

New Books

THE MAHATMA LETTERS  
TO A.P. SINNETT  
IN CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

*Arranged and edited by Vincente Hao Chin Jr.*

Using the chronology set forth in the  
*Reader's Guide to the Mahatma Letters*  
by George E. Linton and Virginia Hanson,  
including notes and comments by the latter.  
With new appendices that include all other  
known letters to A.P. Sinnett and A.O. Hume.

*The Mahatma Letters to A.P. Sinnett* is one of  
the classics of Theosophical literature. First  
published in 1923, they are letters written by  
the Mahatmas Koot Hoomi and Morya to A.P.  
Sinnett and A.O. Hume during the early years  
of the Theosophical Society. The depth and  
profundity of the teachings therein have been  
an inspiration to students all over the world.

This edition arranges the letters in their  
chronological sequence, based on extensive  
research of George Linton and Virginia  
Hanson, as set forth in their *Reader's Guide to  
the Mahatma Letters*. To further help the  
reader understand and appreciate the  
circumstances surrounding the letters, this  
edition has included brief notes to the letters  
written by Mrs. Hanson, who has written many  
books and articles on the Mahatma Letters, and  
who was awarded the T. Subba Row medal for  
her work.

This volume also includes all the other known  
letters and notes of the Mahatmas to Sinnett  
and Hume, including the famous letter of the

Mahachohan regarding the Theosophical  
Society. A new expanded index has been  
prepared for this edition.

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Some Notes on  
the New Chronological Edition of  
*The Mahatma Letters*

by Daniel H. Caldwell

This new edition of the Mahatma Letters  
(published late 1993 by the Theosophical  
Publishing House in the Philippines) is the best  
edition now available. Long time students as  
well as new readers will find this edition the  
easiest to read and study.

The letters have been printed in the  
chronological order given by George E. Linton  
and Virginia Hanson in the Second Edition  
(1988) of their *Readers' Guide to The Mahatma  
Letters to A.P. Sinnett*. Mrs. Hanson's  
(previously unpublished) historical notes, added  
at the beginning of each letter, are very helpful  
in placing the letters in their historical context.

Vincente Hao Chin, Jr. is to be commended  
for his hard work in preparing this  
chronological edition for publication.

\* \* \* \* \*

Unfortunately, there are a number of flaws in  
the book. Some of the letters are still  
misdated and are out of their proper

chronological order by several months. Also a number of notes from the Masters to Sinnett and Hume (as well as certain telegrams) are not included in this new edition. Some of Mrs. Hanson's editorial notes contain incorrect information. Also, in my opinion, the letters and notes included in the three appendices should have been integrated into the main text in their proper chronological order.

I will try to go over some of the omissions, correct the dating of certain letters and point out some of the errors in Mrs. Hanson's notes.

### Part I

On p. 500 (of this new edition of the Mahatma Letters) is an "undated" document designated as LBS-206. Research indicates that this short note penned by Master K.H. actually belongs to early Sept. 1881.

After returning from London to India, Sinnett received on the morning of July 5, 1881 (while staying at Bombay T.S. Headquarters with HPB) Letter No. 18, pp. 56-69.

[All Letter and page numbers in this paper follow the new chronological edition of the Mahatma Letters.]

In this Letter No. 18, K.H. wrote about Sinnett "in company with S.M." (top of p. 58). This refers to Sinnett's meeting in London with the famous medium the Rev. Stainton Moses. Apparently they had several talks and Sinnett, while still in London, had written back to India to K.H. asking the Master for insight into Stainton Moses' mediumship and the true nature of "Imperator" (the chief spirit guide of Stainton Moses).

Starting at the bottom of p. 58 and continuing through the top of page 63, K.H. told Sinnett a great deal about S.M.'s mediumship and about Imperator.

A few days after the receipt of this letter, Sinnett left Bombay to return to his home in Allahabad. He was back in Allahabad by at least July 10, 1881. Sometime after this date, Sinnett wrote to Stainton Moses and conveyed to S.M. much of the information that K.H. had given in Letter No. 18 about Moses' mediumship, etc.

Then on July 22, 1881, Madame Blavatsky left Bombay for Allahabad in route to Simla to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Hume. She stopped at Allahabad to see Sinnett and they both went together from Allahabad to Simla.

Sinnett wrote of this trip in the following words:

"She [HPB] joined me at Allahabad a few [weeks]... after my return to India in 1881, and went up to Simla with me to be the guest for the remainder of that season of Mr. A.O. Hume."

See p. 141 of Daniel Caldwell's *The Occult World of Madame Blavatsky*.

Also see pp. 141-142 for Sinnett's humorous description of part of this trip with HPB in a tonga from Kalka to Simla.

It was during this trip to Simla that Sinnett received at Umballa (Amballa) on Aug. 5, 1881, Letter No. 20, pp. 70-76, from Mahatma K.H.

In this letter (bottom of p. 74), K.H. said to Sinnett:

"Your two letters to S.M. will lead to no result whatever. He will remain as immovable and your trouble will have been taken in vain. You will receive a letter from him full of suspicion and with no few unkind remarks. [Bold added] You cannot persuade him that + [Imperator] is a living Brother for that was tried and --- failed. ..."

The editorial footnote 2 at the bottom of p. 74 says "Sinnett did receive such a letter a few months later, dated Nov. 26, 1881 [Letter No. 38]...."

This footnote is wrong. Sinnett received a reply from Stainton Moses "full of suspicion and with no few unkind remarks" sooner than the later letter of Nov. 26, 1881. In fact, Sinnett received a letter from Moses in early Sept. 1881 at Simla. This letter is apparently no longer extant.

In *"The Occult World"*, 9th edition, pp. 156-157, Sinnett wrote:

"... I went up to Simla in August, 1881.... I became concerned... [with] the establishment of a Simla branch of the Theosophical Society....When this Society was formed, many letters passed between Koot Hoomi and ourselves....On one occasion, having just received a letter by mail from England which contained matter in which I thought she would be interested, I went up to Madame Blavatsky's writing-room and read it to her. As I read it, a few lines of writing,

comment upon what I was reading, were formed on a sheet of blank paper which lay before her. She actually saw the writing form itself, and called to me, pointing to the paper where it lay. There I recognized Koot Hoomi's hand -- and his thought, for the comment was to the effect, 'Didn't I tell you so?' and referred back to something he had said in a previous letter." [Bold added]

The letter just received from England was Stainton Moses' reply to the first letter written by Sinnett from Allahabad in the middle of July, 1881.

**Note:** In the early 1880s, it took approximately 3 weeks (give or take several days) for a letter to go through the postal service from India to England or vice versa. So if Sinnett wrote a letter around July 15, Moses would probably have received it by August 7-9, 1881. In turn, Moses probably would have replied within several days and Sinnett would have received Stainton Moses' reply by the first (or second) week of Sept. 1881.

In *"The Occult World"* account given above, Sinnett refers to "a few lines of writing" in "Koot Hoomi's hand ... to the effect, 'Didn't I tell you so?'" K.H.'s few lines of writing is LBS-206, p. 500 which reads:

*"Did I not warn you in my letter [Letter No. 20, bottom of p. 74] that he [Stainton Moses] would make some bad compliment and that it would be the only thanks you could expect to receive from a medium? K.H."*

Additional confirmation that Sinnett had received a reply from Moses in early Sept. 1881 is to be found in Letter No. 21, p. 76-79. The first two paragraphs of this letter deal with Stainton Moses' letter just received a day or so before. K.H. wrote:

"I foresaw that which now happens. In my Bombay letter I advised you to be prudent as to what you allowed S.M. to learn of + and his own mediumship... ." etc.

Then at the top of p. 77, K.H. wrote:

"I must return once more to the letter. The strongest basis of complaint against me is the fact that my statement [from K.H.'s July 5 letter, Letter No. 18] implies

(a) a kind of challenge to S.M. to prove + [Imperator] a 'Spirit'—

(b) I am severely denounced by our friend [i.e., Stainton Moses in his reply recently received by Sinnett at Simla] for making out + a liar...." etc.

This dates Letter No. 21 as having been received in the first or second week of September, 1881.

Sometime after the receipt of this letter from Stainton Moses in early Sept, 1881, Sinnett wrote again to Moses. I assume Moses received Sinnett's new letter sometime in October.

Moses waited until Nov. 26, 1881 to answer Sinnett's letter of Sept. 1881. See Letter No. 38 (pp. 107-109). Letter No. 38 actually consists of 2 letters.

The first is Stainton Moses' letter dated November 26, 1881. S.M. wrote:

"My dear Sinnett, I ought to have answered your letter [of September, 1881] before this, but deferred doing so till I had had the pleasure of a conversation with Mrs. [Patience] Sinnett [who was still in London in Nov. 1881] ... ." (bottom of p. 107)

Sinnett probably received Moses' letter (dated 11-26-81) during the 3rd week of December, 1881.

The second "letter" contained in Letter No. 38 actually consists of K.H.'s notes or comments appended to Moses' letter. When did K.H. append these notes? I would say in late Feb. or early March, 1882.

From Oct. 1881 to late Feb. 1882, K.H. did not communicate with Sinnett. During most of Oct-Dec, 1881, K.H. was undergoing an initiation. Now it is true that K.H. did communicate indirectly through D.K. with Sinnett in January, 1882. See Letter No. 37, pp. 105-107.

Sometime between the 3rd week of Dec., 1881 and Feb. 1882, Sinnett apparently sent Moses' letter of Nov. 26 to K.H. I believe that K.H. appended his notes to S.M.'s letter at the same time that he wrote Letter No. 49, pp. 135-141 to Sinnett. Letter No. 49 was received March 3, 1882.

Compare what K.H. said in his notes (Letter No. 38, pp. 109) with his comments on the same subject in Letter No. 49. In fact, K.H. wrote (p. 109):

"My letter [Letter No. 49, pp. 135-141] is private. You may use the arguments but not my authority or name."

See p. 135 where Mrs. Hanson in the first paragraph of her editorial note came to the same conclusion. *But in my opinion it would have been better to have placed Letter No. 38 (that is, Stainton Moses' letter of 11-26-81 with K.H.' appended notes of late Feb. 1882) with Letter No. 49 in this new chronological edition.*

Another correction; In the middle of p. 108, K.H. added to S.M.'s letter the following comment:

**I will try one more honest medium --  
Eglinton, when he is gone...."**

At this point Mrs. Hanson in footnote 1 wrote: "This must refer to the 'Magus'." I believe Mrs. Hanson is mistaken on this point.

The words "when he is gone" refers to Eglinton. When the medium William Eglinton has left India, Koot Hoomi will "try one more honest medium," i.e., K.H. in his *mayavi-rupa* will visit Eglinton on board the S.S. Vega, etc.

See Daniel Caldwell's *The Occult World of Madame Blavatsky*, pp. 143-146.

*(to be continued in Part II)*

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#### Other Journals

**SUNRISE:** ISSN 0562-6048. Subscription \$9.00 (US)/\$12.00 (Foreign) per 6 issue year. Published by *Theosophical University Press*, P.O. Bin C, Pasadena, CA., 91109-7107.

From the Masthead: "a wide range of philosophic and scientific themes in the light of ancient and modern theosophy and its application to daily experience; reviews of significant books and trends; commentary on spiritual principles at the core of the world's sacred traditions; insights into the nature of man and the universe."

Editor: Grace F. Knoche; Elsa-Brita Tichenell and Sarah Belle Dougherty assistant editors.

A sampling of the current June/July '94 issue:

THE VOICE OF THE SOUL - Katherine Tingley  
OUR INVISIBLE WORLD - Eloise Hart  
INDUCING ALTERED STATES - Sarah B. Dougherty  
Poetry of Rumi: Sufi mystic - John Coker  
THE PATHS OF LOVE - Wayne Garfield.

Of particular interest to me is THE RHYTHMS OF LIFE by David Pratt (a longtime HCT subscriber in Holland). David compares the mainstream-science view of the origin of life with the theosophic view of hosts of conscious monads evolving through seven kingdoms of nature on seven globes of Terra's planetary chain. He also correlates and compares mainstream versus theosophic figures for Geologic ages (which I've not seen before!). Most interestingly, he correlates the explosion of "Metazoan life 570 million years ago" with the return of the life-wave of astral root-types at the beginning of the 4th round on our globe. A very well written and absorbing article.

**Just received with gratitude:** A gift contribution to the *High Country Library* - A nearly complete set of *Sunrise* back issues dating back to 1951, the first year of publication. Many thanks to David Spurlin.

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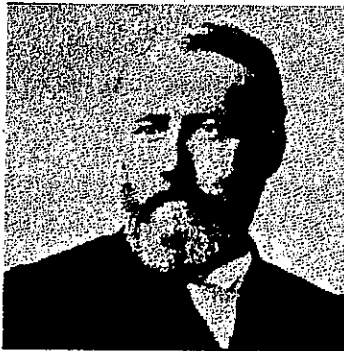
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## WILLIAM QUAN JUDGE

was born in Dublin, Ireland on April 13, 1851, son of Alice Mary Quan and Frederick H. Judge, a Mason and student of mysticism.



Of William's childhood there is little to say except for a memorable illness in his seventh year. Shortly after the physician had declared the child dead it was discovered that he had revived.

During convalescence he showed aptitudes and knowledge never before displayed. He seemed the same and yet not the same.

Upon recovery he devoured every book he could obtain relating to Mesmerism, phrenology, character reading, religion, magic, Rosicrucianism, and the *Book of Revelation*.

But the magnetic link so abruptly renewed in his near-mortal illness was perhaps never fully vitalized for he remained physically frail. His mother died at the birth of her seventh child, and when William was thirteen, the family moved to the United States, arriving in New York on July 14, 1864.

