

H.P. Blavatsky: Historical Index

by Boris de Zirkoff

Over many decades, [Boris de Zirkoff \(1902-1981\)](#), the editor and compiler of H.P. Blavatsky's [Collected Writings](#), maintained a huge file containing thousands and thousands of 4 x 6 inch index cards. These index cards give bibliographic and other fascinating information on books, articles and other material *documenting every aspect of Madame Blavatsky's life, writings and teachings*. The file also contains important information on the Mahatmas, William Q. Judge and other early members of the Theosophical Society.

This file of index cards contains a treasure trove of information and shows the depth and magnitude of Mr. de Zirkoff's research on H.P. Blavatsky. Blavatsky students and scholars will find valuable information in this source.

This file is preserved with Mr. de Zirkoff's personal papers in the [Archives Department](#) at the headquarters of the Theosophical Society in America (Wheaton, Illinois)

Mr. de Zirkoff writes about this card file as follows:

HISTORICAL INDEX

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CARD-INDEXES I HAVE.

It might be called an Historical Index. It contains:

1) Detailed biographical information regarding various facts in H.P.B.'s life

which cannot be easily ascertained from published books and articles about her.

2) Very complete data about her works, their foreign translations, their reprints, reviews, etc., etc. Negatives of HPB's photos are here also.

3) A complete section of "Blavatskayana", listing all known books, pamphlets, articles and essays concerning H.P.B. and her work, both by friends and enemies. Arranged alphabetically by Authors.

4) A number of sections giving rather detailed information about various people, such as Olcott, Sinnett, the von Hahn Family, the Dolgorukov, Judge, Johnston, Hartmann, and others.

5) A Listing of all known Mahatmic Letters, etc. (in a separate drawer).

6) Large "Miscellaneous" Section with information about people and events, as well as books that are closely allied with our Movement. Also books and articles in various Theos. magazines dealing with subjects which have a direct bearing on our teachings and ideas.

Months before he died, Mr. de Zirkoff asked [Caren Elin](#) "to please start duplicating the index card file." Taking up the task, Ms. Elin photocopied a good portion of these index cards on legal size paper.

Copies of what Ms. Elin photocopied were later made and given to several other Theosophical students. Years later *pdf* copies were also made.

The Blavatsky Study Center/Blavatsky Archives has obtained *pdf* copies of this material from two sources:

(1) From the archives of [Dara Eklund](#),

and

(2) From the Boris de Zirkoff Papers, Records Series 22, Theosophical Society in America Archives. Janet Kerschner, the archivist, kindly provided the pdf.

Comparing these two pdf versions, one finds that the two versions are *more or less the same* but one version has a number of pages that are *not* in the other version and *vice versa*. *Therefore it was decided to publish both versions.*

Ms. Elin divided the photocopies into 5 "volumes" as follows:

Volume 1 (Wheaton version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol1-j.pdf

Volume 1 (Eklund version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol1-n.pdf

Volume 2 (Wheaton version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol2-j.pdf

Volume 2 (Eklund version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol2-n.pdf

Volume 3 (Wheaton version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol3-j.pdf

Volume 3 (Eklund version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol3-n.pdf

Volume 4 (Wheaton version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol4-j.pdf

Volume 4 (Eklund version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol4-n.pdf

Volume 5 (Wheaton version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol5-j.pdf

Volume 5 (Eklund version):

https://blavatskyarchives.com/blavatskyhistoricalindex/blavatskyhistoricalindex_vol5-n.pdf

Daniel Caldwell

<http://blavatskyarchives.com>

