

Chronology of Theosophical Unity

by Sally and Jim Colbert – USA

1907

[Location Unknown] Albert E.S. Smythe attempted to bring about “rapprochement among various elements that had branched off.” He found Theosophy through William Q. Judge en route while on a passenger liner to the United States.

According to the history provided by James Santucci (“An Early Attempt at Fraternization,” *Keeping the Link Unbroken*, Michael Gomes) it was after he had been expelled from the Point Loma Society he contacted G.R.S. Mead, Archibald Keightley, Charles Johnson and Annie Besant calling for an extension of greetings between the societies. To Smythe there were indications that these prominent figures were willing but agreement for this did not come forward from the other groups. Smythe later was a leader in establishing the Canadian Section of the Theosophical Society and became the first editor of the Canadian Theosophist.

1930

Point Loma, California. Gottfried de Purucker initiated the “Fraternization Movement.” [The word “fraternize” has come to have two meanings: **1.** To associate with others in a brotherly or congenial way. **2.** To associate on friendly terms with an enemy or opposing group, often in violation of discipline or orders. G de P and others in these early years were using the term in the first definition above.] G de P, as many called him, headed the Theosophical Society Point Loma. A tone was set for Theosophical unity which oriented the T. S. Point Loma (at a later time there was a split leading to T. S. Point Loma and T. S. Pasadena) ongoing efforts towards unification. From Emmett Small, quoting G de P, “Fraternization and Networking: Yesterday and