



FACULTEIT DER GEESTESWETENSCHAPPEN
Afdeling Kunst-, Religie- en Cultuurwetenschappen

**HISTORY OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY
AND RELATED CURRENTS**

REPORT 2004



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1. Introduction

Apart from the appointment of a new lecturer/researcher, there have been no important changes during the year 2004. The basic teaching and research programs are now “on track” and have been running well, with positive feedback from students and a good output of publications.

2. Personnel

As indicated in the previous annual report, as of 1 July 2004, Dr. Marco Pasi was appointed as lecturer/researcher “Western Esotericism 18th century - present”, as successor of Dr. Olav Hammer. For his personal information, see the Report 2003.

3. Teaching

3.1. Teaching Program

The BA minor “Westerse esoterie” has been continued without major changes. “Hermetica I” was given by Hanegraaff, “Hermetica II” by von Stuckrad, and “Hermetica III” by Pasi. Furthermore, von Stuckrad taught the course “Introductie Religiestudies”.

As for the MA “Mysticism and Western Esotericism”, Hanegraaff taught “Western Esotericism and the Quest for Enlightenment I”, von Stuckrad taught “Renaissance Esotericism I” and “Occult Trajectories I” (stepping in for Olav Hammer). In addition, he also coordinated the MA core module “Key Publications in Religious Studies”.

3.2. Level of participation

The general pattern remains the same. The introductory course Hermetica I attracts an average of 35 students; and like in the previous years, it again attracted a relatively large amount of contract students. A smaller but significant part of these students continues to follow Hermetica II and III, and a few of them move on to the MA level as well. Seminars on the MA level remain rather small for the time being. For the academic year 2004-2005, three international students (from England, Ireland, and the USA) have enrolled for the trajectory. While the admission procedure is not yet finished at the time of writing, it looks like there will be an increase in international students for the academic year 2005-2006. In the autumn of 2005, GHF will launch a major PR effort (by email and by sending folders and a poster to a



large number of addresses by direct mail), in view of significantly increasing the number of international students for the academic year 2006-2007.

2nd semester 2003-2004

Bachelor		
- Hermetica II	K. von Stuckrad	20 participants
Master		
- MA Occult Trajectories II	K. von Stuckrad	15 participants

1^e semester 2004-2005

Bachelor		
- Hermetica I	W.J. Hanegraaff	35 participants
- Hermetica III	M. Pasi	16 participants
Master		
- Renaissance Esotericism I	K. von Stuckrad	9 participants
- Western Esotericism and the Quest for Enlightenment I	W.J. Hanegraaff	12 participants

Other courses taught by GHF staff members

- Introductie Religiestudies	K. von Stuckrad	36 participants
- Key Publications in Religious Studies, Kernmodule I	K. von Stuckrad	4 participants

4. Research

4.1. Research Program

There are no changes in the current research projects. Pasi's project(s) will be announced in the report 2005.

4.2. Research Output.

W.J. Hanegraaff

‘Versuch über Friederike Hauffe: Zum Verhältnis zwischen Lebensgeschichte und Mythos der “Seherin von Prevorst”’, Part II, *Suevica: Beiträge zur schwäbischen Literatur- und Geistesgeschichte* 9 (2001-2002) = Reinhard Breymayer (ed.), *Festschrift für Hartmut Fröschle*



(Stuttgarter Arbeiten zur Germanistik 423) Hans-Dieter Heinz, Akademischer Verlag Stuttgart 2004, 233-276.

‘The Study of Western Esotericism: New Approaches to Christian and Secular Culture’, in: Peter Antes, Armin W. Geertz & Randi R. Warne (eds.), *New Approaches to the Study of Religion I: Regional, Critical, and Historical Approaches* (Religion and Reason 42), Walter de Gruyter: Berlin & New York 2004, 489-519.

‘The Dreams of Theology and the Realities of Christianity’, in: J. Haers & P. De Mey (eds.), *Theology and Conversation: Towards a Relational Theology* (Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium, 172), Leuven: Peeters 2003 [published in 2004], 709-733.

Review of: Martin Mulsow (Hrsg.), *Das Ende des Hermetismus*, Tübingen 2002, *Aries* 4:1 (2004), 108-111.

Review of: Dan Burton & David Grandy, *Magic, Mystery, and Science: The Occult in Western Civilization*, Bloomington & Indianapolis 2004, *Utopian Studies* 15:1 (2004), 98-101.

C.K.M. von Stuckrad

Was ist Esoterik? Kleine Geschichte des geheimen Wissens, München: C.H. Beck 2004.

(ed. with Brigitte Luchesi) *Religion im kulturellen Diskurs: Festschrift für Hans G. Kippenberg zu seinem 65. Geburtstag / Religion in Cultural Discourse: Essays in Honor of Hans G. Kippenberg on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday* (Religionsgeschichtliche Versuche und Vorarbeiten 52), Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter 2004.

‘Aleister Crowley, Thelema und die Religionsgeschichte des zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts’, in: B. Luchesi & K. von Stuckrad (eds.), *Religion im kulturellen Diskurs*, 307-325.

‘Esoterik und Europäische Religionsgeschichte’, *Gnostika* 27 (June 2004), 61-80.

‘Religionssoziologie. III. Soziologie einzelner Religionen. 3. Religiöse Gegenwartsströmungen’, in: H.D. Betz (ed.), *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Handwörterbuch für Theologie und Religionswissenschaft*, 4., völlig neu bearbeitete Ausgabe, Tübingen: Mohr 2004.

Review of: Russell T. McCutcheon, *The Discipline of Religion: Structure, Meaning, Rhetoric*, *Numen* 51:1 (2004).

Review of: Michael J. B. Allen & Valery Rees (with Martin Davies) (eds.), *Marsilio Ficino: His Theology, His Philosophy, His Legacy*, *Aries* 5:1 (2004), 127-131.

Review of: Joscelyn Godwin, *The Pagan Dream of the Renaissance*, *Aries* 4:2 (2004), 228-231.

Review of: Birgit Meyer & Peter Pels (eds.), *Magic and Modernity: Interfaces of Revelation and Concealment*, *Numen* 51 (2004).

Review of: Gerhard Mayer, *Schamanismus in Deutschland. Konzepte - Praktiken – Erfahrungen*, *Zeitschrift für Anomalistik* 4 (2004), 270-273.



M. Pasi

Translation: Jane Williams-Hogan, *Swedenborg e lo swedenborgianesimo*, Leumann: Elledici 2004.

5. Further Activities

5.1. Conference Organization

W.J. Hanegraaff

(with J.J. Kripal) Organization of Conference *The Varieties of Esoteric Experience*, Esalen Institute (California), 08-12.03.2004.

C.K.M. von Stuckrad

Organization of Conference *Horoscopes and History*, University of Amsterdam, 26-28-07-2004.

M.J.E. van den Doel

(with S.T.M. Beer & L.C.J. Rietveld) Organization of Atelier *Italiaanse Renaissance vanuit interdisciplinair perspectief*, Huizinga Instituut, Amsterdam, 12.3.2004.

5.2. Lectures and Conference Participation

W.J. Hanegraaff

'Gnosis and Peak Experiences: Towards a "Biographical" Approach in the Study of Western Esotericism', Esalen Institute (California), Conference *The Varieties of Esoteric Experience*, 8.3.2004.

'Gnosis, Esotericism and Hermeticism', Istituto di Scienze Religiose, Trento, Italy, Summer school *Modernità – Gnosi – Religione*, 25.9.2004.

'Can there be only One? Reflections on Monotheism and Idolatry', San Antonio, USA, Annual Meeting *American Academy of Religion*, 22.11.2004.

'Kant versus Swedenborg: Enlightenment Rhetoric as a Strategy of Dissimulation', Università degli Studi di Lecce, Italy, Conference *Secret Knowledge in the Enlightenment: Alchemists, Adventurers, Imposters, Spies*, 3.12.2004.



C.K.M. von Stuckrad

'Die konstruierte Gemeinschaft: Das Konzept der Prisca theologia in der Frühen Neuzeit', Bremen, Germany, Conference *Welches soziale und kulturelle Kapital können religiöse Gemeinschaften ausbilden?*, 6.2.2004.

'Empiric Esotericism: John Dee's Conversations With Angels', Esalen Institute (California), Conference: *The Varieties of Esoteric Experience*, 9.3.2004.

'Komplexität als Normalfall: Bemerkungen zur Singularisierungsrhetorik christlich-theologischer Diskurse im nachreformatorischen Europa' Tutzing, Germany, Conference: *Postmodern und fromm zugleich?*, 3.4.2004.

'Esoterik, Christentum und Europäische Religionsgeschichte', Bad Herrenalb, Germany. Conference: *Moderne Esoterik und christlicher Glaube*, 4.5.2004.

'The Function of Horoscopes in Biographical Narrative: Cardano and After', Amsterdam. Conference: *Horoscopes and History*, 28.7.2004.

'Was ist Esoterik?', Berlin, Germany. Public lecture organized by cultural institute *Urania*, 23.9.2004.

'European Polytheism Revisited: From "Pagan Dreams" to Visual Culture in Renaissance Studies' San Antonio, USA, Annual Meeting *American Academy of Religion*, 22.11.2004.

'Alles andere als einheitlich: Christliche Positionen zur Astrologie in der Spätantike', Hannover, Germany, Conference: *Gott, die Sterne und der Mensch - Astrologie als Orientierungshilfe in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, December 2004.

M.J. van den Doel

'Such stuff as dreams are made on: Marsilio Ficino's (1433-1499) "imaginatio" en de kunsttheorie van de zestiende en zeventiende eeuw', Huizinga Instituut, Amsterdam, Atelier *Italiaanse Renaissance van uit interdisciplinair perspectief*, 12.3.2004.

R. van Kreijl

'Je kunt het schudden': Het vroege debat rondom de homeopathie', Amsterdam, *ARIES* (Dutch Association for the Study of Western Esotericism), 17.9.2004.

'Je kunt het schudden': Het vroege debat rondom de homeopathie', Utrecht, najaarsstudiedag van het NGG (Nederlands genootschap voor godsdienstwetenschap), 2.10.2004.

5.3. Editorial Activities



W.J. Hanegraaff

- Editor (with R. Edighoffer and A. Faivre) of *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* (publ.: E.J. Brill, Leiden/Boston/Köln)
- Editor-in-chief (in collaboration with A. Faivre, R. van den Broek, J.-P. Brach) of *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism* (forthcoming with E.J. Brill, Leiden/Boston/Köln, 2005)
- General Editor of “Studies in the History of Religions (*Numen* Book Series)” (publ.: E.J. Brill, Leiden/Boston/Köln)
- Editor (with G.W. Trompf) of “Gnostica: Texts & Interpretations” (publ.: Peeters, Louvain)
- Member editorial board of *Esoterica* www.esoteric.msu.edu
- Member European editorial board of *Religion* (publ.: Academic Press)
- Member editorial board of *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (publ.: Carfax)
- Member board of editorial consultants of *Nova Religio* (publ.: Seven Bridges Press)

K. von Stuckrad

- Editor (with Gustavo Benavides) of *Religion and Society*, Berlin & New York: Walter de Gruyter.

M. Pasi

- Member editorial board of *Aries*, Leiden etc.: E.J. Brill.
- Member editorial board of *Politica Hermetica*, Lausanne/Paris: L'âge d'homme.

6. New and Current Projects

The projects mentioned in earlier annual reports (GHF website; *Aries*; *Dictionary of Gnosis and Western Esotericism*) have been continued in 2004. Pasi's new project(s) will be described in the annual report 2005.