conspiracy to Assassinate National Leaders"
3. Walter Winchell and his Bogus "Authority on Theosophy"
4. TIME's Worldwide Dissemination of Capote's Fantasies
5. The Birchers Bark
6. TIME's Smear of H. P. Blavatsky and its Parody of Theosophy: Protests from Around the World
7. Louis Nizer: A Story Within A Story
8. The Legal Hurdles
9. New York *Tribune* Editorial, May 10. 1891  
William Q. Judge on H. P. Blavatsky and the Theosophical Society  
Dr. Francis Merchant's "Great Images"
10. H.P.B. as Remembered by her Personal Pupils and Life-long Students of her Writings
11. What Mme. Blavatsky Really Taught: Fragments from *The Secret Doctrine* and Miscellaneous Quotations

Mr. Harris is well-known throughout the Theosophical Movement, having been connected with it and working for it all his life. He came to Point Loma as a boy of nine and remained at the Theosophical Headquarters there until 1942 when they were removed to Covina (Los Angeles County), California. Mr. Harris was then Chairman of the Cabinet. Dr. de Purucker died in September of that year, and for the following three years the Cabinet was the ruling official body of the (Point Loma) Theosophical Society.

*Mme. Blavatsky Defended* (paperback, with portrait of H.P.B.) is priced at \$3.00 for individual copies; \$2.00 to dealers for reissue. Orders can be placed with Point Loma Publications, Inc., Post Office Box 9986, San Diego, California 92109.

**BOOKS - BOOKS - BOOKS**

The Theosophical Movement is a literate organization, if ever there was one. It has been so from the beginning, yet books are playing a larger part in our activities than ever before.

Across Canada are to be found some excellent Theosophical libraries, of which Toronto Lodge has by far the best collection. Indeed, nearly every Lodge provides a library service according to its means. Nor should be overlooked the Travelling Library operated by Toronto Lodge, and the H.P.B. Lending Library, an independent organization in Vernon, B.C. La Societe Theosophique du Canada Francais is now attempting to establish in Montreal a library of Theosophical books written in the French language (and would welcome contributions of these). Ottawa ULT recently recatalogued its collection according to standard library procedures and intends to report its holdings to the Union Catalogue in the National Library.

It is impossible to list all the Libraries around the world, although some are really magnificent, but special mention should be made of the Adyar Library and Research Centre at the international headquarters of the Theosophical Society. It contains over 100,000 books and 17,000 valuable palm-leaf and paper manuscripts. The Sanskrit collection in the Adyar Library is known to scholars the world over.

There are Theosophical Publishing Houses in Adyar, London and Wheaton. Their relationship has always been something of a mystery to me, but I suppose some provision for coordination among them exists. All together they publish a substantial number of new books and reprints every year.

Closely allied to the T.P.H. at Wheaton is the Quest Book publishing operation which, thanks to the financial support of the Kern Foundation, has been able to make Theosophical literature available to a much wider public than ever before with reasonably priced paperbacks.

The Theosophy Company publishes both in the United States and in India. The Theosophical University Press in Pasadena is also a source of excellent material.

Recently a new Theosophical publishing venture was announced: the Point Loma Publications, Inc. Founded as a non-profit corporation, it intends to republish literature now out of print. As its name suggests, it is a venture of dedicated students who were affiliated with the old Point Loma Theosophical Society.

On a more modest scale the Blavatsky Institute of Canada contributes to the world stock of Theosophical books. Many of its titles were originally set up and printed by members of the Toronto T.S. on their own printing press. That was in the years following the move to 52 Isabella Street.

No mention has been made of magazines, of which probably fifty exist. These serve as an outlet for original

work as well as providing forums for students' opinions.

The average student of Theosophy will be grateful for such excellent resources. If he is to pursue a determined study of the matters covered in the objects of the Society he requires access to a large number of books, many of which are unlikely to be available for borrowing in his local public library. As is evident from the foregoing, his interests are well looked after.

In recent years the basic Theosophical writings have been more readily accessible than at any time since the early days of the Movement. And they are available in a much more convenient form—for example, the *H. P. Blavatsky Collected Writings*, now numbering ten volumes with more yet to come, contain material which originally appeared in magazines, few copies of which are in existence.

Not all in the Theosophical world share the rich resources of our literature. An attempt is being made, through the Non-English Publications Loan to make available some of the important books in other languages. This is a project in which all can take part; those who have ever felt a sense of gratitude for a Theosophical book can help provide a brother with one which he can read.

The Fund has a goal—to publish *An Abridgement of The Secret Doctrine* in twenty languages by 1975, our centenary year. With publishing costs going up, with the added time necessary to complete translations, etc., this project must get off the ground quickly. Every student can help—small donations add up. They should be sent to: The Theosophical Society in America, P.O. Box 270, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, U.S.A. (Please state: "For the Non-English Publications Loan Fund.")

—T.G.D., reprinted from *The Canadian Theosophist*, March-April, 1971.

**CENTENNIAL EDITION OF "ISIS UNVEILED"**

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questioned, and its intrinsic value has not been superseded or duplicated by *The Secret Doctrine*."

The volume is enhanced by inclusion of a frontispiece portrait of H.P.B. and 24 illustrations, which include, among others, portraits of Roger Bacon, Robert Fludd, Bulwer-Lytton, Sir William Crookes, Alfred Russel Wallace, Henry Moore, Champollion, and Alexander Wilder.

Orders may be placed with The Theosophical Publishing House (Wheaton, Ill., U.S.A.; Adyar, Madras, India; London, England).

By determination of the Internal Revenue Service, dated April 19, 1971, contributions made to Point Loma Publications, Inc., are deductible by donors on their Federal income tax returns. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to or for the use of the Corporation are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes.

## SALUTE TO POINT LOMA PUBLICATIONS, INC.

### FROM LETTERS RECEIVED

**Elsie Benjamin, Worthing, England.**—This is marvelous news about Point Loma Publications, Inc., and needless to say, Frances (Dadd) and I wish it every success, as we are sure it should have, looking at the list of devoted, intelligent, and capable officers.

**Joy Mills, National President, The T.S. in America.**—We are all most interested in your endeavors in this direction, and wish you well in your efforts. Do keep us informed of the publications you issue.

**Jan H. Venema, The Hague, Holland.**—I was greatly impressed by the noble purposes of the Corporation. My congratulations and every success for your work... I realize that the directors of Point Loma Publications, Inc. have done something that may have great effect in the future... I thought to myself: Point Loma as we knew it may have disappeared on the outward plane, but, as Cardinal LeGros said in his poem, it is very much living in a spiritual way and I am sure that your work will contribute to that in the best way we can imagine.

**T. G. Davy, Gen. Sec. The Theosophical Society in Canada.**—The announcement of the establishment of Point Loma Publications, Inc. was exciting news! You and your friends are to be congratulated for thus launching out into the publishing world, especially in that the production of your new organization will be for the general advantage of the whole Theosophical Movement... To you and your fellow-directors we send our very best wishes for a successful 'business' career. May all your efforts bring positive results for the Movement.

**Boris de Zirkoff, Los Angeles, Calif.**—I was much interested in the document concerning your publication venture. Sounds very good, and must have been the result of thought and effort on your part. It might help to revive the name of Point Loma, which today is merely a geographical location 'somewhere' near Mexico!!... The only thing left from its days of spiritually-meaningful contents is a literary heritage. It is either out of print or lost in the files of old magazines. Every serious effort to revive it as a power for good and enlightenment naturally deserves support.

**J. J. Laughlin, Walla Walla, Wash.**—We received your letter announcing the formation of the Point Loma Publications, Inc. This is the best news I have heard for a long time... You have our full support for this venture and if there is any help we can give we shall do what we can.

**Geoffrey and Ila Barborka, Ojai, Calif.**—It is a real thrill to know that Point Loma is once more 'on the air'! You have certainly gathered a galaxy of literary talent to launch your work, added to which you are all comrades of the Lomaland Community, with love for and experience in journalistic and literary activities; best of all, pupils of dear G. de P. We send you love and hope for a future bright with promise and success. Quoting from the Stanzas, we are promised, 'I will send thee a flame when thy work is commenced.'

**S. Hildor Barton, Porterville, Calif.**—What stirring news—the formation of a publishing company, and under the very name of Point Loma, and taking in such as were part of it, and carrying on.

**G. Cardinal LeGros, Joplin, Mo.**—Well, this IS important news! Will be looking forward to obtaining the publications that you are bringing out. May Point Loma Publications prosper!

**Robert P. Armstrong, Director, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, Ill.**—Thanks very much for sending me the information about your newly formed enterprise, Point Loma Publications, Inc. I am pleased to see that you are doing this and know that there will be a great work for you to continue. I am confident that with your good self and your good colleagues on the board of directors you can have nothing but success. Let me add my congratulations, therefore, to those you have undoubtedly already received.

**Walter A. Carrithers, Jr., Sec. The Blavatsky Foundation, Fresno, Calif.**—The announcement of the recent formation of Point Loma Publications, Inc. was indeed a pleasant surprise and is an endeavor which, I think, bears great promise. I congratulate you on your energy, foresight, generosity and dedication to Theosophical ideals which obviously went into the conception and execution of this worthy undertaking. May it prosper in the cause of Truth!

**Jalie N. Shore, Denver, Colo.**—Congratulations on your new enterprise.

**Edith Kerley, Desert Hot Springs, Calif.**—Fine work. I'm delighted to know the 'Work' goes on.

**Irene R. Ponsonby, Los Angeles, Calif.**—May your corporation have fair sailing and success. Some such venture is indeed badly needed.

**Mollie Griffith, Victoria, B.C., Canada.**—I enjoyed your first newsletter.

**Richard Sattelberg, Buffalo, N.Y.**—The Eclectic Theosophist arrived recently—a promising new venture. This newsletter is the freshest thing I have seen since I worked with Hoeller on The Progressive Theosophist a few years ago.

**M. P. Gomez, Toronto, Canada.**—P.L.P., Inc. looks most promising. More strength to you all!

**Thomas Amneus, Los Angeles, Calif.**—I will be glad to donate my proceeds received from (sale of) C & J (Does Chance or Justice Rule the World? by Nils Amneus), and am glad to hear that it has been useful to Elsie Benjamin in her class.

**L. Frances Dorrell, Redwood City, Calif.**—Congratulations to you in your efforts in establishing the Point Loma Publications, Inc. I am sure it will be a great thing in many ways for so many.

**Helen Spencer, Oakland, Calif.**—Good wishes for success of your new venture. Looking forward with eagerness to hear of its healthy growth.

**Ann Throckmorton, Wilmington, Calif.**—Congratulations! My compliments on the whole set-up! Words to properly convey my good wishes for your success with Point Loma Publications, Inc. evade me for the moment, but they are deep within my heart.

**Gertrude Plummer, Los Angeles, Calif.**—I think it very fine that this project has come into existence, for no doubt it will unite us a bit closer in our efforts to give out the teachings, the very essence of which enlighten the world.

**Nihla Aldrich, Los Angeles, Calif.**—Was so glad to hear about Point Loma Publications, Inc. This is a wonderful thing you and the Directors are doing.

**Sra. Lucia Bacardi Grau, Monte Carlo, Monaco.**—I think it is wonderful what you are doing with Point Loma Publications, Inc. Mes souhaits les plus sinceres pour votre succes.

**Cora File, Long Beach, Calif.**—You have undoubtedly undertaken a tremendous job in your new venture and are likewise to be congratulated for your determination in seeking means and method to clear Mme. Blavatsky's name in her stupendous effort to bring Theosophy to the world... I wish you all the good fortune and success in the world.

**Sra. Octavia Franco de Boudet, Miami, Florida.**—“Que alegria tan grande me dio saber de la Corporacion que han formado para seguir las ideas y sentimientos de nuestra queridissima Mrs. Tingley; yo nunca podre olvidar todo lo que ella hizo por todos nosotros y le estare siempre agradecida por sus enseñanzas. Ella indiscutiblemente era una mujer superiorisima de un corazon mas grande que su cuerpo; una moral muy arraigada y de sentimientos nobles y generosos. La verdad es que en estos momentos que estamos viviendo, necesitamos muy mucho una mujer de la talla de Mrs. Tingley, capaz de arrastrar las masas con su mirada firme y decidida. Nosotros los que tuvimos la suerte de estar a su abrigo tenemos que sentirnos satisfechos y felices de haber tenido la dicha que ella nos hubiera encauzado en la vida.”

(Regrettably our local printer lacks type with accent marks needed in foreign languages.—Eds.)