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Theos-Talk Email List

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Re: Theos-World Re: What Is Happening In America?

Jul 16, 2003 10:29 AM

by [Pendragon](#)

>From all my heart, I wish to thank Tony for this most vital information.

To be honest, I was not absolutely sure that HPB never used the word "communist", but, despite the fact that I could not be so, I relied on the Index of the CW.

I had not the faintest idea that not only the Index (both the separate index volume, and the appended index to each volume) is utterly unreliable but the entire CW series itself. Because if it is true that Boris Zirkoff dared to "edit"-a much better word for what he did would be DISTORT-HPB in any way, let alone to such an extent that "it happens a lot in...THE COLLECTED WRITINGS of HPB (all 14 volumes)", then, I must say, the CW is basically unquotable because it cannot be seen as a critical edition that guarantees text fidelity from a scientific standpoint.

I felt always highly uncomfortable with Boris de Zirkoff's footnotes in the CW. His arrogant tone in which he put himself above HPB, pointing out on every possible occasion that HPB "was half inventing" a text version of some obscure antique original source, or that she was "quoting in an imprecise manner", or insinuating that it was "doubtful that what HPB alleged as a source ever existed in that form" was ever a source of great sorrow to me, and I could never understand it. I kept asking myself, why would anyone think he or she knew better than HPB, and why would especially Zirkoff do that, the last living relative of HPB? But that he would have the audacity to go ahead and positively change what she wrote, would have been inconceivable to me. I am flabbergasted; and I wonder how much Adyar as an entity knew about the real contents of what they published.

I always felt the most comfortable when reading the old original edition of the Theosophist or Lucifer. Just to hold those old volumes in hand, with their yellowish paper half falling apart, gives you quite a different force. When will we republish those originals, I mean as a photographic reprint? Half of what HPB wrote are anyway missing from the CW, because it was either unsigned, or signed by a pen-name which Zirkoff was not willing to recognize

as HPB. But why those magazines of ours should be reprinted verbatim, has also a third reason, and that is perhaps the most important one: every one writing for The Theosophist (and Lucifer, and Le Lotus) wrote UNDER HPB's INFLUENCE. I do not mean that each of us were robots around her, what I mean is that she inspired articles, and sometimes positively wrote them through somebody else's pen. What I have in mind, in part, is what Olcott mentions in reference to the writing of that wonderful piece on THE ELIXIR OF LIFE, the opening article in Five Years of Theosophy, which was written by Godolphin Mitford, and yet, as Olcott indicates, wholly under the influence of HPB. So, to read HPB in her entirety, all of her magazines should be read, the full content of her magazines, not only selected articles bearing her signature.

There has been this initiative to republish The Theosophist, I think the first two volumes came out as photographic reprint . Why wasn't it continued, up to May 1891? The same could be done with Lucifer.

This discovery by Tony shows, and proves again the principle HPB left us: that Theosophists, coming together in a spirit of brotherhood, and studying with open hearts and minds in a group, can truly make more advance in one single day than alone, and isolated, in one whole incarnation. Let us never forget that each and every one of us, no matter where located and regardless of group affiliation, are part of one family,-and I mean this literally-literally, the family of Theosophists. And if we always keep this fact and ideal of our family in our hearts, we bring to birth and maturity this nucleus of Universal Brotherhood within our hearts, and fill with joy the heart of our Mother who may be nearer than we think.

Kindest regards and much love to all, and again, great thanks to Tony,

Pendragon

----- Original Message -----

From: Tony

To: theos-talk@yahoogroups.com

Sent: 16 July 2003 05:45

Subject: RE: Theos-World Re: What Is Happening In America?

Bart wrote:

Frank Reitemeyer wrote:

> 2. A Theosophist becoming a rioter, encouraging revolution and
> MURDER, a friend of Communists is no fit member of our Society. HE
> HAS TO GO." H.P.B.'s Scrapbook Vol. VII, p. 258, B:CW I:404, emphasis
> H.P.B.; Cranston has "Communards" for Communists (p. 169).

<<<THAT's the one I was looking for. Thanks; you saved me a trip to the library.>>>

And what would have been a wasted and misleading trip, as HPB didn't use the word COMMUNISTS. That was Boris de Zirkoff's editing. It happens a lot in "THE COLLECTED WRITINGS of HPB (all 14 volumes), his edition of THE SECRET DOCTRINE, and so on.

Thanks are to Frank for giving the reference to Cranston. She references to Michael Gomes' "The Dawning of the Theosophical Movement (page 156):

"A Theosophist becoming a rioter, encouraging revolution & MURDER, a friend of Communards is no fit member of our Society. HE HAS TO GO." In note 102., page 227 he writes: "In the transcription of H.P.B.'s comments printed in B:CW I: 404, 'communists' is substituted for 'communards'."

In the Shorter OED Communard is defined as "an adherent of the Commune of Paris of 1871."

In the Eleventh edition of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" vol. VI, p. 784: "'The Commune' is the name given to the period of the history of Paris from March 18 to May 28, 1871, during which the commune of Paris attempted to set up its authority against the National Assembly at Versailles. It was a political movement, intended to replace the centralized national organization by one based on federation of communes. Hence the "communists" were also called "federalists". IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SOCIAL THEORIES OF COMMUNISM." (The last sentence my caps.)

It is therefore INCORRECT to quote HPB as saying: ". . . a friend of Communists [rather than Communards] is no fit member of our Society," as she never wrote it.

Tony

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[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

• **Follow-Ups:**

- [RE: quite a different force](#)
 - *From:* "Tony" <alpha@dircon.co.uk>
- [Re: Theos-World Re: What Is Happening In America?](#)
 - *From:* Bart Lidofsky <bartl@sprynet.com>

• **References:**

- [RE: Theos-World Re: What Is Happening In America?](#)
 - *From:* "Tony" <alpha@dircon.co.uk>

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