

**Death of an  
AMERICAN THEOSOPHICAL HISTORIAN**

The Theosophical historian Walter Adley Carrithers was born in Fresno, California on August 14th, 1924 and died in the same city on or about August 21st., 1994. He died of heart failure and was found by the police three days after his death.

Walter Carrithers will be best remembered under the pen name of Adlai E. Waterman as the author of the book, *Obituary the "Hodgson Report" on Madame Blavatsky 1885-1960*, which was published by the Theosophical Publishing House in 1963 with a preface by N. Sri Ram.

The then President of the Theosophical Society called the book a "remarkable piece of work ... undertaken ... with extreme thoroughness and care."

His first publication was The Truth about Madame Blavatsky published both as a pamphlet and as a supplement to *The Theosophical Forum*, April 1947, by the Theosophical Society then at Covina and now at Pasadena, California.

This pamphlet was a rebuttal to the Blavatsky biography *Priestess of the Occult* (1946) by Gertrude Marvin Williams.

His book *Obituary* led to intensive debate with Victor Endersby the editor of *Theosophical Notes* and, later, Walter Carrithers published several long articles on Tantra and Tibet in that journal.

He formed the Blavatsky Foundation to perpetuate public knowledge of the life and works of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky. He issued regular Newsletters mainly dealing with attacks on Madame Blavatsky for the Foundation.

He became obsessed with this defence and neglected his health by working night after night as one of the Defenders.

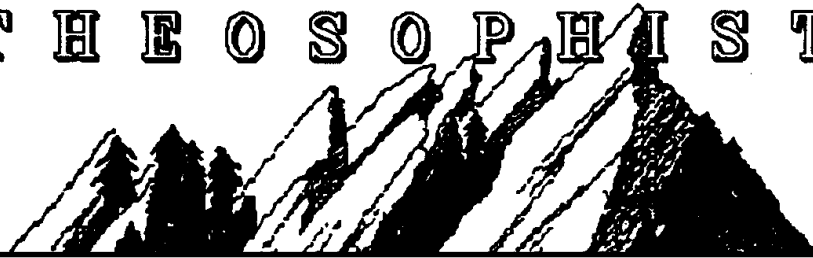
In some ways he carried this to such an extreme that his friend Boris de Zirkoff wrote to advise that he should "take some rest, some sleep ... and place your mind somewhere else than on those schemers and slanderers."

On Tuesday 14th, November, 1989 Dara Ekund, her husband Nicholas Weeks and I drove to Fresno to meet with Walter. It was a sad visit as he was quite ill.

Walter Carrither's work continues and his writings deserve close study. His colleagues wish him well in his journey into the unknown.

John Cooper

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## The Mission, the Messenger and the Message

We proposed, in the October HCT (page 2), to undertake a study of the letters between A. P. Sinnett, H. P. Blavatsky and Masters K. H. and M. between the years of 1881 and 1884. This, we hoped, would lead to an understanding of the events that led to Sinnett's failure as a "Lay Chela," and "how the most popular and main-stem of the movement was led into psychism and distorted teachings under Annie Besant and C.W. Leadbeater.

After some preliminary study, the magnitude of our task for a proper understanding, seems much larger than before. All journeys, however, begin with the first step.

The study topic may be divided into three phases:

I The Mission -: The injunction or mandate of Tsong-Kha-pa (1357 - 1419), with some background of the early history of Buddhism in Tibet.

II The Messenger -: H. P. Blavatsky

III The Message -: The basic teachings of the Ancient Wisdom as embodied in the letters to A. P. Sinnett and A. O. Hume from Masters K. H. and M., and in Blavatsky's Secret

