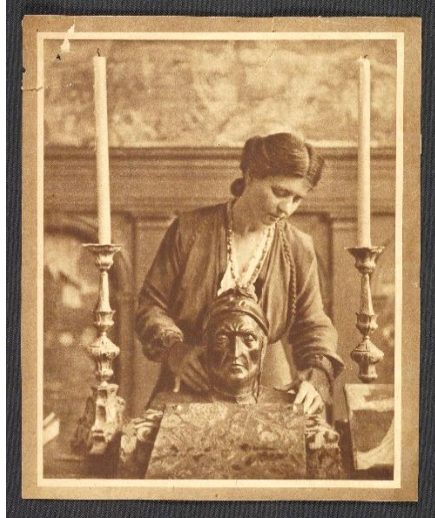




VIOLET OAKLEY'S JOURNEY WITH DANTE TO THE PARADISE OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND LOVE

Dr. Patricia Likos Ricci

OBJECTIVE:

To commemorate the 150th birthday of the American artist and peace activist Violet Oakley (1874-1961) and her inspiration from the Italian poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321).

QUESTION: Why has Dante's *Divine Comedy* (1321) remained relevant for more than 700 years? What did Violet Oakley learn from Dante? What can we learn from her today?

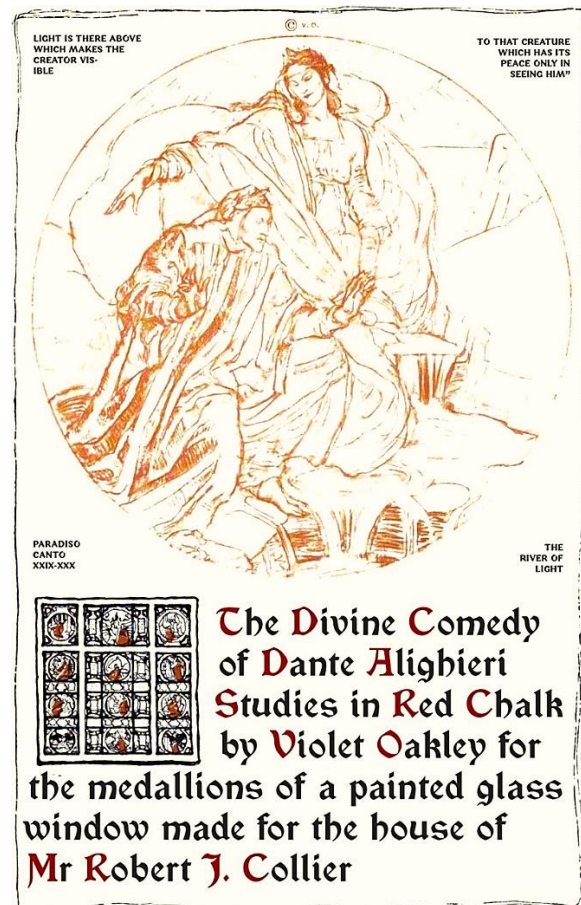
QUOTE 1: "Memories of great men are recognized everywhere as an enrichment and exaltation of general life. Models are needed not only in knowledge, business, and art, but in the conduct of life, in ideals, in personality and character." *Collier's Weekly Magazine*, Lincoln's Birthday Issue, Feb.1906.

DANTE IN AMERICA

Dante's *Divine Comedy* was first translated into English in 1802. The Dante Society of America was founded in 1881 by the writers Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, and Charles Eliot Norton, and is still active today.

In 1910, Robert J. Collier, publisher of *Collier's Weekly*, commissioned Violet Oakley to design a stained glass window featuring Dante's *Divine Comedy* for his residential library in New York City.

Violet Oakley made cover illustrations for *Collier's*, a literary and "muckraking" magazine, that published investigative journalism exposing fraud in advertising patent-medicines, cereal and meat-packing, and advocated child labor laws and Woman's Suffrage. *Collier's* promoted historical commemoration and was instrumental in preserving Lincoln's homestead as a National Memorial.

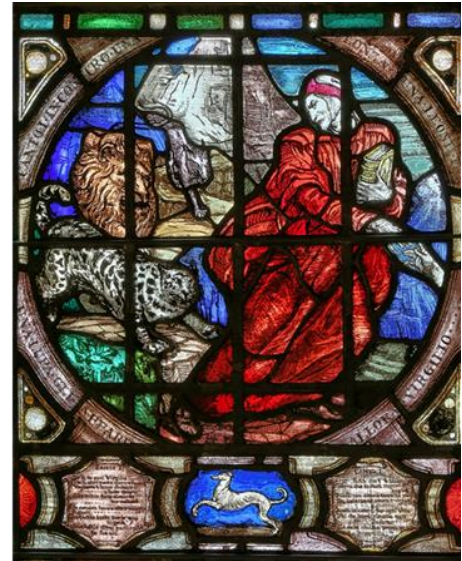


THE DIVINE COMEDY STAINED-GLASS WINDOW BY VIOLET OAKLEY

INFERNO

PARADISO PURGATORIO

DANTE MEETS THE 3 BEASTS
INFERNO: CANTO I



QUOTE 2: Dante on the *Divine Comedy* : “The purpose of the whole as well as the parts is to remove those living in this life from the state of misery and to lead them to the state of bliss.”

Letter to Cangrande della Scala, ca. 1321

THE TENTH HEAVEN, THE EMPYREAN

PARADISO: CANTO XXX - XXXI

