



Fall 2018 Newsletter

Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation

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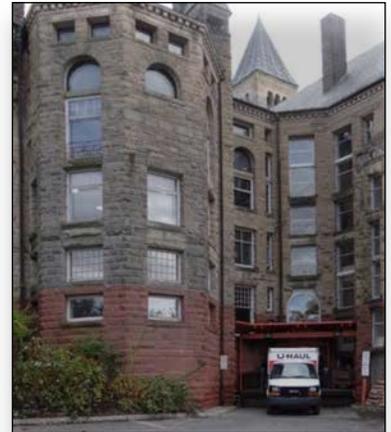
The Paul Brunton Archive Delivered to Cornell University's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections (Carl A. Kroch Library)

Paul Brunton was a pioneer in developing a living philosophy of spiritual wisdom that provides a complete world view. A leading writer and researcher, he became known worldwide as an authority on Eastern spirituality, mysticism, and philosophy. Besides the books published during his lifetime, which sold around 2,000,000 copies in over 20 languages, he left thousands of pages of unpublished original writing, letters, photos, and other invaluable materials.

Preserving PB's writings both physically and digitally for future generations has been one of the major PBPf tasks. On November 2nd, the first phase was completed with the delivery of the physical papers to Cornell. The second phase will be the completion of a searchable digital library allowing easy access to PB's legacy from anywhere in the world—this is our focus for the next year.

The Foundation is grateful for the many years of dedicated effort by Timothy Smith (the PBPf Archival Chair), the great archival staff who brought the first phase to completion, the help of volunteers, and the generous support of donors.

Archival staff left to right: Lydia Dempsey (project manager), Jessica Elkins, Joshua Orkin, Timothy Smith (chair), Emily Rothenbucher, Zoe Anderson, and Hannah Sumner



Delivering the precious cargo



There are six broad groupings within the collection:

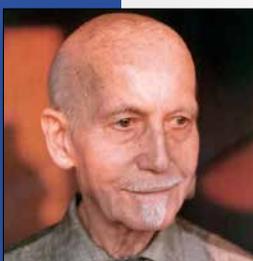
Original Writings

The first group is PB's own writings, which are primarily philosophic or mystical in nature. These original writings are without a doubt the material that is most important for students of spiritual philosophy.

By and large PB wrote what he called "paras"—often a mere sentence or two, more rarely a paragraph. He wrote these down as quickly as they came to him, on whatever lay at hand. Some material was written in little notebooks or on free note-pads handed out by hotels; a lot was written in the margins of magazines, newspapers, even tickets to the opera! At regular intervals PB sent these paper slips to an assistant who typed and put them into one of the 28 categories that he had devised to organize the various aspects of spiritual life.

Letters

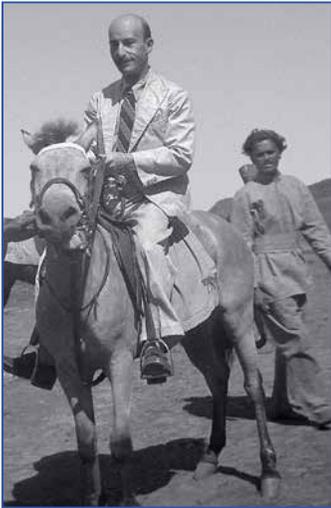
The second group is PB's correspondence. This largely consists of letters written to PB with two outstanding exceptions: his letters to his son Kenneth Hurst and to his wife Evangeline Young Glass. The correspondence with Kenneth runs from 1930 right through to the end of his life. Evangeline's correspondence is primarily from her years of marriage to PB (1950-1957). In addition, we have a much larger collection of correspondence gathered together as "Readers' Letters" which includes some very remarkable correspondents.



"I have written down what I have learned and discovered over the many years of my life; if these ideas are helpful to you, you are welcome to them—but do not make the mistake of calling me a guru. We must all learn to think for ourselves in the end, so these words can only be a guide to your own work."



Left to right:
an Austrian countess, PB, Evangeline



PB in Egypt, 1930s

Biographical and Secondary Material

Part of this group are the journals of Evangeline Glass during her marriage to PB. These contain a lot of dictated philosophical material as well as her own private reflections on her marriage. The journals of Zohmah Charlot (a secretary from 1930s), Ed McKeown, and Timothy Smith from 1979 and 1980 are also in this group. This collection provides a good deal of the biographical knowledge we have of PB.

Photographs

The earliest photos were taken by PB during his travels, the later ones are of PB taken by various visitors. The early images show several temples in considerably better shape at the time PB visited them than they are at present—this is particularly true of his visits to Egypt, Angkor Wat and Tibet.

Bound Books

The group is titled “Bound Books” because these are a set of books and articles (mostly from the 1930s and 1940s) that PB always had with him, even in the remote reaches of the Himalayas and the unpopulated deserts of Egypt. Since much of his transportation to these regions was by donkey, he removed any unnecessary pages from the books and rebound several books as a single compact volume, to lighten the donkey’s load. This collection is comprised largely of scholarly works on Hinduism, Buddhism, and contemporary Western Thought.

Unscanned Clips

The unscanned clips are a massive collection of newspaper clippings that PB saved, and in many cases annotated. These give a picture of the world that PB was living in, and how the cultures of the time viewed philosophy and spirituality.

Cornell University is ideal because it offers its resources to the general public and is very supportive of online databases. Its climate-controlled facility can best ensure the long-term preservation of the original papers (and support the digital files) so that Paul Brunton’s writings and research can be studied for generations to come.

Your interest in the Foundation’s work is deeply appreciated.

Cleta J. Rudolph,
Board Chair and President

Can you help us with our many projects?

PaulBrunton.org/donations.php offers information on a number of projects that you could help us accomplish:

- ➔ The Digital Archive Project ➔ The Prison Project ➔ The publication of new books
- ➔ Keeping *The Notebooks of Paul Brunton* in print ➔ The Gift Book Project

The PBPf is registered as a 501-C-3 not-for-profit organization. All donations in the United States are tax exempt. You can read more about our projects here: paulbrunton.org/donations.php. Our Board Members and others volunteer their time to these projects. Thank you kindly for your support.