

June 12, 1934. 1

HENRY JAMES FORMAN
REDDING RIDGE
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My dear Madame de Roerich, -
Upon the suggestion of our
dear friend Maurice Lichtmann,
I am writing you briefly upon
some nations I have for extending
the sphere of the Teachings, which
mean so much to all Rus.
Some of these nations are
doubtless still in the utopian
stage and would be difficult
to actualize. But even so, it
seems to me, subject to your
approval, we must begin to
plan and to think them out
for ultimate execution.

1. We have at the Museum, I
find, a list of several
hundred people who have,
in one way or another, come
in contact with the Teachings.
They have either brought some
of the books, or books have
been given to them. Now, every
time we have to publish one

of the books in the A. Y. series. There are difficulties in finding the necessary funds, so that now even the English speaking readers, are two or three volumes behind. "The Heart" will soon appear but there are still "The Fairy World," "Infinity" and even "Illumination" which have not appeared in English. I have been fortunate enough to have read them all, and I know that it is a privation for those who cannot read them in the original not to have had the advantage of the teachings contained in them.

My suggestion is that we at once form ourselves into a group to be called something like "The A. Y. Publications Society" with a framework of officers, as few as need be, and a Board, and to solicit and enroll members among those already interested and get to become interested. The fees need not be large, since this is not for profit. But the purpose of the fees from members

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would be to create a modest fund, so that when a book like "The Fiery World" comes along it can be published immediately the translation is finished and approved. If we could have a few hundred members at only one dollar a year it would make that possible. Some would, of course, give more than one dollar. But every such member would receive a book free the moment it appears, unless more than one volume in a year should be published. Not only would there be, by this method, some funds in hand for publication, but all those members, in virtue of their association would create a greater bond, a multiplied force to spread and disseminate the teachings. If that appeals to you, I believe we can go ahead with the plan virtually at once.

Maurice and I went over a list

of possible members of the Board and these were suggested:

Professor and Madame Rosrich,
Honorary Presidents.

The Publication Board

Katharine Campbell, Henry James Forman,
Miriam C. Forman, Dudley Fosdick,
Ingeborg Fritsch, Frances Grant,
Louis L. Harch, Nettie S. Harch,
Esther J. Lichtmann, Maurice M.
Lichtmann, Sina Lichtmann,
Sidney Newberger, Helen Seidel,
Vladimir Shibaieff, J. J. Phelps Stokes,

— in alphabetical order. Perhaps you would kindly suggest to us a chairman or chairwoman for this Board. The other offices, a treasurer and a secretary, we can easily choose.

So much for that.

2. Another notion we discussed, and this is perhaps more utopian, is that some day, when we can manage it, we ought to have a little monthly magazine or brochure, under some title like "Spiritual Hygiene," devoted to the exposition, explanation of and comment upon the Teachings and cognate interests. Like all great Covenants, the Teachings

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constitute a hygiene of the Spirit. This country is very much interested in hygiene - of all sorts, of the body, of the glands, of the teeth, etc. The only hygiene neglected is the hygiene of the Spirit. That is exactly what the Teaching is, not only in fact, but in its very modernity of vocabulary and scientific, and frequently laboratory terminology. Were we able to finance such a publication, it seems to me it would go far towards a beginning of systematic dissemination of our great and beautiful Teaching to many who need it and who have not yet the advantage and benefit of it.

Of course, this is only an idea. But I should be profoundly grateful if you would express an opinion as to whether or not you think it desirable.

3. Finally I want to ask your advice and make a suggestion about the English translations of the books.

I have had a little to do with the reading
for the press of the last three books
published in English - Agni Yoga,
Hierarchy and The Heart (soon to appear).
My desire is that those books should
read in English as beautifully, as
simply and as idiomatically as they
read in Russian. Without going
into long explanations of the
conditions, which Miss Esther
Lichtmann knows something about,
I very respectfully would make
this suggestion (after talking it over
with Maurice Lichtmann):

That after the translators
get through with their draft, I
might be allowed to read it
with a view to idiom, style, etc.,
comparing it with the original
text. (I did that recently in the last half
of the "Heart" and found many things
to change, but the book was already
in galley proof, which is late in the
process.) Then the translation
doubtless go to you for final and
decisive revision and approval.
Then, of course, Miss Grant would
take in hand to see it through
the press, in which we should
all help as we do now.

The only difference by the method
I suggest would be that whatever
suggestions I make would also

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present themselves for your survey and approval, instead of coming in after you have seen it, which is less desirable.

The sole object in mind is to help make the text as perfect as possible in the circumstances, to remove any stiffness and combinations of phrasing too strange and alien to the ears of English speaking people. It is first, of course, a matter of accuracy. But almost as important is the matter of style and naturalness.

If you should approve of this suggestion, then all books published after "The Heart" could follow this process of preparation.

This is, I regret to note, a long letter. I did not wish to trespass so far upon your time and patience. But I have been urged to

write you, and now that I am writing, I feel I must be as explicit as possible.

I shall be profoundly grateful if you should find the time to answer these queries in the form of suggestions, how briefly, soever. It will in any case be a great privilege to receive even a few words from one to whom we all feel so much of gratitude and veneration and love.

It was a very great joy indeed to see Professor Porrich here. For the brief time he was here he brought a light into our lives. And it was a great pleasure, too, to see and speak with Dr. George Porrich. All of us who are friends of the Work still, ^{hope} ^{very} hope some day of seeing you.

And if in writing, should you find it possible to answer this, you should add a word of personal advice upon progress in the Work, in the Teaching and in development, it would be a very great joy to me.

My wife joins me in warm messages of love and gratitude.
Very sincerely yours
Henry James Forman