

Fairhope Public Library Personnel

1952 - 1953

Anna Braune - Librarian
Full time
week

Ruth Jeffcott - Assistant Librarian
Full time

30 hours per week

Several volunteer workers who have come to do cataloging and other special work for the Library.

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Are you intrigued by
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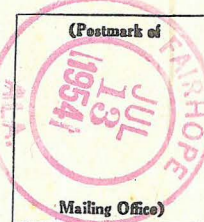
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Catalog No. C 18.271:29 Price \$1.00

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Fairhope Public Library
Fairhope, Alabama

January 4, 1954

To the President and the Directors
of the Bank of Fairhope
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Mr. Bishop and Gentleman:

Your splendid holiday present to the Fairhope Public Library has brought us much joy and the deepest sort of gratitude.

This gift is to be the answer to some very real needs of the library. We are already looking forward with happy anticipation to securing several much desired things for our readers' pleasure and interest and for the Library's convenience -- all of which would certainly have remained merely wished - for, but for your generosity..... We will let you know as soon as it is fully decided just what purchases are to be made, so that you may share our pleasure.

We wish to express to each of you our deep appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your thoughtfulness -- and to wish each of you a New Year filled with happiness comparable to the happiness you have afforded others.

Very sincerely yours,

Anna Braune
librarian

Copy



STATE OF ALABAMA
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE DIVISION
4 NORTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY 5, ALABAMA

January 28, 1954

Dear Friends:

Thank
you for
your
letters

Thank you for your many letters and good wishes. We were so pleased to have a number of librarians and trustees visit us as a result of our first letter and hope that still more of you will come.

When all the requests for the free materials offered in our first letter arrived, we felt almost as popular as a famous radio give-away show! We sent out the books, pamphlets and binding material, but soon found they would not reach around. So we are sorry if you were disappointed.

A new
idea

Several of our libraries have successfully used the American Lending Library, 27-1/2 North Avenue, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, to supply fresh books each month for a stated rental charge. Companies such as these agree to furnish and exchange a definite number of books regularly. Even libraries without much money can benefit by this plan, we are told, and circulation increases. We'll be glad to send you further information on request. If you are planning to attend the 50th Anniversary meeting of the Alabama Library Association here in Montgomery, April 29 to May 1, you can talk to librarians who have exchanged books on this plan. Representatives of the companies offering this service will probably have an exhibit also, so that you could see the books.

Time to
clean
house

Have you recently returned your worn out State books, and those not being read any more? Spring housecleaning is in the air so don't hesitate to return unused books and request new ones. Ask for the new non-fiction books that are often more fascinating than fiction these days. Once your readers get a good taste of them they will soon ask for more.

Need
help?

Above all, do call on us for information and reference questions. That is what your P. L. S. D. is intended for -- to answer questions for you and your readers.

Cordially yours,

The Public Library Service Division Staff

Connie Dillard, Secretary

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Frances McCardel, Accountant

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Gretchen Knief Schenk, Director



STATE OF ALABAMA
PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE DIVISION
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May 5, 1954

Mrs. Anna Braune, Librarian
Fairhope Public Library
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Braune:

We were so happy to make the contact with you and your library in February and then right away I "let you down". I am really in sack cloth and ashes!

We have been in such a state of confusion and upheaval with our turnover in personnel the last five months, we have just had to take things in the stride. This is no excuse for negligence at all - merely an explanation. But our new and permanent Director will be here the middle of June and I do hope things will settle down and we can get back to normal at once. In fact, now that the Director has been appointed and the State Library convention is over, I think our feet are about to touch earth right now. Please give me another chance to respond to your request for some special material. I promise to be punctual hereafter - try me and see!

Could Miss Winifred Duncan still use MAN'S POOR RELATIONS, by Hooton, and IN-VERTEBRATES (Volume 3) by Hyman if I can borrow them? I can find them somewhere and get them through interlibrary loan if she can use them at this late date. I shall be so happy to try to get them for Miss Duncan if she can still make use of these titles.

Sincerely yours

Leo B. Roberts

Mrs. Leo B. Roberts
Headquarters Librarian

Dear Anna - Yes, I still want above all, would you ask Mrs. Roberts if she could get me the volume of Baron Von Humboldt's Travels which have the part on Mexico. Tell her I'm writing a guide book on Mexico. Did you ever remember to write Bob Bell at Fifth North about the books he was over they had them? Request was about 3 weeks ago -

Fairhope Public Library
Fairhope, Alabama

September 12, 1955

Mrs. Lee B. Roberts,
Headquarters Librarian,
Public Library Service Division,
4 North Union Street,
Montgomery 4, Ala.

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

Thank you for your cordial welcome to the Alabama library family. I am truly happy to return to library work and especially, to join the Fairhope staff.

I do hope to meet you all someday and I am looking forward to a visit from your Field Representative which I hope will be in the very near future.

Mrs. Schenk and Miss Helen Geer have been very kind, as well as our library board here and interested friends of the library.

We do have a tremendous job and one in which I would like all available help in disposing of publications too outdated to be useful in this library, whose purpose is to serve the public today, rather than to be a repository of old books. Of course this will have to proceed slowly.

As soon as the Alabama Librarian arrives, I do plan to join the Alabama Library Association.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Roland Carr
Librarian
Fairhope Public Library

THEOSOPHICAL BOOK GIFT INSTITUTE

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Rogers, Louis William, 1859—

The ghosts in Shakespeare; a study of the occultism in the Shakespeare plays. [Wheaton, Ill., Sold by the Theosophical Press, 1949.]

185 p. 19 cm.

Incorporates the greater part of the author's The occultism in the Shakespeare plays.

1. Shakespeare, William—Supernatural element. 2. Shakespeare, William—Characters—Ghosts. I. Title.

PR3004.R63 1949

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52—3190 †

Library of Congress

[54k5]

Sri Ram, Nilakanta.

An approach to reality. Madras, Theosophical Pub. House, 1951.

vi, 196 p. 19 cm.

Label mounted on t. p.: Sold by Theosophical Press, Wheaton, Ill.

1. Theosophy. 2. Reality. I. Title.

BP567.S7

*294.58 212

54-14778 rev

Library of Congress

[r55f10]

Hodson, Geoffrey.

Theosophy answers some problems of life. Adyar, Madras, Theosophical Pub. House; [label: sold by Theosophical Press, Wheaton, Ill., 1953.

240 p. illus. 19 cm.

1. Theosophy—Addresses, essays, lectures. I. Title.

BP570.H6

*294.58 212

54—966 †

Library of Congress

[55q6]

Sri Ram, Nilakanta.

Thoughts for aspirants, compiled from notes and writings. [2d ed.] Madras, Theosophical Pub. House; [on label: Wheaton, Ill., Sold by the Theosophical Press, 1954.

93 p. illus. 17 cm.

1. Theosophy. I. Title.

BP565.S515 1954

*294.58 212

54—3878 rev †

Library of Congress

[r55k10]

Jinarājadāsa, Curuppumullagē, 1875—

First principles of theosophy. 9th ed. Madras, Theosophical Pub. House; [on label: Wheaton, Ill., Sold by the Theosophical Press, 1951.

465 p. illus. 19 cm.

1. Theosophy. I. Title.

BP565.J516 1951

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54—3879 †

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IN AMERICA

Wheaton, Illinois

REINCARNATION

A Parable

A boy went to school. He was very little. All that he knew he had drawn in with his mother's milk. His teacher (who was God) placed him in the lowest class, and gave him these lessons to learn: Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt do no hurt to any living thing. Thou shalt not steal. So the man did not kill; but he was cruel, and he stole. At the end of the day, (when his beard was gray,—when the night was come), his teacher (who was God) said: Thou hast learned not to kill. But the other lessons thou hast not learned. Come back to-morrow.

On the morrow he came back, a little boy. And his teacher (who was God) put him in a class a little higher, and gave him these lessons to learn: Thou shalt do no hurt to any living thing. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not cheat. So the man did no hurt to any living thing; but he stole, and he cheated. And at the end of the day, (when his beard was gray,—when the night was come), his teacher (who was God) said: Thou hast learned to be merciful. But the other lessons thou hast not learned. Come back to-morrow.

Again, on the morrow, he came back, a little boy. And his teacher (who was God) put him in a class yet a little higher, and gave him these lessons to learn: Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not cheat. Thou shalt not covet. So the man did not steal; but he cheated, and he coveted. And at the end of the day, (when his beard was gray,—when night was come), his teacher (who was God) said: Thou hast learned not to steal. But the other lessons thou hast not learned. Come back, my child, to-morrow.

This is what I have read in the faces of men and women, in the book of the world, and in the scroll of the heavens, which is writ with stars.

Berry Benson, in the Century Magazine, May, 1894.

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AMERICA

Wheaton, Illinois

Reincarnation

What It
Really
Is



THE
THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
IN AMERICA

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Olcott, Wheaton, Illinois

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Adyar, Madras, India

Heaven is not reached at a single bound:

But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to its summit round by round.

J. G. Holland

Reincarnation

The popular religious doctrine is that every soul is newly created; but when the soul is born on earth it brings a character with it. Where did it get it? If newly-created, then the character of the new-born child is imprinted upon it by its Creator, from that position there is no escape. Now, many children are born criminals, and can not be anything else through the whole of their lives; many are born diseased, and disease distorts their thought and dwarfs their powers; many are born deformed, miserable, while other people are born just the opposite—clever, healthy, with everything in their favor. Are they also newly created souls? And if one can be created noble and pure in character, where lies the justice to those who are born criminal, vicious and diseased? Where is justice if neither deserved his fate, if the one was branded criminal without desert, and the other has genius without desert?

These are problems for men and women to face. It is not enough to declaim: "Who art thou, O man, that repliest against God?" For God gave the reason which demands an answer, and God gave the conscience which is not satisfied with the injustice of life. Thoughtful men and women cannot accept that view when once they think it out; they accept it because they do not think, not because they do.

PRECOCIOUS CHILDREN

On what ground save that of reincarnation can the "infant prodigy" be accounted for? As a child of two, Young, the discoverer of the undulatory theory of light, could read with fluency, at four he had read through the Bible twice, and a few years later mastered mathematics, numerous languages and abstract sciences. Sir Wm. Hamilton

when a boy was proficient in at least thirteen languages, and at eighteen years was pronounced "the greatest mathematician of his age." We are constantly reading of infants with marvellous intellectual capacity. Why are they superior? Mozart composed classical music at four years of age. How can we explain this unusual talent?

NOT HEREDITARY

Let us consider the genius. What is he? He is the soul who has gone through life after life, and has gradually gathered together and accumulated all the results of many lives of experience until at last he has reached the splendor we call genius. He has earned it. It is no gift to him, which would imply injustice. It is the fairly earned wages of lives of toil and struggle. That is what reincarnation means—fair payment to all. Genius is not transmitted from parent to child; on the contrary, instead of the child of a genius being a genius, he tends to show a mentality rather below the average, not above it. The genius marks the high water mark of the family, after which the family goes down again. Think for a moment; how many men of genius can you remember whose children and grandchildren are still rising higher and higher in the humanity of our time? That is one of the problems that science finds so difficult, when talking about man evolving by the transmission of mental capacity from parent to child. Moreover, children are born during the younger years of their parents' lives, and the accumulated mental and moral qualities, the wisdom of the old man, the learning acquired during a long life—these are attained after the time for parentage has almost passed.

THE SCIENTIFIC VIEW

For these, and many other reasons, Darwin's theory has been given up. Science goes further by declaring that genius tends to be sterile and the lower the mental type the more rapid the reproduction and multiplication. The theory which

Darwin put to the scientific world tried to connect with the continuity of matter a certain transmission of mental and moral qualities so that the evolution of consciousness might also be explained. But science has traveled far since Darwin published the "Origin of Species," and it has arrived at a conclusion which refutes the splendid ethical appeal which was founded on the transmission of mental and moral capacity. No leading scientist now ventures to declare that mental and moral qualities, acquired during life, can be transmitted to the offspring.

REBIRTH OF THE SOUL

But now let us ask whether there is any other view of life which will make these things intelligible. In a few sentences the theory of reincarnation can be briefly indicated: That every man is a living spirit; he is part of the life of the Supreme, he is the offspring of Deity; as sparks come forth from fire, so comes he forth from the Divine Spirit. He comes to earth to learn. All are equally ignorant when plunged into human life. Ignorance is the only original sin, and it is not criminal but inevitable. As the powers of the Deity within him are unfolded, he grows into the stature of the perfect man.

Time after time, life after life, the young soul comes back to incarnation in a new body, each time with a little more wisdom, a little more strength as he assimilates the lessons gained from both mistakes and successes in the school of life. Gradually he is able, under the guidance of wise Teachers, with the great religions to inspire and instruct him, to discriminate between that which brings permanent happiness and the pleasures of the lower self which contain the seeds of sadnesses and woes he brings into his personal lives. Age after age, through the Law's majestic cycle of births and deaths he unfolds the powers of his divine Kingship to attain the stature of the Elders of humanity, Who, in earlier ages, trod the same

path but Who remain today to give all needed help to mankind in its many grades of life's school. In this mighty process of the soul's evolution there is the grandeur of Life Universal.

A LOGICAL BASIS OF BROTHERHOOD

The worst criminal, the highest saint, have one life, one spirit, equal possibilities, the only difference being that the criminal came into the world more recently and has still to tread the same long road the saint has already trodden in ages past. The criminal and immature classes should be regarded only as younger brothers. A child in the kindergarten is not set at once at advanced study because at that stage he could not understand and such teaching would be useless and injurious to him. The same is true with regard to a soul; by slow degrees and through many lives it climbs to higher levels of understanding. No single life could evolve the savage into an Emerson, a Plato or a Shakespeare; the genius is the ripened fruit of hundreds of human lives.

THE PERFECTING OF MAN

Reincarnation means that you can become exactly what you like. You may have a small talent today, a little talent, say, for music. You know you cannot be a musical genius in this life. Never mind, practise steadily, do your best; you will have time after time to come back greater and greater, until the talent becomes genius and you reach the zenith of your aspiration. Work on, hope on, aspire on. Aspiration and effort will be changed into power and capacity and ability to serve. This is the teaching of eternal hope. Chance after chance is given you in life. You have failed? Never mind; it is only one day out of many days. The failure now means conquest tomorrow, and the wisdom learned by mistakes is yours forever. It would be very hard if you had only one experience and your life were a failure. But you can be whatever you determine to be, for you are divine.

INTUITIVE GRASP OF TRUTH

A new truth is presented to two people of equal education and intellectual power. One grasps it immediately, the other cannot see it. Another new truth is presented to the same two people, and this time the positions are reversed—the first cannot understand, the second is inspired. Is there any more logical explanation than that an immediate understanding of a truth, no matter how incomplete it may have been presented, shows that that truth had been met with before and understood during a previous incarnation? There is much to support the statement that we never accept an absolutely new truth and that when one appeals to us at sight it is evidence that we have encountered it before.

Some people are able, especially those who are intuitive, to formulate a universal law of experience upon the basis of a single episode. That single experience, which leaves other people no wiser than before, seems to call up in them whole vistas of moral understanding and a most mature power of judgment. Why should some people be gifted in this way? How is it possible for a woman of the greatest refinement, who knows little of the darker side of life, to be able to advise her children so wisely? Not all mothers are able to do this, but some can and do. From what well of experience do they draw the water of knowledge of good and evil? Intuition it is sometimes called, but surely what is such intuition but the voice of past experience? Surely, also the wide understanding which occasionally comes to one who has passed through some sorrow or some trial, and whose heart opens out to realize the sorrows and trials of all men, is not due to an inexplicable gift but is the result of an uprush of memory—summaries of the past.

MEMORY OF PAST LIVES

One of the difficulties with many people in the reception of the teaching of reincarnation is their

own absence of memory of their past.

Just as the memory of some of the present life is indrawn beyond the reach of this waking consciousness, and makes itself known again only when the brain is hypersensitive and thus able to respond to vibrations that usually beat against it unheeded, so is the memory of past lives stored up out of reach of the physical consciousness. It is all with the ego, who alone persists from life to life; he has the whole book of memory within his reach, for he is the only "I" that has passed through all the experiences recorded therein.

The memory of past events remains, as we have seen, with the ego only, but the results of those events embodied in faculties are at the service of the lower man. Nature leaves to the ego the memory of the events and provides a long period of heaven life during which all the experiences are tabulated and compared and their results classified; then these results are embodied as faculties which form the next mental body of the ego. The clear, quick insight and prompt judgment are nothing else than the outcome of past experiences, synthesized into effective working principles for use in daily life.

SOME LOCATIONS VAGUELY FAMILIAR

This is an experience so common that it is often one of the first arguments advanced in favor of reincarnation. A man goes to a strange city, but upon walking the streets, feels curiously at home, and at times is even able to anticipate what will be seen upon the next turning of the road. There may be a sense of unfamiliarity about many of the new structures, but the old buildings have all the feeling about them of familiar landmarks.

Another variation of this same sort of memory is the vivid sensation which sweeps over a man upon reaching a country for the first time, of having "come home." It is just as if one were returning to one's own country after a long absence.

Some have felt this upon visiting England, Italy, Greece, Egypt, or India. The sensation is not due to the amount of reading they have done about these countries, for in a number of cases very little reading had been done, yet the feeling was most intense. May it not be due to dimly recalled memories of other lives lived in one or other of these countries?

In all essential ways these curious phases of consciousness, which we have just reviewed, agree exactly in character with the memory-summaries of this life. Applying to them the same tests that we would apply to the memories of our present incarnation, are we not justified in regarding them as memories of past lives? In doing so no new principle of memory is involved, it should be noted, for memory works in precisely the same manner whether it extends over years or lives.

SOME DO REMEMBER

Memory of their own past lives, however, is possessed by a considerable number of people who have achieved the necessary sensitiveness of the physical organism, and to these, of course, reincarnation is no longer a theory, but has become a matter of personal knowledge.

SEARCHING THE EVENTS OF PAST LIVES

After long and arduous training in physical, moral and mental development, there is the possibility, by awakening a certain set of psychic faculties, of investigating directly every detail of a whole series of past lives either of oneself or of another. There exists in the mental world what may be called the great memory of nature, in which every physical event, every desire, every least thought of man and every other living thing, is registered with photographic exactness. From these records of the past complete information about any series of incarnations may be obtained by the properly trained investigator. There are several other ways also by which this same infor-

mation may be gained, but perhaps the best method is this one of letting the living pictures of the past roll before the trained vision. There are few experts who can do this, but to them reincarnation is a fact, and no longer a logical and convincing theory.

REINCARNATION EXPLAINS THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS

To the student of history there is something very suggestive in the extraordinary way in which nations rise to world-power, to enjoy a period of prosperity, and then sink to obscurity. The external conditions alone are not sufficient cause for the rapid decay which sometimes takes place, as in the case of Spain. When only mediocre leaders appear, when the populace no longer responds to heroic ideals, when the birth rate begins to decline, nothing, seemingly, can be done to stop the swift descent. Why is this?

The greatness of a nation depends upon the opportunities offered to incoming souls. If the physical heredity of a nation, if the educational facilities and the religious instruction are good, if the acts of the government are based more upon moral ideals than upon selfish ends, then the more advanced egos are born in that nation and it becomes a world power. In short, the achievements of a nation depend upon the development of the souls taking incarnation in it, which in turn depends upon what is offered those souls. National righteousness and wholesome educational facilities constitute great attractions.

A nation begins to decay when advanced egos are attracted elsewhere, for, when greatness is no longer available, perforce younger and therefore less experienced souls must take the reins of government and uphold the national standards. Each nation, like a class in school, teaches certain lessons and qualities by means of its social, moral, and political standards, and hence the

lowering of these standards means a change in the quality of the pupils. The higher the national standards, the mightier becomes the nation. When Rome became morally and politically corrupt the egos who had made Rome great were born among the less civilized but physically purer Teutonic peoples, with the inevitable result that Rome decayed while the younger nations flourished.

When we study the temperamental characteristics of different nations in a mass they seem in a most singular way to reflect the spirit of certain ancient civilizations. There is such a resemblance, for example, between the British Empire and that of ancient Rome. In the English people we note the same tendency toward colonization, the same lawmaking instinct, the same thoroughness in every undertaking, the same massive style of architecture, the same sacrificing of beauty to utility and strength, and, it must be confessed, the same lack of imagination in art, religion, and philosophy.

In France, on the contrary, the racial characteristics in the mass remind one very much of ancient Greece.

MASCULINE WOMEN AND FEMININE MEN

A not uncommon feature of our modern civilization is a type of human being in whom the character and mentality do not seem to fit the sex of the physical body. Some women are thoroughly masculine in their reasoning attitude toward life, and even in their dress, while some men are emotional, intuitive, and effeminate in dress. An acceptable explanation is that supplied by reincarnation, which is that the soul is born now in a body of one sex and now in a body of the other, for the purpose of gaining a rounded-out education. After a series of lives in masculine bodies with the accompanying experience which is the portion of men, it is obvious that when a change of sex occurs decided masculine traits will remain even

though the physical body be feminine. In the same way, a soul who had been learning the lessons of a woman for several incarnations could not suddenly adopt the masculine point of view merely because of a change of physical body. In brief, our temperament is largely a summation of the memories of the past.

SUDDEN FRIENDSHIPS

Another interesting form of memory is that revealed in sudden friendships. Two people meet for the first time, and the moment they clasp hands or even catch sight of one another, a swift intuitive friendship springs up which time can neither diminish nor improve. It is not at all a matter of temperament, as some have claimed, for in many cases the two people are very different in their personal habits and other characteristics.

In the light of reincarnation such friendships mean that two dear friends of a previous incarnation have met one another for the first time in this life. The mutual trust, the quick sympathy and ready understanding, the loving sacrifice which distinguish such friendships, are the results of many lives of friendship in the past, during which the tie of affection grew ever stronger and more perfect.

Two people who have loved one another in the past cannot be kept apart. They are drawn together life after life, and the relationship continually becomes more beautiful. Each life, as they meet for the first time, there is a sudden leaping up of that flame of love and trust, which tells of many a meeting in the past. When a friendship like this comes into one's life it truly compensates for many of the hardships with which physical existence is associated.

SAD EFFECT OF WASTED OPPORTUNITY

How frequently the aspiration of a man is greater than his ability. He tries eagerly to

achieve some end but fails pitifully. His mind outruns the capacity of his brain, his longings outstrip his powers. If physical heredity were the only factor to be considered this would hardly be the case, for the mind, brought into existence by the brain, could not be greater than the brain. Surely, in this case, the aspirations are due to actual achievements in past lives, made impossible in this life because of limitations imposed by neglect of opportunities. In other words, a faculty to be kept in working order must be used; if we neglect it one life and let our opportunities slip by, then in the next life we are handicapped by physical inability though still possessed of the inner faculty.

PROPENSITY TO VICE OR VIRTUE

In many children the best of parents and the most careful training are unable to prevent the emergence of vicious tendencies, while in other children criminal parents and vile surroundings cannot stop the unfolding of virtuous tendencies. The propensity to vice or virtue is most logically explained as a memory-summary carried over from previous lives and aroused again to activity in the new environment with the awakening of consciousness. The voice of conscience itself is really the memory of past decisions regarding right and wrong, and so it is that a savage has little conscience, because his past experience has been so slight.

REINCARNATION IN RELIGION

Reincarnation is a basic tenet in every great religion except Christianity and Mohammedanism. In the beginning Christianity, like all other religions, contained the doctrine of rebirth as its inner philosophical teaching, which was given only to those who had proved themselves worthy. An outer ethical system was taught to the unlearned.

Origen, one of the most learned of the early

Church Fathers, declared that every man received a body according to his deserts and his former actions. This inner teaching was lost to the church when an ignorant majority voted out the great Gnostic doctors.

The Christian Bible is not without unmistakable references to it.

In Palestine, on the slopes of Mount Hermon, about forty-five miles north of the Sea of Galilee, are scattered the ruins of an ancient city, Caesarea Philippi by name. One day, while approaching the outskirts of this city, the Christian Master asked His disciples a question of such far-reaching importance that, had its full meaning been understood by later generations, the whole religious history of Western civilization would have been changed.

"Whom say the people that I am?" He asked. To us the question is almost unintelligible, but the disciples apparently understood His meaning, for one answered that some people thought that Jesus was John the Baptist returned, for John had been beheaded some time before, while others of the disciples said that He was regarded as the reincarnation either of Elias or of Jeremias, both of whom had been dead for centuries. In short, the rumor was current that in the person of Jesus "one of the old prophets is risen again," which indicates how widespread was the idea of reincarnation at the time.

THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

In the opinion of many, Christianity can only regain its hold upon the minds and hearts of thoughtful people who have left the churches, by commencing to teach again its long-forgotten truth of reincarnation. Ever since about the middle of the sixth century the Christian teaching of the preexistence and reincarnation of the soul has been lost sight of.

ANCIENT AND MODERN AUTHORITIES

Josephus implies, in his history of the wars of the Jews, that the idea of the rebirth of the soul was common among the people, and, judging from several striking passages in the Gospels in addition to those quoted, there is some evidence in support of this implication.

Reincarnation was also well known to the Romans, for it is referred to by a number of the poets, while among the Greeks it was taught by several of the philosophers, chief among them Plato. Traces of the idea in a modified form are to be found in the ancient Egyptian religion, while in later Alexandria this teaching received much attention from the Neo-Platonists and the Gnostics. It was sung in the sagas of the Northmen, and spread with the legends of the Gauls. It formed part of the mystic lore of the Druids, and even today a belief in the return of the soul still lingers among the Celtic peasantry of Ireland and Brittany.

Strangely enough the idea of reincarnation was also current among the now fast-disappearing tribes of Red Indians on the American continent. From Alaska to Peru, among the Esquimaux, the Sioux, the Zunis and the Incas particularly, the idea was taught by the priests and held by the tribesmen. Even among the natives of the Hawaiian group, of Australia and of the islands of the South Seas, the idea is not unknown.

As Max Müller truly remarked, "The greatest minds humanity has produced have accepted reincarnation." Pythagoras spoke of his past births, and Plato included it in his writings. Homer and Virgil took reincarnation for granted.

In after times we find it mentioned by Goethe, Fichte, Schelling, Lessing, Wordsworth, Browning and Rossetti. Hume declared that it was the

only doctrine of immortality that a philosopher could look at.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, in *Cosmopolitan* for May, 1918, writes on the prenatal influences that affect a soul returning to rebirth.

Kipling and Masfield, among other modern writers, pay tribute to the doctrine of rebirth.

It is in the Orient, however, that the teaching of reincarnation has spread most widely and exerted the greatest influence. It is the basic teaching of most of the religious and philosophical systems in India, and today some 650 millions of human beings accept the truth of reincarnation in about the same way that we accept the truth of gravity—as a great natural and inevitable law which it is foolish to question.

REINCARNATION A FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT

A fundamental concept through the ages in religion and philosophy, when cleared of the accretions of superstition and misconception, reincarnation is revealed in the grandeur of a magnificent law of life, whereby the spirit in man unfolds its potential divinity, and hope and opportunity are forever offered to an evolving humanity.

Mobile, Ala., February 8, 195 5

Miss Anna Braume, Fairhope Public Library,

Fairhope, Ala.

To Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County, Dr.

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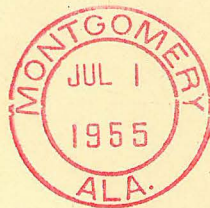
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Miss Anna Braune
Fairhope Public Library
Fairhope, Ala.

Anna -- sending people carbon copies of things seems to be about the only way I can keep up on my correspondence these days. Let me hear from you sometime soon, or, better yet, come up to Montgomery if you can. *Remember, we always have an extra bed.*

*Yours,
Ruth*



STATE OF ALABAMA
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June 30, 1955

Mrs. Verda Horne
Box 357
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Verda,

Thank you ever so much for filling out the A.L.A. questionnaire for me. I appreciate the time and effort that you and Chinta put in on it, and I think I made my own deadline on the report.

I am now making a book inventory of sorts and need your and Anna's help on it. I am enclosing a copy (and sending one to Anna) of the list of books charged to Fairhope. Several of the titles on it may be at Foley, but Bob Annand and I agreed that it would simplify record keeping all around if he returned to Fairhope all of the books that he borrowed from you without making changes in any of our records. Hope that you concur with this somewhat high-handed decision of ours. I need the starred items for other groups and would like to have them back soon. Can the Fairhope checker pay the postage? If not, keep a record of it, and I can reimburse whoever pays it. The unstarred books you can keep as long as you like unless there is an unexpected request for them.

I am also enclosing a more complete bibliography on prejudice than the one that you have. All of which goes to remind me -- when you can appoint a scribe (what's Frances Olivier doing these days?) in your group, how about letting me know who is going to lead which meetings, and what materials you want. I don't expect to be here after August, you know, and you'll come nearer getting the books you want if you put in your request very soon.

When are you coming to Montgomery? I should like very much to see you, and think it time you took a vacation northward.

Yours,

Ruth R. Field

Enclosures: Consolidated list of books charged to Fairhope.
Bibliography on Discrimination.

CC: Miss Anna Braun
Fairhope Public Library
Fairhope, Alabama

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June 30, 1955

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*Barr. Let's join the human race	1	"	unnumbered
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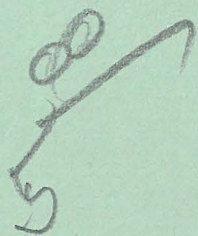
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23 February 1956

Dear Miss Braune:

I learned today from the main library that the four volumes of Humboldt's POLITICAL ESSAY ON NEW SPAIN are charged out to a member of the faculty who is now living away from here. He has not responded to inquiries about other books he took with him for a research paper, so we are not too happy over the prospects of getting the Humboldt back any time soon. I am writing you so you can try elsewhere. I should imagine only very large university or public libraries would be apt to have it.

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Bethel Fite, Director
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UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA

February 22, 1956

EXTENSION DIVISION
P. O. BOX 2787

TELEPHONES
4079 - 7542

Miss Anna Braune, Librarian
Fairhope Public Library
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Miss Braune:

In accordance with a request from Mrs. Roberts, we are mailing you a copy of Hooton's Man's Poor Relations. We have a four-volume set by Alexander Humboldt, Political Essay on New Spain, which includes geographical material on Mexico. This is in use, but we have called it in and should be able to mail. We have a three-volume set of his travels in South America, but it contains nothing about Mexico. I have studied the entries in the LC catalog, and believe the former work is nearer to what has been requested than anything else we have.

The main library's volume III of Hyman's Invertebrates is on reserve, but our Gadsden Center has a copy which is probably available for loan. Write Mrs. Laura C. Inzer, Box 788, Gadsden.

Since we have only a few cents left in the postage balance here in your library's name, we shall appreciate your replenishing it.

Sincerely yours,

Bethel Fite

Bethel Fite, Director
Department of Library Extension & Program Services

BF:mw

cc: Mrs. Roberts

*sent 1.00
Feb 27, 1956
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letter*

February, 1956
Our 50th Year!

Dear Librarian:

Please accept with our compliments this Golden Anniversary Edition of our Periodical Handbook which is sent to you because you order your magazine subscriptions from this Agency.

We believe that this Handbook is the only official periodicals directory of its kind published today and the enclosed 1956 Edition describes for you the contents of nearly 800 different periodicals. You will also note that it carries a convenient list of publications by subject matter with a page index.

We'll be very glad to request publishers of any of these magazines to send you free sample copies for your inspection.

As this Handbook was designed with one purpose in mind - to help you - will you please give me your frank opinion of this particular phase of our service? We should like to know if you find it of value, how you use it and what, in your estimation we might do to make future editions even more valuable to you. If you would like extra copies of this Handbook, we'll gladly send them on request.

Your comments will be very much appreciated and I'm enclosing my personal envelope for your reply.

Cordially yours,
THE MAYFAIR AGENCY

W. C. Roithmayr

Walter C. Roithmayr,
Manager

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Chicago, 1956

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The Mayfair Agency
40 North Van Brunt Street
Englewood, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

After a meeting of the Fairhope Library Board this afternoon, I have been asked by the Board to write to you asking that, owing to financial limitation, our Mayfair Agency magazine subscription list be curtailed. It is asked that the following magazine subscriptions be cancelled:

SATURDAY EVENING POST
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The cancellation of these six subscriptions leaves the following magazines on our list of subscriptions to be continued:

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Please send the Fairhope Public Library a bill on the above seven magazines.

It is with much regret that this curtailment is requested.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Abner J. Braune

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Miss Elizabeth Graune, Librarian
Fair Hope Public Library
Fair Hope, Alabama



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March 26, 1956

Miss Anna Braune
Fair Hope Public Library
Fair Hope, Alabama

My dear Miss Braune:

Mrs. Gay Caffee has informed me that Colonel Robinson has not returned the material you so kindly let him have to use for his thesis.

I am sure that his failure to return same has been due to a crowded schedule and that he will give it his immediate attention. (I have placed a note on his desk asking him to do so.)

Please forgive us. I am indeed sorry that it was not returned on March 3rd, as promised.

Sincerely,
Myrtle Brazman, Librarian

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March 15, 1956

Miss Anna Braune, Librarian
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Dear Miss Braune:

Thank you for your letter of March 12th in
reference to Current Biography.

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Biography is \$4.00 and subscription to the Yearbook
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immediately upon receipt of your authorization.

Sincerely yours,

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Dear {Lenore}? Nolcott
{Mrs.},

The Board of the Fairhope Library Association
and the Librarians wish to ~~make~~ ^{give} herewith
~~The~~ formal expression ~~to~~ the deep appreciation
we all feel for your devoted service as
Treasurer of the Library Association.

We also wish to let you know the sincere
regret each and all of us feel at the necessity
for your resignation from the Board and from
your former active participation in the work
of the Library. Each of us personally will
miss you greatly and the place you hold
in our hearts cannot be filled.

Because of the meticulous care with which
you have carried out the duties of Treasurer, you
have made it possible for another to carry on
readily. There is consequently none of the confusion
that often is found in turning over the books of an
officer to a successor. This is one more evidence of
the accurate, prompt and faithful work that you
have done. For this, too, you will be gratefully
remembered.

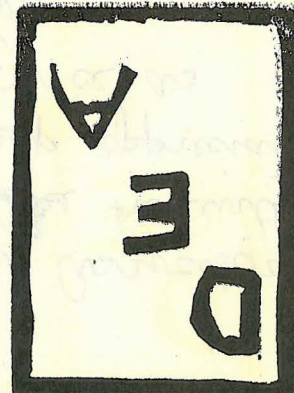
But our greatest loss is that we will not now
have the opportunity to enjoy your warm and
co-operative spirit and the quiet but effective
influence of your personality. We have been
(over)

privileged indeed, We ~~now~~ all ^{now} wish you
~~comfort~~ content and happiness in your
new environment. And our affectionate
blessings go with you

Sincerely and regretfully,

_____	President
_____	Vice-President
_____	Secretary
_____	Acting Treasurer
_____	} Members

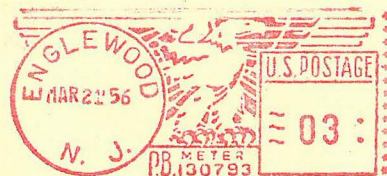
_____	Librarian
_____	Assistant Librarian



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Library Board
members
furnishing
magazines

Miss Anne Braune
Fairhope Public Library
Fairhope, Alabama



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PARENTS MAGAZINE
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CHRISTIAN CENTURY
~~NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC~~ -) Chinta
~~READERS DIGEST~~ -) J. L. S.
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LIFE
ATLANTIC MONTHLY
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
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SPECIAL PRICE

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**FOR: FAIRHOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA**

The Intimate Bookshop

Paul Smith, Bookseller

Chapel Hill, N. C.

April 10

Mrs. James Gaston
FAIRHOPE COLONY LIBRARY
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Gaston:

Mr. Smith has asked me to write to you about books suitable for your library. I am enclosing a list of new books, priced far below the normal library cost. In some cases you will note that an "X" follows the title. These are books which I think are the better ones in the lot. All the books, however, are new and suitable.

If there is anything on the list which you would like to have, simply mark the list and return it to me. We will ship the books to you and you will be billed on the first of the month.

Please let me know if I can be of any further help to you.

Cordially,


Carl Apollonio

McBride - Long Way from Missouri.	2.50
Pioneer Co Home - fiction	1.50
Ordeal by Innocence	1.50
Big X new novel about test pilots	1.00
Ask My Brother Civil War novel	2.50
	9.00

Ordered May 1st

Same Management as The Provincetown Bookshop, Provincetown, Mass.

The Intimate Bookshop

Paul Smith, Bookseller

Chapel Hill, N. C.

May 4

Mrs. James Gaston
FAIRHOPE COLONY LIBRARY,
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Gaston:

Thank you very much for your book order,
We are mailing the books today.

As the Agatha Christie has been sold,
I have taken the liberty of enclosing another
book in the same category. If this is not
satisfactory, please return it and deduct the
price plus your postage expense from your bill
for the other books.

Thanks again for the order.

Very truly yours,



Carl Apollonio

STATEMENT

The Intimate Bookshop

PAUL SMITH, BOOKSELLER
CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

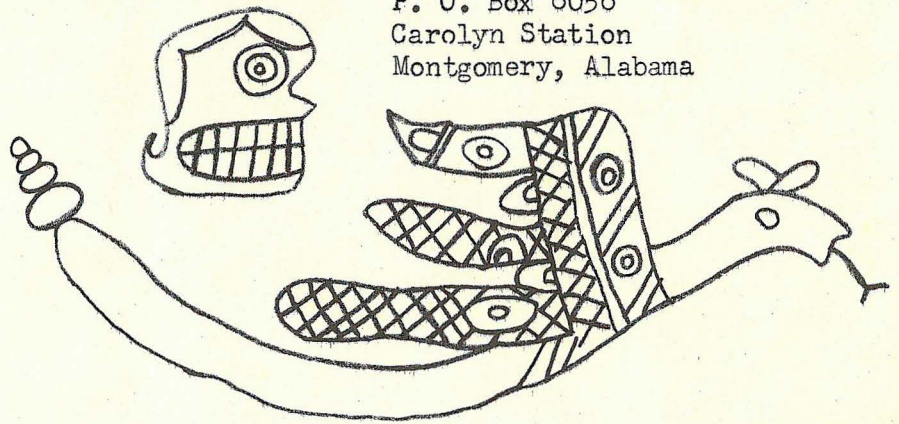
Mrs. James Gaston
Fairhope colony Library
Fairhope, Alabama

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH YOUR CHECK

DATE	REFERENCE	CHARGES	CREDITS	BALANCE
BALANCE FORWARDED			MAY 4	8.30 +
JUL 10	11,682		8.30	.00 ●
				 Paid in full Wehner, the boys & I are going to Akron, Ohio this fall. we will miss you when you visit the Smiths. Charles

BOOKS BOUGHT AFTER THE 25TH APPEAR ON NEXT MONTH'S BILL

The Intimate Bookshop



P. O. Box 6056
Carolyn Station
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Miss Braune:

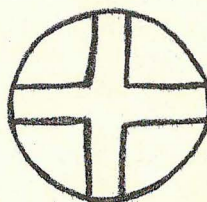
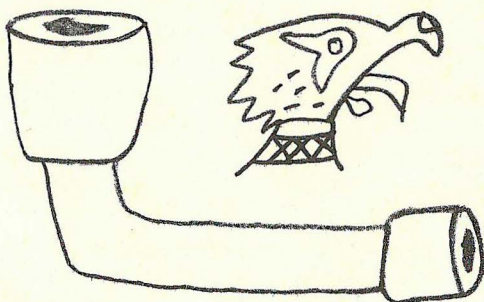
In collaboration with my sister, Mary Douglass Foreman, I am now completing a manuscript entitled, Indian Art and Crafts: The Deep South and Near Area. It will be published privately by The Dietz Press, Richmond, Virginia; it will be an atlas of pictures and technical information describing the life of the Indians of this area, during the pre-Columbian and Historic periods.

We have secured photographs from more than three dozen museums and approximately four dozen private collectors; the book will have approximately 250 pages (8 x 11)---200 of the pages will be pictures and captions, and some 50 pages will be text, describing the periods of civilization in the area, the native trade (pre-Columbian) and the art and craft techniques. It will be an interesting and educational book for both children and adults.

We could not get a publisher on a royalty basis, for they felt it was too expensive to print for a profit-maker. We have therefore made an agreement to have it published in a limited edition; the prepaid subscription price is \$5.00. This covers only the cost of printing. We must sell 1,000 prepaid subscriptions to cover the printing. That actually does not pay the high cost of a year's research and about \$10,000 worth of photographs, materials, and travel. The book will be comparable in size and quality to those which usually sell from \$7.50 to \$15.00. Our sale of prepaid subscriptions is an effort to get this valuable book into print.

All subscribers should make checks or money orders payable to INDIAN ART, and mail them to me at the above address. If a subscriber wishes to send the book to a friend or relative, they may do so by indicating the name and address; the book will then be sent to the designated person (with the compliments of the subscriber) directly from the publisher. The book should reach the subscriber about mid-1957. Be sure to print all names and addresses clearly.

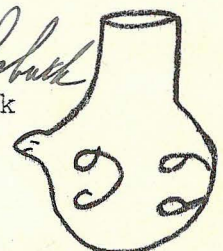
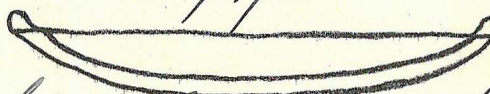
We shall be grateful if you can become a subscriber, and aid us in getting this interesting and educational book into print. If you have friends with children; interested in history or in art and crafts; or curious about the way the Indians lived in the Deep South area, we wish you would recommend this book to them. We would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest opportunity.



Sincerely,

Emma Lila Fundaburk
Emma Lila Fundaburk

10/27/56



Featuring Alabama

*We will use a couple (2)
9 photos from there.*

9 East Cromwell Street
Montgomery, Alabama
April 26, 1956

Mrs. Anna Braune, Librarian
Fairhope Library
Summit Street
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Braune:

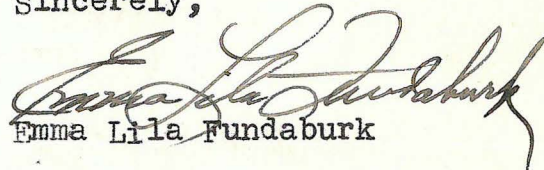
I want to thank you, Mrs. Jackson, and all the members of the Fairhope Library Board for the opportunity of taking pictures of a number of the Indian artifacts at the Library. Abie Stratis said that he would get in touch with the Library, and probably take the pictures next Monday if that were convenient with you.

Thank you also for suggesting that I write the Lauren Rogers Memorial Library at Laurel, Mississippi. They have been very friendly, and are allowing me to picture several items from their collection. They suggested to me the source of other information and pictures.

It was a pleasure to meet you and your assistant and Mrs. Gaston.

After Mr. Stratis takes the pictures, please write a letter to me stating that I have your permission to picture the items in our (my sister, Mrs. Max Foreman and I are working on the book, together) forthcoming book.

Sincerely,


Emma Lila Fundaburk

References:

Dr. Hallie Farmer, Alabama College, Montevallo, Ala.
Dr. Lorraine Pierson, Alabama College, Montevallo, Ala.
Mrs. Dixie L. Fisher, Librarian, Montgomery, Public Library, Montgomery
Mr. Norman Spann, Attorney, 32 South Perry, Montgomery, Ala.

Fairhope Public Library

Fairhope, Alabama

May 2, 1956

Miss Emma Lila Funderburk
9 East Cromwell Street
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Miss Fundaburk:

The Library Board of the Fairhope Public Library, of Fairhope, Alabama, grants permission to Emma Lila Funderburk and to Mrs. Max Foreman to picture items from the collection of Indian relics in the Library Museum in their forthcoming publication.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. James E. Gaston, President
Fairhope Public Library Board