

Paul Brunton Philosophic Foundation

Summer 2008

From the Chairman of the Board:

When I was working for PB in 1979, each day I took the bus from our pension to the La Tour de Peliz Bus Stop (near Vevey Switzerland). From there it seemed only natural that I had to walk up a long hill past many tempting shops and beautiful gardens until I arrived at his apartment building – which was aptly named “The Oasis.” (I like to think the builders named the building for PB’s calming presence in the world, both then and now.)

Once inside, there were many flights of stairs to climb; at last I would arrive at PB’s floor, and walk down the corridor to his front door. And this is the moment I hope I can describe. Standing there, hardly believing that I was there, filled with powerful emotions and a measure of uncertainty, I would eventually find the wherewithal to knock. A moment later PB would open the door, and everything within me transformed into a unique sensation of homecoming. Seeing him standing there was the most natural moment of Life to ever occur; a moment of perfect Grace.

As we all wend our way upwards with the project and programs of the PBPF, it is my hope that we will find ourselves standing at that simple door, and that the Grace and graciousness of PB will open to greet us. To discover – or remember – such moments is at the heart of everyone’s quest, whomever one’s own “PB” is.

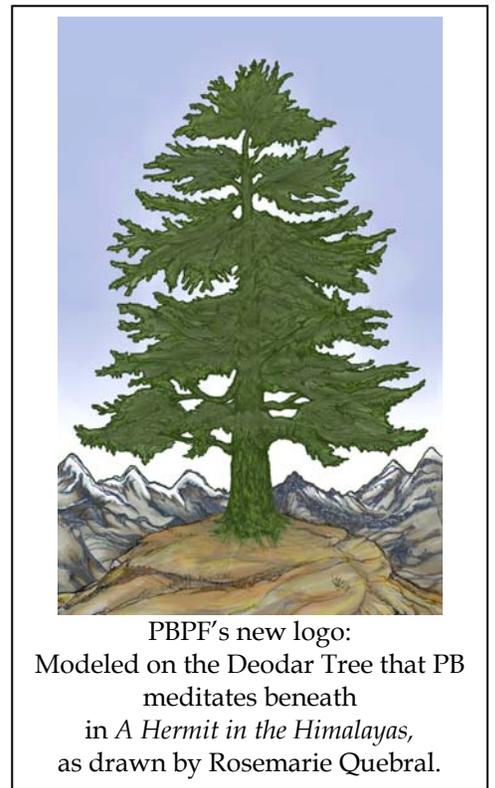
Sincerely,

Timothy Smith,
Chair, Board of Directors

Outreach Projects

The Prison Gift Project: Since its beginning, over 20,000 books, primarily *What is Karma?* have been distributed to inmates at prisons throughout the U.S. The Prison Gift Project has allowed the Foundation to send as many as 50 Paul Brunton Books a week – free of charge – to incarcerated men and women at their request. Eagerness for these books is high and increasing, with literally thousands of prisoners participating. Furthermore, our participation in this project through Human Kindness Foundation newsletter and Justice Xpress brings awareness of PB and PBPF to several non-profit agencies who serve communities outside as well as inside the prison system.

While it is common for prisoners to write publishers in hopes of getting free books, it is not so common for them to *write back* upon receipt of the book. The literally hundreds of letters we have received from recipients of this program constantly reminds us that at this most basic level, PB’s teachings are of deep and lasting benefit to individuals and society. We are strongly committed to keeping this program active, which it can be with your help. All the money given to this project is www.paulbrunton.org



PBPF’s new logo:
Modeled on the Deodar Tree that PB
meditates beneath
in *A Hermit in the Himalayas*,
as drawn by Rosemarie Quebral.

Those who are searching for truth are only a small number. Each of us may repay our own obligation by saying *the right word at the right time*, by lending or giving a book to the truth-hungry person.
– PB 2.8.157

information@paulbrunton.org

spent on the cost to print and ship these books; the correspondence and shipping process is run on an entirely volunteer basis, ensuring that the money given is directly applied to the project's material cost and nothing more.

Funding for the books to be printed and distributed is maintained entirely by donations – so we need your help to keep it going! **We need \$1500 to keep this vital project going through the end of this year.** Any excess will be applied to a reprint fund for *What is Karma?* needed in 2009.

When I first wrote to you I was seeking knowledge on how I could overcome my desire for using drugs....I now see the problem I had from a different perspective, and because of this I now have a renewed faith in myself and humanity.
-- prisoner, CA Correctional Institute

The Figuera Project– Figueira is a spiritual community in Brazil where PB is highly respected and widely



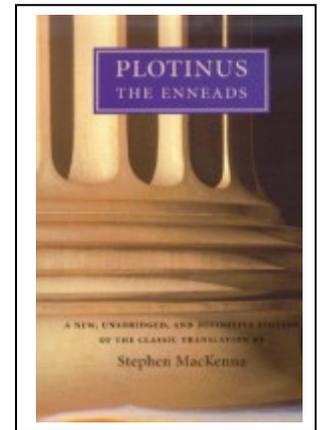
read. It has been in operation for over 30 years, and we have developed good friendships with several of its leading members. This community has long put priority on outreach programs focusing on the needy in the surrounding region, including many remarkable ongoing health-care services. They also provide classes on a variety of topics, many based upon their own teacher's ideas (Jose Trigueirinho), and others emphasizing the views of PB. Very recently they have created a new project, which is to make spiritual literature available in Portuguese-speaking regions of Africa. The PBPf board is excited to participate in this project, which we can do by raising funds to pay for the production cost of the PB books (already translated into Portuguese) which will be distributed into Africa. Gran Rockett and Alan Berkowitz are volunteering for this project and will be working

with a PBPf Director to facilitate these efforts. **We are hoping to raise an initial \$2000, which will allow up to 500 books to be placed into Africa.**

Printing/Reprinting Projects

Plotinus reprint

One of the most successful non-PB publications we have supported in the past years is the carefully created edition of MacKenna's translation of Plotinus' *Enneads*. It continues to be in demand, and our stock is running low, so we need your help to reprint it. Many of you know the great value of this edition, which indicates and includes alternate translations of all passages. The PBPf includes Plotinus in its booklist because it was one of the last books PB himself was studying in his final years, and because of its great significance in the development of Anthony Damiani's visionary *Astronoësis*. Plotinus is the Mystic Sage of the West – he was utterly a Lover of Wisdom, and the *Enneads* are the pinnacle of exquisitely wrought metaphysical insight. We are the sole holders of the rights to this special edition and are the only ones who can reprint it. **With donations of \$5,000 we can reprint the book and continue to make it available.** The proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to maintain the daily function of the PBPf (which is minimal) and for the development of additional publications (of which we have a long list!).



Early Books

The PBPf has recently secured the rights to almost all the early PB books, and we are planning to publish those using a "Print On Demand" format, to keep the works in print at a reasonable price. Once they are in print, they will begin to participate in the PB reprint fund. This fund sets aside a portion of each sale of a PB book equal to its reprint cost. This means that original donation dollars are reapplied to the reprint costs, and that minimizes any future need for additional donations required to keep the books in print. Since we are just now
www.paulbrunton.org information@paulbrunton.org

acquiring the rights to the early PB books, no such reprint fund exists, so we do need donations to prepare these wonderful texts for the Print on Demand format, and to defray the original printing costs. At the present time, the Print on Demand costs are changing quickly; as that stabilizes we will develop a budget and timeline for this project. Current donations can be earmarked for this project, and will be applied to the book preparation process, or placed in a “pre-reprint” fund. In the meantime, we do have used copies of all of PB’s early books available for sale. If you’d like to purchase them, please email us at information@paulbrunton.org to purchase.

PBPF Involvement Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome dedicated individuals willing to volunteer work on:

The Prison Project is in need of volunteers to enter information into a database program. It is a necessary part of the process of giving books to prisoners and a great way to be involved for brief times (even an hour a week would be a great help);

Preservation: we intend to preserve all of the items and works of PB as best as possible. Volunteers who have time to help scan, keyboard or proofread work, or others who could write grants are needed;

Office/Finance/Auditing: administrative help, working with the Treasurer to assist in financial tasks as well as auditing safeguards;

Dharma/Sangha Community: developing local and international networks with other spiritual communities as consistent with PB ideas and ideals;

Development/Fundraising: any ideas for projects or events to raise funds to meet our goals are welcome;

The Website/Internet group: it takes a lot to get a website up and running and while we have made a lot of progress, there is still a need for people to write copy for some sections.

Have another idea you’re excited about? We’d love to hear it! Please write to information@paulbrunton.org

International Connections

Barbara Plaisted and Cleta Rudolph, both of Columbus, Ohio, USA, and Directors of the PB Philosophic Foundation, visited Sweden and Norway with Avery Solomon, Ph.D., who has been lecturing in these countries over the last 15 years. Dr. Solomon, former Senior Lecturer in Math Education & Mathematics at Cornell University, has been presenting new ideas in Science and Spiritual dimensions, PB’s work and related spiritual topics to academia and questers in Sweden, Norway, India, Turkey and the USA. Dr. Solomon has been a student of philosophic spiritual ideas, a student of Paul Brunton and Anthony Damiani, and a fellow quester for over 30 years.

Barbara and Cleta met with philosophic students in Norway and Sweden including Robert and Brigita Larson, PBPF-Sweden and Anna Borenstein; Gudrun Nordmo of Oslo, Norway; and Alpar Erdos (Hapi) of Romania all of whom expressed interest in developing and participating in an international spiritual community network linked to PB’s philosophic teachings and ideas. Barbara and Cleta felt privileged to share the enriching experience of getting to know those mentioned and others throughout Sweden and Norway with similar interests and values. PBPF will be working on expanding the idea of an international spiritual community network; your comments are welcome.



A Search in Secret Egypt Continues

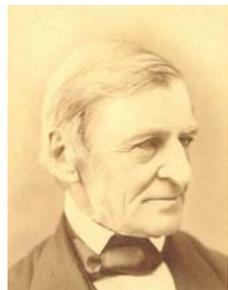


Osiris statue at the Temple of
Hatshepsut
Photo by E. Smit and T.
Westerhof

Timothy Smith and Kira Lallas who co-edited the special illustrated edition of *A Search in Secret Egypt* continue to work on the material. Over the winter holidays this year, they gave a nine week seminar on the book. Each talk focused on a different section of the book, going more deeply into this deceptively simple work of PB's that offers the opportunity to experience PB as a robust adventurer, challenging authority, risking life and limb in his willingness to follow his interest and intuition into the little-travelled regions of this world (and the next).

In early June, they also presented a workshop on PB and the Osiris Myth. The carefully sequenced themes of SSE demonstrate PB's own experience and initiation into the sacred rites of Osiris. Drawing on the information and revelations PB shares in *A Search in Secret Egypt* and the powerful images of Ancient Egypt the talk explores how this myth can be successfully approached in these modern times.

All evenings were videotaped by Mark Scorelle and DVDs are \$10 each (mark.scorelle@gmail.com). Please be advised these discussions are informal both in presentation style and in filming expertise. The production value is somewhat low and the cost covers the expense of making them.



from Harper's Magazine

"Yes, you may discover the elusive secret of life--but you must first work for it. "The gods sell anything to everybody," announces Emerson, "at a fair price." Take a few minutes off each day to find yourself, to question yourself, to awaken yourself--that is part of the price demanded." (*The Notebooks*, 1.2.108)

"Some images are stamped on the mind for years, even for a lifetime. The grave but compassionate face and dignified figure of my first Buddhist guru, Ananda Metteya, is one of those that haunts me still." (*The Notebooks*, 15.6.4)

"It is my well considered belief that Ananda Metteya was a Bodhisattva, come from a higher plane to penetrate those Western minds which could appreciate, and benefit by, Buddhism as meeting their intellectual and spiritual needs. He gave the hidden impetus, but others came later to do the outer work." (*The Notebooks*, 15.6.5)

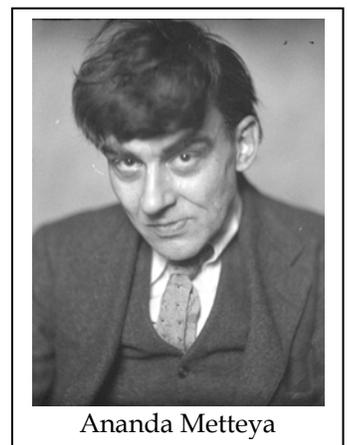


Please send donations to:

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Thank you for your ongoing support!

www.paulbrunton.org



Ananda Metteya

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